

Come and See

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[0:00] John chapter 1, beginning in verse 35. Would you please stand with me as we honor the reading of God's word together.

The next day again, John was standing with two of his disciples. And he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, Behold the Lamb of God.

The two disciples heard him say this and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, What are you seeking? And they said to him, Rabbi, which means teacher, where are you staying?

He said to them, Come and you will see. So they came and saw where he was staying and they stayed with him that day for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first found his brother Simon and said to him, We have found the Messiah, which means Christ. He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, You are Simon, the son of John.

[1:25] You shall be called Cephas, which means Peter. And God had a blessing to the reading of his word. Would you please be seated? This past week I began work on my doctorate at Midwestern and the first assignment that we were given was to read a book called How to Read a Book.

Which I thought, Well, that seems like a book that would be better suited for my second grade son than for me. But it's been very insightful and I believe it will prove to be helpful in the long run.

The aim or the purpose of the book is to make people better readers. Readers who truly understand what they've read. In order for that to take place, the author provides two conditions that result with new and greater understanding of the subject that's being read.

He calls the first the initial inequality of reading. That whomever you're reading, that author must be superior to you in his understanding. And then uses that book to convey that knowledge that he possesses to you.

So that hopefully by the end of reading it, you understand. And in order to understand something that you do not know, you need to learn from somebody who does know.

[2:50] Typically the teacher in the classroom is the most knowledgeable person on the subject that he or she is teaching to the rest of the class. Their job is to increase their pupils' knowledge and understanding of the subject.

So they do that throughout the year through different readings and testing and quizzing and whatnot. The author says the reader must be able to overcome this inequality with some degree, seldom perhaps fully, but always seeking to approach equality with the writer of the book.

To the extent that equality is approached, clarity of communication is achieved. So the goal of reading a book, the author says, is to approach the level of understanding of the person who wrote the book.

Now as I was thinking about that, I was thinking about the book, the Bible. We have an author whose understanding far exceeds our own.

Though containing 66 books written by some 40 human authors over a period of approximately 1,500 years, the Bible is one unified book with one divine author.

[4:09] And the Bible reveals that God is its author and that He is beyond our ability to fully comprehend all that He is.

Isaiah 55, 8-9, God says, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 11, 33-34 So while it's true that God possesses perfect knowledge and understanding of all things, He hasn't left us clueless in regards to who He is and what He wills.

So He's given us His Word, the Bible. And even more than that, He's given us His eternal Word, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has revealed Him more fully to us.

And so we can understand what God is like by understanding what Jesus is like. And this is the purpose for which John, the apostle, the disciple, the author, the human author of this gospel, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote this book.

[5:40] Again, in John 20, 30-31, He states His purpose. Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book. But these that are written, they are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

So in the first few passages of this gospel that we've gone over, we've seen that John has already set out to do that. He goes back to the beginning, before creation, revealing that Jesus is the eternal Word of God who took on flesh and dwelt among us.

He testifies to having seen His glory, that He was full of both grace and truth. John has stated these things at the very beginning of this book, telling us who Jesus is.

And now in this passage that we've read, He begins to show us who Jesus is. That we might understand and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

In John 1.14, he says, that we have seen His glory. And then from there, he begins to invite us all, his readers, to see that glory with Him.

[6:59] So here's the main idea for this morning's message. John wants us to see the glory of Jesus Christ in his gospel, and he wants us to believe in Him.

John 1.35-51 gives us five glimpses of the glory of Jesus Christ. These glimpses provide us with understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus does.

And seeing these glimpses of Jesus, we will also see, as John saw, that He is full of grace, and that He is full of truth.

And in a world that is becoming increasingly ungracious and untruthful, it is refreshing to know that in Jesus we have come to know and receive the grace and truth of God, which brings abundant and everlasting life.

That abundant life begins right now, as we come to understand more fully who Jesus is and what Jesus has done.

[8:09] So the first glimpse that John gives us is that Jesus is the focus of Christian ministry.

Again, in verses 35 and 37, he says, the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, speaking of John the Baptist, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, Behold the Lamb of God.

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. So far, we've already been given the testimony of the two men who are both named John.

John the Baptist. Remember a few weeks ago, the sermon was about him and our need for an attitude adjustment that was like his, that says, It's not about me. It's all about Christ.

