

Lent Day 2

Thursday February 15, 2018

Reading: John 1:35-51

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

Reflection

One of the best working relationships I’ve ever had was at Tyndale’s bookstore, with my manager Misa. Of course, being in that environment there are a lot of opportunities for deep conversations; you get to hear people’s stories and they get to hear yours. When it first started happening I was a little annoyed, Misa would say to me, “It’s not all about you David.” As if I thought it was! I was simply sharing. Giving. Imparting wisdom I had gleaned over my life. I was helping. Until one day I heard myself. I was walking to chapel with a professor who I really liked and I wanted him to think well of me. I greeted him and asked how he was. He began to answer and then I responded and started telling him all sorts of things that were happening in my life. Suddenly, I realized while I had asked about him I was really only interested in me.

I love the way this gospel transitions John the Baptizer. He was central and important to the story. He was the witness who baptized and identified Jesus as Israel’s saviour. But then, John encourages his disciples to leave him to follow Jesus and the whole story shifts from John to Jesus. John knows it’s not all about him. In fact, John knows it’s all about Jesus. He doesn’t resent it or resist it, he facilitates it. As he put it himself to his own disciples who took exception to Jesus’s popularity, “He must increase, and I must decrease.”

That’s our lenten journey and our life journey. Just like me, we have all learned to be the centre of our own story. Without ever meaning to, we have made it all about ourselves. During these 40 days we are seeking to correct that. We want to shift the focus to Jesus, because it is all about him — not us. We use the language of journey intentionally — this is a process not an event. I’ve gotten better at listening to others more than I share about myself and I’ve gotten better at having Jesus as the centre of my life. This is all necessary because only he is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Prayer

Lord, forgive us for the times when we lose focus and shift to ourselves. Help us to behold you this season and help us to keep you as the centre of our whole story. Amen.