



Series: SEEING IS BELIEVING
(Book Study Gospel of John)

Christ First Church
Pastor Wayne Chasteen

Sermon 6: Come Follow Me
(John 1:19-51)

July 5, 2020

INTRO: If you have one, open your John Journal to John chapter 1, verse 19. If you do not have a John Journal, turn your Bible, or turn it on to John 1. The Gospel of John, the 4th book of the New Testament.

Many of you have started watching our live stream since the pandemic. If you are one of those, you are not aware that back in February we started a verse by verse study in the Gospel of John. The first 18 verses of John chapter 1 makes up the prologue of the book. We spent an extensive amount of time with those verses. The first 5 sermons of this study was spent in the prologue. It would be good if you could go back and listen to those sermons. **YOU CAN DO SO BY GOING TO OUR NEW PODCAST, "Christ First, with Wayne Chasteen".** It's available on all the major podcast service providers. To make it easy to find, the title of our book study is, SEEING IS BELIEVING. Those sermons are also the first 5 sermons on our podcast, beginning with an introduction to the book on February 16th. I hope you will check them out.

So, today, after taking some time away, we are back in our study, "Seeing Is Believing".

I love the Book of John! It's so simplistic, yet profound, so beautiful and majestic. There's really nothing like it in all of literature. The synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, give us a beautiful picture of the humanity of Christ. But John is talking about the **DIVINITY OF CHRIST; Jesus, the Son of God!**

The title of my sermon today is, "COME FOLLOW ME". I want to get through a lot of verses, so lets jump right in. We're starting at v 19... Notice...

1) THE CONFUSION: **vv 19-28** *"And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" This is really a little humorous. Here, the religious elite have sent out a small task force to investigate John the Baptist. Don't get John the Baptizer confused with the Apostle John, writer of this gospel. These are two different men. John the Baptist is a unique personality. The Bible tells us in **Matthew 3:1-7** "In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'" 4 John wore a garment of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 7 But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his place of baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"*

I) THE CONFUSION: vv 19-28 CONTINUED Johnny Boy the Baptizer is eating bugs and calling the religious leaders a bunch of no good snakes! Yet, he is claiming to do the work of God. He is preaching repentance. And he is baptizing all those who come to him and listen to his message. And the Pharisees have no idea what to make of it all! The problem is, everyone in Jerusalem, and Judea, and the whole region is going out to listen to this wild man. And the best the religious leaders could do was ask, who are you?!!!

vv 23- 28 *"He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing."*

So Johnny Baptist clears up the confusion, or adds to it, according to which side you're on. Notice...

II) THE CHRIST: vv 29-34 So, what do I mean when I say, THE CHRIST? First of all, the word "Christ" comes from the Greek word, christos, meaning "anointed." It is the equivalent of the Hebrew word Mashiach or as we know it, Messiah. The words Christ and Messiah are interchangeable, and both mean, "the anointed one of God."

Now read with me... vv 29-34 *"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 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."*

V 29 *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!* What a concept! The Jewish people certainly knew the reference John was alluding to. All their lives they had known of the sacrificial lambs. Those poor creatures that were slain for the purpose of putting off the sins of the community. But that was the best they could do, PUT OFF sins for a time. Then another lamb would lose it's life, then another, and another. BUT HERE, JOHN DECLARES, THAT THIS LAMB, THE LAMB OF GOD, COULD TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD! Hebrews 9:26 *"But now once in the end of the world hath he (Jesus) appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."* Hebrews 10:12 *"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"* JESUS is the LAMB OF GOD! What great salvation there is in Him!

ILLUS: CH Spurgeon wrote in one of his journals, "In 1857, a day or two before preaching at the Crystal Palace, I went to decide where the platform should be fixed; and, in order to test the acoustic properties of the building, cried in a loud voice, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In one of the galleries, a workman, who knew nothing of what was being done, heard the words, and they came like a message from heaven to his soul. He was smitten with conviction on account of sin, put down his tools, went home, and there, after a season of spiritual struggling, found peace and life by beholding the Lamb of God."

I) THE CONFUSION: vv 19-28

II) THE CHRIST: vv 29-34 CONTINUED vv 32-34 *“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.”*

What a testimony of Christ! As a matter of fact, six times in this first chapter, John the Baptist testifies or bears witness concerning Christ. And it is with his last definitive statement that we know beyond any doubt that JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD! He is the CHRIST!

After this testimony of John the Baptist, Jesus would soon be sitting with His disciples and He would ask the ALL IMPORTANT QUESTION... Matthew 16:13-17 *“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He questioned His disciples: ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ 14 They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ 15 ‘But what about you?’ Jesus asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ 16 Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ 17 Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven...”*

So, we saw THE CONFUSION. And now the confusion has been cleared up by THE CHRIST. Now, notice...

III) THE CALL: vv 35-51 *“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. 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. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas’ (which means Peter). 43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ 46 Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!’ 48 Nathanael said to him, ‘How do you know me?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.’ 49 Nathanael answered him, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ 50 Jesus answered him, ‘Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.’ 51 And he said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”*

We read again that John the Baptist sees Jesus, as He walks by, and he says to two of his disciples, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” Take special note of the word, BEHOLD.

I) THE CONFUSION: vv 19-28

II) THE CHRIST: vv 29-34

III) THE CALL: vv 35-51 CONTINUED Here, as in v 29, the word BEHOLD is in the aorist imperative, meaning it's a command. The aorist imperative is a command to do something immediately. It carries a sense of urgency about it! So John is not just commanding his disciples to look AT Jesus, but rather to take off AFTER Him. The sense being, DO IT NOW, before he's gone, while you can still see Him. Hurry, BEHOLD JESUS!

What a thought! Oh, if people would just behold Jesus. Jesus occasionally passes by our way. His Spirit will come by us from time to time and call out to us. And when He does, we should take off after Him. We should desire to BEHOLD Him. To see Him and walk with Him. If Jesus called out to you today, and His Spirit should deal with your heart, would you look to Him, BEHOLD Him, or would you ignore Him and let Him pass without so much as a second glance? How sad for those who do not recognize who Jesus is. He is the SON of GOD and VERY GOD! Don't miss Him.

vv 38-39 "Jesus turned and saw them (John's disciples) 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."

Here, we have the beautiful call of Jesus to "COME, and see". It's the challenge of God to see if Jesus is who He claims to be. He has nothing to hide, come and see! See for yourself if He's the Christ or not.

vv 40-43 "One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter). 43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

And after Philip would be Nathanael (also called Bartholomew), next would be Matthew, and eventually another 5 disciples would be called to make up the 12.

Those words, COME FOLLOW ME, are without a doubt, the sweetest words of invitation ever spoken in human tones. They are words of challenge. They call us out of our norm into the unknown. These words can only be responded to by faith. Jesus is still speaking those words today. He is calling you to follow Him. But those words don't ring from the shoreline of Galilee today. Today, Jesus is calling out to you from Heaven, where he is praying for you. He knows you have a lot of filth, a lot of sins. He knows all about you. But He still loves you, just as much as He did the day He hung on the cross to die for your sins. All he wants to know now is, will you COME FOLLOW ME? If you will, He will say to you what He said to Nathanael...

v 51 "And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Are you interested? Will you follow Jesus? I hope you will!