

The Gospel of John

Introduction to the Gospel of John

John 20:30-31

INTRODUCTION

This morning we are starting a new series from the Gospel of John.

You've heard **about** Jesus. Now hear **from** Jesus.

Through this study you will experience Jesus' incredible life and teaching through this personal account from one of his closest friends.

John met Jesus as a young man, and it transformed him forever. So much so that those experiences would still be stirring John's heart over sixty years later, when he finally wrote this book.

The Gospel of John recounts the unforgettable events that John witnessed, but it was believing them that changed his life. In this series John looks back on his life and recalls from his **memory** important things that Jesus said and did, and he will show us how Jesus can still transform our lives today.

Isn't it great that God created us with the ability to have memories?

ILLUSTRATION:

I remember the first time Stephanie counted to ten. She was about 3 years old. I was working on the roof of our house in Topeka. She started climbing the aluminum ladder and counted each time she went up a step. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. I was there to meet her at the top where she climbed from the ladder and onto the roof.

My dad died a little over five years ago (Oct. 16, 2013). Although he is gone, I still have many memories from the time I spent with him.

We were in a hay field that had finally dried up enough to finish baling the hay. My youngest brother was running the baler and dad was catching the square hay bales out of chute on the back and stacking them on a wagon. Since my brother and I were waiting for the load, dad asked us to start at the top of the hill and throw the rocks down the hill and into a ditch at the bottom. So we would pick up the rock and throw it as far as we could and work back and forth until we eventually would get all of the rocks off of the field. I came upon a larger rock that I had pitched down from above and picked it up to throw it further down the hill. All of a sudden a bunch of bumblebees started coming out of the ground and started stinging us. The rock that I had just picked up had fallen over the bee hole and when I picked it up they were poised and ready to find the culprit that

had locked them underground.

Dad was at the bottom of the hill and we started running toward him. Dad saw us violently waving our arms around our heads and figured out what was going on. He said "Don't bring those bees to me! I don't want them!"

Then there was another time that one of dad's hogs had crawled through the fence and got into our cornfield. We started chasing it down the corn row in an attempt to get it back in the hog lot. The hog was running down one corn row, dad was running down the corn row to its left, and I was running down the corn row on its right. Just as we caught up with the hog, it decided to change rows right in front of dad and dad tripped over him and plowed his nose into the ground breaking it. He went to the doctor and had it straightened.

Just a couple of weeks later, I threw a "fake" punch at dad, but my reach was a bit long and I smacked him very hard in the nose and broke it again. Needless to say, he was not very happy with me!

The memories always make me smile and recalling those moments make me feel like I'm there all over again. Isn't it amazing how most of our fondest memories happen in a very brief moment of time? Usually, completely out of the blue?

I am sure all of you remember things that bring back fond memories of your past with family and best friends. All you have to do is think of someone that you spent a lot of time with and an old memory will come to mind.

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 20:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Prayer

BODY:

I. WHO WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN?

The author of the Gospel is widely agreed to be the apostle John and is demonstrated by the title assigned to it "*The Gospel According to John.*" From the Gospel itself, we find evidence that indicates that the author was:

An apostle.

John 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, **and we saw His glory**, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The author claims to have seen His glory.

John 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹ This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, **and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.**

So we see that one of the ways Jesus manifested His glory was through His signs or miracles. He also manifested His glory at the transfiguration, when He resurrected from the dead, and when He appeared before many people after the resurrection. John was one of only a few people who could have experienced most of those things.

John 19:35 (NASB)

³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

Finally, John tells us that he is testifying that what he wrote was truth from Jesus and his hope was that what he wrote would cause us to believe. It is important to note that the scriptures tell us that all scripture was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Many times our memories get fogged and we forget the exact details. Not so with John. Not only did John remember these events, he was also directed by the Holy Spirit to give an accurate account of them.

The disciple whom Jesus loved.

Although John does not mention himself by name in his own gospel, he refers to himself four times as "**the disciple Jesus loved.**" He is depicted as the one leaning against Jesus' breast at the last supper.

II. WHO WAS JOHN?

There are **27** books in the New Testament. They were written by **eight** authors. The Apostle John wrote five of those New Testament books: the gospel of John, 1, 2, and 3 John, and the book of Revelation.

John was the son of Zebedee and Salome (sal-o'-may). John and his brother James, another disciple of Jesus, were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called them to follow him. Peter, James, and John were the first three disciples chosen by Christ according to Luke.

They eventually became the "inner circle" with Jesus. Because of this distinction they were able to participate in some events that the rest of the disciples were not able to experience.

