

The Gospel of John

I, II and III John

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Introduction to the Gospel of John

Why should we study the Gospel of John? There have been many times in my life that I've heard Christians tell non-Christians who are searching for God's truth to start with the Gospel of John. Why is that? Why not start with Acts and the establishment of the church? I think the primary reason is that we can't understand the church and its importance until we understand the founder of that church, Jesus Christ. And the key difference between Jesus and any other founder of any other "church" is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

The Gospel of John sets out to prove that Jesus Christ was not just any prophet or some good man that lived a good life. He was (and is) the Son of God! John clearly states the purpose of writing this gospel in **John 20: 30-31**.

Plan of Study

Since this is a survey course, we cannot do an in depth study verse by verse. The Gospel of John, I, II and III John has a total of 28 chapters which would be difficult to squeeze into a 13 week session.

So for the Gospel of John we will primarily isolate 14 things. The first seven are the miracles revealed in John. Since John states in John 20: 30-31 that these signs "*are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name*" studying these miracles should have an impact on our lives. The miracles in John are:

1. Water to Wine- John 2: 1-11
2. Christ Heals the Nobleman's Son- John 4: 46-54
3. The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda- John 5: 1-16
4. The Feeding of the 5000- John 6: 1-14
5. Jesus Walking on the Water- John 6: 15-21
6. Healing the Man Born Blind- John 9: 1-41
7. Raising of Lazarus from the Dead- John 11: 1-44

The Gospel of John is also unique in that it records 7 "I am" statements of Christ. These statements are full of meaning and go a long way toward describing just who Jesus Christ is. They include:

1. I am The True Vine- John 15: 1-11
2. I am The Way and the Truth and the Life- John 14: 1-7

3. I am The Door- John 10: 1-10
4. I am The Bread of Life- John 6: 22-58
5. I am The Good Shepherd- John 10: 11-18
6. I am The Light of the World- John 8: 12
7. I am The Resurrection and the Life- John 11: 25

Key Passages

In addition to the above passages we'll be studying, there are several key passages that are worth noting.

John 1: 1-8

1. What is the significance of John 1:1 and why does John lead with this statement?
2. How do we know that John's use of the name Word refers to Jesus?
 - a. John 1: 14

John 3: 1-17

1. Who came to Jesus at night?
2. Who is the "Son of Man"?
3. Why is John 3: 16 such a key verse that we teach non-Christians?

John 8: 1-11

1. What sin had the woman committed?
2. Why did Jesus stoop down and write something on the ground? What did he write?
3. What characteristic of Christ does this story demonstrate?

John 8: 32

1. What is the truth to which Jesus refers?
2. “The truth shall make you free”....from what?

John 13: 1-17

1. What act of humility did Jesus perform in this passage?
2. Who objected to this? What was Jesus’ response?
3. What lessons are we to learn from this passage?

John 14: 15

1. What will you do if you love Jesus?

John 15: 13

1. What is the greatest love someone can display?
- What are some of your favorite passages or ones that you think are key passages in John that we should know/memorize/teach?
 - What is the key reason we study the Gospel of John (or any other scripture)?
 - James 1: 22-25
 - II Timothy 3: 16-17

John-Miracle-Water to Wine

Text: John 2: 1-11

Review of the text:

1. What type of event was Jesus attending?
2. Where was this event?
3. Who did Jesus also know attending the event?
4. What happened at the event that prompted the miracle?
5. What did Mary say to Jesus?
6. Did Jesus appear reluctant to help?
7. “Now there were _____ water pots made of _____.”
8. What did Jesus tell the servants to do?
9. When the servants delivered it to the Master of the Feast it had become _____.
10. Was the quality of the wine good?
11. This miracle, or sign, accomplished what?

Thought Questions

1. Was Jesus being disrespectful by calling his mother “woman”?

2. Why would John start by describing this miracle?
3. What's the significance of Jesus' statement "my hour has not yet come"?
4. What does this miracle say about Jesus?
5. Is there any symbolism in this miracle?
6. What impact does the telling of this miracle have on your life?

