

“Meet the Messiah”

John 1:35-42

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

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There are many people in our world whom we consider as being important. Who do you consider to be important? The president or prime minister of your country, or someone who is a champion of human rights for an oppressed people-group? Is it your governor or the chairperson of your city council? Or is it a pastor, a business leader or someone who plays professional sports?

If you had the opportunity to meet someone you consider to be important, what would you say to them? Do you have questions you’d like to ask them? How would you dress for the occasion and how would you act? What would you most want to hear from them? How would you like to be treated by them? It would be very interesting to know your answers.

In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will come with today’s teaching from the Gospel of John. In it, he will be speaking about meeting someone important; someone much more important than any of the persons I mentioned earlier. The ones I mentioned, with the possible exception of a pastor, can only affect your earthly life, what happens in the here and now. But this person I’m talking about can affect your life now and through all eternity. His name is Jesus.

So, stay tuned as Dr. Yoder invites us to “Meet the Messiah.”

We like to meet new people, don’t we? Especially important people. We are glad to learn to know them. In the time of Andrew and Peter many were expecting the Messiah to come. They were looking for Him.

They had reasons to look for Him because the prophets had foretold His coming. Yet long years passed, and He had not come. Some lost hope but many kept looking for Him. They were expecting Him. Let us read **John 1:35-42** and look in on several who met Him.

- 35 *Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;*
- 36 *And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!*
- 37 *And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.*
- 38 *Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?*
- 39 *He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.*
- 40 *One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.*
- 41 *He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*
- 42 *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone.*

At last, He had come, and He was being introduced to different people. Do you hear them saying one to another, "MEET THE MESSIAH"? John the Baptist saw Him and first understood Him. Andrew saw Him and brought Peter to Him.

In this account we have several INSIGHTS into the nature of the Messiah as we meet Him. I want you to meet Him.

First we have His Identification.

His identification is the Lamb of God for, so John the Baptist identifies Him. This is a very descriptive term and full of meaning-The Lamb of God.

In verse 29, John the Baptist went a little farther and said that He takes away the sin of the world. That is why this identification, the Lamb of God, is full of meaning. All of us have sinned. All of us have come short of the glory of God.

What are we going to do about this? We cannot do much at all until God has done something and He has done something. He sent the Lamb of God, the One who takes away the sin of the world.

I want to show you something else, however. When John the Baptist identified Jesus to two of his disciples, that is, John the Baptist had disciples—men who followed him and listened to his teaching—when those two men understood that Jesus was the Lamb of God, they followed Jesus. Jesus, the Lamb of God is being followed by two disciples. I want to point Him out that way to you: He is the Lamb of God and He is worthy to be followed. They followed Him and as they followed Him, He turned and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “We want to know where you live.”

Then came His Invitation.

Come, “Come and see.” It was their curiosity. They wanted to know more about Him. They wanted to become more intimately acquainted with Him, so as they followed and He asked them what they wanted, they said they would like to know where He lived. “Where do you live?”

There is something interesting about this question. They felt if they could know where He lived, they would know more about Him. That was true. That is true today. If you can find a man’s house, you’ll find out more about him. That is very natural. Their curiosity was a very natural curiosity. Their question was a very natural question.

Notice His response, “Come and see.” That is His invitation, come and see. Wasn’t that kind? There are some who throw great fences about their buildings, their houses. They have guards, dogs, men, and machine guns. That is not Jesus.

His invitation is still good. He would like to say to you, “Come and see.” I’d like to echo that invitation to you “Come and see!”

The third insight as to who He is comes by way of His Introduction.

Andrew was one of those two disciples who followed Jesus when John had identified Him. He heard John and He followed Jesus. He was convinced completely that He had found the real Messiah. So, He went to find his brother, Simon Peter. When he found him, he said to him, “We have found the Messiah.” They were looking for Him. They were expecting Him. They were trusting God that He would come. Andrew was overjoyed that they had found the Messiah, so he

brought Simon, his brother, to Jesus, and Jesus knew him. Yes, Jesus knew him and said, “Thou art Simon the son of Jonas: Thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, a stone).”

Here is a wonderful introduction. Andrew brought Simon Peter, his brother, to meet the Messiah. You know, you are just like Simon. You need to meet Him too. I’d like to be like Andrew. I’d like to bring you to meet Jesus and say, “Meet the Messiah: the only One, the true Messiah, the Anointed One of God.”

I want you to meet Him. I want you to meet Him because He is the One, we are looking for. I can say too, He will receive you. He will receive you. He knows you and He wants you.

Yes, my friend, as Dr. Yoder said, Jesus wants you to meet Him; and He wants to meet you. He wants you to love and serve Him, because only then will you find true and lasting joy and peace in life.

I must tell you, to receive salvation through Jesus, the Messiah, is the most important decision you will ever make. It not only will transform your life now and for eternity. Please don’t misunderstand me. I’m not saying that becoming a Christ-follower will make your life easy. In fact, it very well could make your circumstances more difficult. Jesus said to His followers, “if they hate me, they will hate you.” But in your heart and mind you will have peace because you will have the presence of Jesus living right within you. And no one can take that away from you!

Now, were you blessed by this teaching? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, “Meet the Messiah.”

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Meet the Messiah.” I’d be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in the Gospel of John. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.