John the Baptist was not concerned with telling people who he was. He was more concerned with telling them who he wasn't, that the focus might be all on Christ and not on himself. He knew his job was to prepare the way for the Messiah to come.

And so when the Messiah came, he rejoiced. He saw Jesus coming and he drew others' attention to him. And later on, he summarizes his feelings, which should be the motto of every Christian life, which is this, speaking of Jesus, He must increase, but I must decrease.

[9:23] That should be the motto of every follower of Christ. When I come up here to preach, my goal is that you know Christ better through the preaching of His Word.

Knowing Christ better will affect your worship. It will also affect your witness. So everything we do in our time together every Sunday morning is to direct everyone's focus to Jesus, to the Gospel.

Not on what we must do, but on what He has already done. So that as a church, we will demonstrate the beauty of the Gospel in our community, that we would be a light on a hill, a city that shines brightly, that people would behold the glory of God through His people, living their lives for Jesus Christ and encouraging one another in this church and outside of this church to know Him and to follow Him.

John the Apostle, John who was the human author of this Gospel, the disciple, likewise spent all of his days making much of Christ and making Him known wherever He went, spending all of His life in that pursuit.

So we must seek to be Christ-centered and Gospel-driven as a church. Those things should be our goal. Our vision statement for our church seeks to accomplish that.

[10:44] That everybody here is a Christ-centered person and that collectively we are a Gospel-driven church. Well, what does that mean? Another book I've been reading by Jared Wilson is entitled Gospel-Driven Church and he explains it very well.

He says, healthy, fruitful churches are made up of Christians who are searching out God's ways and following the trails of doctrine and the Scriptures straight to the throne. In our day, emotions and experience are often set at odds with the study of doctrine and theology and churches that devote themselves to one will often keep the other at arm's length.

Both extremes are unfruitful. A church that's all head knowledge without heart and a church that's all feeling without depth. We don't want to be either. We want to be both.

Not just one or the other. Both. And so when Jesus is the focus of our church and of our lives, it means that we are seeking Him not just with our minds but with our bodies in service and with our hearts.

Our souls. Growing in our understanding of His Word. Growing in our fellowship as a body. And growing together in our devotion to Him and encouraging others to do the same.

[12:00] This is how we determine success in a church. Not by how many rears are in pews but by how much our people who are here are making Christ the center, the focus of their lives and we do that by again making Christ the focus of our ministry.

Everything we do here must be Christ-centered and gospel-driven. The second glimpse that we see of Jesus in this passage is that Jesus is the Lamb of God.

Again, we covered this last week. John the Baptist sees Jesus again walking and he says, Behold the Lamb of God. This time the two disciples heard Him say this and they followed Jesus.

So again, we see this glimpse that Jesus is the Lamb of God. He's the one who is able to take away our sins. And I won't say too much about this this morning because that was what all of last Sunday's message was about so I encourage you to go back and listen to that.

But again, for John, what he meant when he said that Jesus was the Lamb of God, he meant that finally the climax of Israel's history had come. God had sent His final sacrifice for sin that would end all other sacrifices.

[13:19] Jesus would die in the place of sinners as the Lamb that was sacrificed in the Old Testament in the place for sinners. But again, being the Son of God, His sacrifice was completely good now and forever.

We don't need another sacrifice. Jesus paid it all. John the Baptist wasn't seeking to make disciples for himself but for Jesus Christ. And so he drew the attention of his own disciples, John and Andrew, to Jesus.

And these two then left John the Baptist to follow Jesus Christ. And so again, this glimpse tells us a couple things. First of all, we, as a church, as individuals, are not seeking to make disciples for ourselves.

I'm not trying to make disciples of Mike. You're not trying to make disciples of Dan and whatnot, right? It's not about us. We've got to be careful in this because sometimes, you know, I've got to be careful.

Sometimes I find a pastor, an author that I like so much and I almost begin to follow them as devotedly as I should be following Jesus Christ, right?

[14:31] Men are flawed. Men are incapable of being our saviors. Only Jesus can fulfill that role. So we're not making to, seeking to make disciples for ourselves but for Jesus.

