

# ***Bible Study***

## ***Gods Word in Focus***



**Week Four**

**Gospel of John**

**1:29-51**

# "Behold the Lamb of God!"

- John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the *Passover Lamb* (Exodus 12) delivered the Israelites in Egypt from death. The blood of Jesus, the true *Passover Lamb* (1 Cor. 5:7), delivers us from everlasting death and destruction.
- It is significant that John was the son of a priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29:38-42). In Jesus he saw the true and only sacrifice which can deliver us from sin.
- When John says he did not know Jesus he was referring to the hidden reality of Jesus divinity. But the Holy Spirit in that hour revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that *this is the Son of God*. We can only know who Jesus truly is through the Holy Spirit who reveals him to us.
- Do you seek to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ?

# Jesus and his first disciples

## 1:35-38

- *In Jesus, John saw the true and only sacrifice which can deliver us from sin. How did John know the true identity of Jesus, as the Messiah? The Holy Spirit revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that this is the Son of God. How can we be certain that Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of the God? The Holy Spirit makes Christ known to us through the gift of faith. God gives us freely of his Spirit that we may comprehend the great mystery and plan of God to unite all things in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *John in his characteristic humility was eager to point beyond himself to the Christ. He did not hesitate to direct his disciples to the Lord Jesus. When two of John's disciples began to seek Jesus out, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: "What do you seek?" What were they looking for in Jesus and what were they aiming to get out of life? Jesus asks each of us the same question: "What's the goal of your life? What are you aiming for and trying to get out of life?"*

# Andrew and Simon 1:39-42

- Jesus invites each of us to "come and see" for ourselves that his word is true and everlasting. "Come and see" is God's invitation for fellowship and communion with the One who made us in love for love. It is God who initiates and who draws us to himself. Without his grace, mercy, and help we could not find him.
- When we discover something very important and valuable it's natural to want to share it with those closest to us. Andrew immediately went to his brother Simon and told him the good news of his discovery of Jesus. And it didn't take much to get Simon to "come and see" who this Jesus was. Jesus reached out to Simon in the same way he did to Andrew earlier. He not only addressed Simon by his personal name, but he gave him a new name which signified the call God had for him. "Cephas" or "Peter" literally means Through faith.
- Peter grasped who Jesus truly was -- the *Anointed One* (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into rocks or spiritual stones. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith to know Jesus personally, power to live the gospel faithfully, and courage to witness to others the joy and truth of the gospel. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to draw us near to himself. Do you seek to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ?

# Philip and Nathanael 1:43-47

- How can we know for ourselves and help others to know with certainty that Jesus is truly the Son of God and Savior of the world? Philip, a new disciple of Jesus, at first failed to convince his friend Nathaniel that he had found the Messiah. Nathaniel was very skeptical. He didn't like Nazareth and didn't want to have anything to do with people who came from such an out of the way place. How could the Messiah come from such a seemingly low-down town? Rather than argue with his friend, Philip took the wiser strategy of inviting Nathaniel to "come and see" for himself who this Jesus claimed to be. Clever arguments rarely win people to the gospel, but an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ can transform one's life forever.
- Nathaniel found in Jesus more than he could have hoped and dreamed. Jesus spoke a word to Nathaniel and it set his heart ablaze with wonder! Jesus, who knows our hearts better than we do, revealed to Nathaniel the innermost thoughts and desire of his heart. Nathaniel was hungry for knowledge of God. He really wanted to know God personally. God places in every heart a longing and desire to know the One who created us in love for love. That is why Augustine of Hippo, who found God only after many years of wandering in disbelief and darkness, exclaimed: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

# A fig tree and a dream 1:48-51

- The fig tree was a symbol of God's blessing and peace. It provided shade from the midday sun and a cool place to retreat and pray. Nathaniel accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord because he spoke to the need of his innermost being -- the desire to know God personally and to be united with him in his glory. Jesus' response to Nathaniel's new faith is the promise that he himself will be the "ladder which unites earth with heaven" (see Genesis 28:12-17).
- In Jacob's dream God revealed his angelic host and showed him the throne of heaven and promised Jacob that he and descendants would dwell with the living God. Jesus proclaims to Nathaniel that he himself is the fulfillment of this promise to the Patriarch Jacob. Jesus is the true ladder or stairway to heaven. In Jesus' incarnation, the divine Son of God taking on human flesh for our sake, we see the union of heaven and earth -- God making his dwelling with us and bringing us into the heavenly reality of his kingdom. Jesus' death on the Cross and his Resurrection opens the way for each of us to come into a new relationship with God as his sons and daughters.
- God's kingdom is present in those who seek him and who do his will. Do you pray as Jesus taught, *May your kingdom come and your will be done in earth as it is in heaven?*