

Jesus the Lamb of God

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

John 1:29-42a

“29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’

30 This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’

31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.’

32 Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’

34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.’

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

36 When he was Jesus passing by, he said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God!’

37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

Pericope Cont. on p.2

Luther’s Works - Volume 22

“Compare the true Lamb with the lamb which the Law of Moses commands you to butcher and eat. One is a lamb procured from shepherds. The other, however, is an entirely different Lamb; it is the Lamb of God. For it has been ordained to bear on Its back the sins of the world. Compared with this Lamb, all the lambs you butcher in the temple, roast, and eat count for nothing.”

Luther, M., Luther’s Works: Volume 22. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1957.

The Gospel According to John

“In the Synoptic Gospels Peter and the others do not volunteer a formal confession that Jesus is the Messiah until Caesarea Philippi (Mt. 16:13-20 par.), well into the ministry. But several factors mitigate the tension between the accounts. If some of Jesus’ first disciples had earlier followed John the Baptist, we must suppose that something encouraged them to abandon their old master at the peak of his influence, in order to follow a still unknown preacher from Galilee. The best reason is the obvious one: they changed their allegiance precisely because it was the Baptist himself who pointed Jesus out as the one who was coming to fulfill the promises of Scripture. In that case, the confessions of John 1 are not only plausible, but almost historically necessary.

This does not mean that the followers of Jesus portrayed in John 1 enjoyed a thoroughly Christian grasp of the titles they applied to Jesus. Doubtless they were first uttered more in hope than in faith. In fact, of the four Gospels it is John’s that most insistently stresses how much the disciples misunderstood what they confessed.”

Carson, D.A., The Gospel According to John. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991.

People’s Bible Commentary - John

“Come,’ Jesus replied, ‘and you will see.’ And with that invitation Jesus welcomed his first two disciples to his side. ‘It was about the tenth hour.’ We cannot determine beyond any doubt when the tenth hour was. If John was using Jewish time, it was 4:00 p.m., if Roman time, 10:00 a.m. Since John wrote for Gentiles, and the disciples stayed ‘that day’ rather than ‘that evening,’ it makes sense to work with the earlier hour.

Jesus the Lamb of God Cont.

Pericope Cont. from P.1

38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, ‘What do you want?’ They said, ‘Rabbi’ (which means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’

39 ‘Come,’ he replied, ‘and you will see.’ So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ).

42 And he brought him to Jesus.”

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE,
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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People’s Bible Commentary - John, Cont. from p.1

The exact time here may be less important than John’s mention of the time. This detail suggests that he was there, that he was one or the two disciples. The idea is strengthened when, in turn, he names only one of the two, a strange decision unless he was merely consistent in not naming himself in his gospel.”

Baumler, G.P., People’s Bible Commentary - John. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1997.

CLB Pastors Network - Rev. Dale Hanson

Comments on John 1:29-42a

This text gives us a wonderful word of the gospel to proclaim to our people, “Look, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world” and “We have found the Messiah.” These words clearly tell us how we can be forgiven and who Jesus is. He is the Messiah, promised in the Old Testament, that would come as the Lamb of God to take away our sin and the sins of the whole world. Just as the sacrifice of a lamb in the Old Testament took away their sin so Jesus’ death and resurrection has removed our sin. Just as the people of Israel, on the night of the 10th plague, who had the blood of the lamb smeared on their door were saved from the horrible death plague so are we saved from death and hell.

C. F. Walthers says in his book, Law and Gospel, page 186: This word of forgiveness is to be proclaimed to all people. This is the good news of forgiveness. All that is necessary for your salvation has been accomplished. When you ask, “What must we do to be saved?” please remember that all has been done. There is nothing more to do. Believe-and you will be saved!”



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