

## INTRODUCTION

What you don't know can hurt you. Those of you who are my age or older remember the whole Watergate scandal. There is actually still a Watergate Hotel in Washington. I've been there, and you almost feel spooky as you look around for secret cameras or listening devices.

A couple spent their honeymoon in the Watergate Hotel. The bride was very paranoid. She said, "What if the place is still bugged?" The groom said, "Let's look around." They looked behind pictures, and in all the lamps. They even removed a large rug and the groom said, "Aha!" Under the rug there was a round device secured with four large screws. He got out his Swiss Army knife and proceeded to remove the screws. Then he threw the screws and the round device out the window.

The next morning as they were checking out the manager said, "How was your evening? Do you have any complaints?" The groom was a little suspicious and said, "And why are you asking us these questions?" The manager replied, "Well the couple in the room directly under yours complained that their chandelier fell on them!"

What you don't know can hurt you—and in that case, others! What you don't know about Jesus can be hazardous to your eternal health.

In the first chapter of John we have been learning about who Jesus is. He is the Word. He is the expression of God's mind. Jesus is God—He is the Creator. Jesus is the great "I am." In the last message we were introduced to John the Baptist, who is the great I am not. They asked John if he was the Messiah. He said, "I am not." They asked him if he was Elijah. He said, "I am not." They asked him if he was the prophet. He said, "I am not." They asked, "Then WHO are you?" John said, "I'm just a voice telling everyone to get ready for the Messiah." As we pick up the text in John 1:29, John identifies the Messiah.

John 1:29-34 (CSB). "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I told you about: 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.' I didn't know him, but I came baptizing with water so he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him. I didn't know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.'"

When I first memorized John 1:29, I learned it in the King James Version which says, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John used a strong interjection in Greek to call people's attention to something. "Look! Behold! Hey! Yo! Check it out!" John was pointing the crowd to look at Jesus. So that's what we'll do in this message. We'll look to the Lamb of God. And we'll learn three things about Him.

## **I. Jesus is God's Lamb to take away our sin.**

John said, "Here is the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 CSB)

Now picture this scene. John is out in the desert wilderness and thousands of people have come out to hear his message and to receive his baptism on repentance. And one day, John sees Jesus walking up to Him. John stops his sermon and points his finger at Jesus and yells, "Look, here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

This was an incredible claim. The Bible has a lot of say about sheep. We find the words, lamb, sheep, or flock over 600 times in the Bible. But would you care to guess how many times the phrase "the lamb of God" appears? Just twice. Here in John 1:29 and John repeats it again in verse thirty-six. So let's explore this idea of the Lamb of God.

### **A. The question of the Old Testament: "Where is the lamb?" (Genesis 22:7)**

There is such a beautiful symmetry to the Bible. The Old and the New Testaments fit perfectly together. Without the Old Testament we couldn't appreciate the New Testament. And without the Old Testament, we wouldn't understand the New Testament.

The Old Testament asks a lot of questions without giving the answers. The New Testament gives the answers. For instance, Cain asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The New Testament teaches that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Old Testament asks the question in Job, "If a man die, shall he live again?" The New Testament answers with Jesus saying, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me though he were dead, yet shall he live."

But in my mind, the most important question of the Old Testament comes from Genesis 22. God has told Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac. As they are walking up the slopes of Mount Moriah, Isaac is carrying the wood, and the fire for the sacrifice, but he notices that something is missing. They don't have a lamb. So he said, "Hey dad, where is the lamb?" Isaac didn't know that he was going to be the lamb that day. Abraham could have said, "Well, son, I haven't told you yet, but you are the lamb today. I'm going to sacrifice you to prove my love to God."

Now on this Father's Day it's a good time to ask the question, "What kind of a deranged father would be willing to kill his son under some misguided notion that he was pleasing God?" Well, the answer to that is found in Hebrews 11:19 where we are told that Abraham had such a powerful faith that he believed that even if he killed his son, that God would raise him back from the dead.