Discipleship in a church and in the Christian life is important. We all must have somebody who's pouring into us and we must likewise find somebody who we can be pouring into.

This is why we encourage one another, enlighten one another, equip one another so that we can engage our world with the good news of Jesus Christ. Also, we must understand that the way we follow Jesus isn't like how many men are followed in our day.

Take, for example, back in the Old Testament. David's mighty men followed Him and part of the reason why they followed Him was to protect Him. But understand this, Jesus doesn't need your

protection.

Yeah, we guard the Word of God. We, in a way, protect it by speaking the truth in love but He doesn't need our protection. Take, for example, remember Peter when the guards came to arrest Jesus and Peter took it upon himself, I'll protect you.

[15:43] And he drew his sword and he cut off one of the servant's ears, remember? And Jesus is like, I don't need that protection from you. We don't follow Jesus like that. We follow Jesus like a sheep follows its shepherd.

Always going behind, never going before. He is the one who guards us. He is the one who protects us. He is the one who nourishes us. He is the one whom we follow.

Jesus is the Lamb of God. We, understanding that, know that our sins must be forgiven. We are weak but He is strong. We are lacking in knowledge but His knowledge is perfect.

We are foolish at times but He is always wise. Jesus made this point so clearly in Mark 2, verse 17. And when Jesus heard it, He said to them, those who are well have no need of a position but those who are sick.

I came not to call the righteous but sinners. sinners. So the reason these two disciples left John the Baptist to follow Jesus is because John testified that here is the Lamb of God and they understood that they were sinners and they understood that they needed to follow the one who was the sin remover.

[17:00] The third glimpse that we receive here is that Jesus is the giver of spiritual sight. He is the giver of spiritual sight. Verses 38 and 39.

Jesus turned and saw them following them and said to Him what are you seeking? And they said to Him Rabbi, which means teacher, where are you staying? He said to them come and you will see. So they came and saw where He was staying and they stayed with Him that day for it was about the tenth hour.

Have you ever seen somebody famous or well known out and about just living their regular everyday lives and you come across them and you know what we do?

We're drawn to them. We just kind of stare at them at a distance because we don't want to be caught by them staring at them because then that would be really weird and sort of creepy.

Well, not too long ago Danny and I were here in town. We went to a movie and I noticed somebody that I'd seen before.

[18:02] It was Reed Drummond, the pioneer woman. Not because I watch her shows but because, you know, I hear about her. But Danny does and so she was doing something and came over and I said, hey, I just saw the pioneer woman and, you know, and automatically I was like, where?

Where? Where? Where? And so she went to the bathroom and so when she came out automatically we're following and my deal is don't bother, don't bother her.

You know, she's probably bothered all the time. I don't want to upset her. She's here to be with her husband who was there and I think one of her sons and his friends. Let's not bother her.

But Danny's like, no, I'm going to get my picture taken with Reed Drummond and so she's going into the movie theater and she's got a popcorn and she's put a handful in her mouth and Danny says, Miss Reed, Miss Reed and she turns around and she said, will you, can I take my picture with you?

And she kind of laughs and smiles and I'm all apologetic like I'm so sorry that, you know, my lovely but devoted fanatical wife wants to take her picture with you.

[19:09] I didn't say all those words but she was so polite and she was like not a big deal at all and she's like, I'm so glad that you stopped me to take a picture with her. Now that was pretty courteous but she didn't invite us to her house, you know, that would have been more courteous if she had said, oh, come, and stay with us for a while, right?

Or, I don't know, there's other things that would have been nice that she has the ability to do but I say that because I don't think we understand just how gracious Jesus was here in His encounter with His first disciples.

Certainly, they were intimidated by Him, by what John said about Him and so they can't even think what to say to Him but Jesus, of course, knows all things and He turns to them and He says, what are you seeking?

Of course, being omniscient, He knew the answer to that question. I think He knew it even better than they were able to formulate it in their own minds. He's the highest treasure any person could seek and so His question to them directs them to that answer that they will see that and He brings them to understand that.

Perhaps, again, being intimidated by Him, Andrew and John reply not by answering His question but by asking another. Maybe they're caught off guard and so they say, well, where are you staying? You know, men often seek Jesus merely at a physical level but Jesus takes them and uses their own language to lead them into a deeper spiritual level of understanding.