John-I am-The True Vine

Text: John 15: 1-11

Review of the text:

1. Who is the Vinedresser? (v. 1)
2. What happens to the branches that do not bear fruit? (v. 2)
3. What happens to the branches that do bear fruit? (v. 2)
4. If Christ is the vine, what are we? (v. 5)
5. What is the result of abiding in Christ? (v. 5)
6. We can abide in His love if we _____ . (v. 10)

Thought Questions

1. What is the purpose of the pruning in v. 2? How does that work in our lives today?

Reference Hebrews 12: 3-11

2. Compare this to what Jesus said in John 6:29. Is there a conflict?
3. How can you tell if you are connected to the vine or not?
4. What impact does the telling of this story have on your life?
5. Other verses to consider:
 - a. Ephesians 2: 8-10
 - b. James 2: 14-26

John-Miracle-Christ Heals the Nobleman's Son

Text: John 4: 46-54

Review of the text:

1. Where was Jesus when this miracle was performed?
2. What is a “nobleman”?
3. Where was the nobleman's son?
4. Did Jesus travel there to perform this miracle?
5. When was the son healed?
6. How did this impact the nobleman's life?

Thought Questions

1. Where do you suppose the nobleman had heard about Jesus?
2. Why would Jesus perform this miracle “long distance”?
3. What did the nobleman believe in verse 50?
4. What did the nobleman believe in verse 53?
5. What trait did the man exhibit in this miracle?
6. Is this trait required of us to receive God's blessings?

7. What impact does the telling of this miracle have on your life?

John-I am-The Way and the Truth and the Life

Text: John 14: 1-7

Review of the text:

1. To whom was Jesus speaking?
2. What subject was Jesus speaking about just prior to saying “I am the way, the truth and the life.....”?
3. “If you had known Me, you would have known _____” (v7)

Thought Questions

1. What does Jesus reveal to His disciples about His relationship to God in this passage?
2. What is the connection between “way”, “truth” and “life”?
3. What impact does this passage have on your life?

John-Miracle-The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Text: John 5: 1-16

Review of the text:

1. In what city did Jesus perform this miracle?
2. Where did Jesus find the paralytic man?
3. How long had the man been paralyzed?
4. Why was he laying by the pool?
5. How come in all the years he had been there he hadn't been healed?
6. Why did the Jews complain about this miracle?

Thought Questions

1. Why would Jesus ask the man "Do you want to be made well"? Wasn't that obvious?
2. Why did Jesus heal this man? He didn't even have to exhibit any faith in Jesus?
3. Was Jesus truly breaking the law by performing this miracle?
4. What impact does the telling of this miracle have on your life?

John-I am-The Door

Text: John 10: 1-10

Review of the text:

1. Jesus says that if one does not enter by the door he is a _____ (v.1)
2. Who is he referring to in v.1 and v. 8?
3. Why does the thief enter the sheepfold? (v. 10)
4. Does the shepherd know his sheep by name?

Thought Questions

1. Why is the analogy of Christ being a door such a good one?
2. Aren't there other ways to get into a house? Maybe a window? As long as you get in, does it really matter how you got there? Consider this in light of the numerous denominations in today's society.
3. What impact does this passage have on your life?

John-Miracle-The Feeding of the 5000

Text: John 6: 1-14

Review of the text:

1. Why were all of the people following Jesus?
2. Which feast of the Jews was about to occur?
3. How many people were gathered?
4. How much bread did Philip estimate would be needed to feed all of the people?
5. How much food did they start with to feed all of the people?
6. How much food was left over after everyone ate?

Thought Questions

1. What kind of a test was Jesus giving when he asked “Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?”
2. What Christian principles are at work in this miracle?
3. What impact does the telling of this miracle have on your life?

