

September 23, 2018

**(More Than Just a Nice Guy Series): Depictions of Jesus in the Book of John
“Jesus Is the Lamb of God”, John 1:19-51**

In the Gospel of John 1:1-18, Jesus is presented as the Word, God Himself, God’s Son, the Creator, and the Light. Now in John 1:19-51, we are taught that Jesus is the Chosen One — the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

The Witness and Life of Christ Demand a Life Change

1. The Witness of Jesus (John 1:6-8, 15, 19-28)

John the Baptist was totally clear in his reply to the Jewish leaders: He was not the Messiah or even a prophet, but instead was a witness to Jesus Christ, “the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie” (Jn.1:27).

2. The Arrival of Jesus

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as God’s Chosen One, “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.” (Jn.1:29) The picture of Jesus as “the Lamb of God” recalls an early Old Testament image of God the Father replacing Abraham’s son Isaac with a lamb when a sacrifice was required. Later God delivered His people from Egypt after the blood of lambs was painted on door frames to save the first born of the Israelites from destruction. For centuries, Jews continued the daily use of blood sacrifices for sin in their Temples. Now Jesus Christ has come as the perfect sacrifice to bear God’s wrath for our sins by taking our punishment on Himself. Jesus has absorbed the death blow. It is finished!

3. The Call of Christ (John 1:35-51)

The two disciples of John the Baptist wanted to know more about Jesus whom this witness pointed to as “the Lamb of God” (Jn.1.:35-39). Jesus invited them to come follow him, as the number of his disciples increased with Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel. Once these men encountered Jesus, transformation took place in their lives....even Simon with a new name. All these men left their former lives, and became followers/disciples of Jesus.

Just as John the Baptist pointed people to the Lamb of God, we can do the same with others as we obey God’s directions and are transformed daily by His power through Jesus’ Holy Spirit alive in us. Just as He did with His disciples, Jesus calls us to follow Him. No longer do we have to be burdened with thinking we need to earn our salvation by working harder. Through Jesus’ death, as the Lamb of God, for our sins, the Good News is that there is no more work to be done to be accepted by God. As believers, we are now God’s beloved children in His family (Jn.1:12,13), which is not full of condemnation (Romans 8:1-2), but of glory, grace, and truth (Jn.1:14). Instead of judgment, we get help to transform our lives to be more and more like Him (I Cor. 3:18). May we share this Good News with others: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15)

Discussion Questions:

1. Share what you know about John the Baptist. His birth? His testimony? His death? What about him is important to notice as a Christian?
2. What is all this about sacrifices and blood? Is it still important today that Jesus is the Lamb of God?

3. What is it that Jesus saved us from? Is it still around in today's society and our lives?
4. Did anyone actually use their words or lives to invite you to Christ? Please share.
5. What changes/transformations have you seen in your life since becoming a Christian? Do you see them regularly or just on rare occasions? How exactly do these happen?
6. Is the Gospel good enough news in your life for you to share with others? If so, how have you brought the good news to others in this past week with your words or life?