[20 : 55] When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John chapter 3 about the need to be born again, Nicodemus' mind was on the physical. He said, how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?

However, Jesus was speaking of the spiritual, of a spiritual birth, a deeper, greater need, a birth that comes from above, a birth that is operated and performed by the Holy Spirit.

The woman at the well was thinking of physical water when she encountered Jesus but he led her to a deeper spiritual understanding of her need for spiritual water, living water that he could give to her that would bring her new life.

The crowds that Jesus fed longed for more physical bread but Jesus was speaking to them of their need for a deeper, greater need of receiving a spiritual bread, a bread that would satisfy a deeper and a greater need.

In John chapter 9, the Pharisees deal with a man who was given physical sight but Jesus spoke to them of a deeper again and a greater need which was their need for spiritual sight.

[22 : 06] In verse 39, he said, for judgment I come into this world that those who do not see may see and those who may see become blind. this is a reason why part of the reason why the health and the wealth gospel isn't the true gospel.

It only looks at the physical without seeing and seeking to be used by God to provide for the greater, deeper spiritual need.

It only seeks to give what the eyes of the flesh desire and this was never what Jesus was after. So when Jesus says to them, what are you seeking?

He was asking them something deeper again than I think they even understood for themselves at the time. Many people sought Jesus for all the wrong reasons and so he asked his first disciples then the same question that I believe he asks every disciple of his today.

Today, what are you seeking? Why are you here? Why are you here this morning? What is it that you're after? What is it that you are seeking in this life?

[23 : 18] And hopefully again because we're gospel centered and gospel driven we point people to their greater, deeper, spiritual need to be seeking Jesus Christ because only he can truly satisfy.

Again, perhaps out of intimidation and being caught off guard the disciples ask him where are you staying? Seeking his physical address. Maybe they were seeking a private audience with him to ask more of their questions.

Whatever the case may be, again, Jesus' response is not with another question but really with a promise. Come and you will see like you've never seen before.

So again, on one level it could mean simply you will see where I am staying and maybe that's what the disciples had in mind but Jesus was thinking I believe of more than that, so much more.

I think he is offering them. He is telling them that if they truly come they will see. They will see spiritual truth. They will see spiritual reality. They will have spiritual sight.

[24 : 27] Amazing Grace is a hymn that we sing so often and for good reason in so many churches. One of the lines, Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now I'm found. Was blind but now I see. That hymn was written by John Newton. He was born in 1725 and he died in 1807.

John Newton was buried in a small cemetery in Olney, England and on his tombstone this is what it reads, words that he wrote himself. John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.

Newton wrote those words and again he wanted them to be on his tombstone. He was born to a godly mother but she died when he was seven years old.

His father was not a believer. He was in the shipping business. He was a sailor and so at the age of 11 years old, imagine that, 11 years old, John Newton dropped out of his schooling and he joined his father in becoming a sailor.

[25 : 57] As you can imagine, Newton was exposed to a lot of things that a young person of that age on a ship should not ever experience. Those things hardened him and they led him into a life of debauchery.

He began working in the slave trade, eventually becoming the captain of his own slave ship. While returning to England on March 10th of 1748, Newton's ship encountered a storm, sailing in stormy, weather, he was afraid.

And so he began to read a book on that ship called Imitation of Christ. The message of that book and that frightening experience at sea were used by the Holy Spirit to lead him to faith in Jesus Christ.

However, for the next several years, he continued to work in the slave industry as a slave ship captain, trying to justify what he was doing but came to realize that what he was doing was wrong. And so he became a great preacher of the gospel and not only that, he became an effective and great crusader against slavery and of the slave trade.

[27 : 17] Instrumental in bringing that practice to an end in England. Until the time of his death at the age of 82, Newton never ceased to marvel at God's mercy and grace. And even as his physical sight diminished and his memory began to fade, Newton said soon before he died, my memory is nearly gone but I remember two things.

That I'm a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior. He truly was a hopeless wretch.

Spiritually blind but made to see. His life was completely transformed. And let me tell you that the Holy Spirit is still in that business today.

Taking wretches in transforming them into saints. And so I tell you it doesn't matter how wretched you think that you are or how wretched other people tell you that you are.

