

"Behold, the Lamb of God"

JOHN 1:19-51 • LESSON 3

Seven hundred years before John the Baptist was born, God inspired the prophet Isaiah to write:

A _____ cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isa 40:3)

Seven centuries later, when John was asked by priests and Levites from Jerusalem to identify himself, John said, "I am the voice" (John 1:23). Look again at what the voice had been prophesied to say and who the voice would prepare for. This was an incredible claim. Did the prophecy actually come true?

The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "_____, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be _____ to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." (1:29-34)

Notice how Jesus has been powerfully described in these early verses of John's Gospel.

- ✿ The _____ (Isa 40:3)
- ✿ Our _____ (Isa 40:3)
- ✿ The _____ of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)
- ✿ A man who ranked before John, "because he was _____ me" (John 1:30)
- ✿ The One on whom the _____ descended and remained (John 1:32)
- ✿ He who baptizes _____ the Holy Spirit (John 1:33)
- ✿ The _____ of God (John 1:34)

But before we're done with **John 1**, we're given four more markers of Jesus' true identity. When Andrew, a disciple of John the Baptist, went to find his brother Simon, listen to what he said: "'We have found the _____' (which means Christ)" (1:41).

The next day, when Jesus called Philip to follow him, Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom _____ in the Law and also the prophets wrote" (1:45). Nathanael was skeptical. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" But before his very first interaction with Jesus was done, he was moved to confess, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the _____ of Israel!" And in response? Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of _____" (1:51). We have a lot to talk about...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- When the priests and Levites from Jerusalem asked John, “Who are you?” ([John 1:19-21](#)), they offered a couple of guesses. “Are you Elijah?” “Are you the Prophet?” Where did these guesses come from? [Malachi 4:5](#) and [Deuteronomy 18:15-19](#) might be helpful here...
- Instead, John used [Isaiah 40:3](#) to describe himself as “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” Visiting [Isaiah 40](#) can uncover some profound truths about the One who was coming to pardon the iniquity of Israel. What do you see in that chapter? What stands out? What does it reveal about the nature and identity of Jesus?
- In [John 1:29](#), Jesus is described by John as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” Let’s think through the deep meaning of that description. If Jesus is the Lamb of God...
- How could Jesus be both “a man” who comes “after” John and “a man who ranks before me, because he was before me” ([1:30](#))?
- What did Andrew mean when he told his brother Simon, “We have found the Messiah” ([1:41](#))?
- What did Jesus do with Simon the son of John when he first met him ([1:42](#))?
- How did Philip respond to Nathanael when Nathanael was at first very skeptical about Jesus being anyone special ([1:45-46](#))? Is there anything we can learn from Philip’s approach?
- Jesus made an incredible promise to Nathanael in [John 1:51](#). What did he mean? What was he talking about?