

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 29TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

TESTIMONY (JOHN 1:19-28)

"WHO ARE YOU?"

The Pharisees sent priests and Levites to expose John. Their questions seemed simple, and John's short answers did not satisfy their mission.

- **He was not the Messiah, not Elijah, and not THE Prophet. Many today would elevate themselves to find identity in titles that are not theirs to receive praise they do not deserve.**

"A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT..."

John answers their final questions with humility and directs them to Christ. John could have declared his position, but instead, he shared his identity.

- **John's baptism was a call to repentance. His message was that Christ was coming and now stood among them. The more we share Christ, the closer we will be to Him.**

THE LAMB (JOHN 1:29-34)

"LAMB OF GOD"

For centuries, men had provided lambs for sacrifice every day. John recognized Jesus as THE Lamb of God.

- **Lambs had been sacrificed for individuals, families, and even nations. Now, THE Lamb would sacrifice Himself for the world. Even before time was created, Jesus knew this truth.**

BAPTISM

John reminds them that he baptized with water to reveal Jesus was coming. At that moment, as God revealed Jesus as the Messiah, John declared that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

- **John's baptism was about repentance. Jesus would bring the Holy Spirit, new birth, and a new reason for baptism!**

THE MESSIAH (JOHN 1:35-39)

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Jesus' first words in this Gospel are still the words He uses for us today: "What are you seeking in life?"

- When we hear Christ ask us, many times we still respond like those disciples: **"Where are you staying?" Our response to His next words will change our lives every day and for eternity.**

COME AND YOU'LL SEE...

Before Jesus ever tells us to go, He calls us to come to Him. These disciples of John chose that day to follow Christ, became His disciples, and they never left.

- **Jesus is still calling disciples today. We must come to Him, and then we will see. And as we follow Him, we begin to know where to go in His name.**

FOUND (JOHN 1:40-51)

ANDREW FOUND SIMON

Andrew had been following John, listening to his story, and telling others to get ready. When he saw Jesus, he recognized the Messiah and followed Him.

- **People will tell us about Jesus; who He is and what He will do. When we see Jesus, we become the next voice calling others to come to Jesus!**

JESUS, PETER, AND PHILIP

Jesus SAW Simon and instantly changed his name to Peter. **Jesus not only knows who we've been and who we are, He knows who He will change us to be.**

- It's interesting that Jesus found Philip, called him, and Philip followed, but Philip says that he found Jesus. Found, brought, and saw are not the major words here. "Come, follow me" changes lives!

NATHANAEEL

Philip tells Nate and is skeptical, but he trusts Philip enough to find out for himself. Jesus sees Nate and says Nate is not like Jacob, the deceiver, and that He saw Nate studying (Genesis 28) under the tree.

- **Jesus tells Nate that there is more to see. Nate and the others will soon learn that Jesus IS the ladder.**

VOICE

- There will always be those who ask questions with hidden motives.
- **We must be prepared to humbly point to Jesus.**
- **The closer we get to Christ, the more we recognize our weaknesses that reveal His strength, and THAT is something to talk about!**

TRUTH

- Although there were many sacrifices for sin before Christ came, Jesus has always been the final sacrifice for sin.
- **Knowing that Christ paid for our sin with His life, we should not keep this to ourselves.**
- **Our relationship with Christ will always spill over into our other relationships. Like John, our desire becomes to make Christ known.**

FOLLOW

- Jesus knows us. He knows EVERYTHING.
- **Knowing everything, He still calls us to follow Him (Romans 5:8).**
- **Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. Following Him isn't just something we do; it is who we become. Are we really living as followers of Christ?**