

Wednesday Night Bible Study  
What would Jesus do NOW! – A Study of the Gospel of John  
September 9, 2020

How often do you hear the names Peter, James and John linked together?

-It seems like all the time.

Whenever we talk about the 12 disciples which Jesus called, these three seems to stand out as a unique group.

It appears they had a special relationship with Jesus, which the other disciples did not.

These three witnessed the raising of Jairus daughter, they saw Jesus Transfigured, and in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus takes, these three a little further with Him.

John's gospel gives us a personal glimpse into Jesus' life from the perspective of someone who walked very close with Him. In fact John never uses his own name but refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (that's close)

One reason we think John's gospel is so different from the others is because John appears to be so close to Jesus.

-90% of the material in John's Gospel is unique to itself.

Authorship and date.

Early church fathers, Clemet and Irenaeus both testify to John's authorship of the Gospel.

Clement who lived between 35-99 AD wrote; “John, perceiving that the external facts had been made plain in the Gospel, being urged by his friends, and inspired by the Spirit, composed a spiritual Gospel.”

Irenaeus who lived between 130 – 202 AD said; “John, the disciple of the Lord...did himself published a Gospel.”

Many believe John wrote the Gospel between the late 80’s to early 90’s AD.

As you study the Gospel of John, you see four main themes.

1. Jesus was divine and existed before the creation of the world.

In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. (1:1)

2. Jesus came to bring salvation to the world.

For God so love the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. (3:16)

3. Jesus demonstrated the arrival of God’s kingdom through signs.

John records 7 signs of Jesus

- water to wine, (2:1-11)
- healing the official’s son in Cana, (4:46-54)
- healing a sick man at Bethesda, (5:1-15)
- feeding more than 5,000 people, (6:5-13)
- walking on water, (6:16-21)
- healing a blind man, (9:1-7)
- raising Lazarus from the dead, (11:1-44)

4. Jesus called His followers to continue His ministry.

“As the Father has sent me so I also send you.”

TRANS: In the first two chapters of the book of John you discover  
5 declarations.

1. The Declaration that Jesus is God.
2. John the Baptizer declares that Jesus is Light and the Lamb of God.
3. The first disciples declared Jesus is the Messiah.
4. Jesus declares His power and the beginning of His ministry with the first miracle in Cana.
5. Jesus declares His authority over the Temple.

The first declaration is about so much more than Christmas, Jesus is God

Matthew and Luke describes for us the coming and the birth of Jesus Christ.

John gives us the insights to help us understand and appreciate both Matthew's and Luke's accounts of Jesus' birth.

Matthew and Luke highlight the humanity of Jesus without denying His deity.

John highlights the deity of Jesus without minimizing His humanity.

Jesus is the God man.

He is 100% God while at the same time 100% man

READ John 1:1-18

John starts his gospel at the real beginning of Jesus ministry, the first beginning, creation

Who does John credit creation with? Jesus.

READ vs. 3 and 10

APPL: Why do you think it is important that John does this?

Throughout his Gospel John is building the case the Jesus, is God. He could have waited to the very end, leaving the reader in suspense and building to a stunning conclusion.

But no, John states this truth up front.

John is not hiding Jesus' divinity.

John puts it out there up front and foremost.

For John, Jesus divinity is the big truth. (It all starts with this).

For John if Jesus is not God... then there is no Gospel, there is no ministry, there is no cross, there are no miracles.

All of these things exist, because Jesus is God.

In celebration and defiance, John declares Jesus is God.

Our Lord has always existed as God, as He has always existed in unity and fellowship with God the Father. But He did not become God incarnate, (Jesus) until the incarnations described by Matthew and Luke.

Jesus did not begin “to be” when He was born in Bethlehem he existed long before that.

“Before time, Jesus was”

The One who created the universe is the one found lying in a manger is the same One nailed to the cross.

Now Jesus the God-man comes for a purpose, and John states this purpose in vs 4, when he says, speaking of Jesus, “Life was in Him, and the life was the light of men.”

Jesus came to bring life to men and this life would give them light because man was living in darkness.

The darkness, which shrouded man, was sin, and the results sin brought into the world.

What could be done about the darkness?

TRNAS: This takes us to the second declaration.

Not only is Jesus the light He gives life, but He is also the Lamb of God.

Jesus comes to bring life, that is why John the Baptizer said he (John) was not the light but declared that Jesus was the Light and the Lamb of God.

