

The Gospel of John

1:27-42

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
This week we will start in verse 27 which we didn't go over last week.

✠ **John 1:27-28** *"It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

You may read verse 27 and wonder what's the big deal about untying someone's sandals? When my daughter was a little girl, she loved to untie my shoes, and I had slippers that have leather straps, which she loved to play with and untie.

But what John the Baptist is referring to, is not a simple untying of someone's shoes. This was something that a servant would do for his master. They say that one of the most humbling things to do is to wash someone else's feet. I have done this at a church I went to one time, and it is humbling. But what John the Baptist was referring to was something even more humbling than a foot washing.

In the Talmud it is asked,

"What is the manner of possessing of servants? or what is their service? He buckles his (master's) shoes; he "unlooses his shoes", and "carries them before him to the bath.""

Or, as is elsewhere said,

"he unlooses his shoes, or carries after him his vessels (whatever he wants) to the bath; he unclothes him, he washes him, he anoints him, he rubs him, he clothes him, he buckles his shoes, and lifts him up."

For only a Canaanitish, not a Hebrew servant, might be employed in, or obliged to such work; for it was reckoned not only, mean and servile, but even base and reproachful. It is one of their canons;

"if thy brother is become poor, and is sold unto thee, thou shalt not make him do the work of a servant; that is, any reproachful work; such as to buckle his shoes, or unloose them, or carry his instruments (or necessaries) after him to the bath."

So you can see that the statement John the Baptist is making, is a very humble statement. In a sense he is bringing himself down to the lowest level of a servant and saying he's not even good enough to be the least servant to our Lord.

Makes you stop and think about the way you picture Jesus and what He means to you. We are so quick to get angry with Jesus if things don't go our way, and we forget that we are to be servants and not served.

✠ *These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

When you read of references referring to "*Where John was baptizing*" in the bible

✠ **John 10:40** *And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed.*

It's referring to Bethabara. Look at the map in your bible, and you will see it next to the Dead Sea on the other side of the Jordan River opposite Jericho. It's about the same distance (if you don't see it on your map).

Many believe that Bethany beyond the Jordan was the place where Joshua crossed over when he entered into the Promised Land.

✠ **John 1:29-34** *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."*

John the Baptist says, "*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" Which the Jews understood in scripture that he was referring to the book of Isaiah:

✠ **Isaiah 53:7** *He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.*

But we may know it better from the book of Revelation.

✠ **Rev 5:6-14** *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had*

been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying:

*"You are worthy to take the scroll,
and to open its seals;
For You were slain,
and have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"
And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth
and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:*

*"Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Remember that John also wrote the book of Revelation, and as he saw these things in heaven, I think the remembrance of what John the Baptist said came to mind.

Another thing to realize is this that all of this took place after Jesus was baptized, and this was very likely when Jesus was returning from the wilderness where Jesus was tempted for forty days. We read this in verse 33.

✠ "but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Referring to what happened forty or so days earlier.

✠ Luke 3:21-22 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

One of the coolest things about this verse is the clear evidence of the Trinity. We read of the **Holy Spirit** descending upon **Jesus** and **God the Father** speaking, all three working together at one time, in one place.

John the Baptist was testifying to what God had spoken and what he saw happen on that day. It was through the baptism that it was confirmed to John the Baptist that Jesus was the Messiah. God had told John when he saw the Spirit of God descend and remain on a man, that He would be the One.

So there was no doubt in John's mind, Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Also in Verse 33 it says "***I did not know Him***" but they were cousins, how could John the Baptist never had seen or known Jesus.

Well one of two answers for this is that John the Baptist lived in the deserts of Judea, which was ninety or more miles from Nazareth.

† **Luke 1:80** *So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.*

You must also remember there were no cars, planes or trains to get around in, so a 90-mile trip was something that wasn't done all the time.

Also notice that John the Baptist didn't say, "Hey, this is my cousin Jesus, He's the messiah". Just as we learned in James that James didn't say that Jesus was his brother (or half brother). Why would these men not do this? Very simply, because they wanted all the focus to be on Jesus and none on themselves. If John the Baptist would have said that Jesus was his cousin, then people may have referred to Jesus as John the Baptist's cousin and lessen the fact that Jesus is the Messiah.

