

Why Follow Jesus? | Part 1

Lesson 1

John 1:14-34

February 11, 2024

He Is Full of Grace and Truth

INTRODUCTION

Who was John the Baptist? Scripture tells us that he was “the voice of one calling in the wilderness, Make straight the way for the Lord.” (John 1:23) For followers of Jesus, John was this long-awaited herald announcing the arrival of the Messiah.

Flavius Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian and not a follower of Jesus, wrote that John “urged the Jews to strive towards perfection and exhorted them to deal justly with one another and walk humbly with God and to present themselves for baptism.”

Jesus was originally perfect and just, so why did He seek baptism? “...to fulfill all righteousness,” He said (Matthew 3:15) and for God’s favor as the Holy Spirit descended and remained on Him (John 1:32), giving the John the Baptist occasion to announce Messiah’s arrival and launch of His ministry (John 1:31-34).

Lastly, Jesus’ baptism identified Him with humanity’s sin and failure (though He was sinless) when He became our substitute (Hebrews 4:15). Can we thank Him enough?

Memory verse: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth—John 1:14

Pray, and read John 1:14-34. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. How much grace does John say has been given by Christ? (John 1:16)
2. After John the Baptist told the Jewish leaders who he *was not* (John 1:19-21), how did he finally describe himself? (John 1:23)
3. John the Baptist answered the Pharisees only briefly concerning his role in baptism but said much about the person who stood “among” them. What did he say? (John 1:26-27)
4. What was the John the Baptist’s reason for baptizing? (John 1:31b)
5. John the Baptist received a divine message. What was it? (John 1:32-34)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. How did the disciples and others see “the glory of the one and only Son” as cited in John 1:14?
(Matthew 8:14-15; John 2:11, 4:53-54)

2. How has Jesus made God known to others?
(John 1:18, 14:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15)

3. The Pharisees ask John the Baptist if he is “the prophet”
(John 1:21). To which prophet do they refer?
(Deuteronomy 18:14-19; Acts 3:22, 7:37)

4. John the Baptist says twice of Jesus in John 1:31, 33, "I myself did not know Him." Why might his comment seem surprising? (Luke 1:13-56) From what you read in Luke 1:13-56, what do you think John meant by this?

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. Do people today need a herald such as John the Baptist to prepare them for Christ's arrival in their lives? Why or why not?

