

**John #1 (4.25.21) #21035**  
**Intro to the Gospel of John**  
**Who Is Jesus?**

**I. Jesus asked his men to think through who he was. Matt.16. John's Gospel is a unique, close-up view of who Jesus is and what he has done. 1 Jn.1:1-4.**

- A. Each gospel tells the story from a slightly different perspective.
  - 1. There is only one gospel, with four views. Quadraphonic, multifaceted.
- B. John's perspective is unique at several different levels
  - 1. Author: John the Apostle, youngest and closest to Jesus. Inner circle.
    - a) Probably born about 6AD, about 12 years younger than Jesus.
  - 2. Time: late in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, probably 85-90AD
  - 3. Place: probably Ephesus, where John lived and served at the end of his life.

**II. How does John's gospel flow? There are many ways to outline it. This one follows the narrative.**

- A. His Person: Prologue. 1:1-18
  - 1. The eternal, living Word in Flesh. Astounding!
  - 2. More on this next week
- B. His Power. Evidence for who He is. 1:19-12:50
  - 1. "the Book of Signs" Signs, discourses, witnesses, interviews, dialogue.
  - 2. Triumphal Entry. 12
- C. His Promises. Farewell Discourse. 13-17
  - 1. Five whole chapters on the last night
  - 2. Amazing promises about
    - a) Prayer,
    - b) The Spirit,
    - c) The victory over the world (resurrection).
- D. His Passion and Resurrection. 18-20
  - 1. Atoning Crucifixion. 18-19
  - 2. Physical Resurrection. 20
  - 3. Evangelistic Commission. 20:21
    - a) Sending as He was sent, by the Father in the Spirit's power.
  - 4. *Note: 10 chapters out of 21 devoted to the last week, death, resurrection. What's important?*
- E. His Pastoral Commission. Epilogue: Jn.21:15-17
  - 1. Peter's restoration and calling. Feed my sheep.
  - 2. Matt.28:20. Make disciples (not just converts) by immersing them in the Trinitarian reality and teaching them to think like Jesus (what he has instructed/commanded)
  - 3. Essence of pastoral and apostolic ministry. Feed my sheep.

**III. Why did John write it? He tells us... Jn.20:30-31**

- A. Bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. Jn.20:30-31
  - 1. God's own life, eternal life.
  - 2. *Because fallen humans are not born with eternal life in them.*
  - 3. Missional, evangelistic. (more later)
- B. But it also nourishes the faith of those who have come to Christ. 21:15-17
  - 1. Extensive Teaching: Several discourses and dialogues, longer and more detailed than in the synoptics.
    - a) Born from Above. Jn.3
    - b) Living Water. Jn.4
    - c) Father's will. Jn.5 (I only do what Father says)
      - (1) When you see me working; it is God working.

- d) Bread of Life. Jn.6 (more on this later)
- e) Light of the World. Jn.7-9 (more on this later)
- f) Shepherd of the Sheep. Jn.10:1-21
- g) One with the Father. Jn.10:22-42
- h) The Farewell Discourse. Jn 13-17

2. Stunning Signs (Seven). A sign (semeion) is a miracle, work of power, that authenticates Jesus as who he is and points (signifies) to ultimate reality. *Nobody but Jesus has ever done this for so long and to so many people.*

- a) Water to wine. 2:1-11
- b) Healing the official's son (from a distance). 4:46-54
- c) Healing the lame man at Pool of Bethesda
  - (1) On a Sabbath. 5:1-18
- d) Feeding the five thousand. 6:5-14
- e) Walking on the water. 6:16-32
- f) Healing the blind man (with spit/mud). 9:1-7
  - (1) On a Sabbath
- g) Raising Lazarus. 11:1-45
- h) *And many, many more! 21:25*
- i) Plus—The Ultimate Sign = The Resurrection. 13-20**

#### IV. Who is Jesus? He explains amazingly...Jn 8:58

**A. Before Abraham was born, I AM. "ego eime" = YHWH, from Ex.3:14. Seven times he emphasizes this with spiritual meaning attached.**

1. I AM the Bread of Life. 6:35.
  - a) *The only nourishment in the desert.*
    - (1) Manna was supernatural food in a desert.
  - b) Jesus is the Living Word, whose words are Spirit and Life. (Jn.6:63).
  - c) We are created in God's image by the expression of His mind (his word), so our eternal nourishment must come from the expression of His Mind—His Word
2. I AM the Light of the World. 8:12
  - a) *The only illumination in the dark.*
  - b) At the feast of tabernacles, probably the light ceremony.
  - c) Like a candle in a cave...
3. I AM the Door (or gate) for the sheep. 10:1-9
  - a) *The only entry point into God's flock.*
  - b) You can't sneak in on your own.
  - c) The other "shepherds" are crooks.
  - d) There is a boundary to the kingdom of God. There is only one entry point. You are either in or out...
4. I AM the Good Shepherd. 10:11, 14
  - a) *The only protector and guide into eternity. Through Death.*
  - b) YHWH is the Good Shepherd. Ps.23; Ez.34:11-16; 23-24.**
5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life. 11:24-26
  - a) *The only human with the keys to the grave. Rev.1:18*
  - b) The first resurrected human. Col.1:17-18
  - c) The beginning of the resurrection of the universe.
6. I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. 14:6
  - a) *The only answer to the Biggest Questions.*
    - (1) You know Me, you know the Way.
  - b) *It is not the teachings of Jesus that save us, it is Jesus Himself.*
7. I AM the True Vine. 15:1-4
  - a) *The only access to the blessing of the World to Israel, the Seed of Abraham. Gen.12:1-3*
    - (1) Ultimate Israel. Isa.5:1-7; Jer.2:21; **Ps.80:7-19**
    - (2) We are grafted into the Abrahamic promise through Jesus, the Ultimate Israel.

**V. How Impressed are we with Jesus? Back to the purpose of this Gospel. Jn.20:30-31.**

**A. Knowing who Jesus really is.**

1. He is the Christ, Messiah, King in God's Kingdom.
  - a) The star of the whole Bible.
2. He is the Son of God, a perfect human with God's DNA.
  - a) True God and True Man
3. *We are not born with this knowledge; it must be revealed.*
4. *This is why he tells Nicodemus he must be "born from above."*

**B. Embracing what Faith really is: Jn 20:27-29**

1. Confident Knowing. Never separate faith from knowledge
  - a) Believing is knowing and trusting based on reliable, expert, eye-witness testimony. (98 times in John's gospel)
  - b) Knowing is based on evidence, but produces affirmation and action.
2. Personal Affirming. "My Lord and My God." **Rom.10:9-10**
  - a) *This is personal, individual, MY Lord, MY God*
3. Decisive Trusting. His Grace, through Faith alone. Rom.3:28; Eph.2:8-10
  - a) Jesus told Thomas to stop "disbelieving" and start believing.
4. Progressive following. Jn.10:27. My sheep hear my voice. I know them. They follow me.
  - a) Faith is not something we did in the past and then left behind for other things. It is an ongoing and growing reality.

**C. So that we might have Life as it really is—eternal.**

1. In His Name. By coming under his identity and authority.
2. Not just endless, but perfect in every way, the Trinitarian Loving Eternal Tangible life we long for...
3. God's life is eternal, holy, loving, joyful. That is what life really is. Life in this age is traumatized, tragic, and temporary. This is not the life of God!

**VI. God's goal for his fallen world is regeneration and eternal blessing in Christ, eternal life.**

- A. Will you come to him?
- B. Will you continue with him?