

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

6 Behold the Lamb of God!

Read John 1:29

John the Baptist had just gone through an interrogation to establish who he is and what authority he had to be preaching and baptizing (John 1:19-28). After he answered their questions, he answered the more important question – the question they did not ask. John told his interrogators, “... *There stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose (untie).*”

It was the job of servants to take off the shoes / sandals of their masters, even their guests, and wash their feet. John felt that he was unworthy to do even that for his master, the Messiah. John always kept shifting the focus and attention on the Messiah / Christ, not himself.

Now we are told that the next day John saw Jesus and said, “*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*” This may be the most profound statement that John ever made. Speaking to Israelites, everyone knew what a sacrificial lamb was. They were offered regularly as a temporary payment for sins. We say temporary because it was more like a postponement of God judgement against their sins. A lamb’s life could not really be a permanent substitute for the sins of a man. So, Who is this Lamb of God that will permanently take away the sins, not just of the faithful Jews, but also of the whole world? (I John 2:1-2 cp. John 14:6)

Read Hebrews 10:1-14

Israel stumbled at this Gospel truth. They looked at their faithfulness to the festivals, ordinances, and sacrifices as fulfillment of their righteousness. The Jewish people were unable to see them as a mere shadow of something to come – something which would be perfect and permanent – something that would establish a righteous relationship with God **forever**. The blindness of Israel led to the fulfilling of the Scriptures that foretold Messiah’s ultimate sacrifice at the hands of His own people (Isaiah 53; Romans 11:25 cp. II Corinthians 3:14-16).

Read Romans 10:1-4; 3:20-26

Read Philippians 3:8-9

Questions:

Have you been trusting in religious rites and rituals? Or are you trusting the work of Christ on the cross?

Have you asked the Father to wash away your sins in the blood of His Lamb?

Are you pointing others to behold the Lamb of God? Or are you just advertising religion?

Are you like John, Christ's ambassador, drawing the attention to Him? Or are you just trying get people to like you and, maybe someday, they might go to your church?