

John 1:29-42a ESV

# Wise Men Still Seek Jesus!

Services: Sunday, 1/15 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 1/16 at 7 PM

Church Year: Second Sunday after the Epiphany – 2017

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: These are good steps:

- We believe the Bible is true!
- We know we have sinned and need to be saved!
- We believe that Jesus is the Promised Savior!
- We, by God's grace, trust in Jesus and His work!
- We are new in Christ and live for Jesus!
- We want others to be saved through Jesus!

Notice how most of those steps are in today's gospel reading:

1. **Be Convinced: *Jesus Is the Son of God:***

- a. **He is the Lamb of God:** <sup>29</sup> **The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, ~~who takes~~ [lit. taking (present participle)] away the sin of the world!"** // At that moment Jesus was *in the process* of doing His saving work; first He lived without sin, second He bore our sin and our punishment!
- b. **He was before John:** <sup>30</sup> **"This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me [thus, higher than me], because he was before me.'" // Even though John was six months older than Jesus, the Son of God existed with the Father before the creation of the world.**

- c. **His way was prepared by John:** <sup>31</sup> **“I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”** // What was the ministry of John the Baptist? **(1)** He preached the Word, **(2)** the Spirit made his hearers sorry, **(3)** they confessed their sins, and **(4)** John baptized them for the forgiveness of their sins; *all such things were pointing ahead to Jesus and His saving work!*
- d. **He was anointed by the Holy Spirit:** <sup>32</sup> **And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”** // That happened right after Jesus’ baptism; that is when He officially became the *Messiah* (Hebrew), the *Christ* (Greek), the *Anointed One!*
- e. **He was identified by the Father as the Son of God:** <sup>33</sup> **“I myself did not know him, but he [God the Father] who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’** <sup>34</sup> **And I have seen and have borne witness that this [Person, that is, Jesus] is the Son of God.”** // The Father had told John *exactly* how he could identify the Son of God – *with the Spirit coming down on Him and remaining on Him*; then the Spirit came down on Jesus and remained on Him!
2. **By God’s Grace: Trust in Jesus:** Since we have all sinned and Jesus is the only Savior, *we all need Jesus!* Let’s learn what happened when Andrew and John (*not the Baptist, but the future apostle*) encountered Jesus.

- a. They followed Him: <sup>35</sup> **The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him ~~say this~~ [speaking], and they followed Jesus.** // Imagine this: You have a rare illness, *and only one doctor in the world can help you*; **then** that doctor walks by. *Certainly you would seize the opportunity and follow him!* Let us understand that our illness is sin, *and only Jesus can help us*; then, *let us follow Him!*
- b. They got to know Him: <sup>38</sup> **Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which 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.**
- i. “What are you seeking?” When people visit at Bethlehem Lutheran, we might ask their names, where they live, etc., but maybe we should ask: What are you seeking? / Why have you come today?
  - ii. “Where are you staying?” Did the disciples of John the Baptist really want to know where Jesus was staying? Probably not, *but they did want a relationship with Jesus*. So Jesus ♦was very gracious, ♦welcomed them to come, and ♦hosted them from 10 AM until sundown.

### 3. **Care About Others: *Bring Them to Jesus***:

- a. Tell them the good news: <sup>40</sup> **One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.** <sup>41</sup> **He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).**
- i. First: Andrew followed Jesus and got to know him; *then the FIRST thing he did was to find his brother Simon in order to say to him, "We have found the Messiah."* In other words: We have sinned and need to be saved, **so I have GOOD NEWS for you, we have found the Promised Savior!**
- ii. First: If we had just found the cure for our dying friend, *we would certainly contact him first!* Since Jesus is the cure for every sinner, *let us take action FIRST to tell others about Jesus!*
- b. Bring them to Jesus: <sup>42</sup> **He [Andrew] brought him [Simon] to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John."** // Since Jesus is the Son of God, *He knew Simon's name*; Jesus also knows EVERYTHING – *the good, the bad, and the ugly* – about EVERYONE! Since everyone needs Jesus, *let us gladly bring them to Him!*

**Conclusion**: Let us pray: Dear Jesus, since everyone is terminal *and You are the only cure*, use us to bring others to you. And all God's people said: Amen!