

“The Lamb of God” - John 1:19-34

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Matthew 3:1-17

Before we get into our text today let us remind ourselves of the reason for this book:

John 20:30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

The things that John included in this book all have one purpose...to get you to believe. He will focus on “Seven” miraculous signs that Jesus did during His ministry. John also included in his narrative of what happened and the details that are important to this cause. From the start to the finish there is a difference in details not shared in the other gospels and this includes the story of John the Baptist.

John’s Ministry is Questioned

John 1:19-28

Then they asked him if he was Elijah. This was the scripture that made them want to ask...

Malachi 4:5

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

We need to remember the Mountain Peaks of Bible prophecy. The Old Testament talked about future events often leaving out the gaps in between them. Even the disciples were confused about this

Matthew 17:10-11

And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.”

We know that Elijah will be one of the two witnesses that will come during the Tribulation and John the Baptist was only a “type” of Elijah

Now they asked him if he the “Prophet”

Deuteronomy 18:15

The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear

This, of course, is another name for the Messiah. They had many different ideas about the coming Messiah and John gives them a Biblical Answer to who he is....

Isaiah 40:3

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Notice after his answer that it is the Pharisees that came. John wrote this gospel after the destruction of the temple and never mentions the Sadducees as only the Pharisees continue to exist after 70 AD. But the main point of all this is they thought of themselves as the ones with authority and anyone doing ministry was supposed to go through them. One of the same groups came to Jesus and asked Him the same question...

Matthew 21:23

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"

And Jesus's answer is telling! Who does he point them to? John the Baptist!

But this same spirit is alive and well in the church today. They will come to you and ask you, "Who gave you this authority?" They will want to see letters and certificates or who trained you. Where did you go to school? Trust me there are leaders of churches all around us that hear about our teaching and what we believe and scoff. Pastor Jed doesn't even have a degree! Don't you know all that Dispensational stuff he espouses isn't real Christianity? If only he went to school! Listen to me you don't need anything but the Holy Spirit, the Bible and a willing heart and God will do great and mighty things! He is the one who gives you the authority. There was an African American Pastor in the deep south whose name was Rev. Dan Smith. God called him to preach when he was a young poor man with no education. He learned to read the Bible and became not only a great preacher but also a great blues musician. He sang a song that had this in the lyrics:

I've never had no education, well I know you may plainly see,
I've never been to seminary, but I've been to calvary!

1 John 2:20-21

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

God has given you the authority! Now go and don't let the haters discourage you!

But what are two truths you need to know in order for you to go out? The Truth of Jesus and the truth of the Holy Spirit!

The Lamb of God
John 1:29-34

What the other gospel writers don't mention that John puts into his account is that Jesus is the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world. This is what you need to know to be saved and all you really need to know to go out and be used by Him. Ever since the fall leading up to Calvary the blood of a lamb was needed to purify those by faith until the Messiah could come. But it could never take away sin. It could only cover it.

Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make

those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

All it could do was cover you until Jesus could come and take them away.

Genesis 3:21

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

This was pointing to the future Lamb! We see it also shown here...

Genesis 22:8

And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

And then, of course...

Exodus 12:5-7

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

Exodus 12:13

Now 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 the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

It is the Blood of the Lamb that saves and nothing else. Even in the future in Heaven

Revelation 5:11-12

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,

And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

Revelation 13:8

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

It has always been by the blood of the Lamb, and it is this blood that cleanses you and I!

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Now the other thing you need to go out and be used by Him is found in the last two verses of our study today...

John 1:33-34

“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.”

One of the great emphases in John’s gospel is the need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a lot of confusion about this, and it is on purpose to keep you and I from operating in Him.

The Holy Spirit is a person. He is the third member of Trinity and is the part of God that indwells every believer. But what about this “Baptism”? Is it at salvation or after? It is not an either/or but a both/and. It all has to do with your relationship to Him and it is expressed by three Greek prepositions...

John 14:15-17

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you** and **will be in you**.”

The Holy Spirit comes alongside of you before salvation leading you to Christ. He convicts you of your sin and points to the Savior then after you put your faith in Him the Holy Spirit comes inside of you. But there is another dimension that is described after the disciples were saved...

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come **upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Greek word Epi is used here as not to fill, as that has already happened but to “Come Upon” and this is power for service. John will bring this up later...

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The argument is whether the “Upon” Happens only at salvation or afterwards and actually the Bible shows that it happens more than once! We also know before Acts 1:8 this had already happened...

John 20:21-22

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

But in our relationship with Him we know we can...

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Surly we are not operating in Spirit if we have grieved the Spirit. What do we do? Ask for a fresh filling! Why if He is already in us? Because we leak! Let us close with this thought as we look at a command to constantly seek the filling and refilling of the Holy Spirit...

Ephesians 5:18-21

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled (Lit. Filled but keep being filled) with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

It's all about relationship and not location. He was with you and now He is in you and will come upon you for service.