John-I am-The Bread of Life

Text: John 6: 22-58

Review of the text:

1. This story took place following which miracle?

2. Why did Jesus say that the people were still following him? (v. 26)
3. Why did the Jews complain about Jesus saying He was “the bread of life”? (v.41-42)
4. What did Jesus contrast Himself to in vs. 48-50?
5. What did Jesus say is the “work of God”? (v. 29)

Thought Questions

1. Why was using “bread” such a good analogy?
2. Why did Jesus get so graphic with His analogy in v. 53-56?
3. Is there a connection between this story and the “Faith vs. Works” theological discussion?
4. What impact does the telling of this event have on your life?

John-Miracle-Jesus Walking on the Water

Text: John 6: 15-21

Review of the text:

1. Where were the disciples headed in the boat?
2. What time of day was it?
3. How far had the disciples rowed before Jesus came out walking on the water?
4. What other miracle occurred here besides Jesus walking on the water?
5. In Matthew's account of this miracle (Matt. 14: 22-33) who also joined Jesus walking on the water?

Thought Questions

1. Did Peter exhibit great faith or a lack of faith by walking toward Jesus on the water?
2. What caused Peter to sink? What lesson in that is there for us?
3. What impact does the telling of this miracle have on your life?

John-I am-The Good Shepherd

Text: John 10: 11-18

Review of the text:

1. What are some of the characteristics of a shepherd? (v. 1-18)
2. Do shepherds lead or drive their sheep?

3. Will sheep follow a stranger?
4. What is the difference between a “good shepherd” and a “hireling”?

Thought Questions

1. Explain v. 16? Is this describing denominationalism?
2. Sheep must know the voice of their shepherd? How are we to know the voice of our shepherd?
3. Why would Jesus use the analogy of being a good shepherd to describe himself?
4. What impact does this passage have on your life?

John-Miracle-Healing the Man Born Blind

Text: John 9: 1-41

Review of the text:

1. How long had the man been blind?
2. What question did the disciples have of Jesus regarding his blindness?
3. What method did Jesus use to heal the man's blindness?
4. What accusation did the Pharisees make against Jesus after the healing?
5. The Pharisees claimed that they were disciples of whom?
6. Did the Pharisees believe that the man was born full of sins? Give scriptural reference.

Thought Questions

1. What made the disciples believe there was a connection between the man's blindness and sin?
2. Explain v. 3. Did God make the man suffer years of blindness to facilitate this one miracle?
3. Why did Jesus use the elaborate method for the healing? Why didn't he just heal the man at his command like other miracles?
4. Explain v. 41.

5. What impact does the telling of this miracle have on your life?

John-I am-The Light of the World

Text: John 8: 12

Review of the text:

1. What is the context of Christ saying “I am the light of the world”?
2. If we follow Him, we will have the “light of _____ “.

Thought Questions

1. Why do you think that Jesus said “I am the light of the world” right after counseling the woman caught in adultery?
2. What type of “light” does Jesus provide?
3. What does it mean to have the “light of life”?
4. What impact does this passage have on your life?

John-Miracle-Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

Text: John 11: 1-44

Review of the text:

1. What town was Lazarus from?
2. To whom was Lazarus related?
3. After Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick how long did he stay where he was before going to see him?
4. Why were the disciples concerned about going to Judea?
5. Who said “Let us also go, that we may die with Him”?
6. When Jesus got to Bethany, how long had Lazarus been dead?

Thought Questions

1. Why did Jesus wait two days before he went to see Lazarus?
2. Why did Jesus weep in v. 35? Wasn't he about to bring Lazarus back from the dead?
3. Explain v. 9-10.
4. What impact does the telling of this miracle have on your life?

John-I am-The Resurrection and the Life

Text: John 11: 25

Review of the text:

1. What is the context of Jesus' statement?
2. To whom was Jesus speaking?
3. What was her response?

Thought Questions

1. What was Christ saying about Himself by calling Himself "the resurrection and the life"?
2. What impact does this passage have on your life?

