

"I Can't Wait to Tell"
John 1:29-42a
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Messiah, Boerne
January 15, 2023

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Text: John 1:29-42a

Dear Friends in Christ:

Sometimes when we hear good news or experience some blessing in our life, we can't wait to tell someone else about it. For example, when we hear that our favorite sports team won the championship, we want to tell other fans the good news right away so that we can rejoice in the victory together. Or when a long-expected package arrives, we want to tell the person expecting it right away so that they can rejoice that their package has finally arrived and enjoy the blessing. And when we receive good news that a loved one of ours has been released from the hospital, we want to tell our family and friends right away so that they can rejoice with us and prepare for their return home.

In our text this morning, we hear John the Baptizer proclaim the Good News that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, has come to take away the sin of the world (v 29). Jesus is the Promised One of God for whom John was sent to prepare the way. He is the Son of God from eternity, from whom the Holy Spirit

proceeds to bring life and light to humankind. He is also the Son of Man, the promised Messiah, who would give His life as the ransom-price for our sins. This revelation about Jesus is Good News for sinners like you and me, and when we hear it, we respond by telling other people so that they, too, might believe and tell others the Good News about Jesus.

In our text today, John the Baptizer told his disciples about Jesus, indeed, the very next day (v 29). You see, John couldn't wait to direct people to Jesus. In describing his call, he says it was for this very purpose that he came baptizing with water, that he might reveal Jesus as the sin-bearer and Savior to God's chosen people Israel. Like the scapegoat that carried the sins of Israel away into the wilderness, so Jesus serves to carry the sins of the whole world away forever. The world is in desperate need of such a Savior from sin—including you and me—and Jesus is the Savior of the world (4:42).

John bears witness in our text to the first-hand experiences that revealed Jesus' identity to him. He says that God said to him, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God" (vv 33-34). You see, John's witness is not just his personal

opinion. It grows out of his personal experience with Jesus, based on God's Word.

On the basis of the Word of God, we also have a message to tell others. Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan, his sinless life and innocent suffering and death on the cross, his glorious resurrection from the dead and ascension to the Father's right hand in heaven—he has done it all for you and me. Jesus has done all this for us because he loves us, because he has compassion on us, and because we needed it.

Secondly, Jesus told John's disciples—probably Andrew and John—about Himself. He doesn't wait to tell them either but, as their Rabbi, he invites them to his house for further instruction (v 39). By inviting them to come and see where he was staying, Jesus welcomed the disciples into a personal relationship with him (v 39a). He spent time with them—the rest of the day (v 39c). While they were there, Jesus taught them many things about himself and his mission on earth.

Jesus promises us an intimate relationship with him as well. Jesus invites us to his house, the church, where we "come and see" him. We see him better when we spend time with him in his Word, as he says, "If you abide in my word, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (8:31-32). By coming and seeing Jesus regularly in his house, spending time in his Word and receiving his Sacraments, our relationship with

Jesus will grow stronger as well as our desire to tell other people about the new life available to them in Jesus Christ, as Paul writes:

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)

Now you and I tell people about Jesus, the Lamb of God, the Messiah. In doing so, we imitate Andrew, who did not wait, but excitedly told someone else, his brother, Simon Peter (vv 40-42). Having spent the previous afternoon learning from Rabbi Jesus, he expressed his personal conviction regarding Jesus' identity. He told Peter, "We have found the Messiah (which means Christ)" (v 41). He recognized Jesus to be the one whom the Father had sent to solve his personal problem with sin, and not only his, but also the sin-problem of the whole inhabited world.

Our response to knowing and believing in Jesus Christ is also to tell others about him. This is our response to the revelation we have received through God's Word. God commands us to do so in the Great Commission, to teach all people groups about Jesus and to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are also to be witnesses to

the Christian faith wherever we go. Christ not only assures us that we are forgiven our past unwillingness and failures to bear witness to him, but he also promises to provide us with opportunities and his Spirit's help in being his witnesses in the future.

Dear friends in Christ, our world needs to be told the Good News about Jesus by people who can't wait to tell because most people in the world still don't know him. We have heard and are blessed, however, and we have our faith strengthened and our knowledge deepened through the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. As a result, we can't wait to tell! Amen.