

## Identity

On Day 1 we looked at John 1:1-34. In this passage, John introduced us to John the Baptist and Jesus. He took the time to explain who John was and wasn't, and the true nature of Jesus as God in the flesh in all His glory. Knowing the true identity of Jesus is the foundational issue of the rest of the Gospel. In the chapters ahead, look to see how John continues to deepen our understanding of Jesus in all ways.

As we begin our study today, stop and ask yourself: Who is Jesus to you and how does Jesus' identity affect *your* identity? Write down your thoughts.

## Reflect

Take a moment right now to prepare yourself to study God's word and hear from Him directly.

- 1) What things are most on your mind and heart today? (God may address them today).
  
- 2) Think through the past few days. What do you think God has been doing and saying to you?

Take a minute to pray and ask God to open your eyes to see who He is and what He is saying.

## Study

**John 1:35-39** <sup>35</sup> Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and *\*said*, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> And Jesus turned and saw them following, and *\*said* to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour (~4pm).

- 1) Try to picture in your mind what is happening. Describe what was going on around Jesus in this passage?
  
- 2) John the Baptist sees Jesus walking nearby him and for the second time calls Him out to be “The Lamb of God”. Fill in the blanks for what he says about the Lamb:
  - a. He takes away the \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. He has a higher rank because He \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. He will not baptize with water but instead He will baptize with the \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. John personally testifies that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What can we conclude about Jesus when we put all these truths about Him together?
  
- 4) Why do you think the two disciples immediately went to Jesus and left John the Baptist?
  
- 5) When Jesus saw the two following Him, He asked them: “What do you seek”. This seems like an odd greeting when meeting someone - why do you think Jesus ask it?
  
- 6) How would you answer this question from Jesus? What do you seek? Write out as many options as you can think of that someone could answer. Circle yours!
  
- 7) The answer they gave Jesus was “where are you staying”? This too seems like an odd response to His question. What does it show that they wanted?
  
- 8) Jesus' answer to them was: “come and see.” What do you think that they were able to learn and experience during this extended time with Jesus? How was this different from what John the Baptist could do for them?

God continually seeks us out to have a personal relationship with Him and even challenges us to “see” or “taste” for ourselves who He really is (see Psalm 34:8). If you were to take an extended time with Jesus (*during this Corona isolation time*) by letting Him speak to you directly in His written word - what do you think you would “see” or “taste” and how would your personal relationship with Him change? Write out your answers.

**John 1:40-46** <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter). <sup>43</sup> The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

9) From this passage, as we look at what Andrew does, what would you say are his priorities? Why do you think it say: “He found first”?

10) What does it mean that Andrew calls Jesus The Messiah? Write down everything you can remember about the Messiah. Feel free to check out the Bible Project video on the Messiah at: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/the-messiah/>

11) How do you think Peter felt when Jesus called him by name and then gave him a new name?

12) The name “Cephas” literally means “Rock”. God often tells us who we are (identity) and based on that calls us to act. What would Jesus ask Peter to do in the future to live out his name?

13) What are some things you know the Bible says about your identity and what is true about you? If you don't know many, check out: <https://bible.org/article/who-does-god-say-i-am>

14) Based on these truths about your identity - What is God calling you to do?

15) Jesus then went to Galilee and found Phillip and invited him to follow Him. What did following Jesus involve when he asked people to do that?

16) Nathaniel's response was harsh and rejected what Phillip said. Instead of going into more details about Jesus, he followed the pattern Jesus and Andrew both used and invited him to "come and see" Jesus. How can we invite our friends and family to come & see Jesus?

**John 1:47-51** <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

<sup>51</sup> And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

17) What changes Nathanael's mind about who Jesus was? What did Nathanael now say was true about Jesus?

Jesus said to the whole group that they would see greater things than these - which John goes on to describe in the gospel of John. Jesus then goes on to make a somewhat confusing statement in verse 51. Here are three things to consider about His statement:

- Those at Jesus' baptism had seen the heavens open & the Holy Spirit descent upon Jesus.
- There are several times where the "heavens opened" and God revealed Himself to people (Ezekiel 1:1, Mark 1:10, Acts 7:56) and they went on to describe Him to others. God just revealed Himself to Nathanael who went from disbelief to belief because Jesus demonstrated His power of having seen him before they met.
- In Genesis 28:16, Jacob says "surely God was in this place." This is exactly what Jesus describes. In the same way, as we walk in Christ and share Him with others, He does "show up" and reveal Himself.

Based on all these - consider the following:

- 1) What greater things would you love God to reveal to you about Himself?
- 2) Who would you like to stand in the Gap for and allow them to see "God show up"?
- 3) How would they see God show up in or through your life?

Pray now for God to give you the same heart that Andrew and Phillip had to reach out to loved ones and friends and personally introduce them to Jesus. Ask Jesus to help your relationship with Him to grow to where you know Him and see Him working in your life in ways that you can share it with others - allowing them to come and see. Then begin to ask your friends about what they really need and want. Begin to pray for those things that will allow them to see God specifically answer. Tell them what you are praying so they will know it was God when it happens!