

John-2
“How to tell others about Jesus”
John 1:19-34 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those worshiping with us online today!

Last week we started a brand-new series in the Gospel of John! John’s Gospel is different from Matthew, Mark & Luke...All of them give us a different angle of Jesus...

Matthew’s Gospel focuses on what Jesus said as the Messiah...

Mark’s Gospel focuses on what Jesus did as the Suffering Servant...

Luke’s Gospel focuses on how Jesus felt as the Son of Man...

John's Gospel focuses on Who Jesus is as the Son of God...

As we saw last week in the first 18 verses of chapter 1...John starts his Gospel off like a good New Yorker...Say it as it is...give it to me straight...no fluff...

He's like let me tell you Who Jesus is...
Jesus is Eternal...He's always been

Jesus is the Word...He's the Lógos...The divine expression of God...

Jesus is the Creator...He created everything and holds it all together...

Jesus is God in the flesh...The second Person of the Trinity, Who came to rescue us from our sin and reconcile us back to God!

Only the Jesus of the Bible can save us!

Now John knows that all of this theology can be difficult for us to understand, but he tells us in our theme verse that he's writing all of this so that we will believe...

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

-Jn 20:31 (NIV)

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, or what your past looks like...this is our hope for you...That you will believe and trust in Jesus...and have eternal life in His name!
Every person everywhere needs Jesus!

As we continue in chapter one...we're going to see that John is now giving us some evidence as to why we should believe Who Jesus is...

John 1:19-34 (NIV)

Pray

We all have natural talents...some of you are naturally good at math, or music...some of you love to build things from scratch...

My wife has this ability to walk into a room and design things in her head...I drive her crazy because I don't have that gift...I walk into a room and I see an empty room!

She's like can't you picture this here...and that there...and I'm trying to figure out what this and that is because she's using words that are not in my vocabulary to describe this empty room!

I'm like Sponge Bob...In that one episode where He only knows breathing and fine dining! I've got a few more than him...I know my name and I also have a lot of useless trivia knowledge...and movie quotes...

I can't remember where I put my keys, but I can remember the Big Mac song from 1975...

If you're trying to figure out the "funkshawy" for your room...I'm not your guy!

Don't bring me to HomeGoods...don't bring me to "Hobby Lobby"...Don't take me shopping for pillows...I'm not your guy!

You would want to go to someone who understands these things...who is good at these things...

We want to learn from the best...

Basketball...Jordan

Boxing...Ali

Baseball...Babe Ruth

Football...Tom Brady

These are considered the greatest in their field...

If you could...you would want to learn from someone who was the greatest at what they do!

Now, as believers in Jesus, we are all commanded to tell others the good news about Jesus...

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—Ac 1:8 (NLT)

Now remember, that the Apostle John wants us to believe in Jesus...He wants us to believe in Who Jesus really is...

And so he introduces us to John the Baptist as a witness to Who Jesus is...

Now there's only one person in the Bible other than Jesus who is called the greatest person to have lived...that's John the Baptist

Jesus said...

11 “I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist....Mt 11:11 (NLT)

That's a huge statement...John the Baptist is the greatest guy who ever lived? Greater than Abraham, Issac & Jacob...Greater than Moses, Elijah or Daniel? Wow!

So it makes sense that John the Apostle is like I want you to believe what I say about Jesus...and so here's what John the Baptist has to say about Him!

Lots of places we could go in our text today...but I felt led by the Holy Spirit to look at how John the Baptist told people about Jesus...Because if we're called to tell people about Jesus, then we might as well learn from the greatest person to ever tell people about Jesus...

The first step to telling people about Jesus is...

Know your ROLE

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

-Jn 1:19–21 (NIV)

John the Baptist is an interesting dude...He's Jesus' rural older cousin...and he's a bit peculiar...

How many of you have a peculiar cousin? How many of you are the peculiar cousin? John's a Pastor's Kid who leaves home and instead of following his dad into full-time ministry...