There is hope for you in Jesus Christ. There is forgiveness. There is newness of life. He gives sight to the blind.

[28 : 30] He brings restoration to broken lives. Do you know this? Have you experienced this? This is what Jesus does and this is what Jesus can do for you.

The next glimpse we are given is that Jesus is the Christ. Verses 40 and 41. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first found his own brother, Simon, and said to him, we have found the Messiah which means Christ. So I'm not going to spend too much time on this point this morning. I'll say more about that in the time to come.

But here we're told again that the long awaited Messiah translated as Christ in the Greek had come. Jesus was no mere man and in him we have a glimpse of the glory of God himself.

He is the Christ. Fifth. The fifth glimpse. Jesus can change our identity. Verse 42. He brought him to Jesus.

[29 : 32] Peter. Simon. Jesus looked at him and said, You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas which means Peter. When Jesus saw Peter he saw more than merely a man whose name was Simon.

He saw the man that he would one day mold and shape him into becoming. Therefore at that moment Jesus gave him a new name a nickname Peter which means rock.

That's a pretty cool name. You know if any of you wanted to give me a nickname rock would be at the top of my list. I like that nickname. That name would both inform Simon of the rock that he would become and also challenge him to pursue that very thing as well.

Over time Jesus transformed and used him as a foundational leader of the early church. Peter certainly couldn't have known that at the time that he met Jesus for the first time.

I'm sure he had no clue. But you see Jesus sees so much more than we do. Jesus changed Simon's name because he wanted the nickname to be a perpetual reminder to him about who he should be.

[30 : 58] Peter was impetuous and impulsive which meant that he often put his foot in his mouth and overstepped his bounds. In his book Twelve Ordinary Men John MacArthur makes an observation that I think is very helpful in understanding all that is entailed in Jesus giving Peter a new name.

Whenever Peter was displaying the characteristics of his old ways of being when he was sinning in word action or attitude Jesus and the gospel writers would revert back to calling him Simon. Have you ever caught that before? In Luke 5:5 for example Luke writes Simon answered and said to Jesus Master we have toiled all night and caught nothing nevertheless at your word we will let down the net.

That is young Simon the fisherman speaking. He is skeptical and reluctant but as he obeys and opens his eyes or his eyes are open to who Jesus really is Luke begins to refer to him by his new name in verse 8 when Simon Peter saw it he fell down at Jesus knees saying depart from me for I am a sinful man.

We see Jesus calling Peter Simon in reference to the key failures of his career. In Luke chapter 22 verse 31 foretelling Peter's betrayal Jesus said to him Simon Simon indeed Satan has asked for you that he may sift you as wheat.

[32:33] Later in the garden of Gethsemane when Peter should have been watching and praying with Jesus as he fell asleep instead Mark writes that Jesus came and found them sleeping and he said to Peter Simon are you sleeping could you not watch for one hour watch and pray lest you enter into temptation the spirit is indeed willing but the flesh is weak in Mark chapter 14 verses 39 and 38 thus usually when Peter needed to be rebuked or admonished Jesus would again refer to him as Simon and so it must have reached the point for Peter anytime he heard Jesus call him Simon he must have cringed just like your kids whenever you use their full name first name and maybe even the middle name you know oh no I haven't behaved how I have been supposed to behaving he must have cringed thinking please call me

Rock Lord please make me a rock after the resurrection Jesus instructed his disciples to return to Galilee where he had planned to appear to them in Matthew 28 verse 7 but again Peter impatient getting tired of waiting he announces that he's going to go back to fishing and as usual the other disciples followed their leader they got into the boat they fished all night and as you remember they caught nothing but then the resurrected Jesus Christ comes to them he comes to the shore where he had prepared breakfast for them again the main purpose of that breakfast being to restore Peter who had denied him before his crucifixion three times just as three times Peter had denied Christ Jesus addressed him as Simon and asked

Simon do you love me three times Peter affirmed his love and that was the last time that Jesus ever called him Simon again a few weeks later on Pentecost Peter and the rest of the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and it was Peter the rock who stood up and who preached and who told people about the rock Jesus Christ before I entered into seminary as I was considering quitting the job that I had I consulted with a man who had known me in my entire life he was a part of our church he did a lot with our youth he was my Sunday school teacher for a time he was also a volunteer in our youth group and in fact he was instrumental in getting me the job that I had at that point in time and so sometimes he would take me to lunch and so

