

“Who is He?”

John 1:29-34

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

At Heralds of Hope we believe that true and lasting hope is found only in God, the Creator. He has revealed to us the Word of God, the Bible. It’s our privilege to come to you each week with a message based on God’s Holy Word, a message that reveals the truth of God to us.

One reason we have confidence in the Word of God is – that change it effects in the lives of those who accept it and live out its commands. Here’s the testimony of a lady from Albania with three young children. She writes about the peace God’s Word brought to her through the Covid-19 lockdown in her country. Listen!

“I want to thank you for opening our eyes in this shocking situation. The Word of God is full of light and strength. I was so shocked; I can’t believe what is going on. In the beginning I was very afraid for my family. One of my children is disabled and has a very weak immune system. I had a hard time sleeping and was experiencing panic attacks all the time. Because of your teaching Fear versus Faith, I’m a different person. I wake up every morning and worship Jesus with my children. Thank you. Praise God for your diligence in serving Him.”

You see, when this mother took her eyes off her circumstances and looked to Jesus, her outlook on the situation changed. Her circumstances didn’t change, they were still difficult. But she realized that she had a source of power she could tap into, the power of Jesus and His Word.

And, my friend, you can have the same experience. The Word of God can change your perspective about life. It can bring you true and lasting hope. But only if you accept it by faith.

I hope you will stay tuned now for Dr. Yoder’s teaching titled, “Who is He?”

Men still puzzle over who Jesus is. They puzzled over Him when He lived here, and they still puzzle over Him. Many are not sure how to answer the question, WHO IS HE? Some say He is a very good man. He is a very good man. He is kind, compassionate, tenderhearted. He loves people. Yes, that is true, He does.

Others say He is a prophet because He taught as one having authority. He predicted events that came to pass. In that sense He was also a prophet. But does that really answer the question, Who is He? It is a crucial question, a very important question, one that every body will answer someday. When He lived here the people were immediately faced with the question, Who is He? In John 1:29-34 we will look for the answer.

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

In this significant text John, the Baptist gave us two ANSWERS to our question so that we might know who He is. They are quite simple answers and yet they carry a great deal of heavy thoughts. Who is He? John the Baptist said,

He is the Lamb of God.

You see that in verse 29. “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him and saith, Behold the Lamb of God.” One answer to our question is, He is the Lamb of God. It may seem strange that a man would be said to be a lamb. Let’s examine the meaning of the word, lamb, in the way John the Baptist used it because he spoke of Him as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”.

To get the meaning of lamb we need to go back to the early days of Israel’s history. When the Children of Israel were ready to leave the land of Egypt under the guidance of Moses, God instituted what is called the Passover. You will find this recorded in Exodus 12. The Passover was

a ritual that Israel was to keep in order to protect themselves from the death angel that was to go through the land. They were to select a spotless lamb. They were to keep it for a number of days to make sure that it was absolutely perfect and then they were to kill it, catch the blood in a basin and sprinkle the blood on the lintel and side posts of the doors of their houses. In this way God said He would protect them. The death angel would pass over and not kill the first-born sons in the homes where the blood was on the door.

Now we can understand better what John meant when he said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” You see, the purpose of the lamb was to protect the people who lived in the house where the blood had been applied. We could say that the lamb was the substitute for the first born. In that way the lamb died for one who would have died if the lamb had not died.

In a very literal sense that was a physical death. The Lamb of God, as John the Baptist answered our question, also died so that we need not die. He died a physical death and shed His blood on Calvary so that you and I may be delivered from the sure and certain sentence of death as the result of sin. So He is the Lamb of God.

Let’s go further and see what else John says of Him. In the second answer John said,

He Is the Son of God.

The Son of God you will find in verse 34, “And I saw and bore witness that this is the Son of God.” That may also seem strange. Some people don’t seem to be able to understand how God would have a Son, but here in this Scripture Jesus is called the Son of God. Notice that John the Baptist said, “He was before me.” In the actual historical record Jesus was six months younger than John the Baptist. But John said, “He was before me.” He is clearly implying that Jesus was eternal with God the Father.

He further said that He was to be made manifest to Israel; that is, He was especially chosen, a particular person by whom God would bring His program to pass. That is very important to keep in mind. God has a plan, and He is carrying out that plan. In that plan the Son of God was to be made known to the people of Israel. John the Baptist was an Israelite. He was baptizing in the river of Jordan and those who came to him to be baptized were Jewish people. God was making manifest His will to the people of Israel. The Son of God was coming to them. This is a particular part of the divine revelation God brought to us.

I notice also that He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said that when he saw the Spirit descending and remaining on a certain person, he would then know that this was the Son of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that that is exactly what happened. The Holy Spirit came down and rested on Jesus at the time of His baptism. The answer to our question then, from the lips of John the Baptist who saw Him, is He is the Son of God. That may be a mystery for us but it is a reality. God became man. It is not the other way around. It is not that man became God but that God became man.

There are, then, two answers to our question, who is He? John the Baptist said He is the Lamb of God, and that solves the sin problem; He is the Son of God which solves the communications problem. He came to make God manifest to us when He became man.

CLOSING

Thank you, Dr. Yoder. What a wonderful truth that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh and became the Son of Man. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that because Jesus lived on earth in a human body, He fully understands what we experience. He can sympathize with us in our weakness and He represents us before the throne of His Father.

My friend, were you blessed by this teaching by Dr. Yoder? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "Who is He?"

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study in John's Gospel.
And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.