

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #9
The Journey
Jim Hoffman

1

The Gospel of John



Look Backwards and forwards in history - all who came before John's words, belief is followed by the ability to believe.

2

The Gospel of John

"Our gifts, talents, and abilities are but sophistry and worse if not lent to the Lord. And that which decorated us in the flesh will be more like a millstone around our eternal necks if we fail to use our gifts for the Giver."

Unknown

3

The Gospel of John

- Now we come to that subject that seems simple on the surface but is a bit mysterious and hard to describe to the dead and blind. (salvation)
- When we are expected to explain what it means to **“believe” and “receive” Jesus** we sometimes grope for the right words.
- Two common English words that are easy to understand, seem to suddenly become elusive in the context of personal salvation.

4

4

The Gospel of John

- John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right (power) to become children of God.
- To **receive** is to claim, to procure for oneself, and to admit as one entering your home.
- To **believe** is to be persuaded of, to put confidence in, and trust your spiritual well-being to Christ.

5

5

The Gospel of John

- **Then add to the fact** that these words mean more than is usually intended and eternities are at stake.
- **And then add to that** - when we try to explain these words to the unbelieving that demons and the flesh of our audience are opposing our efforts.
- When we see the words can be unclear, eternities are at stake, and we see we have opposition - then we begin to feel the weight and tension of evangelism.

6

6

The Gospel of John

- Now before we get all befuddled at what seems like a difficult problem, let us remember that we have a “Helper”. 😊
- In fact, He is our only hope for success in a spiritual battle.
- Use plain speech, use the scriptures, rely on the Holy Spirit’s help, and leave the results of the battle up to God.

7

7

The Gospel of John

Have you ever felt like this?

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

8

8

The Gospel of John

Never come away from witnessing to someone who seemed to reject your words in a “down” mood. We rarely know what the Holy Spirit is doing with seeds we sow. We should be prayerful and hopeful for the lost as we were once them and now we are not.

9

9

The Gospel of John

- **To those who received and believed, he (Jesus) gave them the power to become children of God.**
- **“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,”** – this is a way of saying to receive is to believe.
- No one believes without receiving and no one receives without believing – the words have separate meanings, but they are never separated when speaking of salvation.

10

10

The Gospel of John

- **“who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God”**
- The believers were believers - not because they were Jews, not because they just one day decided to believe, and not because of Judaism.
- People receive and believe when God enables them to see Jesus for who he is and their need for him. (more on this in chapter 3 when we meet Nicodemus)

11

11

The Gospel of John

- **John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- If I am right, that God is glorified when he is revealed, then to say that we **“saw his glory”** is to say God is revealed in Jesus.
- **“If you have seen me, you’ve seen the Father”.**

12

12

The Gospel of John

- Now here is the problem – if the Word was God and if the Word became flesh, was he then God, man, or both?
- Theological term – hypostatic union.
- The most basic understanding of the hypostatic union is to say that Jesus added humanity to His deity without compromising either.

13

13

The Gospel of John

- The Word becoming flesh was no simple act, and it was by no means a temporary act.
- Jesus was Spirit with a mind and a body (we have the mind of Christ), did he have a soul?
- If Jesus is not a perpetual person, then what became of the man Jesus and his body?

14

14

The Gospel of John

Jesus remained what He was, and became what He was not, in order to become like us, so that we might become like Him.

15

15

The Gospel of John

- **The final section of the Chalcedonian Creed reads,** “in two natures, without mixture, change, division, or separation; the difference of natures not being removed by their union, but rather the propriety of each nature being preserved and concurring in one person, so that he is not divided or separated into two persons, but the only Son, God, the Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, and one and the same person.” **The natures are not blended together but rather there is a perfect unity of the natures.**

16

16

The Gospel of John

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- We dealt with the “Incarnation” more than once so far in our study - now let’s add to our understanding of, and the extent of, Jesus taking on flesh.

17

17

The Gospel of John

- He came and dwelt among men – the Greek from which we get the English, “dwelt” is the word, “skay-no’-o”.
- It means to tabernacle or better yet for our understanding - he pitched his tent with us.
- Phil 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

18

18

The Gospel of John

He left his usual place and accepted the conditions of human life and environment, with the attendant temporal limitations that all humans experience. John's presentation of Christ as the Word is not primarily metaphysical but practical. As the preexistent Son of God, he was the Creator of the world and the Executor of the will of the Father. As the incarnate Son of God, he exercised in his human existence these same powers and revealed effectively the person of the Father. "We have seen his glory" implies a personal observation of a new reality.

Expositor's Commentary

19

19

Questions?

20

20
