

A summary of John 1:29-39 (Oct.12, 2017)

1. John the Baptist testified, and it was through His testimony that people came to Jesus. Many times, we declare that we only listen to God's speaking in the Bible, and not to man's speaking. But we need the servants of God to give us the revelations that they have received from God.
2. John the Baptist did not know Jesus (John 1:31, 33) even though he grew up with Jesus (they were cousins), and he knew Jesus in the flesh. However, in Greek the word for "know" here is *eido* which is a subjective knowing, that is to know the Lord subjectively. The same word *eido* is also used for the word "see" in 1:33. This shows that even though John the Baptist was used by God to announce Jesus Christ, he was humble and confessed that he did not know Him. Often, we like to explain the meaning of verses of which we have no idea, or no experience. In those cases, it is better to say that we do not know or that we have no experience.
3. All our speaking should be based on three principles: do we have subjective experience, can we give an example in our life to back up what we are fellowshiping, and do we know our audience, or do we know the brothers and sisters to whom we are speaking? Often, it is easy to claim that we have the first one ("I have the Lord's speaking or burden" or "the Lord spoke to me." It is not so easy to have the second and third. Do I know the needs of the saints? Am I with them, do I accompany them, do I understand them? Did the Lord speak to me in my daily life in a specific way? If I do not have the second and third principle, I should speak less. The Lord's speaking to us is always related to His church, to His people, to His flock (sheep). Yes, the Lord wants me to grow in my Christian life. But why? For the sake of His church, His testimony. When Andrew followed Jesus, right away he preached the gospel to his brother Simon (Peter). The Lord's speaking to me is eventually for His church.
4. Why does John the Baptist refer to Jesus as the "Lamb of God?" Isaiah 53:7 gives us a key. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He did not open His mouth. The Lord submitted to God and to the environment He was in, without complaining. He did not defend Himself. Are we like lambs, submitting to God and to His hand?
5. Two disciples of John the Baptist followed Jesus when John spoke. When we speak, do people follow Jesus?
6. John's first declaration is to behold the Lamb of God who is the one who takes away the sin of the world. This is to meet our need. His second declaration is to behold the Lamb of God. This is higher, no longer just meeting our need, but coming to the person of Christ, not just to meet our need, but to enjoy His person. The "Lamb of God" implies not just His sacrifice on the cross for our sins but also who He is as typified by all the offerings in the Old Testament (His consecration, His absoluteness, His suffering, living a crucified life, His divinity expressed through His perfect human virtues).
7. When we enjoy His person as the Lamb of God, the Lord will challenge us and ask us what we are seeking or looking for (1:38). The disciples answered: "Lord, where are you abiding or staying?" The Greek word for "abide" is *meno* which is also in 1:33 to refer to the Spirit descending as a dove on Jesus, and also in John 15:4, 5 and 7. When our sin is carried away, we come to the person of Jesus, to behold Him. As we behold Him, we want to abide or remain with Him, to know where He is and who He is.
8. John often uses the expression "the next day" (1:29, 35, 43), and in subsequent chapters also. On each day, the Lord speaks and there is a response. This brings in the next day with a fresh speaking and a fresh response. In my life, is there a next day, or am I satisfied with the Lord's speaking today?