

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #30

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

1

The Gospel of John

- John 3:20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and **does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.**
- Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but **all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

2

The Gospel of John

- In John 3 don't think of light and darkness as good and evil – these are the environments of good and evil, but not the actual good and evil deeds themselves.
- Evil wants to stay right where it is, in the dark – when evil deeds are exposed, a certain amount of conviction attends that knowledge that is uncomfortable for the lost.
- This is the Romans 2 principle wherein even those who do not know Christ still have an in-born awareness of sin that manifests itself in feelings of guilt.

3

The Gospel of John

Romans 2:14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.

4

The Gospel of John

- Judging by what I see in America, it seems like the range of darkness can shrink and expand.
- Fifty years ago, women were not in the streets “shouting their abortion” nor did we see anything like “Gay Pride” day or month.
- As America has moved further from Biblical standards those in aberrant lifestyles have felt comfortable to openly declare and even celebrate their sin.

5

The Gospel of John

- The redeemed life is **just as uncomfortable in the dark as the lost life is uncomfortable in the light.**
- Old friends may reject you because you carry “light” in your “earthen vessel”. (2nd Corinthians 4:7)
- Eph 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible.

6

The Gospel of John

- John 3:21 “But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”
- The believer seeks to walk in the light because there is a certain freedom of conscience and confidence that comes with seeking to do right things.
- Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

7

7

The Gospel of John

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God fashioned us in such a way that when we come to Christ, we are given a desire to do good works. Furthermore, even the good works we participate in cannot be fully claimed by us as it is God Himself who has prepared these good works for us do – he has providentially set them in our path in such a way that all we have to do is see and do them. And furthermore, these works in our path are precisely suited for our unique portions of time, talent, and treasure.

8

The Gospel of John

“The righteous life the believer possesses is a reproof to those in the dark – sometimes it is not us the world recoils from, but the light that is in us. When unsaved friends and acquaintances withdraw from us it is not us they really want to avoid, it’s Jesus! 2nd Corinthians 4:4 reads, ‘In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.’ However, the veil over their hearts crumbles and blows away like dust when they turn to Jesus.”

9

The Gospel of John

- As believers we crave the light – we know that when we are in the light everything is just better.
- The light of Christ has a governing effect on us for not only does it help us to see all of life better, but it even helps us to behave better.
- Adam and Eve are good examples of our natural reaction when our sin is exposed – they tried to hide from God and if they had had peers, they would have avoided them too!

10

10

The Gospel of John

- Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
- Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- The two verses above are bedrock principles of the word of God, but in order for the unbeliever to see their lostness they need light – it is really, really hard to see in the dark.

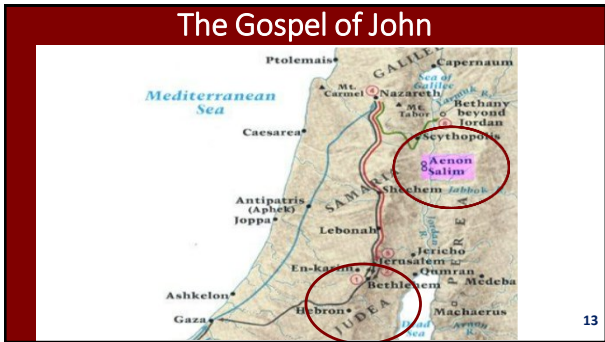
11

11

The Gospel of John

John 3:22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 (for John had not yet been put in prison).

12



13

The Gospel of John

- Contrary to what the verbiage John used indicates, Jesus never water baptized anyone.
- John 4:1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (**although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples**).
- If you want scripture to help support baptism by immersion, verse #23 says, "because water was plentiful there".

14

The Gospel of John

John 3:25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

15

The Gospel of John

- John 3:25 purification – that was the debate that arose, but it seems to be completely ignored never to come up again.
- Was it a matter of the efficacy of John’s baptism? Was this Jew questioning whether or not John’s baptism was good enough?
- We are not told, but it appears to me to be a divide and conquer strategy – the Jew probably wanted to incite infighting amongst John’s and Jesus’ disciples. (John 17)

16

16

The Gospel of John

John 17:20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21 that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, **that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me** and loved them even as you loved me.

17

The Gospel of John

- John 3:27 John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven”.
- John knew who he was and what he was called to do, and he also knew that Jesus was the Messiah and not him.
- He knew there were limits to what he was called to do, and to the opportunities he would have available to him, and he was content in his role.

18

18

The Gospel of John

- Knowing our role in the kingdom is a very freeing thing – when we know what we are to do and that the role we have is the one God chose for us we are free to serve.
- I might want to be a peer of David Jeremiah, but what I want and what I am are not always the same thing.
- I am free when I understand the Lord does not want me to be the next David Jeremiah – he wants me to be the first Jim Hoffman!

19

19

The Gospel of John

- Some look at a fingerprint and say, "I am a unique and wonderful creation of God and that makes me a somebody!"



- Others look at a fingerprint and say, "Only God can create in such a way that uniqueness and sameness are present in the same person!"

20

20

The Gospel of John

- John speaks and says, "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.'"
- He wanted no confusion and wanted all to be certain he was not jealous of his cousin – in fact John was telling the crowd to tell others he was merely the one sent in advance of the Christ.
- He was not the Christ, but he was the forerunner of the Christ and that ain't nothing!

21

21

The Gospel of John

- “He must increase, but I must decrease.” – if we are wise, we will join John in this declaration.
- Abraham Lincoln said, “**The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.**”
- May we say, “few will long remember who I am or what I did, but may many remember the One I sought to make known”.

22

22

The Gospel of John

- John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease – there are two comparisons in this verse.
- “He and I” are contrasted as are “increase and decrease” and there is really no mystery in any of those words when it comes to definition.
- In verse #29 we read about one who “rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice” because it is the bridegroom’s day and the bridegroom’s elevation is preeminent.

23

23

The Gospel of John

- He must increase because if he doesn’t then the world will be totally lost and without hope for all eternity.
- John had been attracting crowds and the crowds that he had drawn were now going over to follow Jesus – the natural reaction of anyone would be to get defensive.
- Can you name a single preacher or teacher who would applaud their followers leaving his congregation and going to another church?

24

24

The Gospel of John

John will be so meanly thought of that in his future is a decapitation called for by a young girl who danced immorally before Herod. One would think that to see his disciples, switch their allegiance away from him would hurt, but to John his loss of popularity would bring him joy because he knew his role in the unfolding of God's redemption plan. Happy is that one who understands their evaluation will not be a comparative one, but one that is about what we did with what we were given.

25

The Gospel of John

He must increase and we must decrease, is not something we will merely settle for if that's how we can get to Heaven. No, like John the Baptist, we will see "He must increase, and we must decrease" as the most exhilarating thing that could happen to us. Jesus is not only deserving of such elevation, but his elevation is what brings us joy. When we see Jesus for all that he is, we will not be just "okay" with that order, but we will bask in the wisdom, power, and justness of it.

26

The Gospel of John

God is great and God is good
– we are not, blessed be the
name of the Lord!

27



28
