

40 Days in The Gospel of John

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Daily Readings

SUNDAY 1 - The Word of God 1:1-18

Day 1 The Fourth Gospel - Introduction to John

Day 2 John 1:1-18

Day 3 John 1:19-34

Day 4 John 1:35-51

SUNDAY 2 - The Kingdom of God 3:1-17

Day 5 John 2:1-11

Day 6 John 2:12-25

Day 7 John 3:1-21

Day 8 John 3:22-36

Day 9 John 4:1-42

Day 10 John 4:43-5:1-15

SUNDAY 3 - The Bread of Life 6: 25-35

Day 11 John 5:16-47

Day 12 John 6:1-21

Day 13 John 6: 22-58

Day 14 John 6: 59-71, 7:1-13

Day 15 John 7: 14-44

Day 16 John 7: 45 - 8:11

SUNDAY 4 - The Significance of the Seven "I AM's"

Day 17 John 8:12-59

Day 18 John 9:1-12

Day 19 John 9:13-41

Day 20 John 10:1-21

Day 21 John 10:22-42

Day 22 John 11:1-44

SUNDAY 5 - The Significance of Service

Day 23 John 11: 45-54

Day 24 John 11:55 - 12:11

Day 25 John 12:12-36

Day 26 John 12:37-50

Day 27 John 13:1-17
Day 28 John 13:18-30

SUNDAY 6 John 17:20-26

Day 29 John 13:31-14:4
Day 30 John 14:5-31
Day 31 John 15:1-16:4
Day 32 John 16: 4- 33
Day 33 John 17:1-19
Day 34 John 17:20-26

SUNDAY 7 Who But A King

Day 35 John 18: 1-27
Day 36 John 18:28-19:16
Day 37 John 19:16-42
Day 38 John 20:1-29
Day 39 John 20:30-31
Day 40 John 21

SUNDAY 1 - Sermon Notes
John 1:1-18

Lent is a time of _____ - _____.

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God came to them and asked,

“_____ are _____?”

So often we approach God for _____, not _____.

An overarching theme for the Gospel of John is _____.

John is called the BE-_____ disciple.

In the readings this week, Jesus will turn to two disciples following him and ask,

“_____ do you _____?”

John 20:31 tells us the purpose of the Gospel:

“These are written that you _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have _____ in his name.”

In the BEGINNING was the _____, and the _____ was with GOD, and the _____ **was** God. (John 1:1, NIV)

In him was _____, and that life was the _____ of all mankind. (John 1:4, NIV)

Preparing the Way

As we begin our study of the book of John, you might have some questions. You aren't alone. Some of your questions might look like many I have heard before. How is John's story different than the three other Gospel stories? Why do we need a Fourth Gospel? What does this Gospel tell us about God? Humanity? Ourselves? We will think about these questions and more as we dive into the study of John's Gospel. Particularly, I want us to keep at the forefront these questions: 1) What is Jesus doing for humanity in the Gospel of John? 2) How does Jesus want to reveal Himself to you through the Gospel to form deeper relationship with you?

As we begin on this first day, what are some of the questions YOU hope to answer in the next 40 days? What do you hope for?

Although there is some scholastic disagreement about who wrote the Fourth Gospel, the majority of scholars believe that John, the son of Zebedee and disciple of Christ, is the author. From this understanding, we will proceed into the book that differs from the other three Gospels, or the Synoptics.

Turn to Matthew 1. What do you notice in the opening of Matthew's Gospel?

Read the first eleven verses of Mark's Gospel. How does Mark begin?

Now turn to Luke's Gospel and describe the beginning of his account:

Each Gospel points to the author's main intention of what they want us to know about Jesus. How do each of the Synoptic Gospels differ from each other and why do you think that is important?

Read John 1:1-5. How does John begin his Gospel? What does this tell us about Jesus?

Read John 13:23. What does this tell us about John?

John describes the purpose of his Gospel in 20:30-31. What does John say about his main purpose for writing this account?

Day 2

John 1:1-18 The Prologue

John 1:1 says, "In the _____ was the _____, and the _____ was with God and the _____ was God." (NIV)

What existed *before* the beginning?

Turn to Genesis 1:1. What are the first words of Genesis?

What statement is John making by using the same language as Genesis 1:1?

