

## 10.17.21 / Jesus the New Teacher / John 1.19-51

Think of a time when you were anxiously awaiting something or someone...

Christmas day, summer vacation, old enough to sit in the front seat, driver's license, making the team, high school graduation, dream job/promotion, spouse/children, owning a home, getting a bonus, retirement. **How do you feel when that which has been long awaited arrives?**

That's the overarching **metaphor** I want us to sit with while listening to and engaging with our text today.

(context) The community of Jewish people was a community characterized by -or grounded in - their waiting for Messiah – the Anointed One - who would **redeem** them and **punish** their oppressors. It's kind of like the Jewish community had been waiting for "Christmas" for 700 years since the words of Isaiah – or for some even longer since God's promise to David of a forever kingdom... or even since Moses' prophecy about the Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:17-18). **The Jewish people are waiting for the promised Messiah.**

**John 1:19-28** (What do you notice? What does this mean? How does it apply to your life?)

### **Observations (What do you notice?)**

**1.** (Context) Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Haggai, Zachariah, Joel, Malachi – 450 years of rich, exciting, confusing, scary, hope-filled prophecy and then... 400 years of silence. The prophecies recorded in the OT spoke of and pointed toward an Anointed One. A messiah to save His captive people. Prophets, silence, and then... John

2. Religious leaders have some reasonable questions (even if asked with questionable motives): Elijah, Messiah, Prophet? Affirmative answers which would have undercut authority of religious leaders.

3. John is dynamic and fascinating.

4. John is humble. Points to the one coming after him.

### **What does this mean?**

1. The Religious leaders have a belief system that supports their ongoing power and privilege. They want by any means to protect their power and privilege. They sent out messengers to investigate John – who was a possible threat to their power and privilege.

2. John had a message that was gaining momentum and he was doing everything he could to place attention and honor on someone else.

### **How does it apply to my life?**

Are we in the practice of protecting our power and privilege or pointing to the honor and power of someone greater?

One might say that it's more complex than that. True. And the question still has value because I think it is important for us to realize and acknowledge what passions are fueling us. [Illus. What gets me up in the morning or fires you up on social media?](#)

**John is gaining a large hearing but he's not getting a large head.**

He keeps humbly pointing to Jesus. **Is your life about you or Jesus?** I encourage you to wrestle with these questions.

*(common)* **Main Point: Jesus is the Messiah**

**John 1:29-34** (What do you notice? What does this mean? How does it apply to my life?)

**Observations / What do you notice?**

- Title “lamb of God” – this is a packed title
- John’s testimony (v32 – pointing to Mt 3, Mk 1, Luke 3) – explaining what happened when he baptized Jesus.
- John says – Jesus is the one – one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit – God’s Chosen One

**What does all of this mean?**

1. Lamb of God – sacrificial lamb/Passover lamb/cleansing
2. Spirit resting on Jesus - Spirit is poured out on the Messiah (Isaiah 11:2, 42:1)
3. “will **baptize** with the Holy Spirit” – Spirit is being poured out on God’s people (Isaiah 32:15, Ezekiel 36:26-27, 37:14) **The time long awaited for has arrived!**

This is what circumcision has been pointing towards for thousands of years. Physical circumcision pointed to the need for circumcision of the heart. Nobody could circumcise/cleanse a heart. John preaches the need to repent. His physical water baptism is a physical symbol for cleansing. What really needs cleansed/circumcised/baptized? The heart – it has always been about the heart. John tells the people that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will cleanse/circumcise/baptize our heart. That is the heart-cleansing that humanity has been needing and scripture has been pointing towards since the fall. And John reports that the Messiah is here to baptize (cleanse our hearts) with the Holy Spirit. The Messiah will be carrying out that **to which** all of those circumcisions were pointing, that **to which** all of John’s baptisms have been pointing, that **for which** the entire sacrificial system shows humanities’ need ... There is a Messiah

who will cleanse/circumcise/baptize your heart with the Holy Spirit. **This is incredible news!!**

### **How does it apply to us?**

If my heart needs cleansed – and it does – and I can't do it – which I can't – than I need **the one** who baptizes/cleanses hearts with the Holy Spirit. Have you received the gift of the cleansing work of the Spirit promised to all who place their faith in Jesus? If you have than rejoice (Eph 1:3 Praise be...). If you haven't the cleansing gift of the Spirit through faith in Jesus... keep listening.

### **Main Point: Jesus is the Messiah**

**John 1:35-42** (What do you notice? What does this mean? How does it apply to my life?)

### **Observations / What do you notice?**

- “lamb of God” – they've now had time to process this –
- “they followed Jesus” – dropped everything... wow!
- Andrew - witness

### **What does it mean? How does it apply to us?**

If you believe Jesus to be the Messiah – leave the life of living for self and follow Him... and tell others about Him.

### **Main Point: Jesus is the Messiah**

**John 1:43-50** (What do you notice? What does this mean? How does it apply to my life?)... **It doesn't fit in our time to discuss this...**

### **Main Point: Jesus is the Messiah**

We're all waiting for something: we have unmet longings... we long for something/someone to save us from... Illness, loneliness, brokenness, injustice

**Jesus the Messiah** steps on the scene as God in flesh – to mend our broken world. Following Jesus is following a path of restoration – personal and global restoration.

- Completion is not immediate but it is assured.
- Transformation is not instant but it has begun.

**Jesus is the Messiah** and He changes everything.

### **Are you following Jesus the Messiah?**

If not, I invite you to consider this prayer.

*God, I need you. I'm sorry for all my sins, for the many ways I've lived my life for me rather than for you.*

*I now put my trust in your Son, Jesus Christ. I believe that in Him I come face to face with you (God), that through His death and resurrection He rescues me, making me right with you, bringing me into relationship with you.*

*I accept his gift of forgiveness and new life. I turn from a life lived for me, and choose a life lived with you and for you. Lead me into the life you intend for me, Lord, and I will follow. In Jesus' name I pray this, Amen.*

If you are stepping into a new life of following Jesus, I hope that you'll tell someone here this morning about that.

If you have been following Jesus, then I invite you to commit afresh to following Him more closely.