

The Gospel of John

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Lesson #12

The Journey

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The Gospel of John

- **John 1:25** They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” **26** John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, **27** even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”
- In effect, John is announcing the Messiah is here – he stands among you in this generation.

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The Gospel of John

- There is an application of this to us in our day.
- In John’s day the Jews had talked of the coming of Messiah almost to exhaustion and finally he is here!
- In our day, we’ve spoken of the end times throughout our “saved” lives and now we can perhaps see his coming is nearer than we ever talked about.

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The Gospel of John

- It would have been exhilarating and fearful for the 1st century Jew to realize Messiah was so close.
- For us the same is true – when we were young in the Lord and thought of his coming we were thrilled to be living in that time.
- Now that we are perhaps here – in that time just before the Rapture, there is a certain exciting, but fearful tension in us.

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The Gospel of John

- We believe we will not be here for the Great Tribulation, but we are not sure just how bad it will be for us before Jesus comes for us.
- Will some of us have to give our lives for our faith? (this happening today around the globe)
- We know we will be spared from Daniel's 70th week, but how bad it will be right before the Rapture is an unknown.

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The Gospel of John

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’
 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’”

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The Gospel of John

“At midnight the bridegroom came, and the doors were shut. Outside the bridegroom was crying, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for me!’ but he did not answer. Then the other brides also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us too!’ He answered, ‘I tell you, I do not know you.’ Instead, get ready, because you do not know the day or the hour the Son of Man will come.”

Some who were looking for the bridegroom were not prepared to meet him.

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The Gospel of John

We have a serious test ahead with that one question that ought to consume us.

What did I do with what I was given?

1st John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments

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- John 1:28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’”
- Here is a classic example of what I mean when I say, “**words mean things**”.

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The Gospel of John

- Behold, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!**
- Here is the wisdom of God made manifest – throughout the O.T. we read of the very tedious system called the “Levitical” system.
- If you immerse yourself in the Levitical system you can become very tired and perhaps even hypnotize yourself with the details. 😊

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The Gospel of John

- But what seems tedious and tiresome to us is neither tedious nor tiresome to God.
- The words of Jesus (I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now) could just as easily been said to Adam and Eve.
- The redemption plan of God was so outrageous and wondrously wise that it took 4,000 years to execute – and it wasn’t because God is slow!

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The Gospel of John

- You would have had to be an Israelite sleep walking through life to not have noticed the insufficiency of the animal sacrifices.
- They had to go back again and again to the priest with a new sacrifice in order to keep a clean slate with God.
- Hebrews 9:9 According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, 10 but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed **until the time of reformation.**

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• Hebrews 10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

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The Gospel of John

• But when God presents his Lamb on the alter of sacrifice (the cross) we are told, **“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”**

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The Gospel of John

The old system was tedious and insufficient, but not so with the new – the new is swift and totally effective to cover all our sins for all time.



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The Gospel of John

- John 1:31 **I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.**
- Here John the Baptist admits that he did not know Jesus was the Messiah.
- Not only did John the Baptist not know in advance, but even after Jesus began his ministry he had lingering doubts or gaps in his faith.

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The Gospel of John

- The Baptist didn't know what kind of Messiah Jesus would be and when he comes teaching the Beatitudes he probably wondered even more.
- Like all of Israel the Baptist was no doubt expecting a conqueror – and while he would have remembered his baptism, all that he was witnessing did not add up.
- "Are you the Messiah, or do we look for another"?

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The Gospel of John

- John tells us his purpose was calling people to repent of their sin and be baptized to signify their sincerity.
- Since the Baptist admits he didn't know who Messiah was then every time he baptized someone he must have wondered, "is he the one?".
- He knew what to expect so perhaps every time a male came to be baptized he was watching for a certain sign he'd been told by God.

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