

THE MAN WHO POINTED PEOPLE TO JESUS

May 22, 2016 John 1:19-34 by Bob Branch
Believing Into Life, Part 4

BIG IDEA: John deflects attention from himself and introduces us to Jesus and his purpose: to completely remove the heavy weight of our sins, and dunk and drench us in and with the Spirit.

²¹ They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” (Mal. 4:5; Deut. 18:15-18)

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’” (Is. 40:3) **John 1:19-28**

John said he’s not the One Promised: The Messiah. He is, rather, the one sent to prepare everyone for the Messiah’s arrival!

1. God always prepares the way for what he’s about to do.

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them... I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” **John 6:44, 65**

2. John deflected all Messianic labels because he knew who he was and he was NOT the Messiah!

Like JB, we must continually direct people to Jesus, knowing that there is only one Messiah, and we aren’t he!

We must NOT look to others to fill the role only Jesus can fill. We’re striving to connect more and more to Jesus!

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” **John 1:29-31**

3. John points to Jesus as the fulfillment of his entire purpose... that Jesus is the COMPLETE EMBODIMENT of all God promised!

The Lamb of God...

1. The **Conquering Lamb** (Rev. 5:6; 17:14)
2. The **Lamb led to slaughter** (Is. 53:7)
3. The **Passover Lamb** (Ex. 12:13)
4. The **Scapegoat** (Lev. 16:8f)
5. The **Lamb that God Provides...** “*God will provide a lamb, my son.*” (Gen. 22:8)
6. The **Daily Sacrifices** (Lev. 4:32)

Who Takes Away...

The Sin... “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.” **John 8:34**
Of the World... human society organizing itself without God.

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’” ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.” **John 1:32-34**

4. At his baptism, God the Father himself validated Jesus as the Answer to the human condition.

John immersed people with water. Jesus will DRENCH, COMPLETELY DUNK into and with the Holy Spirit.

- **Sacramental:** at the same time you enter the actual water in baptism.
- **Evangelical:** when you meet Jesus, and are born anew.
- **Charismatic:** after you get saved, a second empowering blessing