



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Meeting historical figures is not an experience to be taken lightly.
- When in or about the 6th grade I had the opportunity to hear and see Carl Sandburg.

- I also had the opportunity of getting to meet him personally after his speech at our school.
 - Sadly, it was the opportunity of a life-time which I turned down.
- However, had I taken that opportunity what would I have asked this historical gentleman?

- Let us for a moment imagine meeting the greatest figure in all of history.
- And that man would be Jesus Christ.
 - The man who split history in two.
 - The man who claimed to be the Messiah.
 - One can only imagine what the conversation would be like.

- For that conversation
let us go back to
the home of

Andrew and Simon Peter.

(John 1:38)

- When Andrew first informed his
family
that he believed that
he had met the
long-awaited Messiah.

- This Messiah was the only hope for a nation languishing under the scourge of Roman rule.
- Upon meeting the Messiah Andrew had been given the opportunity to ask any question he desired.

- What question

would you

have asked

if you had been

Andrew?

- Out of sheer curiosity one may have asked Andrew, “Well, what did you ask him?”

- And Andrew answered, “I asked him where he lived?”
(John 1:38,40)

- Can you hear the silence that must have ensued?
- And then came the question, “Andrew, was that the best you could do?”
- Could there not have been a better question that would have put Jesus claim to the test?
 - At least that is how we would have resolved the issue.

- **Why did Andrew**

who stood face to face with Jesus
not pose a greater challenge
than the simple question,

“Where do you live?”

- **What possible reason**
did Andrew have for
asking this simple question?

- Andrew's question is the beginning of a serious investigation into the person Jesus, the supposed Messiah.

- Was this truly the Christ,
the Anointed One?
- For nearly two thousand years,
the prophets had told of His coming.
 - Was this the fulfillment?
 - Let us take a hard look
at what prompted
so basic a question
for so monumental a claim.

- The setting of the question is given to us in John's Gospel the first chapter.
- Immediately one is struck by the casualness with which Jesus made His entry.

- There is no drumbeat,
no parade
to herald the One
whose name was to be
on the lips of humanity
in a way no other name
had ever been.

- **John the Baptizer**
was given the honor
of making the
unadorned
announcement.

- In the eyes of the devout **John was a prophet** of supreme honor.
- **And before his birth**, the angel had spoken of his privileged and purposeful God-given calling.
- His assigned place in history **was to be the one** **who introduced Jesus** to the world.

- Of all the fanfare
that he could have
drummed up
for this momentous
declaration,
he chose instead
a simple utterance.
- “Behold, the Lamb of God.”

- The average Jew grew up with lambs and sacrifices.
 - The temple would have reeked of animals and sacrifices, especially on the day of Atonement.
 - Every lamb sacrificed was an offering to God.
- A lamb brought into the temple, never to return.

- Now, in this appointed moment in history,
an offering
came from God.
- Jesus, the Lamb of God.
 - How could this be?
 - Did anyone
get the reference?

- One born for the **designated purpose** of being sacrificed on the altar someday?
- Would that not have **provoked a different question** from those wanting to be his disciples?

- Someone well versed in the scriptures would have immediately reminded everyone of the story in Genesis 22.

- A story in which Abraham was called upon to offer up his only son, Isaac.

- As father and son walked up the mountain, Isaac asked the obvious question, “Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb?” (Genesis 22:7)

- As the story unfolds, Isaac himself was laid upon the altar and readied as a sacrifice.

- At the last moment, as Abraham's hand holding the blade descended upon Isaac, God exclaimed, Stop!

- God had providentially provided a lamb.
 - That lamb was a substitute for Isaac
 - And represented a different lamb that would come on a different day.

- John's announcement ,
in effect, said,
**“Here he is, the lamb of God
who was promised long ago.”**

- The day was approaching
when there would be

- **another mountain**

- **and another altar,**

- and this time
the hand of the Father
would not stop the slaying.

- The disciples of John who heard his pronouncement of Jesus as the lamb of God turned to follow Jesus.
(John 1)

- The first question Jesus put to them had deliberate and reasoned bluntness.
 - “What do you want?”
- They had no real understanding at this point that they were following one who was on a one-way journey to an altar shaped into a cross.