- **Jarius' Daughter.** Jarius was a synagogue official who asked Jesus to come to his house because his daughter was near death. Mark tells us that Peter, James, and John were the only disciples Jesus allowed to go into the house with Him. The people thought the twelve year old daughter had died, but Jesus told them that she was just sleeping. Jesus told her to get up and she got up and began to walk.
- **The Transfiguration.** They were able to witness Jesus' transfiguration and hear the conversation that He had with Moses and Elijah.
- **Garden of Gethsemane.** Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane and asked them to watch as He prayed. They experienced Judas betraying Jesus and the crowd with clubs and swords taking Him away.
- **Crucifixion of Jesus.** John is also the only recorded disciple to be present at the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus spoke to John just before He died and asked him to

take care of His mother.

John 19:26-27 (NASB)

²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He **said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”* ²⁷ Then He **said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!”* From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*. ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, **said, “I am thirsty.”*

After Pentecost, John teamed up with Peter to fearlessly preach the gospel in Jerusalem and suffered beatings and imprisonment for it.

John served the church in Jerusalem for many years, then moved to work in the church at Ephesus. The Gospel of John was most likely written while John was in Ephesus around 85 - 90 A. D. . The Bible tells us that John was later exiled to the island of Patmos where he wrote the book of Revelation. We know from the events listed in the Gospel of John that John had to write the Gospel sometime between 70 A.D. and the destruction of Jerusalem and prior to his exile on the island of Patmos.

John was the only apostle who was **NOT** killed for his faith. He died at an old age in Ephesus, somewhere around 98 A.D.

III. WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?

The Gospel of John was written primarily to new believers and people who were seeking God. He recorded for us the reason for his Gospel.

John 20:31 (NASB)

³¹ *but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

The Gospel of John was written to prove that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. John was an eyewitness to the love and power displayed in the miracles of Jesus. He wrote of these miracles so we could believe that Jesus was Who He proclaimed to be. John gives us an up-close and personal look at Christ's identity. He shows us that Jesus, though fully God, came in the flesh to distinctly and accurately reveal God, and that Christ is the source of eternal life to all who believe in him.

The predominant theme in the book of John is the revelation of God to man through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

The opening verses beautifully describe Jesus as the Word. He is God revealed to man—the expression of God—so that we might *see him* and believe. Through this Gospel we witness the everlasting power and nature of the Creator God, offering eternal life to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In every chapter, Christ's deity is unveiled.

John writes about the **claims of Jesus** that He was the Son of God in the flesh with his seven “**I am**” statements.

Seven “I am” statements:

- Bread of life, 6:35

- Light of the world, 8:12
- Door, 10:9
- Good Shepherd, 10:11
- Resurrection and life, 11:25
- Way, truth and life, 14:6
- Vine, 15:1, 5

Secondly, John reveals the **proof of Jesus'** claims to be God by selecting eight miraculous signs that demonstrate the deity of Christ.

- Water to wine 2:1-11
- Nobleman's son healed, 4:46-51
- Impotent man healed 5:1-9
- Feeding 5000 6:1-14
- Walking on water 6:16-21
- Healing of blind man 9:1-7
- Resurrection of Lazarus 11:1-46
- Casting net for fish 21:4-11.

The eight miracles recorded by John reveal his divine power and love. Miracles proved that what Jesus was teaching was of God. They are signs that inspired the people in Jesus' day and even us today to trust and believe in him.

Unlike Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John spent nearly one half of the Gospel account on the death, burial, resurrection, and the appearances of Jesus before many people after His death. The resurrection and His appearances were the **miracle of miracles** that confirmed Jesus' claim to be the Son of God in the flesh.

John underwent a remarkable transformation as a disciple, from the quick-tempered Son of Thunder to the compassionate apostle of love. Because John experienced the unconditional love of Jesus firsthand, he preached that love in his gospel and letters.

CONCLUSION:

John 21:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they *were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself *would not contain the books that *would be written.

John was one of Jesus' best friends. He walked, talked, and learned from Jesus. I am sure he had **many** fond memories of Him. **Who would be a better person to tell us about Jesus?** I am sure that John's memories brought many smiles and tears as he recalled and wrote of his time with Jesus.

John's life serves to remind us of several lessons which we can apply to our own lives.

John put it best with a couple of verses we all know by heart.

John 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 10:27-28 (NASB)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them,...

Christ is the Savior who offers every person eternal life. If we believe and follow Jesus, we are assured of forgiveness and eternal salvation.

This is the Day!