

Text: John 1:29-49

Theme: Holy Telephone!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter verses twenty-nine through forty-nine.

### **Telephone**

Boys and Girls, I pray that you are doing well this morning. Have you ever played the game Telephone? It is a fairly simple game to play. I will tell you a phrase. You say what you heard to someone else and we'll see how or if it changes. "Jesus loves you." Did it change? Nope, but sometimes it can. We see an example of this game in our text for today. John tells his disciples about Jesus, and then they go and tell others. What do they say? How can we do likewise today? Ponder these questions as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

### **John tells Disciples, Disciples seek Jesus and then go and seek others**

Telephone begins with a simple message, and our text for today is no different. John sees Jesus coming towards him and proclaims. "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." All throughout the Old Testament, from Adam and Abel to Abraham and Isaac and beyond, sacrifice after sacrifice has been offered on behalf of sinners. The question has constantly been where is the Lamb? Where is the offering for our sins that will do away with all of these constant sacrifices once and for all? John plainly says, "Here He is! Here is the perfect sacrifice for every single sin and sinner."

John's disciples hear this and what is their response? They leave John and follow after Jesus with a simple question. "Rabbit, where are you staying?" Where are you lodging? They are saying that wherever this One is whom John has proclaimed to be the Lamb of God, they want to be with Him. Our Lord replies, come and see. So they do and they stay with Him the rest of the day.

Having heard from John, and by faith following our Lord, the two disciples immediately go and do. John and Andrew tell others. They go to their brothers first. Andrew states plainly to Simeon. "We have found the Messiah, the Christ." We have found the one that we have been waiting so long for. We have found the Anointed One by God, sent to be our savior. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

### **SN doesn't want to share, my good news not yours, scared of abuse/persecution**

This hearing, following, and telling others is not something that our sinful natures enjoys doing. Satan despises when the Word of God is shared with others. He does not want others to hear about Jesus Christ and the salvation that He gives to us by His death and resurrection.

Our sinful natures goes along with this despising and avoids any kind of sharing of the Gospel. We are tempted to hold the good news to ourselves. To think that it's good news just for me, or just for those who look like us. To share it with those people, the smelly bum on the street, the person battling alcoholism, the person covered head to toe in tattoos, those ones who do not look like us or act like us,

those who keep failing time and time again. Our sinful nature bulks at sharing with them. "It's only for me and us." It says. Our sinful nature does this because by its very nature it despises the word of God. We become scared and wonder, how will they react? What will they say? If I share the Gospel with them, what kind of reputation will they have, will impact will it have on the church? It is better to not rock the boat and change things so I will not share with them.

### **Yet, share we can, bc JC and HS**

Yet, what are we called to do? By the Grace of God, through the witness of the Prophets and Apostles, we have heard the witness of John concerning Jesus Christ. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin not just of you and me, but the entirety of the world. For everyone in the world, Jesus lived a perfect life in their place. For the world, Jesus went to the cross suffering, bleeding, dying, and rising again from the dead. To give to them, and to you, the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of souls. We have heard this wonderous message, and having heard, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that what Jesus has done, He has done for you and for me.

Having heard of this wonderous good news, how can we do anything except share this news with those around us? This grace is not just for us, not just for people that look, and act like us. Rather, it is for everyone. It is for that smelly bum, that person covered in tattoos, that person battling with alcoholism. It is for people that fail time and time again, people that act and look different than ourselves. The impact on the church and its reputation? It grows as more and more come to saving faith in the Lamb of God. People of every nation, tribe, and language, standing around the throne and giving praise and glory to God and the Lamb. Because Jesus Christ died for everyone in the entirety of the world, that they are forgiven of every single one of their sins.

By His grace, Christ uses us to share His good news with others. He forgives us of all of our sins. He empowers us with His Holy Spirit that we can share with those around us in a wide variety of ways. Through our words, through our actions, and our thoughts we can share this good news with them. Tis why we gather together items for helping others. It's why we gather together in worship, to hear and receive anew the grace of our Lord. It's why we support the AA groups and our community, that we may share the good news of the Gospel, that having heard, others may come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. It is indeed a wonderous game of Telephone as we tell others about Jesus' death and resurrection from the dead for their salvation.

The Peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.