

Introduction:

- We are in a series entitled: Jesus Is... It is important to know who Jesus is and to revisit that often. So far in this series, we have seen Jesus as - I Am! Is how you know Him, a confident knowing or an opinion? and The King! As King, we are His subjects. We have no voting rights. His authority is final. But we know this...As King, He is good!
- Today is what Christians celebrate as Palm Sunday. We remember it as the day that Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Feast of Passover with His disciples.
- As we follow Him through the week, we discover according to John the Baptist that Jesus Is... The Lamb of God! Our text today:
 - *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God **who takes away the sin of the world!**"* (John 1:29, NLT) And yet again, the next day John says:
 - *"As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!"*" (John 1:36, NLT) Words, so powerful that two of John's disciples began following Him.

I. The Lamb of God We see the Lamb in prominent places in the OT

A. God will provide (the Sacrifice) Gen 22:1-12

1. Abraham laid the wood for the burnt offering on the shoulders of his son. As they proceeded together to the mountain where the sacrifice was to take place, the younger man asked, "Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" To which his father answered, *"My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."* This was an act of faith for...
 - a) In Isaac rested all the promises of God
 - b) In Isaac was the hope for the future for Abrahams family and the rest of the world.
2. It is key for us to understand the words of Abraham in Genesis: *"**And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."** So the two of them went together."* (Genesis 22:8, NKJV)
3. The word provide comes from a Hebrew word meaning "to see."
 - a) It could mean God will see to it that it is provided for. Of this I am sure.
 - b) Prophetically I believe it means that and more. Because Abraham was trusting God, he was trusting that God was seeing something that he Abraham had not yet seen. God saw our need for salvation. God saw our need to be delivered of sin. As God provided a lamb for Abraham and Isaac, He was seeing the offering of His own son for all humanity. (Before the foundation of the earth.)
4. In the story of Abraham offering his son we see faith for and in God's provision. God will provide The Lamb!

B. Moses and the spotless lamb of Passover, Ex 12. This feast, The Passover, would be celebrated forever as a most powerful act of God in deliverance.

1. Exodus 12. God gives Moses the instruction on the lamb
 - a) Everyman shall take a lamb. *"Whosoever will..."*
 - b) The lamb must have no blemish. Jesus had no sin.
 - c) The lamb must be a first year male. Innocence.

- d) The blood of this lamb shall be placed on the sides and top of each home's door frame.
2. *"Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."* (Exodus 12:13, NKJV)
 3. The applied blood of the Lamb makes atonement. It covered the sins of the people. It was a major focus of the Feast of Passover, God's atoning love through the blood of the lamb, the covering of sin.
 - a) The Hebrew word in the Old Testament translated as "atonement" was actually a word which meant "to cover up." IE. In Gen. Adam and Eve covered by skins. The purpose of the animal sacrifices offered in the Temple was to "cover" over one's sins. It also meant to pay the ransom.
 - b) In the New Testament the concept of atoning sacrifice is "to put away." Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf did not merely "cover over" our sins, rather it removed them. He was our ransom that satisfied the justice of God. IE. As far as east is from west.
 - C. So we see two clear OT stories that point to Christ. Abraham God will provide for himself a lamb. And Moses who instituted the passover feast where the blood of lamb covers over sin and pays the ransom. Both of these point to Jesus!

II. Jesus Is The Lamb of God

Now we go to the NT.

- A. *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**'"* (John 1:29, NLT)
 1. What does the Lamb of God do?
 - a) He takes away the sin of the world. How? By the giving of His blood.
 - b) He is innocent! He has no sin! He is not guilty but He takes our punishment. He dies a criminals death. He is God's Lamb! He is God's provision to take away the sin of the world. There is only one way a lamb can take away sin, it must be sacrificed.
 - c) *"but with the precious blood of Christ, **as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.** He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you"* (1 Peter 1:19-20, NKJV)
- B. *"As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, 'Look! **There is the Lamb of God!**'"* (John 1:36, NLT)
 1. Who He is? What is His identity? The Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. *"Jerome, an early church father, had a dream one night in which Jesus visited him. In the dream, Jerome collected all his money and offered it to Jesus as a gift. Jesus said, "I don't want your money." So Jerome rounded up all his possessions and tried to give them to Jesus. Jesus responded, "I don't want your possessions." Jerome then turned to Christ and asked, "What can I give you? What do you want?" Jesus simply replied, "Give me your sins. That's what I came for; I came to take away your sins." Who else would make such a request? Who would want our*

sins? Mohammed? Buddha? No other religious leader ever made such a request. Everyone else wants the best of what we have to offer. Only Jesus asks for the worst. Only Jesus asks us for our sins. Only Jesus came into the world for this purpose. As John the Baptist declared in John 1:29, "Behold! The LAMB of God who takes away the sin of the world!" St Jerome (345-420), one of the Early Church Fathers, was both an early Bible scholar and translator. His Latin version of the Bible -- known as the Vulgate or common version -- was a major achievement. It became the standard version of the Scriptures for the next ten centuries.

