

Sermon Study Guide – January 15th, 2023

Today's Focus: "Jesus is More than just an Option"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ What in your life is optional? What in your life is not? Can something be a good thing even if it is not optional?
- ◆ In what ways is Jesus “more than just an option”? How much do we treat him as such, versus how much do we treat him as “optional”?

2) Today's Message: John 1:29-42

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Answer the following questions as you follow the sermon...

1. Describe the sacrificial system in the Old Testament.
2. In what two ways does our sermon text demonstrate the theme, “Jesus is more than just an option”?
3. How can we be sure that Jesus is not just one of many options that works? (*hint: think of Jesus in relation to John the Baptist*)
4. Jesus wants to dominate our lives in every way, yet *how* does he do this? (*hint: think of John’s two disciples who began to follow Jesus*)
5. How does Jesus being “more than just an option” explain why we go to church, how we raise our kids, or why we reach out to others?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *read/review* 2 Chronicles 34-35

Thursday: Leviticus 1 & 3

Tuesday: *review* Psalm 4, Colossians 2:6-15

Friday: Leviticus 4 & 5

Wednesday: Exodus 29

Saturday: *review* John 1:29-42