



The GOSPEL of JOHN

SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

We Have Found the Messiah

Introduction

Often, we can best understand something by observing its origins.

To understand the essence of Christianity, we should examine its origins. This is why John's Gospel takes such care to record the seven days that began Jesus' ministry.

Sermon Guide

Seven Glimpses of the Glory of God's Son

1. Jesus Is the Goal of John's Ministry.

Verses 35–37: *"The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus."*

Right from the beginning to be a Christian is to follow Jesus Christ. There is no Christianity apart from a personal relationship with Jesus in which we become his disciples. Christianity is that simple: it is seeing Jesus as the Savior that God has sent and going to follow after him.

2. Jesus Is the Sin-Removing Lamb.

Jesus is followed as "the Lamb of God," the sin-remover of the world. John had already said in verse 29, *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* To call Jesus *the Lamb of God* meant that finally, at the climax of Israel's history, **God was sending the final sacrifice for sin that would end all other sacrifices. Jesus would die in our place the way the Lamb was sacrificed in the Old Testament in place of the sinner.**

But there is more implied here. The connection between verses 36 and 37 means that The reason that John the Baptist's disciples left John and followed Jesus is because Jesus is the sin-remover. Verse 36: John said, *"Behold the Lamb of God."* And so in verse 37: The two disciples *"heard him say this, and they followed Jesus."* This means that discipleship is first and foremost the expressed need for a savior from our sins.

The message of the Bible is that the only way to be happy is to be made right with God—we refer to this as being justified—because only then will God receive us into his love and work new life within us. We can be justified before God only by coming to Jesus as the Lamb of God, finding forgiveness through his sacrificial blood and receiving his spotless perfection as our own righteousness before God. Paul emphasized that having "been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). This is the Christian message: we must first be justified through faith in Christ as the Lamb of God, and then by following Jesus we will be blessed.

In other words,

Following Jesus is not heroic. We follow him the way sheep follow the shepherd—because we need to be protected. We need to have our sins forgiven. We are weak, and he is strong. We are foolish, and he is wise. We are hungry, and he is bread. We are thirsty, and he is living water.

3. Jesus Is the Giver of Spiritual Sight.

So concerned is Jesus with our kind of relationship to him that when the first disciples came (we are told that one was Andrew, and it is generally agreed that the other is the apostle John himself), Jesus demanded, *"What are you seeking?"* (John 1:38).

What are you seeking by coming to Jesus Christ?

Some solid resting place for your soul upon the earth, and a glorious hope for yourself in heaven? Whatever you seek, it is here.¹

If you will truly come to me, you will see spiritual reality. You will have spiritual sight. You see the key that unlocks the ultimate meaning of all things.

4. Jesus Is the Messiah.

Verse 41: *“He [Andrew] first found his own brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which means Christ).”* The glory of the only Son of God is the glory of the Messiah, the long expected one of Israel.

5. Jesus Can Change Our Identity.

Jesus has the authority to change our identity. Verse 42: *“He [Andrew] brought him [Andrew’s brother Simon] to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas’ (which means Peter).”*

Jesus has authority to give you whatever name he pleases and, in giving you a name, determine your destiny. Jesus intends to make his disciples into new men and women. When we come to Jesus, we see him as our Lamb of God, our Teacher, and our loving Lord. In return, Jesus sees us in terms of what his salvation is going to do in our lives. He sees us as those redeemed by his blood, those who, because of his Word and the power of our fellowship with him, are being made new into the likeness of his glory.

6. Jesus Can Command Allegiance.

Jesus has authority unilaterally to command allegiance. Verse 43: *“The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’”*

Verse 43, *Jesus simply says to Philip: “Follow me.” Jesus is now taking the initiative.*

The only Son of God assumes the authority that he has to command allegiance unilaterally.

7. Jesus Knows Us Inside and Out.

Verse 45–48: *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see” [there’s the same pair from verse 39]. Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”*

He Knows Our Circumstances

Jesus knows two kinds of things about Nathaniel. He knows what’s going on inside, and he knows what’s going on outside. The first thing Jesus says is, *“You are a man without deceit.”* That’s the truth about the inside. And the second thing he said was, *“While you were out of my sight I saw you. You were under a fig tree when Philip found you.”* That’s the truth about the outside. Nathaniel is astonished and says in verse 49, *“Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”*

It is a great grace to us that Jesus today, as the Son of God and the King of Israel, knows our condition inside and out. If you are alone and get into trouble and no one knows what is happening to you, Jesus knows.

Jesus Understands

Jesus knows my heart and my mind and my body and everything about me. And there comes a sense of relief that this utterly unique sorrow, that nobody else can share, Jesus totally, fully, completely understands.

¹Charles H. Spurgeon, *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, 63 vols. (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim, 1991), 10:349.