So when Isaac asked the question, "Where is the lamb?" Abraham made a prophetic statement. He said, "God will provide a lamb." There was a short-term fulfillment of that prophecy because when the angel stopped Abraham from plunging the knife into his son, there was a ram caught

in a nearby briar thicket, and Abraham killed that lamb as a substitute for Isaac. The question of the Old Testament is "Where is the lamb?"

### **B. The answer of the New Testament: "Here is the lamb of God!"**

Abraham told Isaac, "God will provide a lamb." 2,000 years later, God did provide a lamb—and that lamb was Jesus. He wasn't a ram caught in a thicket; Jesus was the Lamb of God wearing a crown of thorns. And on the same slopes of the mountain where Abraham took Isaac, Jesus was died as our substitute.

Every word of that statement is important. Jesus wasn't *a* lamb of God, but He is the one and *only* Lamb of God. For hundreds of years, the Jews had sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lambs and bulls. But this lamb was unique. Jesus is the Lamb of God.

All of the temple sacrifice was to cover over the sins of the Israelites. The sins weren't forgiven, just were just covered over temporarily. But John made an earthshattering claim about the Lamb of God. He wouldn't just take away the many sins of Israel, but He takes away the SIN of the entire world! And it's in the present tense. It doesn't say He WILL take away the sin; He is doing it NOW. He takes away the sin of the world.

It's amazing that Jesus takes away the sin of the world. But the only sin you should be concerned about is your own. Do you realize that you are a sinner and that you need to look to the Lamb of God to be saved?

I've quoted that great British Baptist Pastor Charles Spurgeon dozens of times. But do you know how he was saved?

Spurgeon was the son and grandson of great preachers. He had read many Christian books that presented the gospel, but none of what he read helped. He agonized over his sins so much that he wondered if he was mentally unbalanced.

When he was 15, he was walking to his father's church, but there was a snowstorm and he couldn't make it, so he turned down a side alley to a small Primitive Methodist Church. There were only about 15 people in attendance, and the preacher was a sincere, but uneducated man. That morning he was preaching from Isaiah 45:22 (KJV) which says, "Look unto me and be saved all the ends of the earth."

In his autobiography Spurgeon recalled the word of the preacher. He said, "My friends, this is simple. It says, 'Look.' Now lookin' don't take a great deal of pain. It ain't liftin' your foot or your finger; it is just 'Look.' Well, a man don't need to go to college to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man needn't be worth a thousand pounds a year to be able to look. Anyone can look; even a child can look."

Then the preacher looked directly at young Spurgeon and said, "Young man, you look very miserable. And you always will be miserable—miserable in life, and miserable in death—if you

don't obey my text; but if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved." Then he shouted, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ! Look! Look! Look!"

Spurgeon wrote that he had been waiting to do fifty things, but that one word 'look' cleared away the clouds. He looked to the Lamb of God and was saved that day. He would go on to be of the greatest preachers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **II. God approved Jesus at His baptism.**

John said, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him." (John 1:32 CSB)

In John's account, he doesn't record the actual baptism of Jesus, but we read about it in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. For instance Matthew recorded, "When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.'" (Matthew 3:16-17 CSB)

There were two miracles that occurred at Jesus' baptism. First, the Holy Spirit could be seen descending on Jesus like a dove. If you've ever watched a dove come in for a landing, they have an unusual way of hovering just as they touch down. I believe God did this so the onlookers would be able to understand what was happening. The next miracle was the voice of God affirming Jesus as His son. As we think about Jesus' baptism, there are a couple of practical lessons I'd like for us to consider.

### **A. A follower of Jesus will follow Him in baptism.**

Some of you here today haven't yet been baptized because you know that being baptized is not required to go to heaven. Your attitude is: "I don't really HAVE to be baptized. The main thing is to believe in Jesus, to trust Him alone for my salvation." You are correct, if you are truly saved, you will go to heaven when you die even if you haven't been baptized. But you need to look carefully at *why* Jesus was baptized. He said He did it because it was the right thing to do. I believe it is the right thing for every true believer to do.

