

John 1:19-51 – 8 February 2026

“Witnessing The Gospel”

Introduction

*John the Apostle opened the 1st 18 verses with the divine genealogy of our great God Jesus Christ

*The account of the life of Christ here doesn't include any further details of the birth of childhood of Jesus

*But it does have many events of the 1st of the 3 years of Jesus' ministry not included in other Gospels

*John's Gospel has few details for years 1 & 2

*By John 6 we'll already enter 3rd ministry year

*John 1:19, after the genealogy, picks up after Jesus' baptism & temptation by Satan, w/ John Baptist's life & the initial call of disciples

*John was a witness & the disciples are to be also

*We're witnesses of the good news of Jesus Christ

Today, we begin with 3 powerful steps to witness the Gospel of Jesus our Lord

#1 – Repent: Let the prideful be brought low & the humiliated be brought up to level (Vs 19-28)

Read Vs 1:19-22

1. First we determine who John wasn't
2. He knew they expected Messiah preeminently, so he answered that first – No!
3. From (Read) Mal 4:5-6, they expected Elijah
 - a. John *didn't come* to fulfill the role of Elijah coming “before the dreadful day of the Lord” from Mal 4
 - b. Though he *did come* in Elijah's spirit & power (Read Luke 1:16-17 & Matt 17:10-12)
4. From (Read) Deut 18:15, they expected a specific prophet like Moses to come
 - a. But ‘the prophet’ is Jesus not a separate man (Read Act 3:22)

Read Vs 23

1. He gives them a direct answer from prophecy
 - a. All of Isa 40 details the mission John's on

2. Interesting how people often read the Bible's explicit details, but never get the implicit details
 - a. They looked for Messiah, Elijah, etc but didn't' look for a man to fulfill Isa 40's role

Read Vs 24-25

1. In this day, many Jewish leaders baptized Gentiles who turned to God under their teaching
 - a. Baptism was an outgrowth of OT washings to be clean
 - b. It was important to declare "who your teacher was"
2. This was horrible for these Pharisees to be told *they* needed to repent and be baptized

Read Vs 26-28

1. John gave a fuller answer in (Read) Matt 3:11
 - a. John's used water: Jesus' used H.S. and fire
 - b. John's was for repentance toward his mission; Jesus' was for repentance toward His mission

#2 – (Believe) Behold the Lamb: Receive Jesus as our sacrifice & God (Vs 29-34)

Read Vs 1:29

1. Jesus was already baptized and tempted of the devil and now he's still in the area
2. At the commencement of Jesus ministry, these words speak of the culmination of His ministry
3. John didn't say, 'Behold, the great teacher, or role-model', he said 'Behold the *great sacrifice*'
 - a. Though, Jesus was all that, it's His sacrifice that stands above them all
4. What was John getting from the OT that He knew this, since so many were only looking for a king?
 - a. Was it Abraham saying, "The Lord will provide Himself a Lamb" (Gen 22:8)
 - b. Was it Isa 53, "He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities"

Read Vs 30-31

1. John had to do his part before it was made clear
Whom the lamb was

2. Even for John it was a step at a time walk of faith

Read Vs 32-33

1. So John recounted what occurred at baptism
2. John was in communication with God to get this instruction
3. Spirit *isn't* a dove, but it descended *like* a dove
 - a. Seems he was given a visual queue that Jesus was the One that is the Messiah

Read Vs 34

1. *Being the Son of God* is the aspect of Jesus that the Jews & Muslims can't accept
 - a. They're fine w/ Him being a great man or teacher
 - b. This is what John the Apostle's book emphasized
2. You say, 'How could John Baptist have known this?'
 - a. God told him!
 - b. Read Matt 3:16-17 – Trinity pictured together

#3 – Invite Others To Come & See: We all need firsthand information about Jesus (Vs 35-51)

Read Vs 1:35-37

1. Seems these are Andrew & author John
2. John's mission was to find the Messiah & turn people over to Him all while calling for repentance

Read Vs 38-39

1. So memorable for John that he remembers the hour that he met Jesus at 4pm
2. I'm less interested in what they said & more interested in what Jesus said
 - a. "What do you seek?"
 - i. What motivates you?
 - ii. Are you fed up with this world?
 - b. "Come & see"
 - i. Come get firsthand info
 - ii. There's something for you to do

Read Vs 40-42

1. Andrew is the first confession that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah

- a. Only right to bring others as soon as you know
- 2. Jesus called him “rock” – Jesus looks at us and knows what we’ll become not what we are
 - a. Peter would become a rock of stability

Read Vs 43-46

- 1. Just as Andrew went & got Peter, so Philip goes & gets Nathaniel
- 2. Notice Philip is already fully meeting the goal of being a disciple – a learner (learn & mimic)
 - a. Jesus told them come & see, now they’re doing it
- 3. For skeptics – we must invite them to do their own investigation of the Bible (for themselves)

Read Vs 47-49

- 1. Nathaniel seems to indicate that Jesus, as a man, couldn’t have known he was under fig tree
 - a. His reaction shows supernatural knowledge
- 2. I have a strong belief that it has something to do with the man Jacob renamed Israel

- a. Nathaniel was under a fig tree – which always represents their privilege as a national (Hos 9, Jer 24, Matt 20, 21, 24)
- b. Jesus told him he's an Israelite in whom ***there is no deceit*** – which is just what unsaved Jacob was known for (Gen 27:35)
3. In doesn't stop here, Jesus goes on to tell him more about himself in reference to Jacob...next

Read Vs 50-51

1. Nathaniel is so sincere he believes Jesus is God based on what ***Jesus saw***, yet he was told that ***he would see*** greater things
2. This is clearly a reference to Jacob's ladder from Gen 28:12
 - a. This was way which Jacob spoke w/ God
 - b. Now it's revealed Jesus is the very way which we can have a relationship w/ God the Father
3. ***Son of Man*** – Jesus' favorite title for Himself
 - a. God called Ezekiel 'Son of man' >90 times
 - b. Dan 7:13 shows coming king as 'Son of man'

Conclusion

So the opening of John, opens with a wonderful picture of what it means to witness the Gospel

1. **Repent: Let the prideful be brought low & the humiliated be brought up to level**
 - a. Ground's level at the foot of the cross
2. **(Believe) Behold the Lamb: Receive Jesus as our sacrifice & God**
 - a. Jesus is the center of the action
 - b. The Gospel's not in us, it's in Him
3. **Invite Others To Come & See: We all need firsthand information about Jesus**
 - a. There should be no one between a person and God – no priest or man
 - b. Don't attract people to church, attract them to Jesus!