

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of John¹

Week 3 ~ Exploring John 1:19-51

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

Day 1: Read John 1:19-51 through twice, then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- The passage describes events that occurred over four different days. List the verses that announce each transition to another day. Try to outline the passage with these various days in mind .
- If you could visit Jesus in His home (38, 39) what would you be most interested to find out? The kinds of books He reads? His favorite TV show? How He treats his friends? What kinds of food He eats? How He behaves when He is out of the public eye?

Day 2: Reread John 1:19-51 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- Compare this passage with the material about the Baptist in the Prologue (1:6-8,15). Make a list of the parallel expressions and ideas.
- Do you sometimes feel like the Jewish visitors from Jerusalem who wanted to know about the Baptist, while he only cared that they know about Jesus (1:19-28)? Do you care more about local church politics or theological debates than about knowing Jesus personally? Is it more fun to debate the merits of various pastors and elders than it is to worship God and bask in His presence?

Day 3: Reread John 1:19-51 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- List the questions asked by the priests, Levites, and Pharisees in 1:19-28. What do you think these questions reveal about the reason why these individuals were sent to the Baptist?
- Describe the circumstances in which you first made a full commitment to follow Jesus. What were your motives for following Him at that time? How have your motives changed since then? How has your knowledge of Jesus grown? Which of the disciples of Jesus was most like you; John, Peter, Andrew, Philip, or Nathanael? Was there an Andrew or Philip in your life, someone who helped you come to Jesus? What significance did baptism play in your commitment to Jesus?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

Day 4: Reread John 1:19-51, 3:22-30, & 5:37 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- Describe the mission of John the Baptist as expressed in 1:19-36; 3:22-30; 5:37. Compare and contrast the Fourth Gospel's record of that mission with Matt 3:1-17; 11:2-19; Mark 1:2-11; 6:14-29; Luke 1-3; 7:17-35. Outline the elements all four gospels have in common, then list the unique aspects of the Baptist's role in the Fourth Gospel.
- John the Baptist had a clear and specific sense of the mission and purpose of his life (1:19-34; 3:30). Do you have a similar sense of God's will for you? For your occupation? For your relationships? For your role in your local church? Did the Baptist have such a clear sense of purpose because he was a prophet, or can anyone have a similar sense of certainty if they commit themselves to God?

Day 5: Reread John 1:19-51 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- What did the Baptist mean by the phrase "Lamb of God?" Collect as many Old Testament references to "lamb" as you can (using a concordance). Group the references you found into categories (Passover, Sanctuary, farm life, prophecy, etc.). Which of the categories comes closest to the Baptist's usage in John 1:29?
- If John the Baptist felt inadequate even to be Christ's slave (27), does that have any implications for your personal relationship with Christ? Do you find it easy to humbly tune your heart and life to His direction? Or do you find it easier to tell Him what you want, to treat Him as if He were your slave?

Day 6: Reread John 1:19-51 and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.

- Five people begin to follow Jesus in 1:35-51. Describe the circumstances of each encounter with particular emphasis on how Jesus reacted to each new disciple. How much about Jesus did each of the disciples know when they made their decision to follow Him?
- How do you feel about the idea that Jesus knows all about you through and through (47, 48)? Do you feel more comfortable with others when you can pretend to be something you're not? Are you truly willing to allow Jesus to know you intimately and to reveal to you the defects?