He goes out into the wilderness and lives like he's on Naked and Afraid...He makes a coat out of camel fur...He makes a leather belt...He eats locusts and honey...He's different!

By the way...you can be different and still fulfil your God given purpose! Don't worry if you don't "fit the ministry mold"

God called you to be you and tell people about Him! You be obedient to the call!

The angel Gabrieal told John the Baptist's Father Zechariah...

15 for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. 16 And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. 17 He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah.

He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

-Lk 1:15–17 (NLT)

This is what John is doing...He's Spirit-filled and he's living out his purpose...and he's not trying to be like all of the influencers he sees on his social media feed...he's being him!

He's preaching in his Obi-wan Kenobi robe...and he's spitting bars!

2 “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”-Mt 3:2 (NLT)

So John's out doing his thing...he's baptizing people...

And what happens is the religious leaders see that John is getting really popular...and they're like...Who is this guy? He didn't even go to Bible School...He's not wearing a tie...He didn't get our permission to do this...

So they get a committee together, give them clip boards and microphones and send them out to ask John some questions...

Hey John we're from the religious institute and we were wondering...Are you the Christ? The Anointed One? The One we've all been waiting for?

Now remember...this is the first century...The Jewish people are under Rome's thumb...there was an expectation that the Messiah was coming to free them... So they ask John...are you the Christ? John's like nope!

Okay...no...check...are you Elijah?

Why would they ask that question?
Because Elijah was the prophet who didn't die,
but was taken up to heaven in a chariot...

And later on another prophet by the name of Malachi prophesied that God would send Elijah back before the Day of the Lord...**Mal 4:5**

So they're like are you Elijah? John's like wrong again!

Okay...no...Are you the prophet? They asked this because back in **Deut 18:15** Moses said that the Lord would raise up a prophet like him and that they should listen to him...

John's like...wrong again!

Now you have to understand something in this culture, claiming that you're spiritually a somebody could have meant influence and power...

It's like being an influencer today, they become popular and then all of a sudden they're treated as royalty...

So all of these leaders pointing the spotlight on John and John keeps stepping out of it...They're like who are you? This is your shot...don't you want to be famous?

John's like...get that spotlight off of me, I don't want it on me...and he quotes **Isaiah 40:3**

“I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ” -Jn 1:23 (NIV)

John's humble...Hey guys, look...I'm not the Messiah, or Elijah, or the prophet...I'm just a voice...

I'm not the Word...I'm just a witness...

I'm not the Savior...I'm just a slave...

I'm not even worthy to touch His sandals...

John's teaching us something here...

When we're telling people about Jesus, we don't have to have our Bible memorized...

We don't have to have all the answers to every single question...

We don't have to argue with someone...so that they will listen...We can't fix people...we can't save anyone...

We need to know our role...

Our job is to point others to Jesus...

When we know our role, it takes the pressure off...We can be humble without being insecure...We can be bold without being a jerk...We can share without fear of failing!

We can't save anyone...but we can point them to the only One who can!

I like what Evangelist D.T. Niles used to say...
“*Telling others about Jesus is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread*”

How do we tell others about Jesus? We know our role...

Keep It About JESUS

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
30 This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”-Jn 1:29–31 (NIV)

Notice that John’s attitude was “It’s not about me...it’s all about Jesus”...It’s not about the messenger it’s all about the message and the message is Jesus!

He points right at Jesus...notice how Jesus is at the center of John's message...

He says "**Look**"- All eyes are on John so he redirects everyone to Jesus...

"The Lamb of God" - Everyone in the first-century Judea would immediately connect Lamb with sacrifice

"Who Takes Away" - In the original Greek this means to lift up and bear it Himself...and then carry it away...it points to the cross...

"The Sin of the World" - Sin is singular meaning all of the sin of humanity...Not just the sin of His people...but the sin of every person

John's pointing everyone to Jesus and He keeps it about sin & sacrifice

There's something for us to learn here..

Because we live in a world that says your truth is your truth and my truth is my truth...Hey if your spirituality works for you...great!

