

The Gospel of John:

The Harbinger & the Lamb (John 1:19-34)

The Harbinger (v. 19-28)

- John the Baptizer
 - His birth was foretold and took place through miraculous means (Luke 1:5-25; 57-80)
 - He was a close relation of Jesus
 - Though of a priestly line through his father
- It is understandable that the Jewish leadership was confused about who John was claiming to be
 - His preaching and baptizing ministry led them to three possible conclusions:
 - Messiah: The promised Davidic king who would establish the kingdom of God on earth (2 Sam 7)
 - Elijah: The OT prophet who preached repentance & was taken to heaven in a whirlwind (2 Kgs 2:11)
 - It was believed that he would return before the Day of the Lord (Mal 4:5)
 - The Prophet: The promised leader like Moses (Deut 18:15, 18-19)
- John clarifies that his role was to testify about Jesus (John 1:6-7)
 - He fulfills the role foretold by Isaiah (Isa 40:3)
 - In fact, this is the role of Elijah, which Jesus says John fulfills (Matt 11:14)
- John's role is preparatory, as is his baptism
 - It is a baptism of repentance (Mk 1:4)
 - "To make straight" = repent = to turn *away* from sin and turn *toward* God
 - He is preparing people to meet the Lord, who is greater than him = Jesus

The Lamb of God (v. 29-34)

- John testifies that when he baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit came upon Him as a dove
 - The sign that God gave John to recognize who he was sent before
- When John sees Jesus, he calls Him:
 - The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
 - A possible reference to the Suffering Servant of Isa 53
 - God's Chosen One*
 - Likely a reference to Isa 42:1, where God's Servant has the Spirit poured out on Him

So What?

- John the Baptizer's role was to prepare people to meet Jesus
 - Are we doing the same?
- Jesus came to take away our sins
 - Are we trusting Him & His work on the Cross to accomplish this?
 - Or are we trying to deal with our sins on our own?

Mediation Verse: John 1:29

Next Week's Scripture: John 1:35-51