

Lamb of God Sermon- “See the Significance”

- This is my favorite time of year for a variety of reasons (food, family, friends). Mainly though, it's just a great time to watch a movie.
 - Something about the cold weather just makes you want to bundle up and put a good movie on
- One of my favorites of all time is Black Panther, and specifically a scene that happens at the beginning
 - Story of Black Panther opening fight
 - Mother yells out "show them WHO you are!"
 - this is arguably the most significant moment in the movie
- Who we are determines what we do...identity drives activity
- As we engage in this Christmas season, the same holds true as we look at Jesus. To really understand the significance of all He did, we must understand who He is.
- Last week Pastor Mike spoke about where Jesus came from, and this week we are going to double click on who Jesus is and specifically the significance of who He is
- **Read John 1:23-34**
- Climax moment- **bold “Lamb of God”**
 - This is an incredibly significant moment in Scripture and human history overall
 - John clearly communicates that Jesus is the Lamb of God. The long-awaited Messiah.
 - To understand the weight of this, we are going to look at the PAST, PRESENT, and the PROMISE

PAST

Let's look at two places in Scripture

- Genesis
 - When God created Adam and Eve in this perfect experience of Shalom, He gave them one rule. Not to eat the fruit of a specific tree because they would die
 - Most of you all know how the story goes...Satan tempted them to eat the fruit and sin entered the world because they had disobeyed God
 - Here's what's interesting though:

- Satan came to Adam and Eve with the same tactic he comes at us today with...tempting us to question our God-given identity and God's heart toward us; to forget who we are.
 - If you go back and read Genesis 3, you will see that the promise Satan gives Adam and Eve is that if they eat of the tree they will, "be like God" ...they already were like God! (Genesis 1 and 2...God made man out of dust and breathed life into Him)
 - God specifically made man in His image. We are the only creation like that
 - Satan consistently tries to add a question mark where God has placed a period.
 - Adam and Eve
 - Jesus in the wilderness
 - When Satan tries to get us to question our identity, we respond like Jesus did:
 - "what if God's heart isn't really for you." -> Romans 8:31
 - "You will always be an addict." -> Romans 8:37
 - "How could God love you after what you've done -> Romans 8:38-39
 - So when Satan comes at you with a question mark about your identity or how God feels towards you, you fire back with an exclamation point, that I am made in the image of God and I am His beloved son or daughter with whom He is well pleased. Get behind me Satan!
- The second thing to note is that once Adam and Eve sinned, they had to leave the garden, but God sent them out with a covering and a promise. The first loss of life in Scripture is God putting one of His creations to death in order to cover the nakedness of His image bearers. We aren't told whether or not it was a lamb, but it was an animal sacrificed for His people.
- how this moment must have felt to God

o Exodus

- The second story that likely would have popped in the people's head hearing that Jesus is the Lamb of God would be when God freed Israel from slavery to Egypt

- Story of God's people being in oppressive bondage, he executes 9 plagues on the people of Egypt imploring them to let the Israelites go
- The final plague will be the loss of the first born all across the nation, with one caveat
- God told His people to slaughter a lamb and spread its blood on their doorpost, as a marker that they belong to God.
- Those lambs from God served as the sacrifice by which His people were able to escape from slavery
- Whenever the Israelites would sacrifice a lamb going forward it would be a reminder to them of what God saved them from

PRESENT

- Going back to our text, John calling Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, means that He is the One those and really every other Old Testament story is pointing to.
 - You see from the last book written in the Old Testament (Malachi) to now is about 400 years, that's how long the people have been waiting to hear from God again
 - This moment should have been a huge celebration, but it wasn't.
 - The religious leaders totally missed it and many of the people too, and in the future would find themselves in opposition to Jesus and His message.
 - Here's one reason I think that happened...because of John's statement, (put verse 29 back on screen and bold "**takes away sins of the world**") That statement points to an immediate spiritual reality, not a physical one...here's what I mean by that
 - When the lambs in Egypt were sacrificed, the Israelites were under oppression, and basically overnight they went from physically oppressed to physically free
 - While different, the setting here in John 1 is similar because the Israelites were being oppressed by the Romans, and they were waiting for their Messiah to come who would establish His new Kingdom and set them free.
 - Jesus does promise to do that, it just will look different than they expect
 - Example from The Chosen-> you see tension with disciples wanting Jesus to bring about His Kingdom in a certain way

