

Known by Many Names

John 1:19-51

We all have names, titles, by which we are known by! When you walk into a room where friends/family/co-workers are present, how do they greet you?

I am known by many names, by the people that I am in relationship with!

Let me share a few of those names with you this morning:

You too probably have your own list of names by which you are known by!

In John's gospel, Ch. 1, the Apostle John speaks of another/different John that became known by a certain name - "John the Baptist"!

But the Jews were not sure by which name/title this John should be known.

John 1:19-28 – Who was this John? Was he the Christ, Elijah, the prophet...

John identifies himself, by the name/title by which he wanted to be known.

"I am the voice of the one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" - Vs. 23. John was a prophet, but not "the Prophet"! A billboard

As a side note, wouldn't it be great to be known by such a description? Isn't that the role each one of us should play as followers of Jesus Christ?

That was John the Baptist! But he would not want any more attention, so let's shift our focus on the One he came to prepare the way for – Jesus!

If Jesus walked into this church today, would you know Him? If so, how would you greet Him? By what name would you address Him?

There are some 200 names/titles for Jesus in the Bible! I heard of a pastor who gave a 30 min. sermon just speaking the names of Jesus (& we were impressed by Dr. S.M. Lockridge's 5 min. sermon excerpt, "*That's My King!*")

Check out the image on the screen. These are all names/descriptions of who Jesus is, and how He is known! Which one stands out to you? _____

There was one name/title for Jesus that really stuck out to both John the Baptist, and the Apostle John who wrote this gospel – The Lamb of God!

John the Baptist identifies Jesus by this name twice in this opening chapter.

The Apostle John uses this title for Jesus 29 times in all his Biblical writings, and this name for Jesus is found exclusively in the books authored by John!

Why is this name for Jesus so important to both these John's? **John 1:29-51**

Listen for it, & pick up on the other descriptive names given to Jesus as well!

- **John the Baptist twice calls Jesus – the Lamb of God (Vs. 29 & 36)**
- John the Baptist also uses the name – the Son of God for Jesus (**Vs. 34**)
- 2 of John's disciples who followed Jesus called Him – Rabbi (**Vs. 38**)
- **Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, called Jesus – the Messiah (Vs. 41)**
- Philip uses 3 different descriptive names for Jesus – "Jesus of Nazareth", the "son of Joseph", and "the one whom Moses in the Law & also the prophets wrote" (**Vs. 45**)
- Nathanael also uses 3 descriptive names for Jesus – "Rabbi", the "Son of God", and "King of Israel" (**Vs. 49**)
- **Jesus also adds a name for Himself – the Son of Man (Vs. 51)**

So many names/descriptions/characteristics of who Jesus is in one chapter! He can't be contained by 1 or 200 titles! But what's most important is not how many names He has, it's whether we know Him by those names or not!

What good is the name/title "Messiah/Savior," if He's not your/my "Savior"? What good is it to call Jesus "King", if you/I don't submit to His rule? What's in a name, if it doesn't represent the truth of what's between us?

Before Jesus was baptized, he was known by John the Baptist as simply "Cousin Jesus", but God opened his eyes that day to so much more!

John says twice in this text that he didn't know Jesus! (Vs. 31 & 33)

John knew Him as a relative, but he didn't know Him as His Savior & Lord!

But John was on his way, b/c God revealed to him Jesus' gateway attribute! Jesus as the "Lamb of God" is what opens up all His other names/titles to us.

Without Jesus being the Lamb of God...

- The fate of God's people would be Isaac's fate without the lamb!
- God's justice would never pass over us like the Angel of Death did in Egypt!
- Daily animal sacrifices would still be necessary to cover our sin!
- We would still be looking for a Messiah/Savior to save us!

This one title for Jesus sums up the love, the sacrifice, the suffering and the triumph of Jesus Christ! And it makes all His other names/titles efficacious!

The love of Jesus can transform lives only b/c it first provides the sacrifice needed to pay the penalty of our sin! That's why the table is so important!

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