Have you been properly baptized? Let me share three words with you so you can check up on yourself. The three words are (1) method, (2) meaning and (3) sequence.

We believe the Bible teaches that the proper method of baptism is by immersion. That is, by being dipped into the water until your entire body is submerged. We believe that the proper meaning of baptism is to identify with the Lord Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection. We believe the proper sequence is to repent of your sins first, place your faith in Jesus and then you are willingly baptized as a profession of your faith in Christ. You are demonstrating that Jesus is your Lord by being baptized. Acts 2:38 says, "Repent and be baptized." Not vice versa. So have you been baptized by immersion, to identify with the death burial and resurrection of

Jesus? And have you been baptized after you placed your faith in Jesus. If not, you need to follow the example of Jesus.

### **B. Parents, tell your kids, "I love you; and I'm proud of you!"**

On this Father's Day, we can learn a great lesson from the only perfect Father in the Universe. When Jesus was baptized, His Father said two things. He said, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

Moms and dads, it's important for you to brag on your kids—personally and publicly. Here's how you do it: Tell them you love them, and then tell them they are doing a good job at something. That's what God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I'm well pleased. Listen to Him." Parents, the worst thing you can do to your kids is criticize and belittle them in front of their peers. But the BEST thing you can do for them is to tell them how much you love them and how proud you are of them. Find something your kid does well and brag about them.

Some of you are thinking, "Well, my kids are all grown now, so I've missed my chance." How old was Jesus when the Father said these things? He was in His thirties, so it's never too late to express your love and admiration for your children. Do it today, and do it often!

### **III. Jesus can immerse you into the fullness of the Holy Spirit.**

So John pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God. He baptized Him and God spoke. Then John made another audacious claim about Jesus. He said, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." (John 1:33 NIV)

People are often confused about this simply because they think there is only one baptism, water baptism. Remember, the word "baptize" means "to immerse." There is a baptism that is more important than baptism in water. It is baptism in or with the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is an outward act that symbolizes the cleansing of your sins but it only touches your body. Spirit baptism is an inner act that literally purifies your soul and spirit; you become Holy because the Spirit of God is Holy.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is so important it is mentioned six times in the New Testament. It's mentioned in all four Gospel accounts, and Peter quotes it to Cornelius in Acts 10. We don't have to wonder what the baptism with the Holy Spirit is, because Jesus identified it just before He ascended back into heaven.

"While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. 'Which,' he said, 'you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.'" (Acts 1:4-5 CSB)

And just as Jesus predicted, ten days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit. This was Jesus immersing them into the life and power of the Holy Spirit.

To be filled or baptized in the Holy Spirit means you are totally immersed in the life of God. There are many Christians who are still living according to the desires of their flesh—the Bible calls them carnal Christians. A carnal Christian is saved, but they aren't experiencing the fullness of the joy and victory that comes from the Spirit-filled life. It's like a carnal Christian has taken a glass of the Living Water and poured it on their head. But a Christian who is baptized in the Holy Spirit has jumped head first into a swimming pool filled with the Living Water, and their entire being is surrounded, covered, and supported in the life of Jesus. So go ahead, take the plunge. Allow Jesus to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

If you want to know more about the baptism or filling in the Holy Spirit, R.A. Torrey has written an excellent book entitled *The Baptism with the Holy Spirit*. It is still in print and available at Amazon. Here's a take-away-truth of how R.A. Torrey describes the baptism in the Holy Spirit. "The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not for the purpose of cleansing from sin, but for the purpose of empowering for service."

## CONCLUSION

In 2012 Cindy and I were visiting in New Zealand. It's a beautiful country that has many more sheep than people. We visited a working sheep ranch and got a demonstration of how the sheep dogs control the movement of the sheep.