2. What is His identity? He is the Lamb of God. He is the Lamb that God provided. And he takes away the sin of the world!!! His blood does not just cover! It removes sin!
 3. Removes! Is much more than covered. In the OT sin was covered. In Christ it is removed! IE. Trash when placed in a trash can, is covered up. But it isn't removed until the trash collector comes to haul it away. Passover provides a picture of sin being covered, but not yet removed. Man's sins are not removed until Christ came! This is what John the Baptist preached, "to take away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Passover covered sins, The cross removed them.
- C. Who Is this Lamb of God? Isaiah speaks of a Suffering Servant in 53:7
1. He is the servant who served us that by His suffering we might have eternal life. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.
 2. "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7, NKJV)
 3. The humility of Jesus is overwhelming! He comes from heaven, He willingly submits to the Father, He graciously takes our punishment. He fully loves us!
 4. "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." (John 6:51, NKJV) A declaration that he is the lamb. This was offensive that Jesus would imply He is the Lamb of God! And also that he would say, eat my flesh.'

III. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- A. "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" Rev 19:9
- B. Those who have "eaten the Lamb" by faith, now get to eat with the Lamb.
 1. From Genesis to the epistles the lamb is seen a meek, innocent, humble, vulnerable. Without blemish it is seen as pure, holy, worthy to pay the ransom, worthy to sacrifice!
 2. In the Book of Revelation, 26 references to the Lamb are given. They all speak of the Lamb's strength, glory and power! He is known at the end of the Age as the Lamb!!!
 - a) The Lamb is worthy to loose the seals on the scroll!
 - b) The Lamb releases the wrath of God.
 - c) Saints overcome by the Blood of the Lamb! It is powerful!
 - d) They worship in the presence of the Lamb of God!
 - e) They sing the Song of the Lamb!

- f) The Lamb wages war against those who rejected Him.
 - g) The LAMB is the light!
 - h) The Lamb is the temple!
3. Are you still wondering who the Lamb of God is? Jesus is the Lamb of God!
- C. Only those who are found in the Lamb's Book of Life are allowed into heaven. Those who continue in their sin have no place there. *"Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"* Rev 19:9

Conclusion:

- Who would like to take out the trash this morning? It is more than getting it confessed into the trash. You must believe that the Lamb of God removes your sin!
- "Royal weddings are quite exclusive affairs. Beyond actual family members, the invitation lists (though usually quite large) are generally limited to the likes of heads of state, other royals, and individuals of great means and celebrity. Invitations are prized and coveted. The royal family of Great Britain has brought us some of the more famed weddings in recent years: Prince Charles to Lady Diana, Prince Charles to Camilla Parker-Bowles, Prince William to Kate Middleton and soon to come Prince Harry and Megan Markle. But one wedding, when Prince Charles and Camilla Parker were wed, invitations to this noble knot-tying went out in the mail. Everyone joked about wanting one, but one young lady was dead serious about her desire to attend. Estibalis Chavez, a Mexican teenager, camped outside the British Embassy in Mexico City, where she staged a hunger strike. She had not eaten in eight days. Her aim was to draw the attention of the royal family in hopes of garnering their sympathy—and a ticket to the Royal Wedding. "Are they going to let me die just because they wouldn't give me an invitation to the royal wedding?" she wrote on one a flyer outside the embassy. "This is my only dream." **APPLICATION:** If only the people of the world for whom Christ died longed with such deep devotion to be present at His marriage supper. The invitation went out over 2000 years ago. It wasn't offered exclusively to the noble and noteworthy. It was dispatched along all the highways and byways. All are welcome, but so few have responded. We'll starve ourselves to be able to attend the marriage celebration of an earthly king, but we'll turn our noses up at an invitation to attend the Marriage Supper of the LAMB—the King of Kings! Nevertheless, the Bridegroom is patiently holding off the ceremonies, waiting for more to accept the call. If only we longed for his presence and company the way young Miss Chavez longs for that of England's future king. She's "dying" to attend to his wedding; Jesus "died" so that we could attend His." sermon illustrator.