

29) The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

INTRO: Raise your hand if you have ever owned a lamb. Even today the average Jewish person is more familiar with lambs than is the average Lutheran church member.

## I. THE LAMB OF GOD...

### A. Drawing on Old Testament concept of sacrifices

1. so familiar to hearers of John the Baptizer (Thanksgiving turkey. Christmas ham)
2. blemish free; blood on door; averting death in Egypt; freeing
3. John connects Jesus to the most familiar Old Testament ritual
4. deliberate; lots of other animals or symbolism

### B. Manifested as Lamb of **God**

1. Jesus is God's possession; beloved Son; True God with the Father
2. John had seen and heard the Holy Trinity the previous day
3. pointed Him out to others; his calling in life; to fulfill righteousness
4. felt unworthy in presence of sinless Son of God; his own cousin
5. we too are unworthy, yet also baptized for the remission of sins

### C. Lamb who takes away sins

1. we need a preacher of repentance like John
2. to shake us up if becoming comfortable, lethargic
3. excusing little sins (Sunday hockey; miss church once in a while)
4. idolizing selves above Jesus and His/our mission (more on this later)
5. If we say we have no sin...**but** He is faithful and just... (John 1:8)
6. removes sin like no Old Testament sacrifice could; once, for all

## II...TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD

### A. It is God's will that it be done

1. **all** sins paid; waiting to be cashed in, by faith
2. why should we be privileged to be chosen to receive the gift of faith!
3. God uses Christians with His Word to create other Christians
4. not omnipotence; not angels; redeemed sinful people

(continued)

B. We may have some repenting to do

1. "Pastor, somebody ought to call on so and so"; well, yeah
2. speak to him; 'open the door' for the pastor (also gate code)
3. attitude toward other nationalities; best Christians are color blind
4. choosing death over apostasy, fall away (Confirmation vow)
5. and letting our money show where our heart and mouth is

C. Opportunities abound, and are exciting and challenging

1. Christianity oppressed in Turkey; money to mosque, not churches
2. OTOH, atheistic dictators drive refugees to our neighborhoods

D. Some examples are inspiring

1. return to NE Ghana; 8 baptisms; looking in windows
2. yet, no Holy Communion, can't afford wine
- 3.. build St. Matthew, Takoradi, one bag of cement at a time
4. farmer I knew borrowed from bank to meet mission pledge to God
5. what some people won't do to point out the Lamb to the world!

CONCLUSION: John the Baptizer has shown us our Savior and has even willingly given his life for the cause of proclaiming God's Law and God's gospel message to his world. Jesus has come also to us as our Lamb of sacrifice for sin. As you have opportunity, join John in proclaiming, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Amen.