

Title: "Yielding the Spotlight"

Date: January 18, 2026

Scripture: John 1:29-42

John 1:29-42 tells the story of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus with the words, "*Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*" His ministry of baptism and repentance had drawn great crowds, yet his true mission was not about himself. He baptized faithfully, waiting for the one person God would reveal as the Messiah. When Jesus appeared, John recognized him and gladly stepped aside so that Christ might increase.

The sermon begins with the story of NFL fullback Tony Richardson, who spent sixteen seasons blocking for other players rather than chasing headlines. His joy came from helping teammates succeed. That spirit of self-giving mirrors John the Baptist's willingness to prepare the way and then yield the spotlight. Both show that true greatness lies in serving a purpose beyond self-promotion.

John's example reminds us that discipleship is not about how many follow us, but whom we point toward Christ. In a culture driven by visibility and instant gratification, God calls us to a quieter faithfulness, doing our part so that others may see and know Jesus. Like John, we may never realize the full impact of our obedience, yet our persistence becomes the path by which the next believer discovers grace.

The sermon concludes that our redemption is not for self-fulfillment but for stewardship. We have been purchased at a price so that others may be set free. The kingdom of God advances not through heroic plays but through small, consistent acts of love, generosity, and witness. Each act moves the ball forward toward God's goal of reconciliation and peace.

To follow the Lamb of God is to live for something larger than ourselves—to take joy in another's victory, to celebrate the success of those who come after us, and to find meaning not in being noticed, but in helping others see Christ more clearly.