**Series: God Bent Down to Lift Us Up**

**Jesus, the Lamb of God Who Takes Away Your Sin: John 1:19-34**

April 10, 2016

1. Who are you pointing at? (John 1:19-22)

A. John was a local preacher who chose not to capitalize on national attention.

* V. 19 *the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”*

B. John’s clarity about who he wasn’t, helped him to be who he was.

* V.20 Not Christ
  + Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
* V.21 Not Elijah (that they were expecting but in fact the Elijah who was prophesied)
  + Malachi 4:5 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.*
  + Luke 1:17 *He says, “He shall come in the spirit and power of Elijah”*
  + Matthew 11:14 *and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.*
* v.21 Not the Prophet
  + Deuteronomy 18:15 *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—*

C. John’s humility forces us to take his testimony seriously.

* V.19 *And this is the testimony of John*
* V.32 *And John bore witness*
* V.34 *And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.*

Q. The “Dreamy Trudeau Sweater” was contrasted with paintings of John the Baptist either pointing to Jesus or with his head on a platter. What image would characterize your real, and your ideal life?

Q. What was there in John’s beliefs that you think led him to be both so humble and so bold?

Q. How does John’s life make his testimony so believable and persuasive? What in his life would you like to imitate?

2. Who do you roll out the red carpet for? (John 1:23-28)

A. Faith in Jesus’ greatness helped John to see self-esteem differently.

* V.27 *he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie*

B. John found his mission in helping wandering people welcome the Saviour.

* V.23 *I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness*
* Isaiah 40:3,5 *A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. … And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

C. We welcome the Saviour in repentance, forsaking the obstacles that keep us from Him.

* Isaiah 43:19 *Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*
* Isaiah 57:14-15 *And it shall be said, “Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people’s way.” For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

Q. How is John’s attitude in v.27 different than poor self-esteem?

Q. What do you learn about John’s sense of identity in v.23?

Q. What can you learn from John about how to view your own worth and identity?

Q. What are some of the obstacles in your life that keep you from a greater experience of God’s power?

3. Who will deal with your sin? (John 1:29-34)

A. Jesus is the answer to Isaac’s question

* Genesis 22:7 *He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”*

B. Jesus is our Passover Lamb

* 1 Corinthians 5:7 *For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*

C. Who is Jesus to you?

* Hebrews 2:3-4 *how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*

Q. How might you use v.29 to share the Gospel with someone?

Q. How meaningful is the image of the Lamb of God to you?

Q. How should a person “behold” Jesus as the Lamb of God, rather than “neglecting such a great salvation?”

**Notes:**