



Arrival of the Lamb ~ March 31, 2019

OPEN

Do you remember Extreme Makeover Home Edition? The “reveal day” was the big finale to this exciting renovation show! Read **I Timothy 3:16** to see a confession which all Christians have in common. Notice how it is focused upon the “reveal” of the long awaited Messiah.

The key term we are considering about the **Lamb of God** regarding the arrival of the Lamb is **veracity** – coming to believe the **truth** about Jesus Christ as He has been revealed in the Word of God. After all the waiting and longing John the Baptizer cried out: “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29 NASB)

DIG

Soren Kierkegaard said of spiritually dead Denmark, “*There is no lack of information in a Christian land; something else is lacking.*” What is lacking? Belief in the Lamb of God! Consider the four essential ways in which a person comes to **behold the Lamb of God**.

1. Betrayal - read John 1:1-13

This “betrayal” is an individual deliberately turning away from what he/she has been trusting for his/her source and salvation. This is **repentance** (see Romans 2:4). The early followers of Jesus turned their back upon centuries of ceremony. Of what must we be willing to repent? See **Isaiah 53:6**

In **Lifestyle Discipleship** Jim Petersen writes about modern humanity’s “grand feeling of self-sufficiency” and three dangerous trends in our culture.

- *Pluralism - whatever you're into is acceptable*
- *Relativism - whatever you believe is good for you*
- *Privatization - whatever you believe keep it to yourself*

2. Belief - read John 1:14-18

John is the “Gospel of Belief” – the term “belief” is used 98 times in the book (see also **John 20:30-31** about the goal of the book). In Matthew 16:15, Mark 8:29, Luke 9:20 Jesus asked His disciples: “who do you say that I am?” It almost seems as if John’s Gospel is a response to this question.

Read **John 14:1-6** and consider what you are invited to believe – Jesus is the way (*via*), the truth (*veritas*), and the life (*vita*).

3. Baptism - read John 1:29-34

The third phase of truly beholding Jesus is baptism. In this text John the Baptizer reflected on the baptism of Jesus which is a powerful demonstration that the sinless Son of God has come to identify with the need of humanity. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in **The Cost of Discipleship** wrote, “*Jesus summons men to follow him not as a teacher or a pattern of the good life, but as the Christ, the Son of God.*”

Because Jesus was revealed as the Son of God in *His* baptism, each Christian is making a declaration of faith in Him through *our* baptism. That is why baptism is such an important part of the Christian journey! It is a way of publicly expressing (not earning) one’s faith in Jesus Christ.

4. Befriend - vv. 35-39

Jesus made it very clear that those who believe in Him are called into friendship with Jesus, not servitude (see **John 15:14-15**). But the relationship of the disciples with Jesus began very simply – they “came and saw” (v. 39).

According to **John 17:3**, it is God’s passionate desire that we would know Him – and Jesus Christ. What is more, God’s desire is that in knowing Him, we would experience eternal life.

REFLECT

This past week there was a chilling headline: [Tourist taking photos dies in fall at Grand Canyon](#). What an immense tragedy that someone who was trying to capture the grandeur of this natural wonder would lose his life in the process!

The same can be true of a religious person. Many people are taking a glance at Jesus, but on their own terms. To truly **behold the Lamb of God** involves an about face from our own self-sufficiency to trust full in the grace of God.

Soren Kierkegaard observed that there are times when the Good News of Jesus Christ is not presented well. It is as if someone is reading a cookbook to a man who was starving! That was not the case with John the Baptizer. He did not share the idea or the concept of Jesus. He invited people to know the Lamb of God. What are you doing with this amazing invitation?

- “**Behold...**” - Are you looking deeply or are you just happy to dabble in a few activities or ideas about Jesus? (see **Matthew 7:21-23**)
- “**...the Lamb of God...**” - Are you focused on the truth of who Jesus is, which is the truth that sets us free? (see **John 8:32**)
- “**...who takes away the sin of the world.**” - Are you personally trusting Jesus for salvation? (see **Romans 10:8-10**)