

# The Book of John - 10

**Introduction** - We finished last week's lesson looking at John's declaration in **verse 29**. This declaration again is repeated in **verses 35 and 36**. We see that the record of John the Baptist that is given to us here in the book of John serves the purpose of being **the first** of many witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Significantly, this declaration concerns the Lord's **redemptive name** as the **Lamb of God**. When we look at the passage in **Revelation chapter 5**, we see that the Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned in a threefold way:

He is **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**.

He is **the Root of David**.

He is **the Lamb of God**. (In **Revelation chapter 5**, He is the Lamb *as it had been slain*...in the Gospel of John, He is Lamb that **would be slain**.)

In **verses 31-34**, the Gospel record of John briefly speaks about the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will remember that the Lord compelled John to submit to baptizing Him that they may thus fulfill all righteousness.

**Matthew 3:15**, the Lord told John, *"Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness."*

1. It identified the Lord Jesus Christ with His forerunner. (Baptism is a means of identification, and the Lord publicly identified with John the Baptist).
2. It gave the Lord's divine sanction and credence to John's ministry.
3. It heralded the beginning of the Lord's public ministry.
4. It showed John by way of a sign who Jesus was. God had given this sign to John the Baptist.

The significance of this event is alluded to here in this passage in that it signified, especially for John the Baptist, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Christ, the Son of God.

Also, from the other Gospel records, we see that John the Baptist must have had some understanding of Jesus being the Christ when He met Him just before he baptized him. For John the Baptist *"forbad him..."* in Matthew 3:14, which suggests that John recognized something about the Lord.

And even though this is the case, **this unique sign** was afforded to John by God's design.

**v33** *"And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him,*

*the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”*

**v34** *“And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”*

## II. The Chosen Witnesses of the Word 1:19-4:54

### A. John the Baptist

### B. \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

Notice with me what the Bible says in **verses 35-37**.

**John 1:35-37** *“35 Again the next day after John stood, and **two of his disciples**; 36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! 37 And the **two disciples heard** him speak, and **they followed** Jesus.”*

In these next several accounts, we find all the different ways folks come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Ultimately speaking, we should understand in our day that **those who know Him** must **tell those who do not**.

In our time, the usual method by which God works in spreading the Gospel is **through His children, those who are saved**. Here, we see that the first two witnesses begin their inquiry with the Lord Jesus Christ through the **testimony of another**.

Andrew and the “the other disciple,” whom **many believe to be John himself**, or perhaps some have suggested Thomas, **were disciples already of John the Baptist**. (If you look at the following references, you will see that John made a habit of not naming himself in his writings. **John 13:23; John 19:26; John 19:35; John 20:2; John 21:7; John 21:20; John 21:24**). The Bible tells us that these two were disciples of John.

**John 1:37** *“And the **two disciples heard him speak**, and they followed Jesus.”* We see in **verse 37** two pointed words listed for us concerning this testimony in **verse 36**:

They **heard**.

They **followed**.

John lived a life of pleasing God. His life agreed with his speech. But his speech was also clear concerning the Lord. Because of this testimony, we see Andrew and another following the Lord. The Bible says **they heard** and **they followed**.

**John Butler** said concerning the result of John’s testimony, “John the Baptist experienced the results every preacher likes to experience, namely after we preach, people follow Jesus.”

Notice the interaction that ensues between these two disciples and the Lord. We see

first that the Lord “**turned, and saw them...**”

This may seem insignificant for you and me today, but the fact that our Lord sees us, hears us, and receives us is marvelous. How wonderful it is that our Savior is ready to receive **those that accept His invitation**. You might think, how is it that the Lord invited them to follow Him?

We see in our text that John the Baptist pointed them to the Lord. John the Baptist **was laboring on behalf of the Lord**. This morning, we can thank the Lord that the God we serve **is the God that sees**. The heart of God is that men will come to Him to receive the gift of God, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not only did He turn and see them, but noticed **the testing of their desire**.

**Verse 38 and 39** states, “*Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, **What seek ye?***”

*They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.”*

These are powerful words; not only are they the words of our blessed Savior, but **they are the first words of our Savior recorded in this Gospel record. He asks the question, What seek ye?** This was an **invitation extended**.

