

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #31

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

- John 3:31 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 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.

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The Gospel of John

- **John 3:31 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.**
- The Apostle John had not yet seen Jesus in glory, but he had seen him up close and personal – and his conclusion is that nothing else compares to him.
- It appears as though John here seeks to establish the supremacy of Christ.

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The Gospel of John

- He who comes from above is above all - Jesus should rightly be exalted above all others and all things.
- When he speaks, he has authority because he knows all. He speaks as God. He speaks the words of God as though they are his words, and they are!
- Hebrews 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

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The Gospel of John

- **John 3:32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony.**
- It should be noted that Jesus spoke from his observations and not from a theoretical point of view.
- Jesus could provide firsthand testimony to what happens to one who does not trust him and to the one who does – he had witnessed firsthand eternal destinations realized.

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The Gospel of John

- John the Baptist just said, "**He must increase, but I must decrease**" - while such a statement shows the humility of the Baptist, it was more about Jesus than John.
- It is amazing that John the Baptist showed so little ego because in his position pride would be a very real temptation.
- In 21st century Christianity we tend to make our most entertaining preachers into stars, and it shows in how they conduct themselves.

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The Gospel of John

- We tend to measure the quality of a preaching or teaching ministry based upon the cleverness of the speaker or upon how entertaining they are.
- The most effective preachers and teachers are not the ones that make you feel good about yourself, but the ones that make you feel good about God!
- **1st Cor 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.**

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The Gospel of John

The context of the gospel message is not our benefit or our salvation; the context of the gospel is the supremacy of Christ and the glory of God. This story of the good news is personal, but it is also cosmic.

— Matt Chandler

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The Gospel of John

- Here at the end of John 3 we see the actions of a Spirit-filled man of God who sees the necessity of elevating Jesus over himself.
- More and more I find the best classes I teach are the ones that make much of Jesus instead of making much of what believers get from him.
- The more disciplined I am at just interpreting His word the better my lessons are – when I seek to let a text say what it says, God is always the one who is exalted.

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- I said two weeks ago there are more important reasons for Jesus to increase than our being rescued from hell – let me try to tell you why that is so.
- One glimpse of Jesus in glory will be more convincing than all the words I could write, but to me it is important we try to get our minds to a higher plane.
- In Revelation chapters 4 and 5 we see Jesus in the throne room of God – it is surreal, and we should come away thinking, **“My God how great thou art!”**.

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The Gospel of John

- It is quite natural for us to focus on WIIFM when we think of redemption, but far more important is what is in it for God.
- The purpose of our redemption is God himself – our redemption glorifies him because in our redemption we magnify him by finding our rightful place in the universe.
- Col 3:16b - all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

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Our redemption displays the grace, mercy, and forgiveness of God – and it shows the utter magnanimity of God when he saves even one. The very fact that we even know the word “redemption” shouts of his greatness!

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God's love, far from being caused by goodness in the object, causes all the goodness which the object has, loving it first into existence, and then into real, though derivative, lovability.

C.S. Lewis

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The Gospel of John

- **John 3:32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony.**
- This is surely hyperbole because to say “no one” is not exactly true, but John saw the need to express it hyperbolically because the number who believed was very small.
- Lesson for us – do not be surprised when people do not believe what we say about Jesus because Jesus was not widely believed either!

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- **John 3:33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.**
- Here is the proof John is speaking hyperbolically because as it turns out, while many did not believe, some did!
- One of the things that set in upon us when we believed is that we know, that we know, that we know that what God has said on every subject he has spoken about is true.

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The Gospel of John

To “set your seal” to something in 1st century Palestine is the same as signing an affidavit and having it notarized today. When we believe in Jesus, we are staking our eternity on the veracity of his words to the extent that we would sign a sworn statement that Jesus is the Christ and if we are wrong, that Jesus is right, we accept without objection whatever comes with testifying to the words of Jesus.

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- John 3:34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.
- Some interesting translation things with this verse – while most translate the verse one way, several take a different path.
- While some might argue it is confusing, I would say it is a benefit of the age in which we live.

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- John 3:34 For he is sent by God. He speaks God’s words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. NLT
- John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. KJV
- John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. NKJV

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The Gospel of John

- John 3:34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ESV
- John 3:34 For He whom God sent speaks the words of God; for He does not give the Spirit sparingly. NASB
- John 3:34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. NIV

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Conclusion #1 – John is giving new information that goes with the New Covenant wherein we are guaranteed the Holy Spirit will indwell all Christians.

Conclusion #2 – John is underscoring that no child of God need worry about their salvation as the Holy Spirit is God’s earnest money on our redemption.

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The Gospel of John

Ephesians 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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- **John 3:35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.**
- Jesus is the lynchpin of all that matters – for us if Jesus doesn't matter then nothing matters and the whole idea of a sovereign God who loves us fades away.
- Without Jesus there is no truth, no message from God, and no hope for a world that has been overrun by sin, sadness, and death.

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- **John 3:36 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.**
- **John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
- **John 20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 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.**

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- Have you ever thought about why it is that God values faith so highly?
- Jesus died for us, but you have to have faith to be saved – faith to believe the truth about yourself, about God, and about the cross.
- We know we've been chosen by God, but unless you believe, for you at least, it is as though the cross never happened.

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John 3:36 is the only passage in this gospel and John's letters in which "wrath" is mentioned. This word does not mean a sudden gust of passion or a burst of temper. Rather, it is the settled displeasure of God against sin. God is neither easily angered nor vindictive. But by his very nature he is unalterably committed to opposing and judging all disobedience. The moral laws of the universe are as unvarying and unchangeable as its physical laws, and God cannot set aside either without violating his own nature.

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The Gospel of John

Psalm 49:7 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life.

Psalm 49:15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.
Selah

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Questions?

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