

Gospel of John 1:28 – 37

New American Standard Version

1 These things took place in Bethany beyond
2 the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The
3 next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and
4 *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes
5 away the sin of the world! This is He on
6 behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a
7 Man who has a higher rank than I, for He
8 existed before me.' I did not recognize
9 Him, but so that He might be manifested
10 to Israel, I came baptizing in water." John
11 testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit
12 descending as a dove out of heaven, and
13 He remained upon Him. I did not recognize
14 Him, but He who sent me to baptize in
15 water said to me, 'He upon whom you see
16 the Spirit descending and remaining upon
17 Him, this is the One who baptizes in the
18 Holy Spirit.' I myself have seen, and have
19 testified **Z** that this is the Son of God."
20 Again the next day John was standing with
21 two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus
22 as He walked, and *said, "Behold, the
23 Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him
24 speak, and they followed Jesus.

Read through the entire passage once, then read again and mark the following features:

[“John” in these questions is John the baptizer, not John the author of the Gospel.]

Underline everything that John says about himself.

Circle everything that John says about Jesus.

What do you learn about John’s relationship to Jesus?

What do you learn about John’s ministry?

John is describing several past events. Try to reconstruct the sequence that he is describing. Use letters (**A**, **B**, etc.) to indicate the order of events. (This may be speculation, but give it your best guess.)

How did John’s ministry contribute to his knowledge of and relationship with Jesus? What connection do you see between your knowledge and relationship with Jesus and your involvement with other people?

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Questions for further thinking

What did John see? Does “the Spirit descending as a dove” mean he saw a physical bird? If “as a dove” is figurative, how would it describe the Spirit descending on Jesus? How does John’s description compare to the commission he was given (line 14-17, v. 33).

What would “Lamb of God” have meant to the original readers of John’s Gospel? To Jews? To Gentiles?

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all mention the baptism of Jesus (with varying amount of detail). Why is that not included here? Where would it fit in the narrative that John the Baptist gives about his ministry?

<p>The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said,</p>	
<p>This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'</p>	
<p>I did not recognize Him,</p>	<p>I did not recognize Him,</p>
	<p>but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'</p>
<p>but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.</p>	
	<p>I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.</p>
	<p>Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.</p>

Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
This is He on behalf of whom I said,

‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I,
for He existed before me.’

I did not recognize Him,
but so that He might be manifested to Israel,
I came baptizing in water.”

John testified saying,

“I have seen the Spirit
descending as a dove out of heaven,
and He remained upon Him.

I did not recognize Him,
but He who sent me
to baptize in water
said to me,

‘He upon whom you see the Spirit
descending
and remaining upon Him,
this is the One

who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’

I myself

have seen,
and have testified
that this is the Son of God.”