In the original Greek text, "Word" is *Λόγος* or Logos. Logos means word *and* it also means message. How might both definitions give us insight into how John opens his Gospel?

By capitalizing *Λόγος*, John is making a particular statement. John wants his readers to know that Jesus is the embodied Word, an "in-fleshing" of God's Word.¹ Jesus IS the Word, proclaiming the message or Word. Jesus is the human flesh existence of God and the human flesh proclamation of God.² John 1:1 has many levels of meaning. John wants us to know at the outset that:

- 1- Jesus existed before the beginning.
- 2- Jesus was with God.
- 3- Jesus was God.

Look at Genesis 1:1 again. Knowing what John tells us about Jesus, what can we say about God and Jesus in Creation? What does this say about the nature of God and Jesus?

Let's continue in John to find some answers. John 1:3 says, "Through _____ all things were made; without _____ nothing was made." John is referring to Jesus. Jesus is Creator with God. Using this information, can we then say that God and Jesus are the same? Can we say they are of one substance, one nature? Use verses 14 and 18 to further describe the nature of Jesus and God:

¹ Carson

² NIV 64

Christ as the Incarnation is an important concept that John wants us to understand. Christ as Incarnation, God and flesh as one substance, is important because it tells us more about the nature of God. Why do you think the Incarnation is important to us as followers of Christ (verse 18 might help you think about your answer)?

John continues with additional important descriptions of Jesus that are major themes throughout the Gospel. Verses 4 and 5 tell us Jesus is _____ and _____.

Verse 17 says _____ and _____ came through Jesus Christ.

Using all of what John writes about who Jesus is in this first portion, or pericope, of Scripture, who is Jesus to humanity?

What does Jesus want to do for you?

How do you understand Jesus differently after today's reading?

John the Baptizer and John the Evangelist are two different people. John the Baptizer was the son of Elizabeth and cousin to Jesus. John the Evangelist was the son of Zebedee and a disciple of Christ. The writer of the Gospel of John, John the Evangelist, is describing the testimony of John the Baptist in this portion of chapter 1. Looking back to John 1:6-7, what is the primary purpose of John the Baptist?

When the Jewish leaders ask John the Baptist who he is, the Baptizer replies using the words of Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet called to direct God's people. Isaiah 40:3-5 says,

“In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord had spoken.”³

By using the words of Isaiah, what is John the Baptizer trying to say to the Jewish leaders in John 1:23?

John the Baptizer is the one who prepares the way for the Lord. The path to the Lord will be made straight. Every obstacle will be levelled. The glory of the Lord is revealed in Christ. If all of this is true, what does Jesus, the Christ, do for humanity?

In verses 26-27, John is testifying to the supreme importance of the one who is to come after him. How does John describe his unworthiness compared to the one that will come after him?

In these times, only a slave would be asked to touch a person's shoe or sandal. Modern day trash and sewer systems did not exist. Daily sludge splattered streets. Feet were filthy. John says that he is not even worthy to touch the filth covering the feet of the one that is yet to come. This foreshadows what is to come later when Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. We will talk more about this idea in the weeks to come. For now, think about what John the Baptizer is saying to the Pharisees. Also, think about why John the Evangelist chooses this as the first characterization of John the Baptist. What do both the Baptizer and the Evangelist want us to know about Jesus?

³ NIV

John the Baptist gives further testimony, or witness, in verses 32-34. A dove comes down from heaven and remains on Jesus. The physical evidence of the Holy Spirit, the dove, descends from God to Jesus. The Spirit remains with Jesus. The Spirit from God abides with Christ. This is significant confirmation that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah or Christ.⁴ While the Old Testament describes visitations from the Spirit many times, never does the Spirit remain. Why is it significant that the Spirit remains with Christ?

Isaiah foretold the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. Turn to Isaiah 11:1-2 and find the clues that indicate the importance of the Spirit abiding with Jesus. Looking at Isaiah 11:2, how does the dove's descension affirm Isaiah's prophecy?

Read Isaiah 42:1. The prophet Isaiah trumpets the words of God which affirm John the Baptizer's testimony. Isaiah said the Spirit would descend on the Messiah. John saw the Spirit descend and remain. John experiences a revelation, God revealing truth. For John, the truth (information) became Truth (revelation of Christ). The transcendent divine broke through Creation to deliver concrete knowledge of his immanence. In John 1:34, John the Baptist says, "I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."⁵ John's seeing became believing in such a way that it brought clarity and conviction with transforming significance.⁶ John would never be the same.

