

Believers Point Others to Jesus



Saturday, 1/18 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/19 at 9:00

Second Sunday after the Epiphany – 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: For YOU, what is MOST IMPORTANT? There are so many options... ♦good health, ♦good relationships, ♦good job, ♦more money, etc. Some of those things are definitely important, *but I hope you identified YOUR MOST IMPORTANT as **KNOWING JESUS!***

Now, *as we jump back to the time of John the Baptizer, we are going to see him in action ➡ pointing others to Jesus!* Then *those others* are going to do their own pointing to Jesus! Let's understand, *and then model what they did!*

1. John the Baptizer Testifies About Jesus:

- a. ²⁹ **The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! // On the previous day, John had told others that Jesus was among them; then, on this day, when John saw Jesus, He ☞pointed Him out, ☞called Him the Lamb of God, and ☞told of His work to take away all sins! BTW, how do we point others to Jesus? By saying ♦who He is, ♦why we need Him, and ♦how we get Him!**

- b. ³⁰ **This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ // How is that possible?** Jesus was **before** John – *as the Son of God from eternity*, yet **after** John – *because He born of Mary six months after John was born of Elizabeth*.
- c. ³¹ **I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”** // John knew Jesus as his relative, *but he didn’t know Him as the Messiah* until God the Father **anointed** Him with the Holy Spirit and **declared** Him to be His beloved Son.
- d. ³² **And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he 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.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”** // Think about those words... God told John exactly what would happen; *then it did!* Then John knew for sure that Jesus is the Son of God! Let us be sure too – because of John’s testimony; *then we can confidently point others to Jesus!*

2. **Two of John’s Disciples Follow Jesus:**

- a. ³⁵ **The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of**

God!” ³⁷ **The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.** // John was a teacher, so he had men learning from him. And what was he teaching them? The OT Scriptures, which tell about sin and the coming Messiah! Therefore, when John said, “THERE HE IS!” John’s disciples were very interested and followed Jesus!

- b. ³⁸ **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?”** ³⁹ **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.** // Those disciples of John met Jesus about 10 AM (*John generally used Roman time, like we do, rather than Jewish time like the other gospel writers*). Jesus was kind to them, and those disciples stayed with Jesus during that day. As they talked, the Spirit of God made them certain that Jesus is the Promised Messiah!

3. **Andrew Tells His Brother, Peter About Jesus:**

- a. ⁴⁰ **One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.** // Earlier, regarding the two men who were with John the Baptizer, one was Andrew and the other was mostly likely John. **Andrew** was the brother of Simon, whom we know as Peter; *they were both fishermen*. Regarding **John**, he would become known as the Apostle John, and the writer of the Gospel of John. If

YOU had spent a day with Jesus, what would you have done?

- b. ⁴¹ [Andrew] first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. // Try to imagine Andrew’s excitement: He not only saw, but ▶met, ▶talked to, and ▶spent time with the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Promised Savior of the world! So he told his brother Peter and brought him to Jesus!

4. **Us Pointing Others to Jesus:**

- a. First, we must know Him: We know Jesus through ▶God’s work in baptism, ▶growing in the Bible, and ▶talking to God through prayer.
- b. Second, we give a testimony: I was a lost sinner, *but now I am found and forgiven through Jesus!*
- c. Third, we answer questions: Our time in the Bible through ▶daily devotion, ▶Divine Service, and ▶Bible class will make us ready to answer.
- d. Four, we invite them to church: When they come, ▶sit with them, ▶help them to understand, and ▶introduce them to others.

This Week’s Challenge: *Do one thing this week to point someone else to Jesus!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, as You moved John and Andrew to point others to Jesus, *so help us to do the same!*

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