



John: Jesus is...

Memory Verse: John 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

Background

The Gospel of John is the 43rd book in the Bible and the fourth book in the New Testament. The author of this gospel is John, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, and the “disciple whom Jesus loved” (21:20 & 24). John and his brother James were some of the first disciples to follow Jesus. They were fishermen from a prosperous family as their father Zebedee was able to hire servants to help with the work (Mark 1:20). John and James seemed to have been fiery and impetuous, earning the nickname “sons of thunder” by Jesus (Mark 3:17). John was a disciple of John the Baptist when he first began to follow Jesus (1:35-51), returning home for a year before being called by Christ to follow Him continuously (Matthew 4:21). John, one of the three disciples in Jesus’ inner circle (Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51; Matthew 17:1), was an eyewitness to the events in his Gospel.

The book of John was composed around 90 AD, while John was serving the church in Ephesus. John’s Gospel is very different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The last Gospel written, the book of John shows a maturity of Christian consciousness having the strongest emphasis on the deity of Jesus, with 92% of the book not found in the other Gospels. John was not written with a specific audience in mind. Instead, John wrote his gospel for everyone, so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (20:31).

The Short Story

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the only Savior of the world.

What’s the Big Idea?

Presented in the other three gospels as King, Servant, and Son of Man, in John’s Gospel, Jesus is portrayed as the Son of God. John introduces Jesus not as the baby in a manger, but as the Word who was “with God in the beginning” before He “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (1:2 & 14). John writes less about the things that Jesus did and more about what Jesus said, especially His references about Himself that can only be based on the fact that He is God. John records Jesus’ seven “I am” statements in which He refers to Himself as “the bread of life” (6:35), “the light of the world” (8:12), “the door/gate” (10:7), “the good shepherd” (10:11), “the resurrection and the life” (11:25), “the way, the truth, and the life” (14:6), and “the vine” (15:1). Focusing on Jesus as the Son of God, John writes much about why Jesus came to earth and His own feelings on what He had come to do. “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (10:10b). “ ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.’ ” (17:1-2). He also writes about Jesus’ intimate relationship with God the Father, sharing Jesus’ statement that “I and the Father are one.” (10:30). John wanted readers to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ was the Messiah and Son of God, and that those who believe in Him can have eternal life (3:16).

So What? Why is this book so important? What was God’s purpose for the book?

As the divine Son of God, Jesus Christ was like no other man on earth. Jesus said “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (14:6). Only He, as God Himself, was able to atone for our sins, giving us salvation and an eternal life with God the Father. Those that believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be saved and spend eternity in heaven in His presence, where there is no more pain, tears, or death. All praise belongs to Jesus. “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.” (Revelation 1:5-6).

**Material taken from various sources.*

Teaching Text

John 14:1,5-6 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

⁵ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’

⁶ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

- Why would Jesus tell them to not let your hearts be troubled? What was the context of His directive?
- Thomas’ question shows he was curious and inquisitive. How important is it for us to ask questions of God?
- When Jesus claims to be **the way**; what was He saying to His disciples? What was he saying about his life?
- Why does Jesus’ self-description include “the truth”? What did He mean? How are we to interpret this?
- Why is Jesus the only true access to the Father? Why is He the only One? What do we do with this ?

Practical Application

- When you feel anxiety rising in your heart what do you do? Do you handle it or does it handle you?
- How hard is it for you to trust in Jesus? Why? What causes you to question God?
- Where is the Holy Spirit leading you to be more curious and inquisitive when it comes to Jesus?
- What claim of Jesus gives you the greatest challenge? Why? How do you resolve it in your mind?
- Do you really believe “no one comes to the Father except through Jesus”? Why?

Bonus Feature— The Seven “I Am’s” of Christ

Jesus said ‘I am’ on seven occasions. Each ‘I am’ is a description Jesus gave of Himself and is recorded in John’s Gospel. The Seven ‘I am’ sayings help us better understand the divinity of Jesus Christ.

1. 6:35 “Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’”
2. 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
3. 10:9 “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”
4. 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
5. 11:25 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;’”
6. 14:6 “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”
7. 15:1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.”

Personal Takeaways and Notes