- Today, our spiritual freedom is immediate when we place our faith in Jesus, but not necessarily our physical freedom from "oppression" or struggles we might face in this life
- That can be really hard because for each of us here, there is something about our current circumstances that we want God to change
 - Examples from convo on Monday: miscarriages, cancer scares, strokes, wounds from family...just really hard stuff
 - Maybe for you it's: someone missing from your Christmas dinner this year, presents under the tree aren't what you want to provide for your children, maybe there isn't even a tree, the brokenness you feel in your family because of divorce or loss...and you just want God to change your physical circumstances.
 - God may very well do that, and I hope He does for you. That's actually not what's promised right now, and It would feel so much better to stand up here and tell you that God's gonna change your circumstance and this Christmas you're gonna prosper and everything will look different in Jesus name...but that may not be true and we don't want to you to leave this place puffed up with hot air, but filled up with the Spirit of God.
 - If hot air, the first sign of challenge and you will burst. If filled up, you will be able to stand firm in the power that God provides
- Then what can we hold on to right now in our present realities...that brings us to the Promise

PROMISE

- The first is for the future
 - How the story will ultimately end (**Revelation 21:1-5 on screen**)...we all read together (blessed when read aloud..1:3)
 - There will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more suffering for you. We, the bride of the Lamb will be with Him for all of eternity.

- o That is the ultimate promise of Jesus as the Lamb of God. That He will bring His Kingdom here, and the original commission will be reestablished where we get to rule and work alongside God.
- o No matter how dark your present circumstances look, know that there is the hope of a future promise you as a Christian can hold on to that one day He will make all things new
- The second is actually for the present
 - o Back to **John 1:33**, Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit today. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is alive inside of you, and you can walk in that power.
 - o Think about that for a second...the same God who was betrayed by humanity in the garden responds by offering His very Spirit to live on the inside of us. In John 14 Jesus uses the language that God will make His home in us.
 - o We have access to the presence of God today!

PRESENCE

- Story about God speaking through dream
- One of God's desires has always been that His people would be in and experience His presence
 - Adam and Eve were able to enjoy the presence of God in the garden
 - Israel was saved from slavery and brought to the wilderness where they got to experience God's presence in a whole new way
 - And Jesus came to take away the sins of the world so that we can receive the presence of God again through Holy Spirit
 - In Revelation 21, verse 3 shows us that God's ultimate dwelling place is with man
 - "Already, not yet"- we get to experience His presence now and in the future

VAMP

Commitment

- What does all this mean for tomorrow?
 - o We haven't spoken on John the Baptist..he gives model of response to Jesus being the Lamb of God
- There's a whole sermon that could be done on him and his faithfulness. For today though:

- John was representing God by living his life counter culturally. So much so that the religious leaders came out to question him
- When the opportunity came, he revealed the Lamb.
- Represent and Reveal
 - **Represent**-> What about our life looks different from those around us? It might not even be “what” we do, but “how” we do it...are the fruits of the Spirit evident in our life?
 - **Reveal**-> Can we articulate who Jesus is? It can be easy to hear a question like that and not even know where to begin. If that’s you, my encouragement is to start with what you love most about Him
 - gave me new life
 - set me free
 - always there
 - Comforter and Strength
 - This response is because you have seen the Significance of the Savior. It always ties back to that.
- If you aren’t a Christian, the invitation is simply to see the significance of the Savior today and place your trust in Him.

Close

- This morning story with Charli
- We serve a God who always wants to be with His people, and that is the Significance of the Savior.
- There is a Father who sent His only Son to be the sacrifice of the world and invites us to be in His family
- Just as we started today, with “show them who you are”. Jesus has shown us who He is, will we believe Him?

Pray