It will be noticed that the Lord did not ask them, **whom they were seeking, but rather what are they seeking**.

As the Lord is the all-knowing God, we cannot think that He did not already know the answer to the question He asked of them. There is always teaching involved in God’s questions. Here, our wonderful Savior encourages advancement in the **step of faith** taken by these two.

John had pointed them to Christ, declaring, “*Behold, the Lamb of God...*” and they had followed in faith. Now they are being encouraged to know what they are seeking after. Let our faith be tried and refined by the Word of our Lord. The Lord makes known to us through His Word the counsels of our hearts and challenges us to understand our purposes more fully. Can we not say that the Scriptures teach us that our heart deceives us? And if this is so, we should welcome the **refining work of His Word and His Spirit**.

We find throughout the Gospel records scores of folks presented who had wrong **motives** for following after the Lord.

At the feeding of the five thousand, certain folks sought the Lord simply because of the bread which the Lord multiplied.

In **John 6:26**, the Lord tells that crowd, “... *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and*

were filled.”

Others could not receive the “hard sayings” in that same chapter in **John 6:60**.

**John 6:66** “66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”

Not once but many times have we found folks in the church house **for faulty reasons**. And it becomes apparent that they have some other motivation for being in the house of God other than following after God. Are we seeking “*first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...*”? (Matthew 6:33) As children of God, are we seeking to “glorify your Father which is in heaven.”?

**AW Pink** stated this in his commentary, “The true answer to this question reveals your spiritual state.”

Is it the love of Christ that constrains us, or do we seek the acceptance of man? Do we wish to have the thoughts of men thinking well of us?

Paul said it this way when challenged to change the Gospel message in **Galatians 1:10**, “*For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*”

“Is it gold, fame, ease or comfort or pleasure?” (AW Pink)

Because of the deceitfulness of our own hearts, we are thankful that the Lord **tries our motives** through **His Word** and **the ministry of His Spirit**. This is a gracious invitation of our Lord for these to progress in their faith and understanding of Him.

To which they answer, “*Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?*”

They begin in their first encounter with the Savior by addressing him with a title of honor. **Vincent, in His word studies**, stated that the Hebrew term Rabbi was “Used by the Jews in addressing their teachers, and formed from a Hebrew root meaning *great*. It occurs commonly in John...”<sup>1</sup>

John interprets this term for us as master or teacher. The Greek word is διδάσκαλος (dee-das-ka-los) means teacher or instructor. Here, they now address the Lord as teacher. But soon, through meeting Jesus they would call Him **Lord and Christ**. You and I must have a Savior first, and then can we truly learn.

Salvation is the entry point to learning and growing. Our Lord reveals this truth to us in **John chapter 3**, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” And then He says, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

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<sup>1</sup> Marvin Richardson Vincent, Word Studies in the New Testament, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1887), 70.”

Many have tried to venture into a life of religion, frustrated because they cannot do what can only be done by Christ in us the hope of glory.

But let also be known, that after we have had sweet counsel with the Lord and received Him as Savior, **there is a path to take following Him.** There is a **rich road ahead for these two.** The writer of this Gospel record is **looking back after having followed the Lord.** When you think of the day you met the Lord Jesus Christ, it is a sweet memory.

Their request is **further converse with the Lord.** And such should be how it is for us who have encountered the Lord; we should **desire to know Him.**

**John 1:41-42** *“He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, **We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.** And he brought him to Jesus. ...”*

And so, as I stated earlier, Andrew is now declaring that this is the Christ. We see next in **verse 39** the Lord’s response to their inquiry. He says, *“Come and see...”*

The Lord invites you and me to spend time with Him. And how precious it is that we have a counsel with the Ancient of Days? I think of often what some of the conversations must have been between **Adam and the Lord.** What exactly did they talk about? I think about the conversations that ensued between Moses and the Lord. I think about the communion that took place between David and the Lord. The same Lord invites you and I to **come and see.** We are not brought into a relationship with Him and then denied fellowship.