

2008#1 GOSPEL OF JOHN- JESUS ONE OF US

John 1:1-18

Today we begin a new journey with you thru the Gospel of John

The fourth Gospel is John, a book so simple

That children memorize their first verses from its pages,

and yet so deep that dying adults want it read to them as they pass from this world.

The Gospel of John is the book recommended to new Christians

It is God's word, simple and direct to those who are confused.

George was a thoughtful husband.

He wanted to give his wife something special for her birthday

As he sat on the edge of the bed, he watched his wife

turning back and forth and looking at herself in the mirror.

"Reta," he said, "What would you like for your birthday?"

His wife continued to look at herself and said, "I'd like to be six again."

George knew just what to do.

On the big day, he got up early and made his wife a bowl of Fruit Loops.

Then he took her to an amusement park where they rode all the rides.

Five hours later George took her to McDonald's and bought her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake.

Next, it was a movie with popcorn, a coke, and her favorite candy.

As Reta wobbled into the house that evening and flopped on the bed,

George asked her, "Well, Dear, what was it like to be six again?"

Reta looked up at him and said, "I meant my dress size!"

What does it feel like to be misunderstand? Misread?

That is exactly what God wanted to avoid

That is why God commissioned the Gospel of John,

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

The Gospel of John was written so that we might

understand and receive, the amazing love of God for all mankind.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. I John 1:13

John begins by showing us that

I. JESUS IS A COCREATOR

He existed before Creation and was not created.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2

Jesus preexistence is so important for our faith

Because it demonstrates he was God, and was with God,

And was the sinless son of God.

The Movie the DaVinciCode tried to deceive us stating

that Christian never considered Jesus to be God until

the Nicene Council of the 4th century.

But here John's Gospel makes it clear that **the Word**

Pre-existed, with the Father, and that this very word
 Became flesh and dwelt among us.
 He is not just the beginning,
 He was there **in the beginning**, before anything was.

John was trying to clear up for the Jews,
 That Jesus was the very son of God. He existed
 With God before the creation of the world.

Even the Greek philosophers saw the *logos* as the power
 which puts sense and order into the world,

The logos was a God of order
 Who ordered the universe into existence.
 In contrast Satan is the author of disorder.
 Of course we do a pretty good job at disorder ourselves.

A man and his wife were returning from a party one evening. As the couple was driving home, she asked her husband, "Honey, has anyone ever told you how handsome, sexy and irresistible to women you are?" Totally flattered, he replied, "No, dear they haven't." At that point she yelled, "Then what **IN THE WORLD**, gave you **THAT** idea at the party tonight?"

God and the Word set the world in perfect order
 Therefore, in this opening, John says to both Jews and Greeks:
 "For centuries you've been talking, thinking,
 and writing about **the Word** (the *logos*).
 Now I will tell you who He is."
 That word became flesh and dwelt among us.
 Jesus of Nazareth.

Christ is the only begotten of the Father,
 The Nicene creed says:
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
 The only Son of God,
 Eternally begotten of the Father,
 Who for us and for our salvation
 came down from heaven
 Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 And became truly human.**

John shows us the work and nature of the Word.

³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:3

John wants to show that Jesus was with God in the beginning
 A **co-creator**.

Secondly John wants to show us that Jesus was the **co-redeemer**.

II. JESUS WAS THE CO- REDEEMER

⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood^[a] it.

In Him was life: The Word is the source of all life.
 The ancient Greek word translated **life** is *zoe*,
 which means "the life principle,"
 not *bios*, which is mere "biological life."

All life comes from God.
 And what is so amazing is that God allows us to become
 Co-creators in giving birth to new biological life.

Just the other day I saw a test young mothers could take before
 They became pregnant to help them understand what they were going
 To be going through and how life would change.
 Women were to purchase a large beanbag chair and attach it
 to the front of their clothes.
 Leave the beanbag hanging there for 9 months.
 And at the end of nine months they would then
 Remove only 10 of the beans.

God not only created life but he maintains life and light
 Through all eternity.

SLIDE He is Life and the Light.

