



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #032
Jesus’ Early Judean Ministry

Day Two of the First Glorious Week of Disciple-Making:
John presents Jesus as the “Lamb of God”

JN 1.29-31

29 The next day John focused his eyes on Jesus as he was coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God, who truly takes away the sins of the world! 30 This is the one on whose behalf I said, 'A man who comes after me has totally surpassed me because HE existed long before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I began immersing in water was so that he might be revealed to Israel."

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus.*

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Bethany, on the east side of the Jordan River
Time	Early March, 30 AD (Month Three)
Stage of Jesus’ Life	Stage III: His Early Judean Ministry
SAGA Chapter 6	The Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry
Section #032	Day Two: John Presents Jesus as “The Lamb of God”

John began his narrative of Day Two in the first week of disciple-making for Jesus with the words, "the next day." John was connecting the sequence of days here to highlight this first week. We will pay close attention to this progression over the next few days in the DAILY JESUS NEWS.

Day Two marked a critical turning point in the history of salvation. On Day One the Immerser had said: "One has taken his stand in your midst, whom you do not know. (27) HE is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." 1.26-27 John insisted that he was NOT the Messiah, and that the Son of God was even now standing unrecognized in their midst.

These words are a bit surprising because the Father had spoken in an audible voice at Jesus’ immersion about six weeks earlier: "You are my Son, whom I love." However, Jesus’ immersion was his Divine commissioning for Messianic ministry, and its significance was missed by the people who witnessed it--except for the Immerser.

The Immerser's confession on Day One raised his disciple's expectations of the imminent revelation of the Messiah's identity. The Messiah stood ready after 40 days of prayer and fasting, the people were prepared, and therefore the setting was complete for Messiah to make his grand entrance on center stage.

On Day Two the Immerser literally pointed to Jesus and presented him as "*the LAMB OF GOD, who really takes away the sins of the world*" as he came before their eyes. A more dramatic introduction to the main character of a drama has never graced a stage.

From this point forward, John's gospel narrative is ALL about the ministry of Jesus as God's sin-removing Lamb, and John the Immerser fades from view. This image of Jesus as God's Lamb continues straight through the New Testament, climaxing in the Book of Revelation, where it bursts into eternity and Jesus garners the eternal worship of all creation... as the LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN.

Note also that the Immerser made a key shift in his quotation of Isaiah. We have seen in past DAILY JESUS NEWS that John found his own ministry prophesied in no uncertain terms in Isaiah, and Malachi. He identified himself as "*the one whom Isaiah wrote about.*" But now, from this point forward he turned the full light of Isaiah onto Jesus. As much as Isaiah had to say about John the Immerser's ministry, it was minor and subservient to what the great visionary prophet had to say about the Messiah.

The title "lamb of God" for Jesus did not originate with the Immerser; he was applying the key "Suffering Servant" passage in Isaiah (52.13-53.12) directly to Jesus. A more detailed, extensive explanation of the eternal meaning and significance of the death and resurrection of the Messiah cannot be found anywhere in the Old Testament.

Since Jesus is the Messiah who fulfills this, the most important Messianic prophecy in the entire Book of Isaiah, he also fulfills everything else that Isaiah, and all the other Old Testament prophets had to say about him as well. Jesus came to "*fulfill all righteousness*" by fulfilling all the Old Testament Scriptures concerning himself.

The Immerser served all of us by seeing Jesus as he did, through Isaiah's eyes, and bearing witness to our Lord. He was doing a masterful work of preparing the people Jesus' Messianic ministry, and presenting him as well. The Father had prepared this special prophet to do just this. Jesus was the real deal.

Don't miss this. Jesus began his ministry by symbolizing the centrality of his death, burial and resurrection as the "LAMB OF GOD" through his immersion in water. The Father and Spirit bore witness to this. Then, he was presented as the "LAMB OF GOD" by the first prophet to appear in Israel in 400 years during his first week of actual disciple-making. This first glorious week will be capped off on the 7th day by Jesus performing his first sign-miracle in Cana, in which he will turn water used for ceremonial cleansing into wine that symbolized his cleansing blood, shed as the "LAMB OF GOD."

The three-fold repetition of this theme at the beginning of Jesus' ministry using multiple forms of symbolism makes the point clear. Jesus is truly the "*LAMB OF GOD, who saves his people from their sins.*"

Day Two of this glorious week was spectacular!

APPLICATION

From the beginning of the human race, The Trinity declared that death is the punishment for sin (Gen. 2.17; Rom. 6.23). As Isaiah Chapter 53 prophesied so specifically, Jesus received our death sentence as our substitute, in our place. That means we can be forgiven, and thereby set free from every

consequence of our sins before God. In other words, through forgiveness we are graciously placed in the position before God of never having sinned at all. Jesus is "THE LAMB," our Substitute who makes this all possible.

The way we receive eternal forgiveness for every sin is to "confess," or agree with what God has said about our sins. His Word tells us plainly what sin is. His Spirit convinces us that his Word is truth, and that we have indeed sinned. We confess that sin to God in prayer. Then we continue to agree with God that Jesus is the appointed Lamb, who made the payment in full for our sin when HE died. We agree with God that we are forgiven, and that according to his New Covenant promise, God "*remembers our sin no more.*" Heb. 8.10-12. We are free!

Jesus came to accomplish all of this for everyone who believes in him as "*Jesus...the Lord who saves his people from their sins*" MT 1.21. He IS "the LAMB OF GOD."

Have you confessed your sins to God? Is there any unconfessed sin in your heart that you need to confess to God today? Do it now... fully confident that Jesus is the Lamb who totally removes your confessed sins from you-forever!

How often do you thank, praise, and worship Jesus for being the Lamb of God? How often will you do that today? He IS worthy!