



## *Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 3*

Preacher: Sandy Mason

Text: John 1:19-34

### Introduction:

In this section, John the Baptist delivers a series of powerful revelations about the person and work of Jesus, the coming Messiah. John refuses any glory for himself, instead pointing to the Christ, who is the greater One, the Lamb of God, the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, the true Son of God. John's testimony in this powerful passage sets the stage for the beginning of Jesus' ministry and pointed to the majesty and glory of the one who is so much greater than John himself. Through his testimony here, John is truly "...one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord!'"

### Discussion:

1. John the Baptist came as "...the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'make straight the way of the Lord, '...'" (v. 23). That is to say, he was sent to prepare the hearts of the people so that when they saw Jesus, they'd respond rightly to him. Who played that role in your life? Who did the Lord use to prepare you to respond rightly to the Gospel message?
2. John testified clearly about who Jesus was and what He would do. What is *your* testimony about Jesus? What do you tell others about Him? APPLICATION: How can you make sure your testimony is a clear and compelling as John's?

3. Notice how John took pains to point others away from himself and toward Christ. How can you and I better direct others' attention away from ourselves and toward Jesus? Why is this so difficult?
  
4. What's the significance of John's title for Jesus – "The Lamb of God"? How did this title help John's listeners understand Jesus' purpose? How does our New Testament understanding develop this idea further?
  
5. John baptized with water (vv. 26, 31, 33). What did this signify (see Matthew 3 for more)? What did this baptism mean for those who received it? APPLICATION: John's baptism (for repentance) helped prepare hearts for the coming Messiah - What does this imply for how you and I become receptive to the work of Christ in our lives? Is this a one-time thing or something ongoing in the life of the believer?
  
6. If John baptized with water, Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit (v. 33). How does verse 32 expand our understanding of Jesus' relationship with the Holy Spirit? In other words, what is John saying about Jesus, when he says that he is able to baptize with the Spirit? (See Isaiah 11:1-2, 42:1, and 61:1 for additional context).