



# Daily Reflections

**January 15, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **John 1:29-34**

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,  
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

He is the one of whom I said,

'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me  
because he existed before me.'

I did not know him,

but the reason why I came baptizing with water  
was that he might be made known to Israel."

John testified further, saying,

"I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven  
and remain upon him.

I did not know him,

but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me,

'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain,  
he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

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## Our Scripture Reflection

What an amazing name for John the Baptist to use for Jesus, "The Lamb of God." But John knew intimately what Jesus was all about. He would be the Lamb slaughtered on the altar of the cross, not on the feast of Passover, as the other Gospels tell us. No, Jesus was slaughtered when the lambs were slaughtered for Passover, the day before, on Paraseve. He was The Lamb who gave His life, everything, for our sins. John alone will call Him "The Son of God." What John proclaimed is what we as disciples are called to believe about Jesus.

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## Food for your Journey

A Christian writer once asked a shepherd what the term "blood of the Lamb" meant to him. The shepherd thought a moment and replied, "Every year, when the lambs are born, something inevitably happens. There is a lamb that dies. The ewe, its mother, will not nurse another lamb. There is also usually a ewe that dies; its lamb has nowhere to nurse. So I take the blood of the dead lamb, and spread it upon the living lamb, and the dead lamb's mother will nurse it, care for it, make it her own." They become kin, if you will.

—Michael J. O'Brien, "The Lamb of God," March 24, 2005.  
colesvillepresbyterian.com.

Eugene Peterson, in his book *The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways That Jesus Is the Way* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007), explains: "The way we come to God is the same way God comes to us. God comes to us in Jesus; we come to God in Jesus. God comes to us in Jesus speaking the words of salvation, healing our infirmities, promising the Holy Spirit, teaching us how to live in the kingdom of God. It is in and through this same Jesus that we pray to and believe, hear and obey, love and praise God. Jesus is the way God comes to us. Jesus is the way we come to God."

Quoting the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Heraclitus, Peterson says there's one saying from the fragments of his speeches he likes very much in

the context of this conversation about the Jesus way: "The way up and the way down is the same way."

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You are the innocent Lamb who gave Your life for me. Help me, Lord, to show my gratitude by living in imitation of You. Amen.