

PASTOR'S SERMON NOTES · PULPIT COPY

Behold the Lamb of God

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 05 · October 11, 2026

Scripture:

John 1:29–34

MOTIVATION (WHY YOU NEED THIS)

Last week we began looking at John the Baptist (not the same as the writer of this gospel), and the testimony he gave concerning Jesus Christ.

He would point people to Jesus causing them to look again for the coming Savior – call to repentance, baptize as a sign of repentance, and get hearts ready.

John the Baptist's role is also your role – to point people to Jesus.

Today, we're moving from confrontation (with the religious leaders from Jerusalem) to John's declaration of WHO Jesus is and WHY He had to be sent in human flesh.

Why does this matter? **The work of Jesus must be clear to those hearing so that they might be able to believe in Him and have life in His name.**

INFORMATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW)

John's testimony declares that Jesus is...

The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

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

- **Takes away** means to lift up and carry off. Jesus doesn't only cover sin, He removes it.
- John declares Jesus the Lamb of God

What does John mean by declaring Jesus the Lamb of God?

- Sin brought about death (physical, spiritual, eternal)
- God promised in the Garden of Eden that He would send a Christ (Messiah/Savior) to rescue from the penalty of sin (Genesis 3:15)
- An innocent dying for the guilty was pictured in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:21 (ESV) And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- A perfect sacrifice was offered at the Passover to protect from death
 - A lamb that is without blemish was chosen and killed
 - Its blood was placed on the doorposts
 - Those who trusted the blood and stayed inside were protected

Exodus 12:13 (ESV) The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

“Rescue didn’t happen by a prayer, fasting or good works; it was accomplished by a life given on behalf of others.” – David Guzik

- John’s declaration that Jesus takes away the sins of the world is the same thing the angel declared to Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father

Matthew 1:21 (ESV) “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

The One upon whom the Spirit of God descended

John 1:32 (ESV) And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”

- John didn’t recognize Jesus as Messiah, so God gave him a sign to watch for
- When John baptized Jesus, he saw the Spirit descend on Him (the sign)

Luke 3:22 (ESV) ...and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove...

- The Spirit remained on Jesus (the Spirit’s work here is distinct from OT prophets, judges, and kings because the Spirit came on them and left)

Isaiah 11:2 (ESV) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him...

- Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit
John’s baptism was an outward sign of repentance, but Jesus gives the inward reality – a new heart and God’s Spirit living inside people. **Jesus, the Lamb of God, takes away your sin. The Spirit gives you new life.**

Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you... 27 And I will put my Spirit within you...

The Son of God who shares the nature of God the Father

John 1:34 (ESV) “And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

- John’s declaration is clear – Jesus is the Son of God
Son of means to share the nature of (Jesus is fully God, not a lesser one).
- God the Father declared Jesus to be His Son at Jesus’ baptism, and now John is giving testimony to it

Luke 3:22 (ESV) ...and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

This is the important takeaway: Only the Son of God can take away the sins of the world. Animal sacrifices were offered repeatedly because they could never take away sin. **Jesus was offered once because He is the Son of God and once is enough.**

Hebrews 10:11 (ESV) And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God...

APPLICATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO DO)

Remember Egypt.

The families inside weren't safe because they had been good.

They were safe because a lamb had died and its blood was on the door.

The same is true for you.

Jesus was offered once and once is enough. There's nothing left for you to add.

John the Baptist said, “Behold” meaning look at Jesus. Stop looking at your own works and trust what Jesus already did.

- If you've never trusted Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, you can do that today
- If you have, stop trying to earn what Jesus has already finished

Homework:

Read John 1:29 every morning this week and pray, “Jesus, I'm not trusting in what I've done. I'm trusting in what You've already done for me.”

God didn't say, “When I see how good you've been, I'll pass over you.” He said, “When I see the blood.”

Your goodness doesn't have to be enough. His sacrifice already is.