

There Go the Lamb of God!

Intro. Sometimes it can seem awkward when we introduce people to each other. We identify them with something called an adjective, a word that describes our relationship with them: friend, brother/sister, neighbor or co-worker. My mother often used to introduce me without my name, simply as her son. To her that was the important part. For me, I was more than just her son; I was Mike. Our name is an important part of who we are. John introduced the Lord with two powerful names: “the Lamb of God” and “the Son of God.”

I. The use of the word lamb had a lot of history for the Israelite people. In their worship, the lamb was a symbol of reconciliation and forgiveness with God. The lamb was also a symbol of sacrifice. To call

Jesus the Lamb of God was a way for John to identify him. To further call him, “the *Son* of God,” would have really gotten the attention of people. By pointing out the Lord as the *Lamb* of God and the *Son* of God, John was telling people: you need to follow this man. He’s the One.

John’s ministry was simple: to *announce* the Lord’s coming and to *identify* him, by pointing him out to others. In the gospels of these past two weeks, we have witnessed John doing just that. His work is finished. He encouraged his disciples to now go with the Lord. For the next several weeks we journey with the Lord as he began to call people to follow him.

Concl. Who points out the Lord to us? It can be our families who first reveal him. Our church

community continues to introduce the Lord to us by teaching us more about him. Our friends often point to the Lord. Sometimes a *stranger* who crosses our paths however briefly shows us who the Lord is.

Like the man who lets us into traffic instead of blocking us. Or the helpful cashier at the grocery store. Or some of the prophets in our own time. It is also true that any of the people we meet can point us *away* from the Lord, point to idols that distract us from the Lord. There are many that attempt to replace the Lord in our lives such as over reliance on technology, possessions, and various addictions. It is up to us to through prayer and God's grace in the sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Reconciliation to figure out how to know the difference. We can keep that knowledge of the Lord to ourselves. Or, we can choose to be the "pointers,"

people who identify the Lord to others by our actions and our words. It was not just John the Baptist's ministry; it is *ours* as well. **By what words or actions will we point out the Lord this week?**

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