

John 1:29

by Harry Ironside

The sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding the true purpose of John the Baptist's ministry and the significance of the Lamb of God in taking away the sin of the world.

Duration: 5:56

Scripture: Matthew 3:6-11, John 1:11, John 1:29

Topics: "Christian Life"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of trusting in Jesus as the Savior who takes away our sins. He explains that our good deeds and acts of charity cannot save us, but it is through faith in Jesus that our sins are forgiven. The preacher refers to John the Baptist, who proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He highlights the significance of repentance and baptism as outward expressions of our penitence, but clarifies that it is Jesus who truly remits our sins.

Transcript

In the first chapter of John's Gospel, in the 29th verse, you'll find these words, The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. It's often seen to me that there's been a great deal of misunderstanding as to the ministry of John the Baptist, the great forerunner of our Lord Jesus Christ. You remember how appreciatively Jesus spoke of him? He said, Of all those born of women there's never been a greater than John the Baptist.

What was there about this man that was so great? Well, of course, the outstanding thing was this, that he proclaimed the coming of Messiah, lived to see him for himself, baptized him, saw him start out on his wonderful mission, and died for his name's sake. Some people have an idea, you know, that the great business of John the Baptist was baptizing people, and that somewhere or another, by his baptism, their souls were saved. We read in the Scripture, Then cometh John in the wilderness of Judea, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

And people get an idea that John was preaching baptism for the remission of sins. That wasn't what he was preaching at all. He was preaching proclaiming a baptism of repentance with a view to the remission of sins.

That is, John's baptism was the expression of repentance. John was telling people that all were sinners and all deserved to die. He said, The ax is laid to the root of the tree.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. And so he called for the people to come down to the waters of Jordan, and there be baptized, confessing their sins. Now, that's repentance.

They came confessing their sins. They came justifying God, acknowledging that what he said about them was true, and their baptism was simply the outward expression of their penitence. But now that was a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

The sins weren't remitted through the baptism, but in what way were the sins remitted? Why, he tells us here in this 29th verse of John 1, Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. Baptism doesn't take away sin, but the Lamb of God does. And how does the Lamb of God take away sin? Why, he came into the world the only begotten Son of the Father, and himself absolutely sinless, went to Calvary's cross, and there upon the cross he bore our sins.

The word of God says he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. And now, because our sins were laid upon him, because he paid the penalty due to those sins, he takes away the sin of the world.

That is, if we turn to him, if we trust him, if we believe in him, we have the right to say, Thank God my sins are gone. Gone in what way? Because I was baptized? No, that wouldn't put away my sins. Because I joined some church? No, that wouldn't put away my sins.

Because I turned over a new leaf? No, that wouldn't put away my sins. Because I tried to be charitable and kind to the poor and the needy? No, it's a very good thing to do all that, but that wouldn't put away my sins. What then? Because I put my trust in the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.

The Savior knew all that I was guilty of, that is, of course he died long before I came into the world, but he knew all I'd ever be guilty of, and he took all my sins and bore them there in his own body in the tree, endured the judgment that those sins deserve, so that now God can be just and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. And this is the gospel that John the Baptist preached. Some people think that John didn't know the gospel, but here it is.

You couldn't get a clearer gospel than this. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. That's the very pith and marrow of the gospel.

The Lord Jesus Christ is God's Lamb, God's sacrificial Lamb who gave himself for us. You remember when Abraham and Isaac were going up Mount Moriah, and Isaac turned to his father and said, Father, here's the wood and here's the fire, but where's the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering. Well, John the Baptist says this is the Lamb, this is the one that God has provided, this is the Savior for sinners, this is the one who can offer himself without spotting to God on our behalf, and this is the one whom he calls upon us to receive.

We read in the first chapter of John's gospel in verse 11, He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name.

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