

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP
At Christ Church, Crouch End Hill
Tel/ Fax: 020 8340 1566
No: 2

John 1: 6-8, 15, 19-34 (A man sent from God)

1. Background of the man sent

John's parents were Zacharias and Elizabeth, both elderly people whom God graciously surprised with a baby, lifting the shame of barrenness and bestowing blessing instead. (Luke 1: 5-25) . Luke informs us that, from his boyhood until the day of his public ministry, John lived in the deserts. (Luke 1: 80)

2. Characteristics of the man sent

A– John was human who had the privilege of introducing “ this extraordinary man” – Jesus. He was no angel, and had no spark of divinity. There was nothing significant about his name , unlike the names Immanuel and Jesus that was fraught with meaning. But he was **sent from God**

B – He was a lamp, but not the light. Verse 7 tells us precisely why John came. He came to bear witness to the true light that enlightens every one. (v9) John then saw himself in the shadow of the Saviour.

Some Personal Application

Most of us have had a variety of lamps in our homes over the years: desk lamps, swag lamps, chandeliers. Some have probably been fashioned in brass or silver. Some have been made of stained glass; others crystal. Some have been very common. Whatever it is , the important thing is the light, not the lamp. It's the glow in the bulb that lights up a room, not the shine on the brass or crystal.

Are you exhibiting Christ in your life as the true light of the world, or is the ornamentation of your lamp the main thing people see? Is Jesus' light radiating in your life, or is it being obstructed by a cumbersome lampshade of sin?

C – He was a voice, but not the Word – Like the relationship between a singer's voice and the song's lyrics, John was simply “a voice of one crying in the wilderness” (v23) while **Jesus was the Word of God** (vv 1-2)

D – He was useful, but not indispensable. (vv 25-28)

John's humility can readily be seen in verse 27. There is a rabbinic saying that John probably had in mind when he spoke of Jesus' sandal. "Every service which a slave performs for his master shall a disciple do for his teacher except the loosing of his sandal-thong" John was willing to stoop to the lowest level of servility in deference to the Messiah. The voice made ready the way of the Word. The confronter of sins heralded the One who takes all sin away.

3. Marks of God's people today

Leadership has its own particular perils: pride, egotism, envy, jealousy, the compromises of popularity, assumed infallibility, illusions of indispensability, and so on. But John gave a timeless principle for us in Chapter 3 verse 30. **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

For group discussion

i. What is John the Baptist's message for us today? _

ii. Sometimes, in our Western culture, we can become overly familiar with Jesus, treating Him as a mere "buddy". **What does John's witness tell you about awe, reverence, and humility? How can you cultivate these qualities?**

Maybe we could sum up John's message in each of the Gospels like this: In Matthew, "Be holy." In Mark, "Be humble." In Luke, "Be reconciled." In John, " Be a reflector of Christ." Let this man sent from God help you make any rough roads in your life smooth, wont you? If you do, the eyes of your heart will be prepared to see God's tender mercies and life according to His way of peace. (Luke 1: 78 -79)

Five who followed in faith (John 1:35-51)

Andrew and John were the first men to follow Jesus. The scene is staged to spotlight a transference of allegiance from John the Baptist to Jesus. – which fulfilled the Baptist 's mission of pointing to the One whose ministry would supersede his own. (vv26-27, 35-37)

Notice the structure of the account : first the approach (v35), then the message (v36), and finally the response(v37). John's ministry of baptising and preaching to the crowds at the Jordan is an example of mass evangelism, of which these two disciples were a part. The message was that Jesus was "the lamb of God". The result – **they followed Christ.**

LOOKING INTO THE SCRIPTURE

Read John 1:35-42 and discuss. CALLING THE FIRST DISCIPLES: ANDREW

1. What was John the Baptist saying about Jesus when he described him as the "Lamb of God"?

- a. he was to be the ruler of the restored kingdom of Judah
- b. he was the promised sacrifice for the sin of the world
- c. he was meek and gentle like a sheep

2. How do you react to the disciples following Jesus for the day?

- a. they were irresponsible
- b. Jesus must have been irresistible
- c. they didn't have anything better to do
- d. etiquette was not their strong point
- e. they had no idea what they were in for

3. What was Jesus inviting the two disciples of John the Baptist to do?

- a. switch their allegiance to him
- b. examine the evidence for themselves
- c. tag along for the fun of it
- d. give him a chance to prove himself

4. "We have found the Messiah." What was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, really saying?

- a. Jesus will help them to overthrow the Roman Empire
- b. Jesus is a great teacher
- c. Jesus is the future king of Israel
- d. Jesus will take away their sin

5. "You are Simon son of John. You will be Cephas." Why did Jesus change his name from Simon (meaning "sinking sand") to Peter (meaning "the rock")?

- a. he wanted Simon to feel good about himself
- b. he saw a strength in Simon that justified changing his name
- c. he wanted to start the process of changing Simon's self-image
- d. he saw ahead to what Simon would be some day

MY OWN STORY

1. What was your name when you first felt drawn to Jesus?

- a. Desperate David
- b. Guilty Gus
- c. Much Afraid
- d. Lonely Larry
- e. Confused Connie
- f. _____

2. What about Jesus that you to him?

- a. historical evidence
- b. being around my parents
- c. my own personal yearning
- d. the changed life of a friend
- e. peer pressure
- f. search for the truth
- g. desire to find meaning for my life

3. If you were given a "nickname" right now to describe your spiritual condition, what would it be?

- a. Slippery: a greasy slide going downhill
- b. Rocky II: the comeback kid
- c. Barely: never triumphant/just somehow
- d. Refrigerator: taking it all in
- e. Grace: thankful for what God did God is doing his thing
- f. Patience: God is doing this thing
- g. Spacey: out to lunch
- h: _____

4. What is the biggest obstacle to your spiritual growth right now?

- a. not knowing what God wants
- b. keeping a daily discipline
- c. feeling all alone
- d. fear of failing
- e. _____

5. Jesus said, "Come and see." What would you be curious to check out at Jesus' home?

- a. what kinds of books he reads
- b. how he treats his roommate
- c. his cooking skills
- d. his lifestyle
- e. what he acts like "with his hair down"
- f. how he treats me one-on-one

6. Who would you bring along with you to "see" Jesus (at church or Bible study or...)?

- a. my best friend
- b. my worst enemy
- c. a fellow worker
- d. a family member
- e. any stranger I could find