

GOD the SON

How to be Great for God Pt. 2

John 1:24-34

Pastor Jason Dennett's Teaching Notes

ewsweek magazine has called him the “..quintessential success story of his generation”, the article went on to state that” saying that this businessman had it all, is not saying enough. This man was the son of poor French immigrants, but went on to build a small mail order tool business, that quickly became an international success story, selling luxury toys and high tech gadgets to adults around the world. The name of his company was **BROOKSTONE**, and this man is the millionaire entrepreneur, Rick Collette.

He was a very handsome man, married to a beautiful wife, had adorable children, and was admired and respected by his employees and even his competitors...but as it turns out, the millionaire Rick Collette was extremely empty inside, and was desperate to find meaning in life...so *this 41 year old millionaire decided to take his own life, and committed suicide.*

He wrote this in a letter to his family: *“Please forgive me, but the thought of going through another day of meaningless living is just too much for me to bear.”* Rick left this door on the kitchen counter of his New Hampshire mansion, as he walked out thru the garage door, climbed into his BMW sports car, turned on the engine, and let the carbon monoxide fill the room.

His wife Susan later revealed that this outwardly successful millionaire, was deeply troubled about the purpose of life.

I. The Greatness of John's **ATTITUDE** (vs. 19-23)

II. The Greatness of John's **ACTIONS** (vs. 24-34)

- **PREPARATION** for Jesus (v.24-28) - *“Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*
- The custom of water baptism in the Jewish culture...
 - Only for pagan converts, who chose to forsake their false religions, and come into Judaism to worship the One True God of Israel.
 - “baptism” is the ancient Greek word **“βαπτίζω”** or “baptizo” which is used 80x in the New Testament and means to **“cleanse something by completely submerging it into the water, to make it clean with water, to wash one’s self, to bathe”**
 - There are at least 6 different types of “baptisms” mentioned in the pages of the New Testament:
 - *Baptism of the believer in water..*
 - *Baptism of the Holy Spirit..*
 - *Baptism of the Suffering..*
 - *Baptism into the Body of Christ..*

- **Baptism of Fire.**
 - **“Which one truly saves a person?!?”** The Baptism into the Body of Christ.
 - **1 Cor 12:13** NKJV - “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”
 - John’s was a baptism for **Repentance** from sin.
- **Activities you can do to help prepare & influence others for Jesus:**
 - **Pray** for them! (2 Cor 10:3-6; Matt 7:7-8)
 - **Invite** them for lunch/dinners. (Jn 13:34-35)
 - Be a godly **friend** - Joshua Paquette..
- **PROCLAMATION of Jesus** (v.29-34) - **“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 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.”**
 - **“..John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God..I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water..I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”**
 - **True greatness in God’s eyes is found by pointing people to Jesus Christ!**
 - **Acts 4:10,12-** “..let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole...Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
 - **Phil 1:20,21-** “..my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
 - **Rev 5:4-5-** “..I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” (Aslan..)
 - **In your DISCIPLINING and in WITNESSING, bring it back to Jesus!!**
 - **“Focus on Jesus, for He is the Heart of the Christian faith.” - James White**
 - **“Jesus is the bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty, a garment to the naked, and healing to the wounded. Whatever a soul can desire, is found in Christ.” - John Flavel**
 - **“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”**
 - **The sacrifice of the Lamb in Israel’s history...**
 - **Gen 3-** A lamb for individuals
 - **Exo 12-** A lamb for a family
 - **Lev-** A lamb for a nation
 - **John-** A lamb for world!!
 - Notice, that this Lamb TAKES AWAY sin, instead of merely covering it.

- Why is a **Lamb sacrifice** even necessary??
 - **Heb 9:22** NLT - “..according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.” (Rom 6:23)
 - **1Cor 5:7** NLT - “Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.”
- *“Do the crime, pay someone else to do the time” was the headline in the Sydney Morning Herald. In May 2009, a wealthy 20-year-old Chinese man was drag racing through the streets of Hangzhou when his Mitsubishi struck and killed a pedestrian at a crossing. This crime can be the death penalty for some. When they found out about his excessive speed (over 70 mph) and his light and callous attitude afterward, it caused an outcry in the city. So he was arrested, or so they thought. Later they found out that the man who was sentenced was not the criminal at all but someone who had been paid to take the three-year prison sentence for him. The rich families of China do this to avoid justice. In China this is so common they call the person who does the time a “substitute criminal” or “replacement convict.” They agree to a price, then do the time. People who are broke and/or desperate are willing to make as little as \$31 for every day they pay for another’s crime. **Jesus was not desperate or penniless, yet he became a “substitute criminal” for you and fully paid for your crimes.***