

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 17TH

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **John 1**

## "THE WORD, SPOKEN"

**SCRIPTURE** John 1

### OBSERVATION

When I first read John 1:1-11 many years ago I couldn't help but think, and I mean no disrespect, of Dr. Seuss. It seemed confusing to me, probably because instead of concentrating on the passage, a running dialogue from Green Eggs and Ham kept running through my brain. Once I heard these words spoken aloud, as a monologue during a drama, they jumped to life: Jesus, creating the world [v.1-3]. Jesus, illuminating the world [v.4-9]. Jesus, transforming the world [v.10-14]. These words recited sounded to me like a beautifully flowing poem, not a confusing jumble of tongue-twisters.

There is power in the spoken word. There is power and meaning in the words John chooses to introduce Jesus upon Jesus' return from being tempted for forty days in the desert. "Look," John says, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." [v.29] Those in the crowd that day knew the only lambs thus far to "take away" sins were those sacrificed – daily – as instructed by the Law [Exodus 29:38].

Notice John did not say Jesus arrived as a lamb to take away the sins of Israel. He said Jesus is the Lamb who will take away the sins of the world. One man. One act. One time. It's a done deal. God's free gift of salvation through the Lamb's ultimate sacrifice is hereby announced for everyone.

### APPLICATION

Are there certain passages of Scripture that seem confusing to you? Try reading it aloud. This may feel weird at first [especially if you do so at Espresso Bay at noon, which I do not recommend], but trust me...you will notice a huge difference.

Are there certain things for which you believe you cannot be forgiven? Remember why Jesus came. He – the Word, the Light, the Lamb – atoned for your sin when he became sin, died on the cross, and rose from the grave alive and better than well. There is absolutely nothing he did not cover by his sacrifice.

There is nothing you need to do to get right with God beyond repenting of your sin (turning away) and receiving the free gift of God's pardon based on the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus on your behalf (turning toward). The things we do to honor God are not conditions for our salvation--they are evidence OF our salvation (see the fruit of the Spirit recorded in Galatians 5:22-23 for outward evidence of a true conversion).

The point is that Jesus is not sitting at the right hand of God watching and hoping we discover the secret to find our way back to him. He is the way. It's not a secret and there is no loophole. There is radical freedom for those who acknowledge their sin and in humility come to the One who died for us.

### PRAYER

Lord, thank you for my gift of freedom in you. Help me never lose sight of the sacrifice you willingly made so I don't have to be bound by guilt and shame. Guide me today. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can tell others who you are and why it matters so greatly how we respond to you, as John did so long ago. *Amen.*

*S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Kelly Ellis*