

## John 1:19-34, Daily Devotions

### □ Monday - The Voice of One.

John 1:23

John was the last official prophet under the Old Covenant. The prophet's job was to point the people back to God, and to stir up their hope in the coming Messiah. And so, when Christ came, the ministry of the prophets was complete (Acts 3:24). No official office of prophet or apostle exists today, for those who once faithfully filled these positions, completed their job long ago by laying the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:19-20). Nevertheless, in a general sense, every Christian is a believer-priest and prophet (Rev. 1:6), given a great commission (Mt. 28:19) to proclaim God's written Word. And just as John was the last prophet under the Old Covenant, so we may be the last "prophets" under the new covenant, unless the Lord taries. John was the "voice of one crying in the wilderness" (John 1:23); you may be the one voice for Christ in your office, your extended family, or your neighborhood. John's ministry was to prepare people's hearts before Christ's first advent. Your job, twenty-first century Christian, is to prepare them for His second advent. Christ is coming back, His arrival may be sooner than we think. Talk to your friends, family and co-workers about Him: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Read 1 Peter 2:9, 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:15

### □ Tuesday - God's People Need Washing!

John 1:24-28

Under the Old Covenant, Gentiles were considered "unclean" (Ezra 9:11), and so if a Gentile wished to convert to Judaism, symbolic baptismal washings were required, signifying one being cleansed from his old way of life. But as we enter the New Testament, the first baptisms we read about were those performed by John the baptist. There we see John baptizing, not Gentiles, but Jews! Scripture reports, "All of Judea was coming out to be baptized by John" (Mt. 3:5), meaning that God's own people were unclean, and John's message to them was, "Repent!" (Mt. 3:2). Today, as much as at any time in history, God's own people need to be washed. Confess your sins, Christian, "repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Read 2 Chronicles 7:4; Isaiah 1:16-18; James 4:8

### □ Wednesday - A Perfect Lamb for Our Sin Offering.

John 1:29

Of Christ, John the baptist declared, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn. 1:29, cf. v.36). These words point back to the Old Testament (OT) sin offering which had to be an animal "without defect" (Lev. 4:3). Yet OT sacrifices were inadequate, "for it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Heb. 10:4). These merely foreshadowed Christ's perfect sacrifice. Christian, you have been redeemed "with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Read Hebrews 4:15, 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19, 2:22; 1 John 3:5

### □ Thursday - Behold, the Lamb Who Takes Away Our Sin.

John 1:29

Animal sacrifices could never take away the guilt and punishment for sins (Heb. 10:4), but merely covered it until Christ's perfect sacrifice took it away "once and for all" (Heb. 7:27, 9:12, 10:10). No greater words did John the baptist ever speak than these, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn. 1:29). Read Micah 7:19

### □ Friday - Christ, the Head of the Church.

John 1:29-34

As John was baptizing, Jesus came upon the scene and asked John to baptize Him (Mt. 3:13). But John's was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Lk. 3:3), so why did the sinless Son of God need to be baptized? That has bothered scholars and theologians throughout history and most of all it bothered John! He said to Jesus, "Lord, I have need to be baptized by You!" (Mt. 3:14). "But Jesus answering said to him, 'Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he permitted Him" (Mt. 3:13-15). As the sinless Son of God, Jesus had no need to be baptized. But as the Head of the Church, representing His people before the face of God, Jesus was baptized. The sins of His people were to be laid upon Him at the cross and so He was baptized for us as One who would be our sin bearer.

Read Isaiah 53:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24