

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. 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
 - c. 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. Read the difference between NASV & NIV (“Woman” is a polite term)
 - ii. Correct any misunderstandings that He would take orders from anyone but the Father (reference 5:30, 8:29)
 - iii. The idea of an hour or time implies some impending crisis or climax – early hint to the readers of what is coming
 - iv. **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
 - d. The Temple in Jerusalem
 - i. Market atmosphere within the outer court of the Temple - In the other Gospels, this event takes place chronologically near the end of His life; John has brought it forward to show the significance (cleanse Judaism), which the disciples only recognized later (v17)
 - ii. 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
4. John 3 (may need to go verse by verse)
 - a. Nicodemus (very similar to me: opposed to it but intrigued, discussions with Ludys, my discussions with Martin—upset about not receiving Economist, didn't get it, first attending EBF missed worship)

- i. a Pharisee and a member of the ruling Sanhedrin; we see him two other times: during a meeting of the Sanhedrin, he objects to the direction they were going citing the need for justice (7:50-52) and after Jesus' death (19:39-40): **indications he becomes a believer**
- ii. Came at night to avoid public attention (not on official business)—relates back to vv2:23-25
- iii. Born again – literally “from above” (spiritual aspect)
 1. Necessity of new birth challenged Nicodemus's right to judge Jesus on a human level
 2. Refers to a spiritual regeneration
- iv. Verse 4, Nicodemus takes Jesus literally
- v. Water & Spirit – several meanings
 1. Reference to John the Baptist or of Christian baptism
 2. OT usage referred to water and Spirit in relation to cleansing (Ezekial 36:25-7)
 3. Some discussion of whether Spirit should be spirit or Spirit – Nicodemus would have understood it as spirit while verse 6 makes it appear as Spirit
 4. Summary: the character of those born is determined by the source that gives birth
- vi. Verse 7 – Jesus makes it clear that being born again is not optional, but required
- vii. Verse 8 – the wind in Greek referred to both wind and spirit
- viii. Verses 9-11, Nicodemus is skeptical and Jesus rebukes him in verse 11
- ix. Verse 12 – earthly things refers to what He had just talked about, while heavenly things refers to revelation when His kingdom will reach fulfillment
- x. In Verse 14 He now starts referring to heavenly things: just as Moses and the snake is a symbol of God's provision of life, Jesus on the cross is a symbol of a new life
- b. John 3:16 – the Gospel in a nutshell; three truths: universal character of God's love, its sacrificial nature and eternal purpose
 - i. World refers to a place that needs God's saving grace
 - ii. Jesus came to save and not condemn, because the world was already under condemnation
 - iii. Verse 18 – reference to belief, or faith, reinforces purpose of Gospel: encourage faith in Christ
- c. John the Baptist
 - i. Both Jesus & John were baptizing in the same area
 - ii. The difference between John's baptism and Jewish custom was the idea of repentance before
 - iii. Verse 27 shows can only receive truth, it cannot be manufactured
 - iv. Last section was about **Jesus superiority and becoming greater** (author commentary):
 1. He is from above and is above all
 2. V32, Jesus spoke from personal experience
 3. V33, when testimony was accepted, it witnessed that God is truthful
 4. V34, previous prophets received revelation from the Spirit, Jesus has received the Spirit without limit
 5. V35, God the Father loves His Son and has complete trust
 6. V35, a summary: either faith or rejection (seeing life is an idiom for experiencing life)
5. Application: discuss your conversion experience and how it may or may not be similar to Nicodemus

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