

Deane Church + Lostock Church
w/b Sunday 16th September 2018
John 1:35-51

So far in chapter one of John's Gospel we have seen the Apostle John's testimony about the identity of Jesus (vv 1-18) and John the Baptist's testimony about the identity of Jesus (vv19-34). In verses 34-51 we see Jesus beginning to form a new community with himself at the center.

'The Lamb of God' (v36) may refer to various Old Testament ideas but it is likely that John the Baptist has in mind both the Passover lamb of Exodus 12 and the 'Servant' of Isaiah 53. The Passover lamb was a sacrifice which averted the judgement of God from his people. The Servant is described as dying an atoning death 'like a lamb'..... taking the punishment on behalf of guilty sinners in order to deal with the problem of sin.

1. From verses 35-51 what were the key factors in each of these people becoming Christ-followers:

(i) Andrew (ii) Simon Peter (iii) Philip (iv) Nathanael

2. Many people who have come to saving, growing, life-giving faith in Jesus Christ can identify three key factors/stages:

- (i) **Testimony** – someone else telling them about Jesus and the eye-witness testimonies in the Bible.
- (ii) **Personal experience** of Jesus in their lives.
- (iii) **Radical personal transformation** – a renewed heart/being born again with God as their loving Heavenly Father.

From verses 35-51, how do we begin to see this in the lives of the first disciples?

3. How might all this help us in our own outreach and evangelism with our non-Christian friends and neighbours?

4. Jesus' promise in vv50-51 sets us up for the rest of the Gospel. Look up **Genesis 28:10-19**. How did Jacob respond to the things God promised him?

5. From John1:1-51 how has your understanding of who Jesus is and what God is doing in the world been stretched and expanded?