

Theme: Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to take away our sin so that we might glorify and enjoy God forever.

I. John's Gospel - No Infancy Narrative

- A. It begins in eternity past, with the Trinity
- B. It relates the coming of Jesus with the ministry of John
- C. It then moves straight to the testimony of John about Jesus

II. John's Ministry: Calling for Repentance

- A. He was reminiscent of Elijah
 - 1. He lived in the wilderness
 - 2. He wore a camel hair coat
 - 3. He was a fiery prophet calling everyone to repent
 - 4. He even confronted kings with their sin
- B. John said he was preparing the way for God to come to His people
 - 1. It seemed a ministry of judgement
 - 2. When you came to John, you came to confess your wickedness - and he would call it out if you did not!
 - 3. John always went straight to the heart of the matter!

III. John - "Behold the Lamb of God"

- A. A different reaction to Jesus
 - 1. When John sees Jesus, he does not call out sin, or ask for confession, or threaten judgement

- 2. He cries out "Behold the Lamb of God Who comes to take away the sin of the world!"
 - 3. Everyone there couldn't help but look!
 - 4. Who was this? Why is He the Lamb of God?
- B. Understanding the Lamb of God Who takes away sin
- 1. The lamb was familiar to Israel
 - a. God had provided a lamb so that Isaac did not have to be sacrificed and die
 - b. God had given the passover lamb so that the children of Israel were delivered from the plague of death striking down the land
 - c. Lambs had been killed in sacrifice for almost 1,500 years
 - d. They had all watched as lambs died because of their own sin
 - e. And yet the lambs could never really take away their sin, and they had to offer more lambs for new sins
 - 2. Behold a new kind of Lamb
 - a. This was not just a lamb - it was THE Lamb
 - b. This Lamb was a man - for it was our sin that had plunged creation in to chaos and brought the plague of death and destruction
 - c. This Lamb did not just cover our sin temporarily - He takes it away forever!
 - d. This Lamb did not just offer salvation to Israel - but to the whole world!

IV. Behold the Lamb of God Who Takes Away Sin

A. Jesus is the Lamb of God

1. He is the fulfillment of all of the stories in the OT
2. He is the fulfillment of the entire law and sacrificial system
3. Every story in Scripture had whispered His name
4. So now John shouted - Behold the Story has come true - Behold the Lamb of God!!

B. Jesus is the Lamb Who takes away our sin

1. We do not need a moral example - we need a Lamb Who takes away our sin
2. We do not need a life coach - we need a Lamb Who takes away our sin
3. We do not need one who tells us "I'm ok, you're ok" - we need a Lamb Who takes away our sin
4. Behold Jesus - the Lamb Who has come, and Who takes away our sin!

So sing out with joy for the brave little boy
Who was God, but He made Himself nothing
He gave up His pride and He came here to die
As the Lamb (Andrew Peterson, Gather Round Ye
Children, modified)

V. Silent Night Candle Lighting

Behold the Lamb of God

John 1:29
December 24, 2016
Singing
Revelation 7:14-17

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; Christology; atonement; typology

As you look to Jesus, the Lamb of God, to wash away your sins by His blood, may God watch over you as your Shepherd, leading you to springs of living water, and may He wipe away every tear from your eyes until the day you see Him face to face. (Revelation 7:14-17)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29