

Jesus, the Lamb of God
4G: John, the Maverick Gospel (Message 3)
John 1:29-34

John the Baptizer says about Jesus...

1. **He takes away the sins of the world (v. 29).**
 - a. John's self description: *"I prepare the way for the Lord"* by calling for repentance. People have to repent before people are ready.
 - b. ***"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"*** **Luke 3:6** (NIV). John came ***"preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"*** **Luke 3:3** (NIV). ***"Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God"*** (Luke 3:8 NLT).
 - c. The application was clear.
 - i. **You can't depend on your heritage: (Luke 3:8 TLB)**
 - ii. **Repentance is shown by what you do with what you own (Luke 3:11 TLB).**
 - iii. **Repentance demands integrity (Luke 3:12-14 NLT).**
 - d. John's ministry is focused on sin—and the only solution for sin is ***the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world***. So why the title ***the Lamb of God?***
 - i. **Some must have thought of the Passover Lamb.**
 - ii. **Some must have thought of the Temple sacrifice (Hebrews 10:1-3 NLT).**
 - iii. **Some must have thought of the lyrical language of the prophets. (Jeremiah 11:19, Isaiah 53:7).**
 - e. **I accept your sacrifice. I am secure.**
 - i. The Bible speaks to the trauma of not living up to who we know we should be—and want to be: ***I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do*** (Romans 7:15 NIV). It goes further: ***For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out***. There is only one result for a person of conscious—wretchedness. ***What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!*** (Romans 8:24-25 NIV).
 - ii. When our sins are placed on the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, two gifts are received:
 1. **Removal of a constant sense of condemnation (Romans 8:1 NIV).**
 2. **Removal of powerlessness (Romans 8:2-4 TLB).**
2. **God has been getting you ready for him (v. 30-31).**
 - a. Jesus is first because ***he was before me*** (John 1:1 NIV).
 - b. ***He has surpassed me*** (John 3:22-30 NIV).

c. **I see your preparation. I am grateful.**

- i. *Lord, why are people important to you? Why do you even think about human beings? People are like a breath; their lives are like passing shadows (Psalm 144:3-4 NIV.)*
- ii. *Prayer: God, my Creator, I am amazed that you are even aware of me, but in every direction I see your hand guiding me, your heart drawing me, your presence preparing the way for me. I am sincerely grateful.*

3. You need confirmation. I understand (v. 31 – 34).

a. John needed confirmation.

- i. First, *'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit' (John 1:33 NIV)*
- ii. Second, this happened at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34).

b. **I need your confirmation. I am ready.**

- i. *Prayer: God, I need your confirmation that Jesus is your Son. I need to hear your voice in my own life, in my own native tongue, that you have made him Lord over all including me. I don't know all the ways you will confirm this to me, but Father God, I am ready.*