

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 42

John 1-5

Key Verses:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:1-3

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

NAS Version

October 16-22

Monday John 1 - Jesus the Word became flesh – The declaration of John the Baptist

Tuesday John 2 - The First recorded miracle: Water into wine – The cleansing of the temple #1

Wednesday John 3 - Jesus and Nicodemus: You must be born again – The witness of John the Baptist: He must increase, but I must decrease

Thursday John 4 - Jesus and the woman at the well – The harvest is ripe – The nobleman's son is healed, the second miracle

Friday John 5 - Jesus heals at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath – Conflict with the Jewish leaders

Saturday - Review

Sunday - Review

Introduction to **The Gospel of John**

The Author: The Apostle John

John was the son of Zebedee and Salome and the brother of the Apostle James.

He grew up in Bethsaida by Galilee and was a fisherman by trade before he followed Jesus. He may well have been a cousin of Jesus.

As an early follower of John the Baptist, he along with Andrew, became one of the first to follow Jesus.

He and his brother James were known as the sons of thunder. John, James and Peter seemed to make up the inner circle closest to Jesus. John was also known as the disciple whom Jesus loved.

He seemed well acquainted with Jerusalem as well as with the high priest. He was allowed to follow Jesus into his trial while Peter remained in the court yard.

When Jesus was crucified, John stood at the foot of the cross with some of the women. Jesus asked John to care for His mother.

He is the only one of the early Apostles who was not martyred, though he was exiled to the Island of Patmos. He died at an old age.

John was the author of five of the New Testament books.

The Audience: John wrote to no specific group, but rather to the church in general.

The Date: We do not have an exact date for the writing of John. All indications say that it was written sometime after the other three gospels and before John's three epistles and the Book of Revelation. This would place it anywhere from the late 60's to 90 A.D.

The Purpose: John's purpose for writing his gospel was for the salvation of his readers. In John 20:31 he said, "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."

When John wrote his Gospel, he did not simply repeat the three synoptic gospels, but his material is a supplement to them. The gospel is very doctrinal in nature describing the person and work of Jesus Christ.

We view Jesus as the Eternal Word who was both with God and was God from the beginning. He was the creator of all things. He became flesh and went to the cross that he might bring life, light and love to mankind.

John is a key book displaying Jesus as the Son of God! Be aware of all of the “I am” statements of Jesus. I am the door, I am the good shepherd, I am the way the truth and the life, I am...! Remember that God told Abraham that His name was “I Am.” (Exodus 3:14)

Key Phrase: Jesus the Son of God

Key verses: John 1:1-3; 1:11-13; 14:6; 20:30-31 (In reality, too many important verses to choose from.)

Key Chapters: John 3; 10; 14 (Again, too many important chapters to choose from.)

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

John 1:1-5

Week Forty-Two

John 1

1. John 1:1-5 List all of the things you learn about The Word from this passage. How could the Word be both with God, and God at the same time? Who or what was the darkness? What does it mean that the darkness did not comprehend the light?
2. John 1:6-8 The John mentioned here is John the Baptist. Why did God send John into the World?
3. John 1:9-13 What do we know concerning the true light according to verses 9-11? Compare this light with the Word and the light found in verses 1-5. According to verse 11, what was the benefit of those who did receive this light? How were those who received the one, called the light, reborn?

4. John 1:14 The Word/Light came to dwell among us as a person. He became flesh. Who was this person? What have we learned about this person, the Word/light, so far?
5. John 1:15-17 What was the message that John proclaimed concerning Jesus Christ in this passage? John names Him as Jesus Christ in verse 17.
6. John 1:18 What does verse 18 say about how I can learn what God is like?
7. John 1:19-23 When asked, who did John say he was not? Who did John say that he was?
8. John 1:24-28 Why did John say he was baptizing? How did John compare himself to the one who was coming after him?
9. John 1:29-34 How did John define Jesus? What meaning might the “Lamb of God” have had for the Jews? What did John mean when he said that Jesus existed before Him? We know from the book of Luke that John was born six months prior to Jesus. How did John know that Jesus was the one who was to come after him? What sign had God given to him? Compare verse 31 and 33. How did John’s baptism differ from Jesus baptism?
10. John 1:35-42 The first two disciples, Andrew and John (later John the disciple, not the Baptist), followed Jesus to spend time with him and learn from him. What was the first thing Andrew did when he left Jesus? What was the message he shared? What was Jesus response when He met Peter?
11. John 1:43-44 Interestingly, Jesus went and found Philip, Philip did not find Jesus. What message did Jesus give to Philip?
12. John 1:45-51 What was Philip’s immediate response after Jesus called him to follow Him? What was Nathaniel’s response to the news which Philip gave him according to verse 46? How did Philip respond to Nathaniel? (Verse 46) How can this method be used when we share our faith with people who question what we share with them? How did Jesus reach Nathaniel when Nathaniel seemed to doubt that he could be the Messiah? What was Jesus message to Nathaniel?

