

“FOLLOWING JESUS: FOR THE WORLD”

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1. THE OPENING ACT: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: TEMPLE

A. WHEN IN TIME?

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. (Luke 3:1-2)

B. WHERE IN TIME?

Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him (John the Baptist), and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. (Matthew 3:5-6)

C. WHO IN TIME?

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. (John 1:7)

2. A SURPRISING AND NEW TWIST

A. WHO IS JOHN THE BAPTIST? HE IS NOT THE MESSIAH.

“He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”
(John 1:20)

B. HE IS A WITNESS TO TESTIFY CONCERNING GOD’S NEXT NEW THING.

He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” (John 1:23)

C. JOHN MOVED PEOPLE FROM THE LAW TO THE LAMB.

MEMORY VERSE

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

3. JESUS IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW COVENANTS

Jesus is the new

A. COVENANT.

B. COMMAND.

C. MOVEMENT.

GOING DEEPER

1. Read John 1:15–18. Do you tend to view religion as a collection of laws (rules) or as a relationship with God defined by grace and truth? What shaped your view?
2. Is it difficult for you to believe Jesus came to do something new for you? Why or why not?
3. What is one thing you can do to make the most of this journey with Jesus?