

Memory Verse: “*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*” John 20: 30 & 31

Other verses supporting this theme: John 3:14-16,36; 5:24; 6:40,47; 10:27-30; 11:25&26; 12:46; 14:1-6
 (see 1 John 5:13 too)

Outline: The Presentation of the Son of God

- A. Presentation by John the Baptist (1:19–34)
- B. Presentation to John’s Disciples (1:35–51)

1: 35-37 Jesus Calls His First Disciples – Our God has a Plan

John (Baptist) is with two of his disciples (Andrew and John, who never names himself in this gospel). He is faithful to his duty as a herald, and when he sees Jesus again for the 2nd time he excitedly proclaims Jesus’ title as the Lamb of God (v36). He openly declares this redemptive moment in history!

Application- we too should be bold in proclaiming our Savior’s work on the cross where He died to “take away the sin of the world” for every Jew and Gentile who would believe upon Him and receive Him (1:12 & 13).

Jesus is declared to be the **Lamb of God**: (foreshadows Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice on the cross for the sin of the world)

- John is the only writer in the Bible who uses this title- (John 1: 29, 36; Rev. 5:6; 6:9; 7:10,17; 14:4,10; 15:3; 17:14; 19:9; 21:22-23; 22:1,3)

“The concept of a sacrificial **Lamb** was a familiar one to the Jewish people. All through Israel’s history God had revealed clearly that sin and separation from Him could be removed only by blood sacrifices (Lev17:11). No forgiveness of sin could be granted by God apart from an acceptable substitute dying as a sacrifice. They knew of Abraham’s confidence that God would provide a lamb to offer in place of Isaac (Gen. 22:7-8). A lamb was sacrificed at Passover (Ex. 12:1-14; Mark 14:12), in the daily sacrifices in the tabernacle and later in the temple (Ex. 29:38-42), and as a sin offering by individuals (Lev. 5:5-7). God also make it clear that none of those sacrifices were sufficient to take away sin (Isa. 1:11). They were also aware that Isaiah’s prophecy likened Messiah to “a lamb that is led to the slaughter” (Isa. 53:7; Act 8:32; 1 Peter 1:19). Though Israel sought a Messiah who would be prophet, king, and conqueror, God had to send them a **Lamb**. And He did!” J.MacArthur’s Commentary on the gospel of John

John (Baptist) willingly hands his 2 disciples over to Jesus. His subordinate role is done & John fades from the scene as all the attention is focused on the Lord Jesus. His 2 disciples become the Lord’s.

Application- our most fervent desire is to see to it that those we minister to are brought to Jesus, believe upon Him to the saving of their souls, & become His followers. Yes, once saved, they can follow us in a discipleship ministry as long as we are following Christ, but our aim is see them grow & mature to place where we diminish in their eyes and Jesus becomes their all in all!

1: 38-45 Our Lord Jesus is Seeking His Sheep- Our God is a Savior by nature!

Jesus finds them - then they bring their friends to Jesus Christ! [Great Commission- Matt.28:19]

37- John (Baptist) points his disciples (Andrew & John) to Jesus, and they begin to follow Him

41- Andrew finds his brother, Simon Peter, and tells him they have found the Messiah (the Christ)

42- Andrew brings Simon Peter to Jesus

43- Jesus finds Philip and calls on him to “Follow Me”

45- Philip finds Nathanael and tells him they have found the One Moses wrote about, Jesus of Nazareth

Interesting- Jesus is the One that says “Come & see” (v 39-the place where he dwelt), and now that Philip has been introduced to Jesus he is telling Nathanael to “Come & see” (v46- come & see Jesus!)

1:39 “...the tenth hour” This encounter with Jesus was of such impact and life transforming to the apostle John that he never forgot this day and the exact time He was introduced to Jesus and began learning of Him! **Application-** though you may not remember the exact day & hour (and don’t fret about that), you are ready to give God the praise for the fact that, now that you have been saved by His grace, you are no longer the same!

1:46-51 Nathanael’s encounter with Jesus, our God Who knows everything about us

46- Nathanael doubts any good thing can come out of Nazareth (an insignificant village with little prophetic importance). **Application-** Christianity & Christ seem of little significance/odd/foolish/ugly to those outside of Christ Jesus, but once He bring us into the fold, Jesus becomes altogether lovely; and as the songwriter put it...the Lily of the Valley and the fairest of 10,000 to our souls!

48- Nathanael comes face to face with Omniscience! - “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Do you wonder what Philip was doing? Scripture doesn’t tell us, but this was information only Nathanael knew and Jesus brought it into the open! A few other instances of Jesus’ Omniscience in the gospels is Luke 5:22; Luke 7:39&40; and John 4:16-19. **Application-** The Lord Jesus possesses all knowledge regarding our every thought, every word, every motive & deed – be ever careful each day to live for His glory and not be ashamed of anything that will one day be made known! Also, worship Jesus – for He is our God who knows everything about us, and still saves/helps/keeps/loves us!

49- This display of Jesus’ Omniscience removes all of Nathanael’s doubts! He expresses it by calling Jesus the Son of God! This title points to the deity of Jesus, the very Son of God the Father. J.MacArthur states that this title, “...points to the unique oneness and intimacy that Jesus sustains to the Father as “Son.” Nathanael knew that he was not interacting with a mere man, but the God man – the Lord Jesus Christ!

1:51 Jesus is our one Mediator between God and man (see 1 Tim 2:5) The Only Way to the Father (14:6)

51- “...you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

“Jesus’ promise may indeed have an allusion to Jacob’s vision of the ladder in Genesis 28:12, as accomplished in Christ, Who is the opener of heaven, and the way to heaven!...” George Hutcheson - Gospel of John - Geneva Series of Commentaries

“Just like Jacob (Gen 28) experienced supernatural or heaven-sent revelation, Nathanael and the other disciples would experience supernatural communication confirming who Jesus was. Moreover the term “Son of Man” replaced the ladder in Jacob’s dream, signifying that Jesus was the means of access between God and man.” J.MacArthur’s Study Bible

A Marvelous String of Titles Given to Jesus Christ in Chapter 1

- The Word (1:1, 14)
- The Light (1: 5-9)
- The Lord (1:23)
- The Lamb of God (1:29, 36)
- The One Who baptizes in the Holy Spirit (1:33)
- The Son of God (1:34, 49)
- Rabbi/Teacher or Master (1:38, 49)
- The Messiah/Christ (1:41)
- Him of Whom Moses in the Law & also the Prophets wrote- Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph (1:45)
- The King of Israel (1:49)
- The Son of Man (1:51)

“but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” John 20: 31