But John refuses to blur the message...He doesn't get vague...He's straight forward about it! He keeps it all about Jesus concentrating on Sin & Sacrifice

I love this, because no matter who you are talking to about Jesus...a Muslim, a Jehovah's Witness, a Witch, an Atheist...

There's one thing we all have in common...We've all sinned...We've all broken God's Law!

We haven't always put God first in our life...breaking the 1st Commandment

We've all told a lie...breaking the 9th Commandment

We've all taken something that doesn't belong to us breaking the 8th Commandment

I could go through all 10 but I won't...You get the point!

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard-Ro 3:23 (NLT)

We all have a sin problem...

And Jesus is the only answer to our problem...

When we're telling people about Jesus, we don't have to fall into conversations about how old the earth is, or who were the Nephilim in Genesis 6...Or What about the Book of Enoch

John the Baptist...the greatest man points us to the Greatest Lamb...

Jesus sacrificed Himself to save us!
Jesus paid for our sin on the cross!

Now we can experience God's forgiveness because of Jesus!

Jesus didn't come to make you feel good...
Jesus didn't come so you can be rich...
Jesus didn't come so you can make a name for yourself...

Jesus came to save you...because whether you know it or not, whether you believe it or not...you need saving!...Keep it about Jesus!

Share your personal **STORY**

32 Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.” -Jn 1:32–34 (NIV)

John says I have seen and I testify...

John doesn't argue about theology...He simply shares his personal story...his testimony

He's like I know Who Jesus is because I was there at His baptism and I saw and I heard and now I know and I believe...

Now John's referring to Jesus' water baptism...John the Apostle doesn't give us the details of Jesus' baptism because Matthew, Mark, & Luke have already mentioned it...

Now if you're not familiar with the details it's pretty awesome...

Jesus comes to His cousin John to be baptized...Wait! If Jesus is sinless why is he getting baptized?

Because Jesus is identifying with us...He is sinless, but He's identifying with fallen and sinful mankind...

So he comes to John with all of the other sinners, and John says this isn't right...You should baptize me...Jesus is like it's okay Cuz...

Jesus goes under the water foreshadowing His death & burial...He comes out of the water foreshadowing His resurrection...

And then immediately the heavens open up...Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove...It's as if the Holy Spirit flew down and landed on Jesus...

And then...There's this mighty voice from heaven...God the Father speaks and He says..."This is my Son in whom I am well pleased"

Can you imagine being there, seeing and hearing the Trinity in real time?

John's like I baptized Jesus...

I saw the heavens open over Him...

I saw the Holy Spirit come upon Him...

I heard the voice of God the Father...

When we're telling others about Jesus, we don't need all of the answers...we just tell people our story...our encounter with Jesus!

Have you ever had someone recommend a restaurant to you? You don't expect them to be Gordon Ramsey...They don't need to be top Chef to tell you something was good!

Buck-ees Brisket Sandwich

Terrell was like Dad, I was there, I tasted it, it was good...

That's how we tell people about Jesus...

**8 Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh,
the joys of those who take refuge in him!-Ps
34:8 (NLT)**

That's a testimony!

Some of us never tell others about Jesus because we think we don't know enough, or we're afraid we're going to say the wrong thing...

But here's the thing...

You know you were lost and now you're found..
You know you were broken and now your whole
You know you were sick and now your healed
You know you were in bondage and now you're
free!

You know what Jesus has done in your life!

No one can ever take away your story! They can choose not to listen, or believe, but you know the truth!

We're called to be witnesses...

We do the testifying...

The Holy Spirit does the convicting...

Jesus does the saving...

John teaches us a powerful way to tell others about Jesus! What would our city look like this year if we started telling everyone about Jesus?

If we stopped saying “hey look at me...and started saying “Hey look at Him?”

“Triple Rainbow”

Those rainbow's were there in the sky but I couldn't see them because I was distracted by everything else...It wasn't until Ezekiel pointed them out and said look!

Church, our job is not to be impressive...Our job is to point others to Jesus! Look at Him!

What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?

Altar Time