READ John 1:6-9 & 14-15, 29, 34, 36

Jesus is the Light, the Life and the Lamb of God and He is all these so that all might believe (v. 7)

Vs. 10- 14 tells us that Jesus came but not everyone accepted Him, His own rejected Him and did not receive Him, BUT to all who do they are given the right (privilege) to become children of God.

John tells us that those who believe in His name are reborn not by blood or flesh or the will of man but by God.

How can this happen, the answer is found in vs. 14.

The Word (God) becomes flesh and lived among us and His glory was seen by those around Him.

What glory of Jesus could others have seen?

- power to do miracles
- sinlessness
- Godly wisdom

Men are reborn, because Jesus as the Lamb of God pays the price for sin

Jesus who is God, described as the Word of God, who existed before creation and by who creation comes into existence becomes man, lives a sinless life, dies sacrificial atoning death as the Lamb of God on a cruel cross to take away the stain of sin and crush the curse of sin.

TRANS: That's a lot and we are only through the first two declarations.

Let's move on to the third declaration...

The disciples declared Jesus is the Messiah.

Andrew and Peter are disciples of John the Baptizer but once they hear how John describes Jesus...

- Lamb of God
- the one who I am not worthy of untying His sandal
- I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God!

...they begin to follow Jesus.

Andrew and Philip ask Jesus where He was staying; this was a 1<sup>st</sup> century idiom signifying their desire to follow Him.

This question was not about finding out where they would spend the night, it was a question letting Jesus know their willingness to follow Him.

“Come and see” was Jesus reply.

What do you think Jesus meant when He replied, “Come and see.”

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“Come and see” was an invitation to follow Him.

APPL: Do you think Jesus says things like this to us today?

Andrew and Phillip accept the invitation and begin to follow Jesus.

The next day Andrew finds Peter and I love the way he describes Jesus.

v.41 “We have found the Messiah.”

Do you know what this one statement tells me about these guys?

1. They believed the scriptures about the Messiah.
2. They were looking for the Messiah.

APPL: It is one thing to say you believe in something, it is all together a different thing when you take action upon your belief.

What do you believe so strongly in that you are willing to act upon it?

In this passage, Andrew declares Jesus is the Messiah, but later when Jesus challenges the disciples to tell Him who they think He is, Peter declares, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!”

The disciples did not always get it right but on occasion, they did. Sounds a lot like us.

TRANS: There are 5 declarations in the first two chapters of John, so far we have looked at the first three.

1. The declaration that Jesus is God
2. John the Baptist declares that Jesus is the Light and the Lamb of God
3. The first disciples declared Jesus is the Messiah.

4. Jesus declares His power and the beginning of His ministry with His first miracle in Cana.

This first miracle of Jesus is one of those passages in the Bible that makes you wonder “why is that there?”

If Jesus was going to begin His ministry why not start it off with something more noteworthy than changing water to wine.

And to be honest it does not seem like He really wanted to do it.

I can't answer all the questions but I can point you to what John said about it...

READ John 2:11

Jesus performed His first sign in Cana of Galilee. He displayed His glory and His disciples believed in Him.

The miracle is not about the wine nor is it about how Jesus did what His mother asked.

The miracle revealed His glory (His power and His deity) and it cause the disciples to believe in Him.

Through this miracle or sign, Jesus shows His power over nature and created things and He begins His ministry.

TRANS: This last declaration is the most overlooked one of all.

5. Jesus declared His authority over the Temple.

John's account and the other Gospel writer's account of Jesus cleansing the temple are different.

Are they different because John is not remembering correctly, or are they different because they are writing about different accounts?

(ARTICLE for Answers in Genesis)

The Temple was important, but it had become corrupt.  
Not only that the Temple is temporal, it will pass away.  
God removes things, which keep His people from worshipping Him.

Jesus came to say that there was something in front of them that was more important than the Temple, Him.

CON:       What would Jesus do Now!

He continues to declare Himself as God.

Through the Holy Spirit He continues to convict men of their sin and offers them the light and life men need.

He moves us to declare who He is to the world.

He continues to perform miracles.

He challenges us to remove things, which keep us from truly worshipping Him.

In light of the Scriptures we examined tonight, what do you think Jesus would do now?

In light of the Scriptures we examined tonight, what does Jesus want to do within you?