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John 1-3

REVIEW

- TITLE: "In the beginning..." (opening words of Gospel)
- The God who brought creation into existence by His Word is bringing about a new creation = God's offspring who will always be, like the Son, in the bosom of the Father = those who are truly alive!
- John the Witnesser is a man, sent from God to point to the Word made flesh, God's Lamb who will remove the world's sin = that which keeps the world from coming to true birth
- Jesus' disciples are those who "abide"/"remain" with him and learn from him (and un-learn what they have been taught is true), catching glimpses of truth through the flesh of the Word
 - First glimpse in Cana (during a celebration of all that the flesh can produce and which water can cleanse): water for purification became wine by nothing more than Jesus' word
 - A second glimpse in Jerusalem (during a celebration of freedom and purification): the place of purification needs to be and is cleansed by the Word who prophesies the substitution of the Temple building as a place of prayer for all nations by his own body raised from corruption after death
- Nicodemus, a teacher who needs to unlearn and then learn, comes to Jesus in the dark and learns that the new creation, the offspring of God, are those who truly see in God's presence, and that they, like God, cannot be seen in this world (they are like wind/spirit). They are the ones who will live.
 - They will live through truly seeing the one on the cross who will take death from them and give them life. (Those who do not see because they don't want to see and be seen will die, and that is their end.)

John 4-5

I. THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

II. THE HEALING OF THE OFFICIAL'S SON

III. A TRIAL OF JESUS

John 4:1-42

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

THE PARIAH AT THE WELL!

- Who is the woman?
 - A Samaritan (half-breed) at the well of the patriarch Jacob in the shadow of their place of worship
 - At the well at mid-day – when no other women are there!
 - The woman of several men (at least 6!)
- Jesus' conversation with her follows same pattern as with Nicodemus: unlearning → learning
 - Misunderstanding / Understanding (e.g., running/living water – vs. 10)
- True worship
 - Not in a Temple (either Gerizim or Jerusalem)
 - In Spirit and Truth (“God is spirit” and gives birth to spiritual, true offspring)
 - The woman is on her way to belief but not there yet (“Can this be the Messiah?”) but she is able to lead others along the way to belief (vs. 39)
- Jesus abides with the Samaritans; they learn from his word → He is the saviour of the world!

JESUS' IDENTITY REVEALED

- Several hints about who Jesus is:
 - "Are you greater than our father Jacob?"
 - Jesus and the woman at the well remind you of what stories in the OT?
 - The engagement scenes of the patriarchs Isaac and Jacob
 - From this "engagement" with the Samaritan woman, new children will be born!
 - "Are you the Messiah"
 - "I AM is the one speaking to you"
 - The Word in the flesh now reveals Himself to this pariah woman as He once did to Moses in Ex 3:14!
 - Jesus' disciples: "Rabbi, eat"
 - "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work" = what keeps Jesus nourished as the Son is striving to do the Father's will

John 4:43-54

THE HEALING OF THE OFFICIAL'S SON

THE HEALING OF THE OFFICIAL'S SON

- Where DOES Jesus come from? (vss. 43-45)
 - NB vs. 47: "hearing that Jesus had departed Judaea and come to Galilee..."
- What DOES Jesus say?
 - Does he marvel at unbelief? Refuse? Encourage? (vs. 48)
- What DOES Jesus do? (cf. the sign in Cana – what DID Jesus do?)
 - Jesus' word alone: "Your child will live" (Man believes without seeing!)
 - About 1 PM – when the fever would start to peak
 - The "second sign" = second glimpse (after leaving Judaea and going to Galilee) that his disciples have of something more in Jesus than just a fleshly man

John 5:1-47

A TRIAL OF JESUS

JOHN 5 IS NOT PRIMARILY A MIRACLE STORY

- The "crime" (5:1-9a)
- The initial investigation (5:9b-13)
- The arrest (5:14-15) – a "friend" turns Jesus in (NB: "his own" in the flesh are his betrayers, his accusers, and his judges)
- The trial
 - The accusation (5:16)
 - The defence
 - Statement by the defendant (5:17-30) – The Father is the one on trial (Result: enrages the court! 5:18)
 - NB: especially vs. 19: The Son only says and does what the Father says and does!
 - Witnesses for the defence (5:31-32): The Word says nothing on his own (vs 19) or in his own defence
 - John: 5:33-35
 - Works that Jesus does from the Father: 5:36
 - Father: 5:37-38
 - Scriptures: 5:39
 - Concluding statement (5:40-47): "YOU are the guilty ones" (Moses has judged them for not believing in God when God makes Himself known to them ... this is the true sin)

SIGNIFICANCE OF JOHN 5

- A clear demonstration that the “passion” of Jesus in John is not limited to the end of Jesus’ life (making explicit what is implicit in Matthew, Mark, and Luke):
 - **The passion of the Word happens long before the end!**
 - In fact, it is something that has been taking place since the first appearance of the Word become flesh.
 - In John the final trial of Jesus is the culmination of a trial that has been revealed as taking place since the incarnation of the Word (“his own” did not receive him).
- A clear demonstration that
 - Jesus will seek to help those who desire to learn un-learn and then learn by abiding with him as He dwells in the bosom of the Father ... as they are born from above
 - Jesus will also reveal that those who do not desire to learn to believe are dead

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What is the significance of the fact that in John it is an outcast, half-breed, unreliable woman who brings the gospel proclamation to the men of her village?
- What do you strive for as a child of God? (i.e., what keeps you alive)
- Why do you think that Jesus say what he says to the official who asks for a miracle in the healing of his son? ("Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.") Why?
- Let us imagine that you live in a Middle Eastern country and have been brought before a court because of some wonderful, Christian deed that you have done (perhaps a miracle, perhaps leading someone to Christ, perhaps you were caught praying in public...). You are accused, and you are guilty of what they accuse you but of course in truth you are innocent and they are the truly guilty ones! Who will be the witnesses who speak on your behalf and against them? Why?

John 3:22-36

'HE MUST INCREASE ...'

'.... AND I MUST DECREASE'

- Baptism
 - Purification is a preparation of the body for something. Purification is not salvation.
- John as the friend of the bridegroom
 - The friend's delight is in the voice (the word) of the bridegroom
- John from the earth must now decrease (wane) / The Word from above must increase (wax)
 - Christian Calendar (blends John with the other Gospels):
 - June 24 – Feast of St. John the Baptist – sun decreases
 - December 24/5 – Feast of the Nativity of our Lord – sun increases
 - Toward what end? Calendar: March 25 Annunciation (Jesus' conception)
 - = Passover (9 months before December 25)
 - Jesus was conceived and died at "the feast of Passover" (full human circle!)