

## John 1: 29-26 Look the Lamb of God

When you give blood in the John Dohler hall you will see their simple motto: Give Life -Give Blood.

[Leviticus 17](#) is God's central statement about the significance of blood in the sacrificial system. Blood = life. God said to Moses: "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life."

Eli Buge, a New Guinean Pastor once told me that their word for blood, Mia, means life. And their word for breastmilk, Mia, also means life. He says Jesus gives us life, Mia, in his blood.

Jesus himself says to his disciples, 'Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Jesus' blood is life.

To give your blood you must give your life – you must sacrifice your life.

One gives life – one gains life.

The many, blood sacrifices practiced by the Israelites throughout the Old Testament were foreshadowing the once and for all time sacrifice to come.

The sacrifices and rituals etched into the Israelites hearts a truth that without the giving of one's lifeblood, there is no forgiveness.

Jesus offers his own pure, innocent, blood making all future sacrifices redundant – unnecessary.

Surely this is what Jesus meant when he said from the cross "It is finished"

Never again would the blood of bulls and goats cleanse people from their sin. Only by accepting Jesus' blood, shed on the cross for the complete forgiveness of all sin, can we stand before God made pure and holy.

Again, the Old Testament law demanded that any sacrificing must be firstborn, pure, entire male lamb shows.

This means Jesus also had to be, firstborn, pure, entire, male to qualify being THE lamb of God.

Jesus blood had to be pure for us - Absolutely pure!

1<sup>st</sup> Peter (2) says: *'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'*

*<sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> 'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.*

Hebrews also reminds us of our perfect lamb of God: <sup>15</sup> *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.*

Three times Pontius Pilate declared Jesus to be perfect: *I have examined him in your presence and have **found no basis** for your charges against him. He is innocent!*

Even Herod declared Jesus to be innocent: *as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.*

The Old Testament sacrificial rituals are given to us to reveal the very heart of God.

The very heart of God is in Jesus' sacrifice, as John (15) says, Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

We are in the epiphany season. Some say an epiphany is a light bulb moment – a new discovery, a new idea, a new understanding. This is so far from the truth,

– an Epiphany is to reveal something already there.

The Latin word for epiphany is Manifest.

What is a manifest?

If you're a truckie carrying a semi load of frozen products to Sydney – you have to carry a manifest

A manifest is a document which says exactly what you have on board.

A manifest reveals what you have already got on the back,

Sometimes the police want to check if what the manifest says is what is truly on the back of the truck.

This true ...A manifest or an epiphany reveals what is already there.

Behold the lamb of God is called an epiphany because John is revealing to his mates what is really there walking among them'

That single statement behold the lamb of God would have spoken a thousand words to them:

This is a man, This is a perfect man, This man has never sinned, This man is not going to die.

Behold the lamb of God.

Does John's Epiphany speak to you?

Behold the lamb of God.

God sent a perfect sacrifice for you and me – surely we must have confidence in his love for us.

Our funerals will be a celebration of life – life eternal.

What else??

Can we not give an ounce of thanks?

Can not our friends and neighbours benefit from Jesus love and gift of life to us.

Surely Bill Gates can give to this or that charity – he is so rich – why not?

Surely, you and I can give to someone in need – maybe money, but more so love and support – surely we can do this – we are so rich – why not?

We can love and share because we are made right for heaven through a loving gracious Lord who gave the world his life blood. Surley?

When you give blood – take notice of what they do. They always send a little text thanking you and they tell where your blood went and how many lives it has saved.

We receive that blood from Jesus – take and eat – take and drink.

The question we can take home this week is simple: What shall I render to the Lord for all his goodness to me – Amen.

***Lord teach us to receive Jesus life blood often a sign of our faith and our thanks to Jesus.  
Amen***