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# AS WE BEGIN OUR LAST DAY TOGETHER ...

- FIRST: An assignment : Read: John 13:21-30
- SECOND: Identify some questions that you have regarding John's Gospel

# FROM JOHN 12-17 TO THE END: BEFORE PASSOVER

- Jesus is prepared for his death and burial by Mary's anointing (John 12) then he prepares his disciples for their death and burial by washing / anointing their feet (John 13)
  - they, too, will be stripped of the glory of the flesh to receive the glory of the Spirit
- John 13-16 provides 4 lessons for dying like Jesus (not waiting for death to come, but embracing "love" and so dying for the world): (1) Do not worry ; (2) I will send you the Advocate to stand with you and witness for you; (3) You will do the very kinds of things that Jesus has done if you continue in the "way" of Jesus; (4) The way to the Father is only Jesus' way, which is, to be tried in the flesh, stripped of the flesh, and to come to dwell fully in the bosom of the Father.
- John 12-17 ends with the Johannine "Garden of Gethsemane" prayer of Jesus. It is a public prayer intended by Jesus to teach his disciples about the relationship between the Son and the Father: "Here's what we want for you..." (to know that Jesus' hour of death has come; that it is the moment of his true glorification; that it will be your turn to die so that others come to life through you to enjoy life in the bosom of the Father with you who have never known it and with me who has never left there, vs. 24)

# JOHN 18: FROM THE GARDEN TO THE TEMPLE

- Still in the "Garden of Gethsemane", Judas arrives with soldiers (a cohort!) and Temple police from the chief priests and the Pharisees
  - The result: 18:4-6!
- Jesus is led to the Temple to be questioned by the High Priests, the family of Annas (including Caiaphas, Annas's son-in-law)
  - Peter's three-fold denial: 18:17!

# JOHN 18-19: FROM THE TEMPLE TO PILATE ... AND BACK?

- The High Priests and Pharisees hand Jesus over to Pilate (Roman governor) NB: the time: 18:28
  - Pilate questions Jesus about whether he is the (political) king of the Jews; Jesus answers that he is a king but vs. 36-38
    - Bar-abbas (the 'son of the father'), a robber (like the false shepherds in John 10), is released instead of Jesus
    - Jesus is tortured, i.e., stripped of almost all fleshly glory except life: 18:5
  - Pilate questions Jesus about the Priests' assertion that he has said he is the Son of God (The same question from John 7-10: Where are you from?)
  - The High Priests reveal their true identity: not priests but Romans (18:14b-15)
    - NB: The time (vs. 14a) – What is the significance?
    - NB: To whom does Pilate give Jesus in order to be killed? (vs. 16)

# JOHN 19: THE CRUCIFIXION: PREPARATION FOR THE PASSOVER

- The crucifixion is overseen by the High Priests (vss. 17-22), though the soldiers accomplish the mechanics (vs. 23)
  - Pilate indicates what Jesus' death truly signifies: King of the Jews = Here is the fate of all those who would seek to make Israel great politically
- Jesus is stripped of all flesh glory:
  - His tunic (vss 23-25a): like that of the High Priests (Exod 28:32)
  - His family (vss 25b-27)
  - His life, taken by his enemies (vss, 28-29; Psa 69:19-21 but continue... 22-28)
- The (Passover) Lamb of God, who takes away the world's sin, is slain (NB time: vs. 31)
  - Passover Lamb: No bones broken (Exod 12:46)
  - NB: Why the hurry? 18:28 → 19:31 → 19:42 .... Passover Supper time!!
- We are left on the verge of the Day of Rest (7<sup>th</sup> day) with Jesus' fleshly body in a garden (19:41)

# JOHN 20: THE BEGINNING

- A new day
    - Still dark, but the dawn of the first day of the week
      - Genesis 1:3-5: creation of light and its separation from darkness by the Word
    - ... and in a garden!
    - The Word's new creation ("In the beginning...") has begun!!
    - Passover has passed!
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# JOHN 20: THE FIRST "ENCOUNTER"

- Mary Magdalene (introduced) finds the tomb empty; Peter and the "other disciple" run
  - Mary sees in the dark (20:1-2)
  - Peter sees details but doesn't know (20:6-7); the "other disciple" believes (20:8-9)

# JOHN 20: THE SECOND "ENCOUNTER"

- Mary's second vision (20:11-13)
  - As a Jew, when you heard Mary tell what she saw... what do you see...?



