

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **Behold the Lamb of God**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **September 3, 2017**

Bible text explored: John 1:29–34

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” [ESV]

Review and application:

Jesus approaches the bank of the Jordan River where John has been baptizing to get Israel ready to recognize their true Anointed One.

1. In announcing Jesus’ arrival (v. 29), what startling title does John give him? Of what rituals would this term remind his audience? (See *Exod. 29:38; Luke 22:7.*) Might they have thought of Scriptures such as *Genesis 22:8* and *Isaiah 53:7*? How does taking away “the sin of the world” go well beyond cleansing for individual sins? (See *Heb. 10:11-14.*)
2. How (v. 31) do we know that John was already acquainted with Jesus at the human level? (See *Luke 1:34-37.*) What about Jesus had John not known for sure until its divine confirmation? What (v. 30) does John’s description of his slightly younger relative say about Jesus’ super-human nature?

John returns now (vv. 32-34) to the divine confirmation during the Baptism of Jesus.

3. Why was there no need for Jesus to be baptized for repentance or cleansing from sin? (See *2 Cor. 5:21.*) However, Jesus urged John to baptize him to meet all God’s requirements (*Matt. 3:15*). Do you think these would have included . . .
 - . . . identifying with our sin and failure?
 - . . . being an example to his followers?
 - . . . launching his public ministry?
4. How does being baptized provide a marker that affirms to you your own salvation? How does acknowledging what you believe also bolster the witness of the church in your community?
5. What sign had God told John the Baptist would confirm the identity of the promised one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit? Why do you think special note is made of the Dove—symbolically representing the Holy Spirit—not only descending on Jesus but also *remaining*? (See *John 3:34.*)
6. How does the Dove enable us to . . .
 - . . . really see the Lamb of God? (See *1 Cor. 2:13-16.*)
 - . . . become increasingly Christ-like? (See *2 Cor. 3:17-18.*)What distractions prevent us from visualizing our Lamb in this way?