

## Sermon Outline

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### **“LIFE IN HIS NAME”: THE PURSUIT OF WHOLENESS AND THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

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#### HE WILL RENAME YOU (JOHN 1:35-42)

#### **I. Introduction**

#### **II. The Next Day (John 1:35, 36)**

- A. Verses 35-36: “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!’”
- B. Now, if you have been following the chronology of the events, this is now day three.
  - 1. *Day One:* The Levites from Jerusalem showed up to examine John.
  - 2. *Day Two:* Jesus himself appears and John announces that he is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
  - 3. *Day Three:* Jesus appears again. John exclaims as before: “Behold! The Lamb of God!”

#### **III. They Followed Jesus (John 1:37)**

- A. It is at this moment that the torch passes from John to Jesus, because verse 37 tells us that when John’s two disciples heard John declaring Jesus to be the Lamb of God, “they followed Jesus.”
- B. From this point on, those two disciples would no longer be followers of John. Instead, they would now receive their instructions and guidance from Jesus.
- C. This is precisely how every person involved in Christian ministry should see themselves. *The most important thing that any person in Christian ministry can do is to point people to Jesus for their eternal life and happiness.*
- D. A word to parents and Sunday school teachers.
  - 1. Sometimes, in an effort to make sure our children/young people turn out well, we end up making behavioral rules the dominant focus of our instruction.
  - 2. Behavior is a legitimate concern because godly compliance is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22, 23).

3. But that is precisely the point isn't it? The obedience we seek is itself the fruit of God's grace in our lives—and God's grace comes only through Jesus Christ.
4. We ought to emulate John the Baptist on this point.
  - a. As we teach God's Word to our younger brothers and sisters, we must be sure that we direct them toward Jesus for life.
    - i. Only Jesus can address those fears that tempt them to disobey God.
    - ii. Only Jesus can form in them the life that pleases the Father.
  - b. Parents, Sunday school teachers, anyone involved in the Gospel service, remember that we are first and foremost *evangelists* to those whom we teach.
  - c. In the course of teaching God's Word, it is important to say, "Let's go to Jesus for help. Let's flee Jesus and ask him to make us fully his."

#### IV. They Stayed with Him that Day (John 1:38, 39)

- A. Upon hearing that Jesus is the long-awaited Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world, these two disciples of John decide to go after Jesus.
- B. At that point, we are told that Jesus turned around—and *speaks to the two disciples*.
  1. This is the very first time in the Gospel that we are hearing the voice of the Lord.
  2. The God who spoke the universe into existence, who spoke through the prophets and the Scriptures, who controls the destiny of every human soul by his word, now has his own human voice, with its own pitch, its own tone, its own regional accent.
- C. In Jesus, God takes on a frail human voice by which to deliver his Word. Turning to the disciples, he asks them: "What are you seeking?"
- D. They say to him: "Rabbi' (which means Teacher), 'where are you staying?'" (v 38)
- E. Jesus says to them, "Come and you will see."
- F. The disciples "came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour."
  1. The tenth hour is around 4 p.m.
  2. People those days did not often travel past 4 p.m. because evening was coming.
  3. The fact that the disciples stayed so long with Jesus tell us that they were intrigued by Jesus, magnetized by him.
- G. John Calvin: "And from this matter of the time we gather that those two disciples were so eager to hear Christ and to know him more intimately, that they were not concerned about their night's lodging. But we, for the most part, are very different from them, for we procrastinate endlessly, because it is never convenient for us to follow Christ" (*The Gospel According to St. John 1-10*, 37).

1. Why do we take so long to seek Christ? *I think that a large part of the struggle comes down to the degree to which we believe who Christ is; and the degree to which we allow ourselves to be possessed by our faith in Jesus.*
2. If we truly believe that Jesus is the Messiah, if we would give ourselves over more to Christ, we probably wouldn't procrastinate so much in seeking Christ.
3. But the world is always more pressing on us; not just because it's more tangible, but also because of the seeming "punishments" that will fall on us if we do not attend to its demands.
  - a. Spending time with Jesus in prayer and Scripture will not...
    - necessarily pay your bills.
    - help you clear your email folder.
    - Fill in the blank: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Spending time with Jesus comes at a cost to our productivity or enjoyment.
 

