

Morning Sermon 7/31/2022 –
“Behold the Lamb of God” John 1:29 & :36

The greatest problem in our world today, is the same as it was in Jesus’ day and it is the same as it was in Noah’s day and even before Noah. The great problem of our day is sin! Sin causes disease, sin causes death, sin will ultimately pull sinners down to an eternity in Hell’s fires!

What can wash away (take away) my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

I. Jesus being introduced as the Lamb of God was an important part of John the Baptist’s preaching about Him -

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)

³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” John 1:35–36 (NKJV)

1. He starts with this identification of Jesus before other things:

A. When he sees Jesus each day, he starts by saying behold the Lamb of God.

B. Note he also says:

- *Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit, meaning He Jesus has extreme power – John 1:33*
- *Jesus is the Son of God – John 1:34*
- *As the Son of God, Jesus has a different way of saving –*

⁶ Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. ⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:6–9 (NKJV)

2. The identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God shows us how He would save us –

A. He saves us by dying for us, paying the penalty for our sins –

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

B. The context of our passages today hints at this - John 1:30–34 (NKJV)

³⁰ This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” ³² And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

- C. ³¹ I did not know Him is the part of John the Baptist's speaking, in regards to Jesus, that hints at Jesus' taking the place of sinners; especially when you understand Baptism implied an admission of sin –

Matthew 3:13–17 (NKJV) fills in some of the details of Jesus' being baptized ...

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried* to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, **"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."** Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John protests baptizing Jesus because he KNOWS Jesus is NOT a SINNER, and John the Baptist himself IS A SINNER!

- D. John's saying, *I did not know Him*, is a timing thing, as he knows Him when they are face-to-face, but I believe it refers to when Jesus was in line to be baptized.

You might say, Jesus was in line with the rest of the sinners, but He WAS NOT a SINNER, at all! Why get in line to be baptized? Because He was made sin for us! He had no halo ...

II. *Understanding why Jesus would be baptized, because He is taking the place of sinners, is also why John calls Jesus the Lamb of God –*

1. *Lambs, as well as bulls and goats, were sacrificed for sin –*

⁴ Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. ⁵ He shall kill the bull before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Leviticus 1:4–5 (NKJV)

- A. *One hand would be on the animal's (lamb, bull or goat) head; the other held a knife, you would not only see, but hear and feel the animal's death. The experience should make a person think seriously about sin.*

- B. *Note the word "atonement" is used. In the Old English this word was at-one-ment. Sin separates us from God. Sin requires God's anger / wrath and righteous judgment. The sacrifice makes us at one with God again, it heals the division.*

- C. *Now, the blood of bulls and goats and lambs never really brought about this at-one-ment; but Jesus did -*

⁴ For *it is not possible* that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Hebrews 10:4 (NKJV)

Yet, what they did do is point forward to what Jesus would and did do, that is He died as a sacrifice for sin, for our sins –

2. *We see the fore-shadowing of Jesus' death on our behalf in:*

A. *The animal skins that clothed Adam and Eve –*

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. Genesis 3:21 (NKJV)

B. *The superior offering of Abel –*

² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. Genesis 4:2–5 (NKJV)

C. *In the burnt offering of Noah after the flood –*

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. Genesis 8:20 (NKJV)

D. *In Abraham's offering (potential) of Isaac –*

¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Genesis 22:10–12 (NKJV)

This was a test of faith for Abraham, but more than that, a preview of God's giving His own Son-

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

E. *The ram provided in place of Isaac was also a preview of Jesus Christ –*

¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided." Genesis 22:13–14 (NKJV)

F. *The Passover lamb, which by its blood saved Israel from the death of the first born also pointed forward to Jesus Christ – see Exodus 12:1-13*

... For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 B (NKJV)

G. *In dying for us, as a sacrifice, Jesus was the Arm of the LORD, the power of God for our salvation, this was prophesied by Isaiah –*

53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. Isaiah 53:1–7 (NKJV)

III. *John the Apostle takes the Lamb of God identity of to His Book of Revelation –
As the Lamb, Jesus is:*

1. *Worthy of our worship and enthusiastic praise –*

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. Revelation 5:9–14 (NKJV)

2. *He (and His blood / death) is the key to our OVERCOMING –*

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

3. *As the Lamb, He is the loving, perfect bride-groom of the church –*

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” Revelation 21:9 (NKJV)

IV. *Our celebration of the Lord’s Supper both remembers what Christ has already done for us, but also previews for us another supper –*

1. *Remembrance, proclamation –*

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

2. *Pledge of a promise and preview of blessed glory –*

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” Revelation 19:7–9 (NKJV)

Application: Rejoice in the salvation of the Lamb! Point to the salvation of the Lamb, say “Behold....”

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