

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 1:35-51 (35-42 focus)

Sermon Notes – BK

February 18, 2024

The Gospel of John

In case you haven't noticed – the Gospel of John is different than the other three Gospels.

The other three are primarily about WHAT happened in the life and ministry of Jesus and what He taught

John is more primarily about WHO Jesus is and how this affects all He does and teaches.

As we have unpacked this over the last six weeks, we have covered **a whole lot of "Christology"** – The theology of character and nature of Christ.

We see this as John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus to be,

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

The verses so far in this first chapter are **the foundation of John's Gospel.**

He will **continue to build on in different ways and from different angles.**

We will see this today for sure as we see **the calling of the first disciples of Jesus.**

JTB knew his role was to **"Prepare the way"** for the **coming Messiah...**

John KNEW the Lord and was led by Him in all the ways John needed, including how he would **KNOW** the Messiah when he saw Him.

John the Baptist:

- Made it clear **who he was NOT**
- Made it clear **who he WAS**
- Made it clear **who he was in relation to Jesus...** who was **not even worthy to untie his sandal...**

John Proclaimed to all who would hear - who this Messiah **is...**

John 1:34

"And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

As much as I want to jump right in to the next section, I think it is important to pause on JTB a bit more here...

We have spent a bit of time on JTB and most of us know his life and mission were short in years...

I wanted to **PAUSE** here because some may wonder if JTB was “disposable” to God...

- Clearly God knew **his mission was not long-term**
- Once his mission was **done**, he was **gone**.
- **His life was “cheap” to God...**

None of this is true.

**We will see more on this later - just how much God loved JTB...
Even when he himself has questions...**

There is something very special about this...

Father God knew exactly what JTB needed and He provided it

God gave JTB just what he needed, right when He needed it.

Besides all of this... **we trust in God’s plan...**

There are many used of God whose life was cut short

- **Stephen (Acts 7:60)**
- **James, Sone of Zebedee (Acts 12:2)**
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer – age 39
- Keith Green – age 28
- Jim Elliot – age 29
- Many others who made a huge impact had life cut short...

God is sovereign – God is good – We can trust God.

We will read more on this very thing from JTB at the end of chapter 3.

AND we know that here in John, the transition is clear... FROM John the Baptist... TO JESUS...

We now see how the transition takes place.

Today, we are going to be covering a bit of ground...

We will be finishing chapter one in two parts, today and next Sunday...

We see the first disciples being named...

John 1:35-51

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

(As you can see, there is a lot here... hoping to cover in one week... but there's too much here!)

"The next day..." – John proclaims a second time –

"Behold, the Lamb of God!"

Two of John's disciples heard it and acted upon it.

Likely they heard it the day before and doubtless they talked with JTB about it...

We got in to this in more depth last week, but for JTB to use the concept of a Lamb as a descriptive for the Messiah, that would be crazy!

The people were looking for a conquering King, NOT a Lamb...

BUT THIS points to what Jesus would BECOME as the ONE sacrifice for ALL-TIME to die in our place.

"Behold, the Lamb of God!"

At this declaration, **these two were ready...**

...When Jesus came by, they were ready to pursue Him... so they did.

These first words we see of Jesus in the Gospel of John, are **important** words...

“What are you seeking?”

Notice Jesus did not ask “Who” – but “**What**” –

Other versions say -

- *What do you want?*
- *What are you looking for?*
- *What are you looking for? [And what is it you wish?]*
- *What seek ye?*

The disciples may not have had a clue how to answer that...

- Maybe they were **buying time**...
- Maybe they were **not sure what to ask**...
Except to BE with Him!

“What are you seeking?”

Jesus was not asking in an accusative way, it was **inquisitive** – and likely a **bit of a challenge**...

- **Jesus wanted to know**... (Though He already knew)...
- He was **asking that they may speak it out-loud**.

Jesus later said, in His **Sermon on the Mount**, words I’ll bet these two remembered Jesus saying this to them...

Matthew 7:7-8

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

The first words of Jesus in John’s Gospel are **important words for us today as well**...

“What are you seeking?”

If Jesus were to ask you that questions today, **how would you answer that?**

- Are you seeking **peace**?
- Are you seeking the **meaning of life**?
- Are you seeking **freedom from sin**?
- Are you seeking **community**?
- Are you seeking **forgiveness**? Kj
- Are you seeking **fame**?
- Are you seeking **fortune**?

- Are you seeking **identity**?

“What are you seeking?”

These two answered Jesus...

John 1:38b

“Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

I love that **these two simply** wanted to **BE WITH Him!**

Would there be anything better?

The WHAT they were seeking was found in the WHO... “The Lamb of God...”

The one they would soon learn to also be the Lion of the tribe of Judah!

Jesus said simply,

“Come and you will see.”

- Jesus invited them to join Him.
- The invitation happened at about 4:00pm, so they likely stayed with Him over to the next day.

These were likely the most amazing life-changing hours of their lives! I cannot even imagine.

SO life-changing that...

John 1:40-41

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (the other one likely John the Apostle) ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).

There really is **not a lot of ink on Andrew** – he is mentioned like **12 times...**

- **Apostles**, etc.
- **Andrew was the one leading others to Jesus...**
 - o His **brother**
 - o The **Boy with the lunch** to Jesus (Feeding of the 5,000) – John 6:8
 - o The **Greeks who wanted to see Jesus** – John 12:22

His brother Simon Peter is mentioned over 50 times!

HOWEVER... Andrew brought others to Jesus – starting with Simon!

What did Andrew tell his brother?

John 1:41b

“We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).

I wonder how many times they stayed up at night talking about the coming of the Messiah...

I wonder if Simon really called him, ***“creepy John?”***

Probably not!

The depiction of Peter on “The Chosen” may be a bit off... certainly has been dramatized, etc.

I am sure they talked about it – especially as Andrew (at least) followed JTB and was preparing his heart for what is to come...

Now THIS... Now the Messiah is here!!

John 1:42

⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

Jesus saw what was yet to come...

As Jesus would be “the Lamb of God”

- Simon would be Peter... Rock

YES - Peter would become Peter (Rock), but not before he would be tested and tried.

A few years after this first interaction, we read...

Luke 22:31-34

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

And as we know... Peter becomes the man and the Apostle God created him to be...

Isn't this special?!

What about you? What's your story?

Care to share it?!

Maybe it started with you, ***“What are you seeking?”***

Like it did with Andrew and John...?

Do you hear Jesus asking you the same today?... “What are you seeking?”