—We always fear that seeking Christ may make us "late" for something or "miss out" on something.
  - c. But the wonderful thing about our Lord is that he doesn't wait for us. He comes to where we are. Jesus goes to work with us. Jesus joins us in our play, our recreation.
  - d. Even in the busyness of the day, it is possible to spend time with Christ. Just look to him in prayer.

## V. Andrew Evangelizes Simon (John 1:40, 41)

- A. Day Three ends with the two disciples spending time with Jesus.
  - B. The next day (we assume), the disciples begin evangelizing for the very first time.
  - C. Evangelism is not first and foremost a method or a technique. *It is the overflow of being with Jesus.*
  - D. Evangelism is what happens when we are so caught up with Jesus, so magnetized by him, spellbound by him, that we just have to tell people about him—at least starting with those who are closest to us.
  - E. So we read in verses 40-41: "One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which means Christ)."
1. That is the essential message of evangelism: "We have found the Messiah!" We have found...
    - the One who can heal our broken and aching hearts.
    - the One who can save us from destruction.
    - the One who will repair our broken world.
    - the One who will give us ultimate Life.
  2. Sometimes, we make evangelism out to be so complicated. But evangelism is not too different from eating at a good restaurant, reading a good book,

or watching a compelling film. *Having undergone such a life-enriching experience, we feel compelled to tell people about it.*

## VI. Jesus Names Simon (John 1:42)

- A. Jesus says to Simon: “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).”
- B. Jesus essentially redefines Simon.
  - 1. The name *Cephas* or *Peter* means “rock.”
  - 2. The fact that Jesus calls Simon the *Rock*, tells us that that is what his destiny will be. Simon will be a rock-like leader of the new people of God.
  - 3. John Calvin: “Christ gives Simon a name, not, as is usual, because of some past event, or from what He sees in him, but because He was going to make him Peter” (*The Gospel According to St. John 1-10*, 38).
- C. Jesus gives Simon a new name without once asking his permission.  
—Once again, we are reminded who is in charge. Jesus is Lord and, as the Lord, chooses whom he wishes.

## VII. He Names (and Renames) You

- A. When Jesus calls us, he also gives each of us a new name. *This new name is the new identity that we have in Christ.*
- B. What are some of the new names or titles that God gives to us?
  - 1. Child of God (Jn 1:12)
  - 2. My Delight Is in Her (Isa 62:4)
  - 3. Married (Isa 62:4)
  - 4. Crown of beauty/royal diadem (Isa 62:3)
  - 5. The Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19)
- C. The challenge to us: Will we believe that God calls us his beloved children, his little Peters, his sons and daughters, his crown of beauty?
  - 1. Or will you choose to believe the ugly names that the world placed on you when you were a child; names that broke your heart, made you fearful and put you on a self-centered, people-pleasing path of life?
  - 2. Obeying the Lord Jesus includes obeying the new name by which he calls you, living by the new names that he has placed upon you.

**Now that God has come to you in grace and scooped you up into his arms, he will not let the old names stick. Many of us have been called “stupid,” “idiot,” “cursed,” and other names by trusted authority figures in our lives. And this is not because we rejected God or the Gospel, but simply because we could not perform up to man’s narrow-minded standards. But once Jesus claims you, he renames you for himself. No child of God is an idiot. No daughter of God is a loser. No son of God is a worthless, stupid (fill in the blank). This is not because we no longer do foolish and sinful things. It is because God has fused**

our lives to that of his perfect beloved Son, Jesus. And it is also because the Lord Jesus has claimed us and renames us according to his good plans for our lives. So you are now God's child. You are the delight of your Father's eyes. As you begin living in the joy of your heavenly Father, you will find yourself living like your new name. Amen.

### Questions for Reflection

1. Is there anything in particular about today's sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Evangelism is the natural product or overflow of our being with Jesus. Discuss.
3. What did Jesus do for/to Simon?
4. What causes you to procrastinate seeking Christ through prayer and Scripture? Will you commit to taking prayer breaks during the course of the day?
5. What are the new names God has given to you?
6. How do those lessons affect your relationship with God? How do they change your disposition toward God? How can you relate to God and show God your love? How does your renewed relationship with God affect your relationships with others?