

# “The First Seven” – The Jesus Series, Part 32

Sunday, February 10, 2019

## John 1:1-7:53

- Intro
  - The Jesus Series: A journey through John
    - John
      - Is one of the first 4 books of the NT - called the Gospels.
      - Written by John the Son of Zebedee (NOT to be confused by John the Baptist)
      - Apostle - one of the first followers called by Jesus
      - Uneducated and untrained, he was a fisherman.
      - 1 of the 3 disciples (out of 12) closest to Jesus who was with him at some of the most significant events of his ministry including *the raising of a Jairus' daughter from the dead, the transfiguration where Jesus was seen in His glory, and before his death in the garden of Gethsemane.*
      - John is referred to as the disciple Jesus loved, indicating their close friendship. *John reclined next to Jesus at the last supper, stood at the cross with Jesus' mother (the only disciple who we know for certain was there close by), He ran with Peter as one of the 1st two disciples to reach the empty tomb, and He saw Jesus risen from the dead.* Jesus asked him to take care of his mother Mary - a widow.
      - John is believed to outlived all of the other Apostles, dying some 50 years after the first was martyred. *Church history indicates he suffered much for the Gospel, but may have been the only of the 12 disciples to die of natural causes.* Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit He wrote 4 letters in the NT, including the final written Revelation of Jesus.
      - And this book we are studying that bears his name was probably the last of the 4 gospels written. It stands much different than Matthew, Mark and Luke, with some 90% of this gospel story not being found in the others.
      - John's purpose statement is found in **20:30-31**, **“Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written so 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 is very evangelistic.
    - Our goal this morning is ambitious - but to survey the first 7 chapters of John, for a high level view of what John, one of the best friends of Jesus and one of his closest followers, teaches about him.

- Father be with us as we look closely at your son -
- Our refrain - from John's Gospel - Jesus is....

- Chapter 1. Jesus is...

- The word became flesh (1:1, 14). John opens His Gospel calling Jesus the Word of God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He also tells us that the Word became a man and dwelt among us. The WORD in Hebrew (OT) was Dabar (pronounced DaVar) a powerful and effective means of accomplishing God's purpose; In the GK NT is it Logos. The entirety of God's message to mankind. Jesus is both the DaVar and Logos of God - the most powerful and effective means and the entirety of God's message.
- The creator of all, in whom is life and light for men (1:3, 4). Jesus existed from the beginning. He was God the Father's agent of creation in Genesis. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. Jesus created the world in perfection and when it had fallen and became dark and corrupted because of sin, He stepped into it as the light of the world to give us knowledge of what is good, and display to us moral purity in the midst of rampant sin. Therefore Jesus is...
- The radiance of God's glory full of grace and truth (1:14; Heb 1:3) John states that in Jesus we have seen His glory. There is an Old Testament story where the prophet Moses asks God to allow him to See his glory. God tells Him that he cannot see His face and live, but he will hide him in this rock cleft and then pass by him so that he can get a glimpse of his goodness. And so God does, and He declares his glory to Moses as he comes by - The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Love and Faithfulness parallels Grace and Truth. The same Glory that Moses could only see a glimpse of, we see fully in Jesus Christ, the radiance of God's glory. Because Jesus is...
- The son of God who dwelt among us and makes God known (1:14, 18). Literally dwelt means tabernacled among us. In the OT you had the tabernacle (a tent structure) and later the temple where the presence of God dwelt on the earth among the people. But now you have Jesus, the greater tabernacle who came among us. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, [but Jesus] has made him known to us. In a spiritual sense we can look upon His face, not just a glimpse as Moses did; but He makes God fully known to us.
- The son of man (1:49, 1:51, Ps 8:4, Dan 7). This is Jesus' favorite designation for himself. Pulled from OT passages it is a term that denotes our humanity, but also a messiah figure in Daniel 7, who can approach God, the ancient of days, and receive dominion over the world. Therefore Son of Man applied to Christ means he was both fully man - able to relate to all of our difficulties and temptations; and fully Divine - the very power of God.
- Greater than the grace of law, giving sonship through adoption for all who believe (1:12, 16; Rom 8:15) From Jesus we have received grace upon grace, the

original grace was God's law. While we could not obey it, it allowed God's people to know what He expected. And the further grace in Jesus is that He has perfectly pleased the father and obeyed the law, so to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. Adopted into God's family. Not because of what we give God, but because of what Jesus has given God on our behalf.

- Full of the presence and power of God, baptizing with the Holy Spirit (1:33). Jesus immerses us in the power and presence of God's Spirit.
  - The one who knows us, calls us, and molds us. (1:42, 48-51). In Chapter 1 Jesus meets a man named Simon. Jesus looks at him and says, 'You will be called Cephas' (or Peter) which means Rock. But as we read about Peter in the gospels, he was anything but solid, godly, and wise. Yet many years later, out of the love and power of Jesus, he would indeed become a pillar of the church in its early days. Jesus doesn't call the self-made men. Rather he knows us. He knows what He is calling us to do. He calls us and then He makes and molds us into who He has chosen for us to be in Him.
- Chapter 2. We see 2 pictures of Jesus. Jesus is...
    - The creator (2:7, 9-10). At a wedding in Cana he instantaneously produces wine out of water, showing His lordship over His creation. In Jewish thought, wine was symbolic of joy, blessing, and celebration. Yet at this wedding the 'wine had failed'. Symbolic of the failure of the OT system of law to bring blessings to God's people. But Jesus creates New, abundant, superior wine.
    - The refiner (2:14-15). Then we see him clearing the temple of money changers and merchants. The temple was to be a place for knowing and treasuring God, but the religious leaders had set up an elaborate shop in the areas intended for gentile worshippers. They were impeded from coming to God. So Jesus overturns them and drives them away. We see therefore...
      - Jesus creates and refines worshippers, providing new and abundant joy (4:23).
- Chapter 3. Jesus is...
    - The one who descended from Heaven (3:2, 13, 31). He who comes from above is above all. This is what separates Christianity from all other religions, that teach we must do something to ascend to God. But in Christianity God has come to us.
    - The one we look upon for forgiveness of sin and deliverance from God's wrath (3:14-15; Gal 3:13).
    - The one who gives newness of life to those who believe (3:3,5,14,16, 30).
    - The dividing line for all human history (3:18-19, 36). Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

- Chapter 4. Jesus is...
  - A God of great compassion (4:6)
  - The sovereign King of all people (4:4, Rev 7:9-10)
  - The living water who quenches the thirst of our souls (4:13).
  - The one who sends laborers into the harvest of God (4:34-36, Amos 9:13) **Amos prophesied a time where the plowman would overtake the reaper; In other words an abundant harvest (spiritually) that needs workers.**
  
- Chapter 5. Jesus is...
  - Intentional in His pursuit of the lost (5:6, Luke 19:10).
  - **The healer of sin and its effects** (5:11).
  - Committed to the holiness of His people (5:14).
  - The resurrection life for all who believe (5:25-26, 28).
  - The judge of all nations (5:27).
  
- Chapter 6. Jesus is...
  - **The tester of His people** (6:6).
  - The miraculous provider (6:9-11)
  - The master of all creation (6:19-20)
  - The living bread sent by God(6:32,33, 35, 51, 58)
  
- Chapter 7. Jesus is...
  - Hated by the world (7:7).
  - The one true need of all mankind (7:37-38).
  - The rock on which some stand, and others stumble (7:43, 1 Peter 2:6-8)