

Date: August 11, 2019
Sermon Series: Believe
Sermon Title: Lamb of God
Passage: John 1:19-34
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John 1:19-34 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

¹⁹This was John's testimony when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰He didn't deny it but confessed: "I am not the Messiah."

²¹"What then?" they asked him. "Are you Elijah?"

"I am not," he said.

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

²²"Who are you, then?" they asked. "We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What can you tell us about yourself?"

²³He said, "I am a **voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord**—just as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵So they asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you aren't the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John answered them. "Someone stands among you, but you don't know him. ²⁷He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I'm not worthy to untie." ²⁸All this happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I told you about: 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.' ³¹I didn't know him, but I came baptizing with water so he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him. ³³I didn't know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Sometimes God's plan is different from what we expect.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

⁸"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so my ways are higher than your ways
and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

God refuses to be limited by our vision and understanding. He is much bigger than what we conceive, and His ways are much higher than our imagination.

The focus needs to be on who Jesus/God is, not on who we are.

John made The Gospel accessible to ALL PEOPLE. How can we do the same thing here at First Baptist Creedmoor?

God's plan was always to save the world, not just Israel, or Abraham's descendants.

Genesis 12:1-3 (CSB)

¹The Lord said to Abram:

Go out from your land,
your relatives,
and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.

²I will make you into a great nation,
I will bless you,
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt,
and **all the peoples on earth**
will be blessed through you.

God wants to bless the peoples of the earth, and He wants to use you and me to do it.

In the process of blessing the world, our own community and people will be blessed as well.