Then the guide took us into the sheep-shearing barn and demonstrated how they remove the wool from the lamb. There was a lamb that had a thick coat of wool. The lamb didn't necessarily seem to want to be sheared, but once the farmer started using the electric clippers, the lamb relaxed. She submitted to the process of having her wool removed. I was standing nearby and took some pictures. We were in a group of about thirty people, but I was struck by the calm way that the lamb allowed the farmer to remove her wool. And I had a strange feeling that the lamb was looking right at me. She could have been looking at the other people, or anywhere else, but for the longest time, it was like she was having a staring contest with me.

Whether she was looking at me or not, it was one of those teachable moments for me, because I recalled those words from Isaiah 53:7 (CSB) where the prophet described the Messiah with these words, "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not open his mouth."

As I looked at that lamb that day, I was reminded that Jesus faced opposition and hatred. He was falsely accused and tortured. And yet through it all, He didn't defend Himself. And at any point HE could have called for 72,000 angelic warriors to come and rescue Him. But, like that lamb, He remained silent. The Lamb of God submitted to the plan of His father because He knew that only by going to die on the cross would He make a way for the sin of the world could be taken away.

Our responsibility is to look to the Lamb of God and trust Him for forgiveness of our sins. But beyond that, like John, our job is to point people to Jesus.

The Old Methodist evangelist Sam Jones used to tell the story about the time when paddlewheel riverboats steamed on the Mississippi River. When two riverboats passed on the river, the passengers would gather on the rail and wave to the passengers on the other boat. One day as two paddlewheels were passing, a fireman who fed the boiler ran up onto the deck and pointed to the other boat. He said, "Look! Look! There's Captain Douglas! The finest captain on the Mississippi!"

A well-dressed man looked at the grimy fireman and said, "What gives you the right to say that he is the finest captain? How would you know?" The fireman said, "Last year I was on the deck of his boat, and a storm blew up. I fell overboard and I can't swim. I was crying, 'Help me! Help me!' Captain Douglas jumped in the water and saved my life. And ever since he saved me, I just love to point him out!"

That's my story, too. "I was sinking deep in sin; far from the peaceful shore. But the master of the sea; heard my disparaging cry; from the waters; lifted me; now safe am I!" And brothers, and sisters, that's why I love to point out the captain of my salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus is God's Lamb to take away our sin.

John said, "Here is the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" *John 1:29 CSB*

- A. The question of the Old Testament: "Where is the lamb?" *Genesis 22:7*
- B. The answer of the New Testament: "Here is the lamb of God!"

### II. God approved Jesus at His baptism.

John said, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him." *John 1:32 CSB*

"When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.'" *Matthew 3:16-17 CSB*

Practical Lessons:

- A. A follower of Jesus will follow Him in baptism.
- B. Parents, tell your kids, "I love you; and I'm proud of you!"

### III. Jesus can immerse you into the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

"The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit."  
*John 1:33 NIV*

"While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. 'Which,' he said, 'you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.'" *Acts 1:4-5 CSB*

Take-Away Truth:

"The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not for the purpose of cleansing from sin, but for the purpose of empowering for service." — Dr. R.A. Torrey



— MESSAGE DISCLAIMER —

These messages are offered for your personal edification and enrichment. I have used many sources, and I have always attempted to cite any exact quotations and/or use material that is not under copyright. Any failure to cite a quote is simply an oversight on my part.

If you are a preacher or teacher, I encourage you to use this material stimulate your own Spirit-driven preparation—*it is never intended as a substitute for your own study of Scripture.*

If you borrow the majority of a message or outline, it is good scholarship (not to mention the right thing to do) to cite the source. If you are teaching, you may simply preface your remarks by saying something like: **“Some (or “much” as the case may be) of the ideas I’m sharing in this message came from a message by Pastor David Dykes in Texas.”** This simple citation also applies to any work you may publish, too, as I routinely publish my material in books that are protected by copyright.

This careful effort on your part may prevent any criticism that may be directed toward you. I trust you will find that additional study beyond this material will benefit both you and your listeners.

For the Joy...  
Pastor David Dykes



*David O. Dykes, Pastor  
Green Acres Baptist Church  
Tyler, Texas*

---