



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 1

Preacher: Sandy Mason

Text: John 1:1-5

Introduction:

John's gospel is an evangelistic testimony to the person and work of Jesus Christ. Most likely written in John's old age, it was crafted to speak to a church much more Gentile and Hellenistic (Greek-speaking) than was the church in its early days. John's theological language is carefully chosen to convey important concepts both to his Greek/Gentile readers and to his fellow Jewish-background believers equally well. As you read through this gospel account, keep in mind the great question John seeks to address: Who is Jesus?

Discussion:

1. John uses the word "Logos" (λόγος) to describe the Son, the second Person of the Trinity. What is your understanding of the significance of this term in John's cultural setting?
2. Notice the parallels between the opening of John's gospel and the first verses of Genesis (Read Genesis 1:1-5). Just as the 'logos' was important to John's Greek readers, what impact would John's parallelisms have on his Jewish brethren, steeped as they were in the Old Testament?
3. We see that one of John's primary objectives is to reveal Christ's divinity. How does he do this in the opening verses of his gospel (vv. 1-2)?

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4. Along with Christ's divinity, John is also concerned to establish Christ's role in the creation narrative (v. 3). How does this relate to John's project to establish Christ's divinity? In other words, why is the Word's creative power so important in this context?

5. Finally, John is careful to reveal the Son's connection to 'light' (vv. 4-5)– another parallel with OT creation narratives. What impact might this have on John's contemporary readers, given the challenges (cultural, religious, and political) they faced?

6. Application: Does your life reflect that the God of the universe indwells you? What does it look like to walk in a way that truly acknowledges Christ's divinity? What ways do we fall short in this area?

7. Application: If Christ is the light, and the darkness cannot overcome this light, what should our response be (as his followers) to the darkness we encounter around us?

8. How does a solid understanding of Jesus as God AND Creator affect my relationships with those around me (and with the rest of creation itself)?