

# The Gospel of John

Lesson #91  
The Journey  
Jim Hoffman

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## The Gospel of John

- Now back to the daily squabble the Jews had with Jesus when he says in verse #30, "I and the Father are one."
- They knew what he was saying because look at verse #31 – "The Jews picked up stones again to stone him." Why the stones again? – because the Man (Jesus) was claiming to be God.
- There would not have been "stones" in the temple courtyard so we can safely infer they came with stones or had previously "planted" them nearby. (premeditated)

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## The Gospel of John

- These are not well-meaning leaders of Judaism who just happened upon the blasphemer, Jesus – no, they had judged him guilty and were now looking for evidence.
- Honest people find evidence before judging a person guilty – these perverse Jews were doing the inverse order of justice when it came to Jesus.
- Remember the old westerns – someone would frequently call out, "Let's give 'em a fair trial and hang 'em". 😊

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### The Gospel of John

- John 10:32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."
- They were right to say that Jesus was claiming to be God and while all the surface evidence cried, "man!" what will one day be made clear is that Jesus was a man, but more than a man, he was the God-man.

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### The Gospel of John

- The theological term for the state of Jesus is "the hypostatic union" – in this union, we have Jesus Christ, one Person, fully God and fully man.
- Jesus was not two persons, he was God, the Son, AND was also the possessor of a sinless human nature and a human body. (think addition)
- We can understand why it was necessary for God, the Son, to take on a human body, but to comprehend how it was possible is probably beyond us.

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### The Gospel of John

So, what exactly is this thing we call our "nature"? Mankind was created in the image of God and were by nature, like him. We were kind, able to love, reason, and be creative – it was our nature to be like God. When sin entered, our nature changed – it died and no longer was being godly our highest value. Sin and selfishness became our highest values, and it shows in the people we are apart from Christ. When Jesus came into the world, he did not inherit Adam's nature like we did – he was born of a woman with the nature of the "Second Adam". The hypostatic union brings together a sinless human body, and a sinless human nature with which the Son of God could fulfill the sacrificial will of the Father.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 10:34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— 36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”
- Psalm 82:6 refers to some unjust judges as “gods” so if the O.T. scriptures allowed for mere mortals to be referred to as “gods” then why can’t He, the obvious Son of God, refer to himself as God? 7

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### The Gospel of John

- John 10:34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— 36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?” I confess, I do not “get” this text.
- Psalm 82:6 refers to some unjust judges as “gods” so if the O.T. scriptures allowed for mere mortals to be referred to as “gods” then why can’t He, the obvious Son of God, refer to himself as God? 8

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### The Gospel of John

- John 10:37 “If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”
- Now Jesus makes an appeal that anyone should be able to get behind – “What do my works say about me?”.
- He who had previously said, “you will know and identify people by their fruit” just asks to be judged by the same standard. 9

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### The Gospel of John

- At the end of verse #38 we read this, “the Father is in me and I am in the Father” and in the context it seems like Jesus thinks his audience should know what that means.
- Those in Jesus’ day certainly knew the behaviors of the demon possessed because of the works of the one “in” them.
- He could point to his many miracles and asked to be judged on the “fruits” of them – did they accomplish good things or evil things?

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### The Gospel of John

- John 10:39 Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.
- Jesus knows he is on a schedule and while the day will come when he will allow the Temple Guard to arrest him, he will not allow his arrest until the time is right.
- This is the sovereignty of God – nothing happens in this world without his knowledge and to go one step further, without his permission. This is the natural outcome of God being omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent.

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### The Gospel of John

- When we say that God is sovereign - it means that He is the sole ruler, He is the sole authority, and He answers to no one.
- It is impossible to overstate the complete and total independence and rule of God.
- He tells us in no uncertain terms that He alone is God and that He has no equal.