John 2

1. John 2:1-11 Water to Wine: The first miracle

It would be a major social error to run out of wine at the wedding feast. Though Jesus had not publicly disclosed his identity, apparently Mary, his mother, understood that he had the power to rectify the situation when the wine ran out. What do you think was the intent of Jesus response to his mother in verse 4?

Verse 5 is very good advice for all of us.

Verses 6-7, the miracle is performed. At this point, only the servants who drew the water would be aware of what had taken place. Take a moment to figure the amount of wine that Jesus provided. With that much wine, there may have been wine left over for the wedding couple to personally use for some time, or even enough to sell to support their marriage. They went from an insufficient amount of wine to an abundance of wine.

Note the response of the headwaiter verses 9-10. Why would a person normally serve the good wine first and then the poorer wine after the individuals at the marriage feast had already been drinking freely? What does that say about the quality of the wine that Jesus provided?

According to verse 11, what impact did this miracle have on His disciples?

According to John 20:30-31, what was the purpose of the miracles which were recorded in the Gospel of John? Considering the purpose for the miracles John placed in the gospel, why do you think God might perform some act on our behalf, such as finding us a job, providing financial assistance, bringing about physical healing, etc. Another way to put it, what is the purpose of answered prayer?

2. John 2:14-22 The cleansing of the temple and confrontation with the Jewish leaders.

This is the first time we read of Jesus cleansing the temple. In Matthew 21 it is also reported that Jesus cleansed the temple following His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the week of his crucifixion. This event took place at the beginning of Jesus ministry, while the second event took place at the end of his earthly ministry.

In verses 13-15 the sellers of the sacrificial animals and those exchanging money for temple use had taken over the court of the gentiles. They were taking advantage of those who had come to worship for their own personal gain.

Explain the meaning of Jesus statement in verse 16. Is it wrong to do business with other people in the church? When might doing business move from an acceptable form of business to making God's house a place of business?

Remember that we are now, the church, the temple of the Holy Spirit. In your opinion, can there be improper business dealings in the body of Christ?

On the other hand, do Christians seeking a service, or planning to buy a product ever take advantage of the seller or the one giving a product on the basis that they are both Christians?

What did the Jewish leaders want as a sign to show that Jesus had the authority to drive out the money changers from the temple? What was Jesus answer in verse 19? What was Jesus speaking of when He said He would raise the temple in three days in verse 19? What did the Jews think he was speaking of according to verse 20?

It is interesting that even at this point in His ministry, Jesus was foretelling His death and resurrection. According to verse 22, His disciples did not understand it until His resurrection. What benefit was it for the disciples after his resurrection?

3. John 2:23-25 Explain the meaning in verses 23-25. What does this passage say about the heart of man? Is this true of humanity today as well?

John 3 Jesus and Nicodemus

1. John 3:1-21 Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. Explain who Nicodemus was. Why do you think he came to see Jesus at night? (The Bible does not tell us, so there is no right answer. But why do you think he might have come by night. It was important enough that John made note of it.)

What did Nicodemus and apparently others already believe about Jesus? Why?

John 3:3 Explain Jesus statement in verse 3.

According to the context in verses 4-8, what does it mean to be born of water and of the Spirit?

Define the meaning of “You must be born again.” Verse 7

Who is Jesus speaking of in verse 13?

Verse 14 In the Book of Numbers 21, the nation of Israel was traveling through the wilderness. As was too often the case, the people of Israel spoke against God.

God sent snakes and fiery serpents among them and when they were bitten by a snake they died. The people cried out to Moses, who went to God on their behalf. God told Moses to create a bronze serpent and place it on a pole in the middle of the camp. When someone was bitten, if he simply looked to the bronze snake, he was healed. It was an act of faith. How does the lifting up of the serpent in the wilderness relate to John 3:14-15?

John 3:16-18 Why did Jesus come into the world according to verses 16-17? What does this passage tell us about God? What didn't Jesus come to do? What does it mean that the person who does not believe in Jesus is judged already?

John 3:19-21 What does it mean that men loved darkness rather than the light? What typifies the life of one who does not love the light?

