

Behold

John 1:29

Introduction

- Gratitude for staff and Transitional Pastor Jack
- Excited to follow Jesus together
- Personal updates:
 - Renting in Ripon, family life, homeschooling, kids' Nintendo Switch story
- First months as pastor:
 - Get to know people & hear hearts
 - Learn systems & style of church
 - Pray for direction

Vision for Sundays

- **September:** *Who We Are as a Church*
 - Mission statement focus
 - Becoming faith-filled, prayer-led, big-thinking, risk-takers
 - **October:** *How We Live Who We Are*
 - Church life: meal packing, retreats, men's BBQ, building project
 - Call to both long-time and new members: join the mission
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Sermon Text

John 1:29 – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

I. Transformation and Beholding

- Mission: *partner with God to transform religious and irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ*
- Key question: *How are people transformed?*
- NT emphasis: “Behold” used ~200 times
- Definition: To look intently, gaze in wonder, pay attention

Examples in Scripture

- Joseph (Matt. 1:20) – Behold, angel appears
- Virgin birth prophecy (Matt. 1:23)

- Mary's surrender (Luke 1:38)
 - Shepherds (Luke 2:10)
 - Magi transformed into worshipers (Matt. 2:1)
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II. The Power of Beholding Jesus

- John 1:29 – Behold the Lamb of God
 - Transformation moments in Matthew 9:
 - Tax collectors and sinners (v.10)
 - Ruler's daughter raised (v.18)
 - Woman healed (v.20)
 - Demon-possessed man freed (v.32)
 - Beholding → recognizing God's unexpected, transformative work
 - Illustration: Chevy to Ford transformation story
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III. Testimony of Transformation

- Conversation with Ty Benevides (new intern)
 - Low point in high school
 - Encountered God's love → transformed
 - Slow and ongoing process
 - Like disciples & Ty, transformation comes by beholding Jesus
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IV. Why Beholding Matters

- 1. Beholding puts focus where it should be**
 - Moves attention from self → to God
 - Surprise: as we behold God, we realize God is beholding us in love
 - John 17:22–24 → God delights in His children
 - Transformation flows from being unconditionally loved
 - 2. Beholding motivates action**
 - God works often in hidden, unnoticed ways
 - Beholding makes us aware of His work around us
 - Analogy: parents quietly at work while kids play
 - Beholding → joining God in His shalom-bringing work
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V. Beholding Leads to Joining God's Work

- Shalom = wholeness, peace, everything as it should be
 - Jesus brings shalom to:
 - Injustice (Genesis 4 – Cain & Abel)
 - Broken creation (Genesis 3 – thorns & thistles)
 - Broken relationship with God (Genesis 3 – hiding, mistrust)
 - Beholding Jesus → we follow Him into His mission of restoration
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VI. Closing Illustrations

- Office wall art as reminders of beholding:
 1. Jesus at the table → welcoming all nations, all people
 2. Mary & Elizabeth → God's Spirit grows within us, transforming us
 3. Grunewald's crucifixion painting → John the Baptist pointing:
"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
 - Pastoral role: pointing people to Jesus
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Conclusion

- Transformation happens when we behold Jesus
 - Call: Behold Jesus this week – personally and with others
 - Communion → Song → Benediction
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Challenge

What could God do through you this week if you take the time to stop and behold His love for you?