Describe a time of "transforming significance" in your own life. When have you experienced something that dramatically changed you? Have you ever seen God so clearly in something that you were forever changed? Pray, now, that God would continue to reveal Himself to you.

Day 4 John 1:35-51

The name given to someone means something. The names of each of my children have significant meaning to me. I call my husband a myriad of different names depending on the

⁴ NIV commentary, 74

⁵ NIV

⁶ Carson, 152.

situation, mood, and environment. Think about the different names you use for those you love. How do names impact a relationship?

Beyond formal names, we use nicknames or diminutives that indicate a certain intimacy. We assign titles that describe a social position or rank. The names we use for people have connotations, implications, and interpretations. Throughout the first chapter of John, Jesus is given many names. These names reveal something about Jesus' activity among us, his identity with the Father, and how we should proceed as his disciples.⁷ Listed in John's first chapter, the names will develop more meaning and significance as we journey through the next twenty chapters of the Gospel. The more we use the various names of Jesus, the nearer we draw to the full presence of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Write the names of Jesus found in the following verses:

1:20 and 1:41 _____

1:21 _____

1:29 _____

1:29 and 1:36 _____

1:33 _____

1:34 _____

1:38 and 1:49 _____

1:41 _____

1:45 _____

1:45 _____

1:49 _____

1:49 _____

1:51 _____

⁷ NIV Application, 82.

Which of these names do you most often use for Jesus? Why?

Which name is most foreign to you? Why?

Which name confuses you or causes you to pause with questions?

Reading John 1:35-37, John the Baptist is with two of his disciples when Jesus passes by. God reveals something about the Lamb of God to John. The revelation and recognition drive John to testify, or witness, who Christ is to his disciples. John's revelation and transformation multiplies revelation and transformation in others. John's disciples begin to follow Jesus. How do you think John felt about this?

Jesus turns to see the two disciples following him and asks, "What do you want?" This question is multi-layered and Jesus is asking many things. As a human being, he is asking why the disciples are following him. As the Logos-Messiah, he is asking what the disciples want from life.⁸ What do you think the disciples wanted?

Place yourself inside of this story. You experience revelation and know that you should follow this man named Jesus. You begin walking behind him. Jesus turns around and asks you, "What do you want?". How would you answer that question today? What do you want from Jesus? What do you hope for as a follower of Christ? What do you want most from life?

The two disciples answer Jesus, first, by proclaiming the title "Rabbi". A Rabbi is a teacher who is also a mentor. In these times, young men learned by following someone who had greater knowledge. This Rabbi, or mentor, would form the young boys into Jewish men by showing them how to live life, not just the religious life. The young men were apprentices shaped by the Rabbi in daily life. Andrew and the unnamed disciple, presumably John the Evangelist, were not merely calling Jesus teacher. They denoted Jesus' significance as someone more knowledgeable. But, they honored him with a title that signified Jesus was worthy of distinction. They honored the fact that Jesus was worthy of following and someone who would form them into better men. After hearing John the Baptist's witness, the disciples hoped for transformation and formation. The disciples continue asking Jesus, "Where are you staying?". The word that has been translated here as "staying" also means remaining or

⁸ Carson, 155.

abiding. If we change the question to, "Where are you abiding or remaining?", how does that change the meaning of their question?

Turn to John 15:4-5. What does Jesus say about remaining in him?

I think the disciples want to know at least two things as they begin to follow Jesus.

- 1- Does Jesus abide in God the Father?
- 2- Will their formation to Jesus the Messiah be productive?

Andrew is the first disciple to follow Jesus. The rest of John's opening chapter is filled with a list of disciples who followed Jesus. The disciples of Jesus in this first chapter are:

- 1-Andrew
- 2-Unnamed, probably John the Evangelist

3-_____

4-_____

5-_____

Each time Jesus calls a disciple he says, "_____." In John 1:50-51, what does Jesus promise for believers?

What does this promise from Jesus say about revelation?

What is Jesus doing for all of the disciples?

What does John hope that you will do knowing this information?