2. John 3:22-31 The witness of John the Baptist

Verses 25-26 Notice that the disciples of John were probably jealous of Jesus. They told John that everyone was going out to Jesus to be baptized. Notice John's humble response.

Verse 27 Where did John say he received his abilities from? Do most people believe that about themselves today? Why or why not?

Verses 28-29 What message did John share in verses 28-29? What was his relationship to Christ?

Verse 30 Explain the message John shared in verse 30. How should that message relate to our lives as Christians?

3. John 3:31-36 Who is John speaking of in verses 31-32? What does John say about Him? It is amazing that they did not listen to him. (See verse 32)

What does verse 34 say about the one sent from God?

What is the relationship between the Father and the Son according to verse 35?

Verse 36 Notice that there is no grey area between those who have eternal life and those who do not. Either we have life or we do not. How can a person know if he has eternal life or not? What is the future for the one who does not obey God?

John 4 Jesus and the Woman at the well

1. John 4:1-6 Jesus and His disciples were on their way home to Galilee. They were passing through Samaria. According to verse 8, the disciples went into a Samaritan town to purchase food for their journey. Jesus being tired, remained alone at Jacob's well outside of town. It was about noon. While he was waiting a woman from the town came to the well to draw water. I believe that this was a divine appointment.
2. John 4:7-9 When the woman arrived, Jesus asked her if she would give Him a drink of water. In today's world we might not think too much of this, but in the first century Judea and Samaria this would have been unheard of. Samaritans and Jews were racially and spiritually at odds with one another. Men did not talk to strange women in public. Rabi's would never speak to a woman, let alone a woman with a questionable reputation as this woman had. Most of the town's women came to the well in the cool of the evening with other women for company. This woman came at noon alone, most likely a social outcast in relationship to the other women of the town.
The meeting was socially all wrong. The situation was all wrong. And yet Jesus opened the conversation with the woman by asking for a drink of water. You see, Jesus was already aware of the woman's need as He reached out to break the silence, to break down all of the walls of social prejudice.
3. John 4:10 Jesus changes the subject. He no longer asks for water for himself, but presents himself as the giver of living water.
4. John 4:11-12 The woman was most likely a little confused. She was also interested in who this man might be and what He had to share. How would he get the water since He did not have a bucket and rope to draw from the well? Did He think he was he greater than their ancestor Jacob who dug the well?
5. John 4:13-14 What kind of water was Jesus offering? How did it differ from the water in the well?
6. John 4:15 Immediately the woman wanted this water. 1) She would never thirst again. 2) She would not need to walk alone to the well in the heat of the day. She did not yet understand what kind of water Jesus was offering.
7. John 4:16-18 Jesus did not give her water, but told her to go and call her husband. The woman tried to avoid the issue of her husband as she said she had no husband. Jesus on the other hand knew that she had been married five times and that the man she was living with now was not her husband. They were not married. This must have been difficult for the woman. She was a woman of poor morals. I am

sure she was not very acceptable to the upright individuals in the town. Unacceptable to the women who were guarding their own husbands from becoming involved with a woman of her unacceptable reputation. She was a lonely outcast and Jesus had gone right to the heart of her problem.

8. John 4:19-20 The woman attempted to change the subject. No one could know so much about her life unless he were a prophet. So, she began to discuss the differences between the beliefs of the Samaritans and the Jews. When people begin to discuss things we are uncomfortable with, we often do the same thing this woman did and try to change the subject taking the attention away from ourselves.
9. John 4:21-24 What did Jesus teach the woman concerning the difference between the religions of the Jews and the Samaritans? What did Jesus teach her concerning true worship?
10. John 4:25-26 Who did Jesus tell the woman He was? What would that mean to the woman? How do you think she must have felt realizing that the Christ, the Messiah, had taken time to talk to her, a woman, a Samaritan, a sinner?
11. John 4:27-30 Why did the disciples respond as they did? Why did the woman leave her water pot? What was the woman's message to the people of the town?
12. John 4:31-34 Just as the woman confused physical water with spiritual water, so the disciples confused physical food with spiritual food. What was Jesus speaking of when He said He had food that they did not know about?
13. John 4:35 Jesus said, though the grain harvest was still four months away, that even now the fields are ripe for harvest. What kind of harvest was Jesus talking about? Is that ripe harvest still available today? Why or why not? If it is ripe today, who is responsible to harvest it?
14. John 4:36 What is the message Jesus was giving concerning sowers and reapers? What did He mean? Are we to be involved in the harvest? If so, are we to be sowers or reapers? Or both?
15. John 4:39-42 What two things or events caused the Samaritans to believe in Jesus? What did they say they believed about Jesus after he had stayed with them for two days? How might this have differed from what the Jews might have believed about Jesus?