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### The Gospel of John

God knows the oxygen level in your body and in the bodies of everyone in this room. He knows all our temperatures, our pulse rates, the numbers of hairs on our heads, and the exact number of minutes each of us have yet to live. He knows your social security number, your phone #, and your household income. He knows all these things and more for me, you, and all the people on the planet – make that for all whoever were on the planet and all who will ever be on the planet. He is God! He is not just in a class all by himself, but there is no one, or no thing even close. Not the biggest super-computer, or even a warehouse of them networked together can compare to his omniscience and we could say the same for all his attributes. He is God and cannot be matched and cannot be exaggerated!

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### The Gospel of John

- Deut 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD *He is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.*
- Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; *and beside me there is no God.*
- Isaiah 46:9 Remember the things I have done in the past. *For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me.*

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**The Self-exaltation of God.**

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### The Gospel of John

- The scriptures stress the sovereignty of God throughout the bible – it is a big, prominent, important doctrine that seems to be avoided in many places like something detestable.
- We should draw great peace from the truth that God is the Sovereign of the universe and not us.
- When Jesus said, “thy will be done”, He was giving more than good advice – He was giving a certainty to comfort us, something that will get you sanely through life.

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### The Gospel of John

- Psalm 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.
- Joshua 2:11 When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. (Rahab to the Israeli spies)
- Psalm 115:3: But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

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### The Gospel of John

- **If God is all powerful and if nothing happens apart from His purpose, why is there evil?**
  - If God planned for a Savior in advance, (Revelation 13) then He must also have planned for sinners to be redeemed.
  - And since nothing happens without His permission, then He must also have planned for mankind to fall.
  - And if God is good, and he planned for man to fall, then the way back to God must also be good for man and glorious for Himself.

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### The Gospel of John

Some ask, "why is there evil in the world?". God has morally sufficient reasons for allowing suffering and evil in the world. Suffering and evil are often used by God to create the best possible conditions to bring the maximum # of souls to Christ!

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### The Gospel of John

- Said another way – When we ask the question of why God would allow evil, ask it from the perspective of how it affects Him?
- And if it affects Him by further glorifying Him, then to allow evil serves the ultimate good purposes of God.
- You could say that God is not only just, but He is good to allow evil, because it serves to magnify Him, and anything that magnifies Him is a good thing whether we understand it or not.

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### The Gospel of John

- There was a group of believers who left a church because they saw an ignorance of God's sovereignty driving the teachings of the church.
- They were being taught that Satan can harm them, that Satan can even kill them, and that demons were to be feared.
- And they said this, "We could not live any longer under the sovereignty of Satan."

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### The Gospel of John

- **Sovereignty** – God is powerful and authoritative to the point that He is able to override all other powers. Nothing can stop what He wants to do.
- Job 42:2 I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.
- Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'

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### The Gospel of John

- **Sovereign over nature** - Psalm 135:6 Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places. 7 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures.
- **Sovereign over animals** – Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

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### The Gospel of John

- **Sovereign over the nations** – Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.
- **Sovereign over mankind** – Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps. Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

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### The Gospel of John

• **Sovereign over what seems to be random events** –  
Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

It has been suggested that God controls every throw of the dice. I do not know if that is true, but the glorious truth behind the statement whether right or wrong, is that he could!!

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### The Gospel of John

If your idea of God is one that makes him insufficient to control every roll of the dice in Las Vegas, and the lifespan of every bird on the planet, I want to respectfully suggest your idea of God is way too small. My point is not that every roll of the dice and the lifespan of every bird are the most important events in the universe, but that if he has the power and the wisdom to track what seems like insignificant things, then surely, he tracks and supervises the most significant events and activities of the world. If he is not capable of tracking the small things, then what gives you confidence that he is able to track the thousands of things in your life when you are but one person among 8 billion people who are just as worthy as you are of his attention.

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### The Gospel of John

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sov'reign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.

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## The Gospel of John

- John 10:40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. 41 And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." 42 And many believed in him there.
- This is the effect of truth – everywhere it goes forth, faith follows in the hearts of those willing to listen.

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Questions?

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