You shall make two cherubim of gold; ...at the two ends of the mercy seat. ... The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings. ... You shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark; and in the ark you shall put the covenant that I shall give you. There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the covenant, I will speak with you (Exod 25:18-22)

# JOHN 20: THE THIRD ENCOUNTER

- Mary weeping sees someone that she thinks is the gardener
  - She doesn't recognize Jesus by sight
- Jesus speaks to her and she responds unknowingly
- Jesus calls her by name, and she responds knowingly
  - Jesus commissions her to go and tell Jesus' followers that he is returning to the Father

# JOHN 20: THE FOURTH ENCOUNTER

- On the evening of day 1 (the first day of the new creation, light has been created and darkness has been separated from it!), the Word now creates a new race of people
  - The risen Jesus encounters the disciples (BTW How did he get into the room?) and breathes on them the Spirit (cf. Genesis 2:7)
  - Then he gives these disciples a task:
    - NOT forbids them to eat and live (since the new creation will never die!)
    - BUT to be the light, as he has been the light:
      - Light reveals truth and it reveals sin
        - and enabling those whose sin is revealed to be freed from it, or
        - confirming their sin to them if they refuse to be freed from it.!

# JOHN 20: THE FIFTH AND FINAL ENCOUNTER

- Thomas had been missing from the “first day” of the new creation.
  - Thomas, a man of the flesh, insists on sight in order to believe
- Jesus appears to him (and the others)
  - Thomas believes when he sees
  - Note Jesus’ words 20:29
- Belief will not rest on sight but on the Word and those who speak the Word!
- And how will the world will know the speakers of the Word? Jesus had told them the world will know you are my disciples by the love you have for one another, by the fact that you die in service to one another. Words are cheap; love is costly and it will cost you everything. The world is in the control of evil powers, but the Word has said: I have conquered the world in dying. Now, you, go forth and show that I have done that by dying for each other, even as I have for you!

# THE CONCLUSION TO THE GOSPEL: 20:30-31

- Jesus did many signs during his fleshly life and in his resurrection appearances
  - Signs = glimpses of the truth in word and in deed
- You, the reader of this book, have not seen these signs
  - This book is written that you may believe
    - Perhaps start believing
    - Perhaps be strengthened in your faith to go on believing

# JOHN 21

- An example of other traditions associated with the Johannine community of believers and its message (another example: 8:1-11 the woman caught in adultery)
  - A story of a miraculous catch of fish (cf. Luke 5 and the call of Peter)
    - Only time that the sons of Zebedee are mentioned in John and not by name!
  - A story of the restoration of Peter
    - A threefold opportunity for Peter to repent after his threefold denial?
  - A mysterious story of the other disciple (from John 13's supper account)
    - This is the one who bears witness to the events (of John 21 or all of John?)
    - Do you know who this is?
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# IS IT YOU?

## ARE YOU A WITNESS "TO THESE THINGS"

- You are if you are one who is being born from the womb by the Word in a death that is also a birth
  - Pictured in the water that poured forth from Jesus who was stripped of life (not by water of John's baptism or the purifying water of ritual practice)
- And if you are staying in the way of Jesus, dying / serving / loving each other.

# IS IT YOU?

## ARE YOU A WITNESS "TO THESE THINGS"

- You are not
  - if you are one who cares about the wealth of the world (like Judas) or who refuses (like Thomas) to shut your eyes in order to believe because you have been told by the world that you must see to believe, that you must walk by what your eyes and your experience tell you is true?
  - If you care only about the limited world in which you find yourself, thinking that it is the best of all possible worlds, even though it is a limited womb that is only meant to hold you for a time.
- But, if you are like Thomas, there is still time for you to shut your eyes
  - ... to believe
  - ...so that you can die
  - ... so that you can finally live.

YOUR QUESTIONS?