Death is the absence of life
 And Darkness is the absence of light.
 Therefore, without Jesus, we are *dead* and in *darkness*.
 We are lost.
 We cannot create it,
 Nor can we contain it.
 That is why most people have an inborn fear towards both death and darkness.

John was trying to say to the Jews.
 what the sun and light are to this physical, visible world,
 that is what the Logos light is to the spiritual, invisible world.
 Is light important?
 Well deer season is coming up very soon.
 I know a deer hunter who was out in his stand waiting in the predawn light
 for a deer. He saw movement and in the predawn darkness he shot, and
 when he got closer he saw he had shot a horse. It cost him over a \$1000 dollars to pay the
 farmer for his horse. Does light matter? Does the light of Christ matter?

When the sun comes up we can see distinct object in the sunlight.
 So when we accept Christ our souls can see distinct truth in the light of the master.
**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools [that means one who
 is morally deficient] despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1:7**
 Christ alone is the light by which our minds are directed in the path to blessedness."
 John wants to show us how God did it.

Jesus was a co creator, a Co-Redeemer and
III. JESUS BECAME COMMON DWELLER
OF FLESH AND BLOOD, AND DWELT AMONG US.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

It amazed the Greeks to hear that the Word became flesh.
The Greeks had a generally low view of God.
The ancient Greek gods such as Zeus and Hermes
were simply super-men; with bad attitudes and tempers
John tells the Greek thinkers, for the believer,
"The Logos you know who made and ordered the universe became flesh."

It amazed the Jews because they had a generally prohibitive view of God;
The Jews had a hard time even speaking God's sacred name,
It was more amazing to them that the God of the Old Testament
Could take on human form.

Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard tells a fable of a king who fell in love with a maid.
He asked his counselors "How shall I declare my love?"
They said: "Your majesty has only to appear in all the glory of your royal raiment's
before the maid's humble dwelling and she will instantly fall at your feet and be yours."
That is what troubled the king. He wanted her to love him for who he was, not what he
was. Finally, the king realized love's truth, that freedom for the beloved demanded
equality with the beloved. So late one night, after all the counselors of the palace had
retired, he slipped out a side door and appeared before the maid's cottage dressed as a
servant.

What was the obstacle Christ had to overcome?
It was our spiritual darkness and death.
It was our blindness, and unbelief.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1:10-11

God became flesh.
Not flesh became God.
Christ came to dwell in the very physical body of Mary,
To demonstrate for us that when we believe.
The very spirit of the living God.
Will dwell today in our human body.

¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent,^[c] nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13

John says to the Greek and Jewish thinkers,
This idea of "receiving Jesus" is Biblically valid.
If you haven't received Christ into your heart as your Savior
You are living outside of Biblical Christianity.

But when we receive him
Believe in his name,
God does something in us, for us, and to us.

We get the rights to become children of God.
Heirs of the family of God.

Christ turns death into life, and darkness into light
And the music begins.

Norman Cousins, in telling about his visit with missionary doctor, Albert Schweitzer, described the after-dinner ritual in the African jungle hospital. Cousins said the great doctor would announce the hymn to be sung and then sit down at the old upright piano to play. Cousins said that the piano was at least fifty years old. The keyboard was badly stained. One or more strings were missing on a dozen keys. The jungle heat and moisture made its tuning almost impossible. This great interpreter of Bach's organ music sat down to play this dilapidated old instrument. To Cousin's amazement the old instrument seemed to lose its poverty in Schweitzer's hands. Its capacity to yield music was now being fully realized. For whatever reason, Schweitzer's presence at the piano seemed to make it right.

Do you get the picture?
Christ's presence in your life
Even if it is out of tune
Even if it has strings missing,
Even if it is old and dilapidated
And missing some keys.
Christ will make it right,
And the 'music will flow.

This word becomes flesh, Takes on human character,
regardless of how broken or dilapidated,
and we become living instruments in the hand of the living God.
And the music will flow.

That's what is so great about Jesus!
There is no life too broken,
There is no sin too seditious,
There is no soul too sinister,
No seeker too lost,
That Christ cannot heal,
And bring light and life to our being.
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
Jesus, the one among us.
Let us repeat together in closing, this phrase from the Nicene Creed.
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
Through him all things wee made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
And became truly human.**