

# Gospel of John: That You Might Believe - John

[John 1:19-51](#)

"The Lamb of God" – February 14, 2021



## **Introduction**

John presents two lines of evidence to call us to believe. He invites us to come and see the testimony of John the Baptist and the evidence of Jesus Christ in the pages of Scripture.

## **Pray**

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## **Sermon Outline**

- I. Believe the testimony of John the Baptist ([1:19-34](#))
- II. Believe the evidence in Christ Himself. ([1:35-51](#))

## **Read & Discuss**

- 1) Read [1:19-34](#)

Hearing John, the Baptist, speak of the coming Savior caused a great stir of hope and questions among God's people. What kind of questions and reactions can you imagine them having as they were waiting for this long-awaited hope just like we wait today for His return? John's purpose was clear. He was here to make way for the Savior. John's baptism called the people to lay down their self-reliance in their Jewish lineage and to correct their hearts back to God. Jesus' identity as the Christ was hidden up until this point. John the Baptist turned on the lights of Jesus' messianic identity. John and Jesus were cousins. He always knew Jesus, but it was hidden from him until now. Can you imagine finding out your cousin was the Christ? Yet, shouldn't this be more proof for us that this must have been truly God in flesh. John believed God's sign and proclaimed this truth. Jesus is no ordinary person. He is the eternal son of God in the flesh. He is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus bears our sin on the cross and rises again on the third day. When is the last time you meditated on your need of this great sacrifice, sought the Lord, and rejoiced in it? Jesus takes away the sin of the world. Does this mean that He takes away everyone's sin? He takes the sin of all who did (and will) receive Him ([1:12](#)). What would you consider one of your greatest problems right now? If you've believed in Christ it's easy to forget or presume upon God's forgiveness, but our greatest problem is having the Creator opposed to us. The disciples assumed their biggest problem was a political problem, deliverance from Rome. What are you seeking in following and obeying Jesus ([1:38](#))? Are there things you are seeking for Jesus to do that He never promised to do? If your heart is given to bitterness, anger, fear, or a sense of entitlement then you may have a wrong expectation of why Jesus came. Praise God, in Christ we don't need to justify ourselves. He came to take away our sins and to call us to follow Him as our King. How are you doing following Him? Thankfully though, He's not indifferent to our problems, but we would be helped to address our problems in this life in comparison to our greatest problem. A problem in Christ that has already been resolved. As

Christians, we get to face our problems as sinners justified in Christ. Why should we trust John the Baptist's testimony? His answer would be to "look to Jesus".

Additional Reading: [Malachi 4:5](#), [Deuteronomy 18:18](#), [Isaiah 40:3](#), [Isaiah 53](#), [Genesis 22](#), [Hebrews 10](#), [1 Peter 2:24](#)

2) Read [1:35-51](#)

Jesus changes Simon's name to Cephas (Peter). Jesus displays His authority over Simon. This shows Jesus' authority over us. If you chose to follow Jesus, the only way to follow Him is as your King. He has absolute authority over every area of your life. Are there areas that you are tempted to leave "off limits" to Jesus? Are you following and obeying all Jesus commanded with joy? Jesus names Peter "the rock". This is amusing if we've read about Peter in the gospels before. He denies Jesus when a little servant girl asks him if he knows Jesus. Yet, Jesus restores Peter, and he becomes a leader in the church. He gave up His life for the message of Christ. How did that change come about? It came from Jesus. Jesus gives the spirit of God to those who come to Him and trust in Him. He baptizes every Christian in His Spirit. This transformation that happens to Peter happens to every believer. How can we follow Christ? By reading His word and doing what He says. How can we do that? By the power of His Spirit. Little by little Christ's Spirit is making us look more like Jesus every day. God not only changes us but shows us what our witness to others should look like. How was John okay and happy with people leaving him to follow Jesus? Would you feel ok with that? John knew who He wasn't. He wasn't the Christ and neither are we. Our job is to point people to Jesus as John did. Is it possible we are serving to be seen? That's using a person and not loving them. That's not the way of Christ. Our job is to point people to Jesus so that they rely on Him and worship Him. Humility is honestly assessing our sins/ourselves in the light of God's holiness and our sinfulness. How is your humility right now? Our witness should be humble like John's. It will be humble when we see ourselves in light of who God is. Humility also shapes the tone of our witness. We shouldn't and can't argue people into heaven. We reason and persuade people by the truth. We commend ourselves to everyone's conscious and we leave the rest to God. Philip took Nathaniel to come and see Jesus. Who can you take to see Jesus in the pages of Scripture this week?

Additional Reading: [Ezekiel 26](#), [John 10:10](#), [Acts 17:2](#), [2 Corinthians 5:11](#),

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

**\*Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [2 John](#) "Walking in the Truth"