I felt like you know I've been struggling with this really not wanting to go to seminary really being uncertain about going back but thinking well here's a man whom can maybe give me some good advice or some good encouragement I'll never forget as I you know was bearing my heart to him and saying you know I've been called to ministry and he knew that long ago I feel like now's the time I need to quit this job and I need to go to seminary and his response was the opposite of what I'd hoped for he kind of gave me this sarcastic kind of expression and he definitely said in sarcastic words what makes you think as bad of a student as you were in college that you could ever go to seminary and pass those classes and that's about all he had to say about it that was really hard for me I mean you know I will admit that he was right in his understanding of the type of student that I was

I was very much a slacker all throughout especially in middle school and that didn't stop all the way up through college my motto was at that time not he must increase and I must decrease but D's equal degrees which my father hated to hear but I'll tell you you've probably been coached before and you've probably certainly had teachers before and the best coaches and the best teachers are the ones who don't only see the potential and the best parents are the ones that don't only see the potential in the player or in the student or in the child but they push them they push them to experience to realize that potential now they do it in a way that's encouraging that's motivating just as Jesus did with his disciples just as

[37:56] I believe he does with all of us who follow him the best coaches push you to realize your full potential Jesus is the greatest teacher that anyone can ever have he's the greatest coach that anyone could ever have and so often times if you're like me we focus so much more on our weaknesses and on our inabilities and sometimes if you're like me you've had people in your life who help you to stay focused on your weaknesses and on your inabilities but let me tell you Jesus is not like that yeah he might show you where you're unable but to show you that he is able right and that you need to trust in him not trusting in yourself but to look to him not trying to tear you down but trying to maybe encourage or discipline you to build you up because there are times where we just don't see what Jesus is capable of seeing and certainly nobody saw the things in Simon that Jesus saw in the man who would be Peter

Jesus is able to bring complete and total transformation to your life look at the apostle Paul he sought to bring an end to the church he thought he sought the church's death and then Jesus meets him and he transforms his life and he uses him to achieve the opposite goal a new purpose to build churches to equip and encourage churches to make disciples and so I'm telling you no matter how weak or unable or wretched you think that you are there is hope for you in Jesus Christ and he can do things in your life that you never thought you would be able to do and things that people certainly thought you would never be able to achieve and it's not because of you but it's all because of Christ and his working in you though these are only glimpses of Jesus one day we will I believe fully understand and completely see last week

Danny was trying to help Jack fall asleep and their conversation became deep and theological and he asked her how will we know who Jesus is in heaven when we've never seen him before and it made me think of 1st Corinthians chapter 13 verses 11 through 12 the apostle Paul writes when I was a child I spoke like a child I thought like a child I reasoned like a child when I became a man I gave up childish ways for now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face now I know in part but then I shall know fully even as I am fully known in these verses Paul is illustrating what happens when the perfect comes in our earthly lives all

Christians are children compared to what they will be when they are perfected in heaven and he may have been in that passage comparing his present spiritual state to his boyhood being a Jew a Jewish male was considered a boy until his bar mitzvah which means son of the law after which he was considered by the family and the community to be a man one moment he's a boy the next moment he's a man our perfection our complete understanding will be like a sort of spiritual bar mitzvah at one moment we know in part like a child but at the next moment we will be made like Christ we see in a mirror dimly now but one day we will see face to face now we glimpse we can know we can see in part but one day we will know and see in full just as

Jesus has already and always has been fully known or made himself fully known to us so to answer his question how will we know it's Jesus in heaven my only response is we just will we just will maybe we'll see the scars but I have a feeling that all these glimpses that we see we're not given a physical description right now we know in part then we will know fully not just glimpses we'll see it all and when we see him we will know and you know what when we see him he's not going to act as if he's some kind of celebrity that's too big for us he's not even going to have to I think introduce himself to us because guess what he knows you now we will see him fully and not just in one moment but forever and forever and ever and ever and ever and ever so absolutely so who is [43:54] Jesus what has Jesus done I hope you've seen some of those glimpses he's everything he must be the center of your life and as a church we must be gospel driven