



That you may  
have *life*

*Behold the Lamb*

John 1:23-34

1. *The problem: unbelief. v26 – “Among you stands one whom **you do not know.**”*

A. *Knowing Jesus is a **divinely guided** “process” from unbelief to belief to transformation:*

1. **Unbelief:** *From not believing Jesus was a real person – or not considering Jesus as worth knowing.*
2. **Curiosity.** *To seeing him as a notable, real person, a good teacher, perhaps; even a prophet.*
3. **Seeking:** *Trying to find Him; to understanding who He truly is and what he matters to me.*
4. **Believing.** *To trusting Him personally to forgive me of my sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
5. **Transformation:** *To growing in that trust daily. To being transformed by the Holy Spirit to be like him in my daily life decisions, choices, and to becoming a **witness to others.** V1:34.*



*Unbelief is like a wall that **someone else built** that keeps people from knowing Jesus. In a moment, the wall comes crashing down as unbelief is converted to belief and the Holy Spirit makes a heart his home.*

- *2 Cor. 4:4 in whose case the **god of this world** has **blinded the minds** of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, ... (Rom 1:18-10)*
- ***Rom. 1:18-19** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. (NAU)*
- *Jn. 16:8-9 And when he [Holy Spirit] comes, he will **convict the world concerning sin** and righteousness and judgment:<sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they **do not believe in me**;*





2. *God's solution to the walls of unbelief: Believers, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who have embraced the "Lamb of God.." for themselves (V 29). John 1:4*

*A. How did John come to know? V 29-31.*

*B. John's Passover lamb was defined by Ex 12:*

*1. Father's household. Ex 12:3*

*2. 1 year old male. Ex 12:5 (Passover only)*

*3. Unblemished, perfect. Ex 12:5*

*4. Sinner's (owner's) hand upon head. Lev 1:4-5*

*5. Slaughtered alive by household. Ex 12:6*

*6. Blood painted on doorposts of home (on altar later).*

*C. Jesus, Son of God, fulfills OT Lamb of God. John 1:19*



*Because conversion from unbelief to belief is a divinely guided process, the most important thing for a believer to do is listen. The Holy Spirit will reveal the impediments to the “walls” of unbelief.*

- *Jn. 6:44*
- *1 Cor. 3:5-7 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? **Servants through whom you believed**, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> *I planted, Apollos watered, **but God gave the growth.*** <sup>7</sup> *So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. (ESV)**
- *John 4:35-38*



3. *John (the Baptist) was the first person to publicly proclaim Jesus as the true Lamb of God, connecting Him with the prophecy of Isaiah 53.*
- A. *John “let go” the barriers to Christ, allowing his wall to come crashing down:*
- *V 31. John’s personal knowledge of his cousin.*
  - *V 27. John’s own ministry and its importance.*
    - *“It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal **I am not worthy to untie.**”*
  - *V 35-37. The loss of his own disciples to follow Jesus.*
- B. *V 3:30. “**He must increase, but I must decrease.**”*



*Isaiah 53:7-12 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ... .<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.<sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.*





## *Call to action:*

- 1. 2026 will be a year of evangelism for Bethnay Church. We are the answer to the “so what” question for the people in our circle of influence. In coming weeks, we will ask you to commit to bringing one person to Christ in 2026. Will you begin your prayers to this end?*
- 2. Ask God to give you the name of someone you can pray for as the New Year arrives. Make a commitment with God to lift their name, daily, to the Father for the next 4 weeks. If God leads you to do so, drop them a note of the gift of prayer you are giving them.*

## *Call to Action”*

- 1. 2026 will be a year of evangelism for Bethany Church. We are the answer to the “so what” question for the people in our circle of influence. In coming weeks, we will ask you to commit to bringing one person to Christ in 2026. Will you begin your prayers to this end?*
- 2. Ask God to give you the name of someone you can pray for as the New Year arrives. Make a commitment with God to lift their name, daily, to the Father for the next 4 weeks. Ask Him to take down the walls of unbelief that they might embrace the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”*



