

## Lesson 2

## The Witness To Jesus By John The Baptist

### John 1:19-51

1. It would seem that John the Baptist witnessed on three consecutive days to three classes of people. Give verses which relate to each class from vs. 19-37 and Luke 3:3-17

#### John 1:19-37

19 And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites (to him) to ask him, "Who are you?"

20 he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah."

21 So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

22 So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?"

23 He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said."

24 Some Pharisees were also sent.

25 They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?"

26 John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,

27 the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

28 This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 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 He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'

31 I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."

#### Luke 3:3-17

3 He went throughout (the) whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

5 Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth,

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

7 He said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

8 Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance; and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

9 Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

11 He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"



4. What difference is there between the baptism of John by water alone and the baptism which Christ alone gives to us today? (vs. 29-34) Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #790,804

**29 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 He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'**

**31 I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."**

**32 John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him.**

**33 I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'**

**34 Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."**

**790 Believers who respond to God's word and become members of Christ's Body, become intimately united with him: "In that body the life of Christ is communicated to those who believe, and who, through the sacraments, are united in a hidden and real way to Christ in his Passion and glorification." This is especially true of Baptism, which unites us to Christ's death and Resurrection, and the Eucharist, by which "really sharing in the body of the Lord, we are taken up into communion with him and with one another."**

**804 One enters into the People of God by faith and Baptism. "All men are called to belong to the new People of God" (LG 13), so that, in Christ, "men may form one family and one People of God" (AG 1).**

5. Which verses in Isaiah 53 suggest the reason John the Baptist spoke of Jesus as the Lamb of God?

**Isaiah 53**

- 1 Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**
- 2 He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him.**
- 3 He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.**
- 4 Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted.**
- 5 But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.**
- 6 We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.**
- 7 Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.**
- 8 Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people,**
- 9 A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood.**
- 10 (But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.) If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.**
- 11 Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.**
- 12 Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.**

6. Try to explain in your own words using 1 Peter 1:18-19 and 1 Peter 2:24, how Jesus represented the fulfillment of the Old Testament symbolism of the Lamb.

**1 Peter 1:18-19**

- 18 realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold**
- 19 but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.**

**1 Peter 2:24**

- 24 He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

7. What did each of the following discover about Jesus, and how did each discover this?

A. Andrew and the other disciple (35-41)

**35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples,**

**36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God."**

**37 The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.**

**38 Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"**

**39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.**

**40 Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.**

**41 He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).**

B. Andrew's brother, Simon (40-42)

**40 Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.**

**41 He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).**

**42 Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" (which is translated Peter).**

C. Philip (43-45)

**43 The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me."**

**44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter.**

**45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."**

D. Nathanael (45-50)

**45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."**

**46 But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."**

**47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him."**

**48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."**

**49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."**

**50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this."**

8. In verse 51 Jesus is referring to Jacob's dream in Genesis 28:10-12. What is Jesus saying about Himself by comparing Himself to a staircase between heaven and earth?

**Genesis 28:10-12**

**10 Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran.**

**11 When he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot.**

**12 Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it.**

**John 1:51**

**51 And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

9. What apparently convinces Andrew, Philip and Nathanael that Jesus is the Messiah and the son of God?

10. How would you describe Jesus from what He says and does in verses 19-51? What impressions do you get of Him?