

John 2021 #3 (5.9.21) #21039
John 1:19-51
The Voice, the Son, and the Call

I. The most stunning news humanity has ever heard is that God is a human. 1:14-18

- A. There is a song called “One of Us” written by Eric Bazilian and performed by Joan Osborne, released in February of 1995. “What if God was one of us...” It was a major hit for a long time (6 Grammy nominations). It is not a worship song and the “theology” of it is basically secular.
- B. Why was it such a hit? Perhaps because it expressed a hope that God might understand us...that we might somehow connect with him on a human level...What if...
- C. The fact is...He did become one of us. *And is still one of us.*
- D. The eternal Word has permanently become human.

II. His ministry began with ... John 1:19-51

A. God’s Prophetic Voice: John the Baptist. 1:6-8, 19-28

- 1. **Humanly:** he was the miraculously conceived son of priest Zechariah and his aged wife Elizabeth. (Lk.1)
 - a) Just 6 months before Jesus, to Mary’s older relative (Cousin? Aunt?)
 - b) The last of several such men (Sarah had Isaac, Rebekah had Esau and Jacob (Gen.25:21); Rachael had Joseph and Benjamin (Gen.30:22; 35:18), Manoah’s wife had Samson (Jg. 13), Hannah had Samuel (1 Sam.1-2)
- 2. **Biblically:** (biblical story-arc) he was the last OT prophet and the Elijah-like forerunner of Messiah.
 - a) Lk.1:17. Gabriel told Zechariah (John’s father) he would go in the Spirit and Power of Elijah as forerunner of Messiah.
 - b) Matt.11:11-15. Jesus said he was Elijah (if you can understand it). (Mal.3:1-4; 4:5.)
 - (1) Though John didn’t claim this for himself.
 - c) *He handed the prophetic baton to Messiah!*
 - (1) Jesus called him the “greatest” of the prophets for this reason. Matt 11:11
- 3. **Theologically:** he was an enigma to the Jews. **19-28.**
 - a) Not the Messiah. 20, (1:6-8)
 - b) Not Elijah (Mal.3:1-4; 4:5-6)
 - (1) John wore the same garb as Elijah (2K.1:8)
 - (2) *John didn’t see his own ministry as clearly as Jesus did.*
 - (3) *John didn’t know everything, only what he needed to know to do his work. Matt.11:1-6*
 - c) Not the Prophet (Deut.18:15-19)
- 4. **Prophetically:** he was the fulfillment of **Isa. 40:3. 23**
 - a) He was the Spirit’s Voice from Isa 40:3
 - b) all four gospels quote this.

B. About God’s Authentic Son. The Star of the biblical rescue story. 1:29-34

- 1. **Jesus, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. 29**
 - a) “Lamb” is the symbol of atoning sacrifice in the OT.
 - b) The “slain Lamb” is the Star of Revelation. (5:6, 12-14; 22:3)
 - c) He pre-exists me... 30 (1-5, 15)
 - (1) Note the plan of God predating history (Eph.1)
 - d) *This would have been a shocking statement to John’s disciples.*
- 2. **Jesus, upon whom the Spirit descends permanently. 32**
 - a) Messiah = anointed one = the One with the Spirit. (Isa.11:1-2; 42:1)
 - b) John didn’t realize that Jesus was Messiah until he baptized him.
- 3. **Jesus, who immerses his people in the Spirit. 33**
 - a) Regeneration (Jn.3:3, 7:37-39; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Pet.1:3, 23)
 - b) *God’s own eternal life within us. More on this as we move through John.*
- 4. **Jesus, the one and only true Son of God. 34 Ps.2:7**
 - a) This is not a metaphor. It is a metaphysical reality.

C. Who calls us into God's personal family: We belong to Him. 1:35-51

1. The first children of God. 1:12-13

- a) Andrew and the "mystery disciple" (John himself?)
- b) Simon who became Cephas/Peter
- c) Philip from Bethsaida.
 - (1) Peter and Andrew's town, on north end of the Sea of Galilee.
- d) Nathanael from Cana (21:2). Only mentioned twice.

2. Who will know God personally. 51. Jn.14:8-9

- a) Jesus who is the King of Israel. 49 **Psalm. 2**
 - (1) I have installed my King and he will reign.
- b) Jesus, who is Jacob's Ladder. 51a. See **Gen.28:12-13**
 - (1) Direct access to God and heaven.
- c) Jesus, who is the Son of Man. 51b. **Dan.7:13-14**
 - (1) Messianic title used 13 times in John.
 - (2) Jesus' favorite self-designation.

3. And from the beginning of Christ's Church, his body on earth. Matt. 16:18

- a) Upon this rock I will build my church, gathering, my people.

III. So, who is Jesus?

A. Check his titles in this chapter alone!

1. The Living Word made flesh. 1-14

- a) The personal expression of God's mind.

2. The True Light. 9

- a) Coming into the dark world.

3. The One-and-only Son. 14, 34, 49

- a) Not a metaphor, but a metaphysical reality.
- b) *A human with God's DNA...*

4. The Messiah/Christ. 18, 41

- a) 18. Christos, Greek translation of Messiah
- b) 41. Messian. Greek transliteration of Hebrew Messiah

5. The Only God at the Father's side. 18

6. The Lamb of God. 29, 36

- a) The ultimate sacrifice for sins.

7. The Rabbi. 49

- a) Teacher, mentor, guide.

8. The King of Israel. 49

- a) Messianic title. Psalm 2. Ps.110

9. The Son of Man. 51 (Dan.7:13)

- a) Messianic title.

B. Has God revealed himself to humanity? How much clearer do we want it?

IV. Why does John include this account in his gospel? To help us trust and follow Christ, of course!

A. So that we will not read the Bible from the wrong end. 1:17

1. The reason that all the gospels start with John the Baptist is so that we will see the fulfillment of the Old Covenant in the New.
2. We must read the Old Testament through the lens of the Gospel.
3. Jesus is not Moses's assistant (see Hebrews if you wonder)

B. So that we will not be taken in by wrong philosophies. Col.2:8-10

1. Evaluate all spiritual (prophetic) messages based on who Jesus is and what He did.
2. God's one message to humanity is Christ. Heb.1:1-3.

"The church declares Christ to be the source and solution, for Christ is the revealer of God. There is no God talk without Christ. All talk of religion, all talk of spirituality or spiritual things, all talk of God or gods is nothing if it is not rooted in and mediated by and through Christ. Our discipleship is rooted in Christ as well as our evangelism. To speak of God without Christ might be socially more acceptable, but it is entirely unchristian. Without the "Son of Man" the rest of men cannot know God." (Edward Klink, ECNT John (Zondervan, 2016) p.157)

C. So that we will not try to live in the wrong identity. 42. Simon/Peter

1. How much authority does it take to change a person's name? Their actual identity?
2. **2 Cor.5:17.** We are new Creatures in Christ.
 - a) Jesus changes our "name," our identity.
3. **Matt. 11:27-30.** Learn (mathetes) from me
 - a) Take on your "new name" Eph.4-5; Col.3
4. *We must see ourselves In Christ and press into that new identity. the only safe and secure identity because it is what we were created for.*

V. So...

A. What are you seeking?

1. Do you think you will find it in this world?

B. Who will you follow?

1. You will follow somebody. You look up to somebody. Somebody or something is your practical savior and mentor.