1st John Chapter 1

Text: 1st John 1: 1-10

Review of the text:

1. Who is John referring to when he says “the Word of life”?
2. What other passages in the Bible uses this terminology?
3. What is the purpose of John writing this letter? (v. 4)
4. What does John contrast in v. 5?
5. The cleansing by Christ’s blood is contingent on what? (v. 7)

Thought Questions

1. How do you walk in darkness?
2. How do you walk in light?
3. Verse 7 indicates “we have fellowship with one another” if we walk in the light. Who is “one another”?
4. Verses 6-10 highlight what sin(s)? How do we identify those sins in our life and protect against them?
5. What impact does this passage have on your life?

1st John Chapter 2

Text: 1st John 2: 1-29

Review of the text:

1. Who is our advocate if we sin? What is an “advocate”?
2. How do we know that we know Christ? (v. 3)
3. How do we know that we are abiding in Him? (v. 6)
4. What is the “new commandment” that he writes about in v. 8?
5. What are we told NOT to love?
6. In what 3 ways can we be drawn away from the Father?
 - a. Reference Eve’s temptation in Genesis 3:6
 - b. Reference Christ’s temptation in Luke 4: 1-12
7. What did Christ promise us in v. 25?

Thought Questions

1. Why would he write about not sinning (v. 1) when it’s an impossible goal?
2. What does it mean to be a “propitiation”?
3. How is the love of God perfected in us?

4. How do we know if we “love the world”?
5. Who or what is the Antichrist? Is there more than one? Is he/they still active today in our lives and how?
6. What impact does this passage have on your life?

1st John Chapter 3

Text: 1st John 3: 1-24

Review of the text:

1. God bestows His love on us by calling us _____. (v. 1)
2. Sin is _____. (v. 4)
3. What is the message that we have heard from the beginning? (v. 11)
4. We are to love in _____ and _____. (v. 18)

Thought Questions

1. Verse 6 appears to be a very absolute statement. Is it that black and white?
2. Would anyone admit to hating someone? (v. 15) What actions could we take that would indicate we hate them?
3. What impact does this passage have on your life?

1st John Chapter 4

Text: 1st John 4: 1-21

Review of the text:

1. How do we know that God loved us? (v. 10)
 - a. Is this referenced in any of John's other writings?
2. What commandment is given in v. 21?

Thought Questions

1. What/Who are the Spirits that he is referring to in v. 1?
2. How are we supposed to test them?
3. Explain v. 18.
4. What impact does this passage have on your life?

1st John Chapter 5

Text: 1st John 5: 1-21

Review of the text:

1. In what way did Jesus come? (v. 6)
2. How do we receive eternal life? (v. 11)
3. Why did John write this letter? (v. 13)

4. God hears our prayers if we _____ (v. 14)

Thought Questions

1. Why would someone think that God's commandments are burdensome? (v. 3)
2. Explain vs. 6-8.
3. Can you really know that you have eternal life? Why would you ever have doubts in your mind about your eternity? (v. 13)
4. What is the key to having our prayers answered? (v. 14-15)
5. Explain vs. 16-17.
6. Explore the "we know" statements in vs. 18-20.
7. What impact does this passage have on your life?

2nd John

Text: 2nd John 1-13

Review of the text:

1. To whom was this letter written?
2. What commandment does he repeat in this letter? (v. 5)
3. How does he define love in this letter? (v. 6)
4. What is the “doctrine of Christ”? (v. 9)

Thought Questions

1. What are the modern day, practical implications of v. 10?
2. What impact does this passage have on your life?

3rd John

Text: 3rd John 1-13

Review of the text:

1. To whom was this letter written?
2. Who did John admonish in vs. 9 ff? What had he done?
3. Who did John recommend in vs. 12?

Thought Questions

1. How important is it to have a “good testimony”? How do we ensure that we have this positive reputation? What are the implications if we don't?
2. What impact does this passage have on your life?