



## Sermon, Sunday January 15, 2023

### “Look, the Lamb of God”

**SCRIPTURE: John 1:29-42** <sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” <sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

#### Introduction: John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus

Today is the second week after Epiphany. The event of the Word becoming flesh is called “**incarnation.**” **John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** The Epiphany is a season to commemorate God's coming to the world in a human body like ours and to reveal Himself, and to meditate on what He has done.

Today's text is the testimony of John the Baptist about Jesus. John the Baptist testifies about Jesus as “**the Lamb of God.**” There are two reasons why John told his disciples said that Jesus was the “**Lamb of God**”. The first is because of the words of **Isaiah 53:7 in the Old Testament; “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”** Isaiah 53:7 is a description of the Passion of the Messiah, and John the Baptist had these words of Isaiah in his heart.

Second, the ancient Israelites offered a lamb as a sacrifice to God in the morning and evening in the tabernacle and the temple according to the sacrificial customs. This sacrifice was offered to atone for the sins of the Israelites. John the Baptist testified about Jesus as “**the Lamb of God**” because he was aware of Israel’s sacrificial customs.

For us to live a life of faith well, we must listen to the Lord's Word carefully and see who the Lord is. Through today's message, I hope we reflect on whether we are listening to the Lord's words and looking at Him properly.

#### Body: Listening and Looking

##### 1. We must listen carefully to the Word of the Lord.



For us to live a life of faith well, we must listen carefully to the words of the Lord. However, it is not easy to listen to the words of others or the words of the Lord, because most people prefer to speak their mind rather than listen. Believers are no exception to this tendency. Even while dealing with the Bible, the Word of God, there are times when we choose to read only the words we want to hear. This tendency also appears when listening to sermons. Even when we listen to sermons, we often want to hear only what we want to hear rather than trying to hear the Word of God as it is.

So, there are many passages in the Bible that appeal to us to listen carefully to the word of the Lord. **Psalm 49:1 says, "Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all who live in this world."** This verse is a command to listen to the word of God with all our heart and soul. Because, when we do our best to listen to God's Word, we can know who the Lord is right away. Otherwise, we get caught up in our own thoughts and misunderstand the word of the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Who is God for you? According to **Isaiah 49:6**, the God who gave the word to Israel will **"make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth"**. Also **Psalm 40:2 says**, those who listen to the Lord will be **"lifted out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire"**. Therefore, if we want the Lord to hear our prayers, we too must do our best to listen to the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Please remember the memories of our encounters with others. Have you ever had an experience where you enjoyed being with someone so much that you didn't notice the time passing? Perhaps this is the case when there is no blockage in communicating with the other person. This is because in these meetings, we listen well and talk with consideration to the other person.

Our fellowship with the Lord is no different from this. We must be able to listen with an open mind to what the Lord is trying to give us, rather than trying to hear only what we want to hear from the Lord. When we follow the Lord with this attitude, our relationship with Him will become deeper and more abundant. So what does it mean to look at the Lord properly?

## **2. We must look at the Lord properly.**

Last Monday, a member of the Des Moines Korean Church installed a new solar light on a telephone pole next to the church parking lot. At Des Moines Korean Church, the streetlights were broken and the area around the church was dark every night, but solar lights were installed and the area around the church became brighter. In fact, when it was dark around the Korean church, people secretly threw away trash, but now everything is brightly lit, so it will be more difficult to secretly litter.

Like this, light is essential to defeat the darkness in our lives. You see, the light reveals the dark side of the world. Also, light brings us out of a dark and sinful life into true life.

But who is the light of our lives and the light of the world? It is our Lord Jesus Christ. He came as the 'light' and 'lamb' to us who were living in darkness. However, are we properly looking at Jesus Christ who came as 'the light and the lamb'?

In fact, the reason God the Creator loves the world and sent Jesus to us is because of us, who are like light during darkness. The Lord sent Jesus Christ to this earth so that we, the light of the dark world, may brighten the world so that the Creator God and the creatures of this world may be glorified.

So, in today's text, John the Baptist testifies, **"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)**. According to today's text, Andrew, who became the Lord's disciple after seeing Jesus, and his brother, Simon Peter, enters a new life of walking and uniting with Jesus. This is salvation. When we properly look at Jesus who has come to this world, and accept Him as our Savior, we move forward to a place of abundant life.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

**2 Corinthians 2:15** says, “**For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.**” What kind of scent are you and I exuding to the world? Do you want to reveal the fragrance of Christ to the world through your life? If so, please look at the Lord properly. To look at the Lord properly is to see Jesus Christ as the most precious person in the world. Jesus is the Son of God. He is also the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Although he was without sin, he bore the cross by obeying the will of God the Father. Do you and I see Jesus who lived this kind of life? Or are we only looking at Jesus with the way we want to see (greed)? By any chance, are we looking at Jesus as the one who only fulfills our wishes? If we look at Jesus and live a life of faith to seek our greed, it is the same as worshiping idols.

### **Conclusion: Look, the Lamb of God!**

Now let's summarize today's message. The words "Look, the Lamb of God" means to look carefully and realize who Jesus is. And if you know who He is and understand Him, then believe in Him with all your heart and follow Him. For Christians, Jesus should always be put first in priority. It is not because of someone's coercion that Jesus is put first in our priorities, nor is it the result of our will. It is the result of a natural process for us and arises in our hearts when we come to know and acknowledge what “**the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**” really means. May we be blessed to hear the word of the Lord a little better and look at him properly with a true heart.

