

## John 1 Introduction

1. Review week one
  - a. Purpose: to build faith in Christ (20:31)
  - b. Significant differences between other three gospels
  - c. Major point is theological and not Christological (detailing Christ's life)
    - i. Messianic status (Anointed One: prophet, priest & king)
    - ii. Jesus as Son of God
    - iii. Uses significant titles like: I am, the Way, the Truth, the Life
    - iv. Frequent mention of the Holy Spirit
2. John 1
  - a. Word (Logos) – What is the Greek word and what are some definitions?
    - i. Principle, reason, thought, concept; story, narrative, history
    - ii. Used widely in Greek literature – reason & creative control (stoics)
    - iii. OT- activity & revelation; wisdom of God personified (Word of Wisdom)
    - iv. Word became flesh – became human and was a part of human affairs
    - v. Dwelt among us – tabernacled, referring back to when God was in the Tabernacle
  - b. John the Baptist – What are three important pieces of background on John the Baptist?
    - i. Mother was Elizabeth, Jesus' mother's relative (likely cousin) Luke 1:36
    - ii. Mother was from the line of Aaron and father was a priest (Luke 1:5)
    - iii. Many believe that the author John was a disciple of John the Baptist and some even believe that he was Jesus' half cousin (in dispute, primarily because there are so many John's and little is known about any one of them)
  - c. Light (7-9) – What is the Light?
    - i. Close connection between life & light (life depends on light)
    - ii. The spiritual enlightenment that we received exclusively through the coming of the Word
    - iii. Bring man illumination into God's character, salvation and plans; illuminate man's way
  - d. What are some key takeaways from chapter 1
    - i. Jesus' role in creation – major definition of God is creator
    - ii. John the Baptist as a credible witness (followers, people come from long distances, pharisees send investigators: Elijah, prophet, etc.)
    - iii. Disciples, in particular Andrew & Simon Peter, recognized at an early stage the significance of the person of Jesus.
3. John 2
  - a. Number of signs, each one lead to a related theme
  - b. Jesus says that it is not His time of His hour (v4)
    - i. Several references to this – 7:30, 8:20, 12:23, 12:27, 13:1, 17:1
    - ii. Read the difference between NASV & NIV ("Woman" is a polite term)
    - iii. Correct any misunderstandings that He would take orders from anyone but the Father (reference 5:30, 8:29)
    - iv. Reference beyond the wedding to the **Messianic feast**
    - v. The idea of an hour or time implies some impending crisis or climax – early hint to the readers of what is coming
    - vi. The entire verse indicates the time in which He will be manifested as Messiah will be dictated by the Father
  - c. The water into wine in the stone jars used for ceremonial washing (vv6-8)
    - i. Contrast between the purifying water to follow the Jewish law and the wine, which is used for celebration (some see this as a contrast between the Torah & the Gospel— probably not fair)

- ii. May be some allusion to the fact that Jesus will provide lavishly in the Messianic feast because he provided so much good wine
  - iii. This was the first of Jesus' signs (as compared to the other Gospels which usually use the words "wonders" or "mighty works"). Signs implies an underlying significance.
  - d. The Temple in Jerusalem
    - i. Market atmosphere within the outer court of the Temple
      - 1. Animals for sacrifice but should not have been there (whip to control animals)
      - 2. Money changers exchanged money to pay the temple tax, which all Jews were obligated to pay – the practice was wrong because of the exchange rates
      - 3. In the other Gospels, this event takes place chronologically near the end of His life
      - 4. John has brought it forward to show the significance (cleanse Judaism), which the disciples only recognized later (v17)
    - ii. The sign in v18 is different from v11, suggesting the Jews wanted a really big miracle
    - iii. The Temple had been under construction for 46 years and would not be finished for another 36 years – some indication of why they were so incredulous
  - e. Verse 22 – Jesus' word equated with Scripture—unclear why they believed Scripture and what Scripture they were referring to
  - f. Verse 23 – close connection between signs and faith (then contrasted with vv24-5, which indicates He did not trust man—the believers at the time had ulterior motives???)
4. Application/Meditation – What signs have you seen in your life of Jesus' position as Son of God?

Critical words to define:

- Messianic Feast – banquet in heaven
- Divine – relating to or proceeding directly from God
- Deity – being God
- Grace – kindness of master (God) to slave (man); affords joy, pleasure, delight, loveliness, etc.; unmerited kindness or favor
- Truth – consistency of statements and correspondence with facts of reality
- Messiah – the anointed one, often used in OT for high priest or king
- Christ – the one who is anointed (Messiah)
- Glory – weight or worth of something (worthiness of God and His character)
- Shekinah Glory – indwelling presence of God
- Christological – study of the nature of Jesus Christ
- Synoptic Gospels – first three gospels: similar in nature and content