Also it is possible that John the Baptist did meet or had seen Jesus before this all happened. It could be that at the time when he did see Jesus that he didn't know that Jesus was the Messiah, because God had not spoken to him before, or the baptism had not happened. So John the Baptist didn't see the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus as God told John the Baptist that it would happen.

The next verses start taking the focus off of John the Baptist and starts with Jesus' ministry and choosing of the 12 disciples.

✠ **John 1:35-42** *Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to*

Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

So here it is the next day after John the Baptist points out Jesus to his followers. And these two men, who were Andrew and John (the one who wrote this book), heard Jesus speak and followed Jesus.

✠ ***The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.***

There is something very interesting I found out about Jesus choosing the 12 apostles. This is taken from Halley's Bible handbook (Which I highly recommend as a study tool for everyone).

Jesus took about a year and a half to complete his choice. Then they were with Him about two years.

In November, the year 26 AD (approximately) John, Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael believed on Jesus at John's baptism (John 1:35-51); accompanied Jesus to Cana; then went back to their occupations (They owned a fishing business) till a later call.

January, the year 28 AD (approximately) After Jesus had finished His early Judean Ministry, and as He began His Galilean Ministry, Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James and John to leave their fishing business, and definitely associate themselves with Jesus (Mark 1:16-20)

✠ ***Mark 1:16-20 And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.***

For me this explains why these men just left their business and followed Jesus, because they knew Him a year or so before this time.

Shortly thereafter Matthew was asked to join the group.

✠ ***Matt 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.***

May, the year 28 AD (approximately) The 12 were formerly chosen.

† **Luke 6:12-16** *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.*

One other thing is, it is also believed that John (Who wrote this books) may have been Jesus' cousin.

† **Matt 27:56** *among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.*

† **John 19:25** *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.*

So Andrew and John leave John the Baptist and follow Jesus, and as they start to follow Jesus He asks them.

✎ ***"What do you seek?"***

Or we may say, *"What are you looking for"* but not in a bad sense, but rather *"what are you trying to find in life"*. It's was obvious that John and Andrew where seeking God, because they followed John the Baptist, who preached about God and heaven, and now had left him to follow after Jesus who has the words of eternal life.

They also called Jesus Rabbi which means: *Rabbi, a title used by the Jews to address their teachers (and also honor them when not addressing them)*

But it could be better translated as "Master" which means: *one who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man.*

Jesus says, ***"Come and see."*** *They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).*

So they hung out with Jesus for the day. *Note: the tenth hour refers to 10am*

✎ **John 1:40-42** *One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).*

So Andrew goes and gets his brother Peter and tells him, ***"We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).***

The Jews had been waiting for the Messiah, and sad to say they still are. You see most Jews at this time do not believe that Jesus was the Messiah and they are still waiting for

Him. So for Peter this was exciting news that the one they had all been waiting for is finally here.

One cool thing about Andrew is that when you read about him in the gospels, he is always bringing people to Jesus.

† **John 6:8-9** *One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"*

† **John 12:20-22** *Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.*

So Andrew brings his brother to Jesus.

✠ *And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "**You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas**" (which is translated, **A Stone**).*

Jesus now let's Simon know that He is changing his name to Cephas (or Peter as we all know him).

Simon means: *That hears; that obeys.*

Cephas or Peter means: *A rock or stone.*

We will understand better why Jesus did this as we look in Matthew.

† **Matt 16:18** ***And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.***

One thing to understand about this is, Jesus is not telling Peter that the church will be built upon him, but rather what Peter believed in, as we see if we look back a few verses in Matthew and get the whole context of what's being said here.

† **Matt 16:15-18** *He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**" Simon Peter answered and said, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" Jesus answered and said to him, "**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**"*

Always remember that the church is only built upon the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and not upon any man other than Jesus!

Your church is not, and should not revolve around your pastor.

I know that some people will not go to church if they find out that the pastor is not there that Sunday. This is sad and totally wrong, because those who do this are following their pastor and not Jesus. The Holy Spirit can, and will speak through whomever He desires, whether it's your pastor or a guest speaker in your church.

So Peter, or the rock is referring to Peter standing solid as a rock on the belief that Jesus is the Messiah. Even though Peter denied Jesus three times, he turns around and stands firm after Jesus speaks with him. But then I'm getting way ahead of the story.

Well I think that will be it for this week. Next week we will meet a few more of the 12 men that Jesus choose, and we may even get into chapter 2.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you be like Andrew and bring people to Jesus!