

# Who is this Man Jesus?

Part 2


## He is the "Lamb of God"

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# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Tell about a time that someone "took the rap for you". **Why** did he do it? What did it cost him to do so? What would have happened to you had he not been your substitute? How did this impact your relationship?

- The Jews had unending, bloody reminders of the cost of their sin. Do you ever find yourself thinking that your sin "wasn't so bad", that it "didn't cost God much" to forgive you, or that forgiveness is his "job"?

How does your **current** degree of appreciation for your salvation compare to that of when you were first saved?

- The instructions of 1 Peter 1:17-19 are for those who "call God 'Father'." Does that describe you?

We are told to "live in reverent fear". To what evidence would you point that you fear God?

What reason does v. 19 give for **why** believers ought to live our lives in reverent fear?

**Creating "God Space":** "God Space" is where cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people can safely raise their questions, reservations, & doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in practical, authentic ways.

- List three people you could reach out to online.  
Pray that God would use you to help them somehow.
- Ask God to increase your awareness of these friends—  
knowing their likes, dislikes, and needs.
- Brainstorm some "wondering" questions you  
could ask these friends online this week.

**Need help trusting the "Lamb of God"?**  
For customized discipleship, write to:  
**BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com**

## Application-Challenge

- Do you know him? If not, you've either never heard, or else you're hard-hearted.  
If you don't know enough to believe, then read some of John's Gospel each day (John 20:30-31).  
If you can't honestly claim ignorance, then you need to soften your heart, repent, and believe.
- If you do know him, how well do you know him? As Pastor Doug often says: "You're as close to God as you really want to be." In your daily Bible reading, "always keep one finger in the gospels."
- Tell others about him. Everyone has sin, so everyone needs a substitute to absorb God's wrath. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the only way to God.

# Sermon Summary

*Key Text: John 1:19-37*

We've just begun a new series from John's Gospel called, "Who is this Man Named Jesus?" We're looking at the words and works of Jesus to determine who he is, and what he wants for and from us. Last week we looked at Jesus as the "Logos"—the Word—of God (John 1:1-14). The Greco-Roman world of the first century theorized that there must be a spiritual, cosmic principle of order to explain the universe. They called that cosmic principle "logos". They concluded that this purpose or reason or logic for life was impersonal. John's gospel corrected all that. We learned that Jesus, the Logos of God, is a person. He is eternal God and Creator. He is the life and light of the world. Although he was rejected by his own people—the Jewish nation of the first century—whoever does receive him, to them he gives the right to become a child of God. In fact, the purpose of entire John's Gospel is evangelistic (John 20:30-31).

Today's text, John 1:19-37, is all about "identity politics". The Jewish leaders wanted to know who John the Baptist claimed to be (v. 19-22). John insisted that his identity didn't matter—he was just "a voice" (v. 23). John said that there is the One whose identity really matters: the Lord (v. 23; Greek, kurios). John pointed out that he was quoting from Isaiah—and that tells us a lot more about this "lord's" identity. He is Yahweh, the Great "I AM", he is God (Isaiah 40:3). Then John said, "And look—there he is!" and pointed at Jesus (John 1:29). So, Jesus = Lord, God, Yahweh! To the Jewish mind, this was scandalous—it could get you killed!

Let's briefly explore the biblical idea of "the Lamb of God". For several hundred years at the beginning of their history, the Jews lived in Egypt. As their population grew, the Egyptian king felt threatened by their presence, and so he enslaved them. The Jews cried out to God for deliverance, and God raised up Moses. The Egyptians, of course, didn't want to lose all their slaves, but it took some plagues to convince them to let the Jews go. God warned that his "death angel" would "pass over" Egypt and kill the oldest child in each home if it didn't have a special mark of blood on the door. God made provision to save children for Jews and Egyptians alike if they would kill a lamb as substitute. The "passover lamb" would die in their place, instead of them. It worked! The Jews were let go from slavery, and "Passover" became an annual celebration.

The Jews were glad to be rescued from the hard, manual labor of slavery in Egypt but God wanted them to know that they had a deeper, more profound "slavery"—slavery to sin. The Bible says that "everyone who sins is a slave to sin". God used their slavery in Egypt to direct their attention to this deeper slavery. Just as the Passover Lamb died as a substitute for the first-born of the Jews, this idea of a lamb substituting for them, dying for their sins, became the chief element of Jewish religious life. Whenever a Jew sinned, an animal could die as his substitute (Hebrews 9:22b). But because we keep on sinning, the bloody sacrifices were endless. Each year, more than 250,000 lambs were killed in just one week for Passover! The idea of an innocent lamb substituting for mankind's sin is explicit in Isaiah 53. Fast-forward several centuries, and we learn that Jesus is the true Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19). The old Jewish system required that sacrifices keep on being made. And, every time Jews celebrated and remembered their rescue from Egypt, they also were reminded of their current slavery to sin. But with Jesus, there was only one sacrifice for all time! (Hebrews 10:11-13). Jesus is different from all those pathetic lambs who were slaughtered for centuries: Although Jesus is the "lamb who was slain"—he is victorious, not pathetic! The book of Revelation speaks of the victorious "Lamb who was slain" thirty times.

In John's day, as in ours, people have different responses to God's provision of redemption: Hard-hearted people "did not know him" (John 1:26), but soft-hearted people such as John and his followers gladly honored him (John 1:27, 35-37; 3:30). Remember that hang-up the Jewish leaders had with baptism (John 1:24-25)? Jews thought that others were "unclean" and so needed to be washed in order to join God's people. But John was telling Jews that they needed to be washed, too! Our willingness to admit that we are unclean and need to be "washed in the blood of the lamb of God" is the most determinative thing about us (Revelation 7:14). It determines whether we accept or reject all of God's ways (Luke 7:29-30).

## **Talking To Others About This Week's Message**

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, "*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*", how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.  
We can use it to explore Jesus, the Lamb of God...

**Monday**— Isaiah 52:13-15

**Tuesday**— Isaiah 53:1-3

**Wednesday**— Isaiah 53:4-6

**Thursday**— Isaiah 53:7-9

**Friday**— Isaiah 53:10-12

**Saturday**— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Luke 22:31-53.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?