- I wonder if any of us would have asked what they did in that momentous encounter.

- A better question might have been,

What does John mean when he calls you the lamb of God?

- Instead, they were interested in his beginning, asking the astonishing question, **“Where do you live?”** (John 1:38)

- In the East,
as opposed to the West,
the home is
the defining question.
- The home determines
who you are
and your social standing.
- Absolutely everything.

- Be it East or West, the goal is to determine your place in society.
- Were you born on the right side of the tracks?
- The privilege of birth opens or closes doors.

- Therefore, it is not at all surprising that Nathaniel's response when he was first told about Jesus was,

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

(John 1:46)

- That is followed some time later by, “Is this not the carpenter's son?”
(Matthew 13:55)

- How in the name of reason could the answer to the hopes and dreams of Israel come from a city of such low esteem and from a family of such modest professional status.

- The best way for them to find out whether he could really be who John described him to be was to follow him to his house, to the earthly house of the one who claimed to be the son of God.

- The answer Jesus gives builds the intrigue.
 - He did not give a street name or an address.
 - He simply said, “Come and see.”
(John 1:39)

- The scriptures remain silent on numerous issues.
- Matters in which we would be greatly interested are left without description.

- What kind of house did Jesus live in?
- What kind of carpentry did he do?
 - Maybe instead of the space given to ponderous genealogies, some other details of Jesus's life would be of greater interest.

- Historic figures have houses to visit; the Lord Jesus left no house.

- Some great men leave libraries and write their memoirs.

- Jesus left one book, penned by ordinary men.

- Worldly heroes
win through
might and blood-shed.

- Jesus conquers
through
a change of heart.

- Would it have been that difficult to preserve a piece of furniture or clothing.
- In a museum in Turkey, one can see the sword of Mohammed.
- Let's not forget the Temple of the Sacred Tooth in Sri Lanka housing the tooth of Buddah.

- **But he who owns the cattle on a thousand hills left no such items.**

(Psalms 50:10)

- Our Jesus had

no place to lay His head.

- **The gospel of John states:**

“In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God.””

And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.”

(John 1:1,14)

- **John 1:1**

“In the beginning”

has a striking parallel
with the first words of

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning”

- As important as
His earthly presence was,

**His home address
was not an earthly one.**

- For in a very real sense,
He had no beginning.

- The eternal one
is not to be encumbered
with the
“**when**” and “**where**”
that so burden our thoughts.

- **To lift our thoughts above the**
“**when**” and “**where**”
Jesus says,
“Come and see”.

- **Have you ever imagined**
how some famous person,
whom you had never met or seen,
would look like when
you actually saw them?
- What **image** was in your mind?
- And when you saw that individual,
did they look anything like
what you imagined?

- But, this one time in history the man Jesus was essentially different from all of us.
- But, from Nazareth?
- The son of a carpenter!

- Even the temple that was erected as God's dwelling had beauty and wealth beyond imagination.
- Now that God's son had come in the flesh, His home was so paltry in comparison.
- To help sort it out, Nathaniel is brought into the picture.

- Nathaniel was one of those totally committed to the truth so he was invited to meet this Jesus.

- Nathaniel goes along and probably is thinking that he will dispel this “myth”.

- How could his friends have been taken in so easily?⁸

- But when he came within the range of Jesus' voice,
Jesus says:
**“Here is a true Israelite,
in whom is no guile”**
(nothing false).
(**John 1:47**)
- This was the **first surprise**.
- And there is **more** to come!

- Now for the second surprise.
 - There are few things as disquieting to a person, as having his or her thoughts laid bare by a stranger.
 - Nathaniel had come to “check out” this stranger and instead his own character was revealed.

- **“How do you know me?”**
Nathaniel demanded.
- And Jesus replied:
**“I saw you
under the fig tree,
before
Philip called you.”**
(John 1:48)

- **Nathaniel responded immediately:**

**“Rabbi, you are the Son of God;
you are the King of Israel.”**

(John 1:49)

- It was at this point that **Andrew asked Jesus**
a rather strange question,

“Where do you live?”

