

What do you want? What are you seeking? Like the two men in our text, you appear to be following Jesus. You are here this morning. At least in body. So, then, what are you seeking? What do you want? Do you know? Maybe you're not really sure.

We begin this way because this is how Jesus begins the conversation with the men who are following Him. He does not reach out His hand to them, "Hi, I'm Jesus. What are your names?" He says, "What do you want? *What are you seeking?*"

It's a fair question. If two men were following you somewhere, wouldn't you want to know why? Perhaps they would be wanting something from you. Maybe something you would not want to give them. So with Jesus. The two men following Him surely want something from Him. And so, of course, He asks them what it is that they want.

Jesus does not put this question to them to turn them away. Nor am I asking the same question of you this morning to turn you around and back out the door. Rather, asking such a question is good, yes, necessary for all of us to consider. If someone does not know what they want, how can they expect to receive anything?

The two men follow Jesus because they hear John say of Him, "*Behold, the Lamb of God!*" There is nothing about Jesus that draws them necessarily. Nothing in His demeanor. No halo over His head. He is a plain, ordinary-looking man. He is not wearing a shirt that reads: I am the Son of God. Had John not pointed to Jesus with the words, "*Behold, the Lamb of God!*" the two men would not be following Him.

Maybe this is why you are here this morning. Someone, at some point in your life, pointed to Jesus and told you that He is worth following, that He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. There is a strong possibility that it was your parents who pointed you to Jesus. Or perhaps a grandparent, even a dear friend.

So then, you are here this morning not because you mistook this building for a restaurant, or a gym, but because this is a church, yes the church which proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God.

And thus, you are here this morning because you want something from Him. Am I right? If you do not want anything from Jesus, why would you come here? Why would you follow Him like the two men in our text?

Everybody wants something. Those who want sleep are still in bed. Those who want a paycheck are at work this morning. Those who want a clean house are dusting and vacuuming right now. But you are here. Not because you slept well necessarily. Not because you have no need of a paycheck. And not because your house is clean enough. You are here, and I could say that God the Holy Spirit has brought you here, because of what you need from Jesus.

You are a sinner, as am I. If you did not believe this, you would not be here. If your sins did not bother you, what need would you have of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world?

Is this not why the two men follow Jesus in our text? John doesn't say, "Behold, there goes a good man," even though he would have been correct. John calls Jesus the Lamb of God. This means He will suffer and die. He will be slaughtered as lambs are. But since He is the Lamb of God, He will shed His blood as the Sacrificial Lamb, the Passover Lamb, to take away the sin of the world.

And this is why the Holy Spirit has brought you here. What are you seeking? Forgiveness. Real forgiveness for your all too real sins. And you have come to the right place. Because this is what Jesus gives to all who come to Him.

He turns no one away. Yet He does want all who come to Him to come for what they truly need. Not to feel better about themselves. To feel worse actually. He wants us to see our greatest need. That we have separated ourselves from our loving God by our selfish, lustful, greedy ways. And because we see this, and confess this, Jesus takes these sins away.

Do you hear what I'm saying? All of these sins are not yours anymore. Jesus takes them away from you. He takes them to His cross where He suffers and dies as the Lamb of God.

And as John pointed to Jesus, so now Jesus points you to your baptism. Here is real forgiveness. The forgiveness He purchased by His own blood. Forgiveness for you. Your sins are washed away because here in your baptism is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

There is a lot of pointing going on, isn't there? John points to Jesus. Jesus points to your baptism. To what do you point? One of the two men following Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. John pointed Andrew to Jesus, and then we see Andrew going to his brother and pointing him to Jesus.

That's how it works. It's how it's supposed to work. When the Lamb of God takes up residence in your heart, it is impossible for your life to point to worthless things. You will point to Jesus. You will point others, like Andrew did, to Jesus. "*Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.*" John was filled with Christ, and so his words pointed to Jesus. Andrew became filled with Christ, and so his words, too, pointed his brother to Jesus.

Are there people in your family worth saving? Then because the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, dwells in our hearts, we will want our words to point to Him. We could fill this church if all we did was to bring our families. Andrew did. May God bless us and use us in the same way. Amen.