16. John 4:43-45 What did Jesus say concerning how fellow countrymen might receive a prophet from their own country or community? Why do you think this would be true?

Why were the Galileans receiving Jesus?

17. John 4:46-54 The healing of the Nobleman's son

Explain what was special about the faith of the nobleman?

What special evidence of Jesus deity and power are evidenced here that are not evidenced in most of his miracles.

John 5

1. John 5:1-9 The healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Verse 3 There were many hurting people at the pool, but Jesus only healed the one. It is important to realize that Jesus did not heal everyone who was sick or disabled.

Verse 3-4 Tradition said that at certain times of the year an angel would come and stir up the pool and the first one into the pool would be healed. A person would need to be quick to get into the pool before anyone else. Most likely that individual would not need any help. Maybe he or she had a hang nail? You get the idea.

Verse 5 This man was in great need. He had been in this condition for 38 years.

Verse 6 Jesus asked a question which has baffled me, "Do you wish to get well?" I would have thought, of course he wanted to get well. Who would want to be an invalid all of that time? The fact that he was by the pool said he wanted to get well.

But the fact is, some people really do not want to get well. They may fear being well. They may enjoy the attention they receive in their infirmity. You have been around them. There is always something wrong. Jesus wanted the man to confirm in his own mind the desire to be well.

Do you want to be well today? What might be restricting your true joy in life? A habit, an attitude, anger, a hurt from the past, personal insecurity? The List can go on and on: hurts, habits, hang-ups. They keep us from

enjoying the full enriched life that God wants for us, but to be free of them, we must admit that we want to be well. That is the first step, to admit that we do not want to be like that, hindered by the same old action or attitude again and again.

The man at the pool needed to first admit his desire to be well.

7. John 5:7 The man's response was not that he wanted to be well, but that the reason he still could not walk was not his fault. It was someone else's fault. No one would help him into the pool at the right time. The person who was not as troubled as he would always get into the pool before he could. The excuses were that he could not change his condition. Sadly, he did not simply say, "Yes, I want to be well!"

If you have an issue in your life you would like to be changed, how would you answer? "Yes Lord, I want to change, I want to be well!" Or would you respond, "It is not my fault, it is just the way am, or someone else caused this, they did this to me, or...!"

8. John 5:8-9 Jesus told him to get up, pick up his pallet and walk. And he did!!!

God changes lives, but only after we see our need.

Get this, it was the Sabbath. This good deed of Jesus would not settle well with the Jewish leaders.

9. John 5:10-17 The Jews scolded the man for carrying his pallet on the Sabbath. He responded with "the man who made me well told me to." The Jews were not amazed at the healing of the man, they were only concerned that he was carrying his bed on the Sabbath, and now that someone had actually healed him on the Sabbath and removed his infirmity. They were not concerned about the man, only that one of the laws, as they interpreted them, had been broken.

Verse 14 When Jesus found the man in the temple, he instructed him to go and sin no more. The implication is that sin was the cause of his problem.

Not only do we need to admit our need, but we need to also admit the cause of our need, so that we will not fall into the same old patterns again that caused us to be where we are in our infirmities, our hurts, habits and hang-ups.

10. John 5:17-18 Who did Jesus claim to be? If Jesus was who He claimed to be, why did the Jews reject Him?

11. John 5:19-29 Jesus expounds on His equality with the Father. List as many things as you can find in verses 19-27 of Jesus claims to be equal with the Father.

Explain verse 24.

What is the message presented in verses 25-27?

Explain the meaning of the universal resurrection of verses 28-29. What are the two judgements?

12. John 9:30-32 Who is Jesus submissive to? Who is the witness who testifies concerning who Jesus is?

13. John 9:33-39 The Witnesses concerning the person of Jesus.

Who is the witness in verses 33-35?

What is the witness according to verse 36? How can these be a witness for Jesus?

Who is the witness in verse 37-38? Why did the Jews not accept this witness?

What was the witness in verse 39?

14. John 5:40-47 Even with the varied and credible witnesses, the Jews were still unwilling to believe or accept Jesus.

Jesus did not receive His glory from men. Who did Jesus say that He represented in His coming?

According to verse 44, what kept the Jews from believing in Jesus?

What did Jesus mean when He said it was Moses who would accuse the Jews before the Father?

What do we learn about the Bible from this passage?