(John 1:38)

- And Jesus gave a most **incredible answer.**

- Jesus also knew that Nathaniel did not think very much of Nazareth.

- Realizing what was in his heart, Jesus challenged him by saying:

- John 1:50

”Because I said unto you, I saw you under the fig tree, you believed? You shall see greater things than these.

- 1:51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

- The description Jesus gave of “angels ascending and descending” was not tossed out into a vacuum.
 - It pointed to Jesus lineage.
- Peter, Andrew and Nathaniel all knew the father of their nation, Jacob, which really provided the backdrop for Jesus’ answer.⁵⁵

- The Old Testament carefully records that incident.

- As a young man, Jacob had cheated his brother Esau, and was on the run to flee from his wrath.

- On his journey to distant parts, he thought he was alone, far from the eyes of anyone else.

- Now, on the run he finds himself homeless.

- When he reached a place called **Luz**
(**Genesis 28:19**)
he slept for the night using
a stone for a pillow.
 - And while he slept
the Lord came to him in a dream.
 - In this dream he saw
**a stairway that reached
from earth to heaven.**
 - Angels **ascending**
and
descending the stairway.

- And there above it **stood the Lord, who said,**
I am the Lord,
the God of your father Abraham
and the God of Isaac.
(Genesis 28:13)
- When Jacob awoke from his sleep,
he thought to himself,
“Surely the Lord is in this place,
and I was not aware of it...
how awesome is this place!
This is none other than
the house of God;
the gate of heaven
(Genesis 28:16-17)

- Jacob took the stone pillow and left it as a marker in the place he called Bethel meaning “the house of God”.
(Genesis 28:17)

- Whether the disciples understood it or not, a thundering message was given when Jesus spoke those words to Nathaniel.
- He staked a claim.

- Were Peter, Andrew, & Nathaniel aware that the Lord who fashioned heaven and earth was standing beside them?

- Jacob found out that God's presence could transform any location into the house of God.

- Now the disciples learned the same.

- They were inclined to judge Jesus by his earthly father, Joseph the carpenter.

- They were trying to measure his worth by his earthly home, Nazareth.
- He opened to them that the truth that any earthly setting in which he is present becomes the gateway to heaven.
 - What comfort this must have brought them.

- But, more than that,
**they rightly inferred
from what Jesus said**
that he had come
from his heavenly father,
who was the God of
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- Jesus took them
farther back than
their own understanding
**and lifted them
to greater heights.**

- I am sure they **did not fully comprehend** all this encounter was going to mean to them.
- **Their lives would change beyond their wildest dreams** so that one day they would leave their homes to tell the world about Jesus.

- To ask for the “where” of Jesus home is the same as asking the “when” of God’s beginning.
- Such categories are necessary in our finite existence, because there was a time when we were not.
- But God transcends such categories.

- Jesus' reference to a heavenly dwelling and to angels ascending and descending in his service point to the fact that he is Lord of heaven and earth who exists eternally.

- Just as it is impossible for him not to be, so it is not necessary for him to have a place to live.

- That is precisely what he said to David,
who wanted
to build a temple
where God could
“dwell”
(2 Samuel 7:5)

- Jesus is telling us that the only way we can understand life is to cast our gaze on the eternal.
- In the words of Jesus to Nathaniel, our amazement will know no bounds when we understand who this Jesus is, the carpenter's son.

- His explanation of life.
 - His opening up of the mysteries of the eternal
 - His glimpses into what matters and what doesn't matter proceed out of his eternal being.

- **And that is the point.**
 - His earthly sojourn is not about **his home, his father, etc.**
- It is about his **message** to a lost and dying world.

- The Author of time, who lives in the eternal, was made incarnate so that we might live with the eternal in view.

- His message is:

“I have come that you may have life”
(John 10:10)

- His life spells living,
- Life apart from Jesus spells death.

- When Jesus turned and saw them,
he asked,
"What do you want?"
- They answered,
"Rabbi,
where do you live?"
(**John 1:38**)

- He said
unto them,
- Come and see.
- (John 1:39)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

