

That You May Believe

A 12 Week Course through the
Gospel of John

The Beauty of the Gospel

John 21:25

And there are also many other things which
Jesus did, which if they were written in detail,
I suppose that even the world itself would not
contain the books that would be written.

The Uniqueness of the Gospel

• The Synoptic
Gospels

1) Matthew

2) Mark

3) Luke

The Gospel of
John

The Purpose of the Gospel

- John 20:30-31

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

The Occasion of the Gospel

- Establishing the truth of Jesus against the prominent developing “alternatives:”

1) The “Unbelieving” Jewish View of Jesus

2) The “Proto-Gnostic” View of Jesus

Remember the Dynamics of Reading Narrative

1) Thematic Repetition

2) Authorial Comments

3) Authoritative Speakers

4) Dialogue and Discourses

The Themes of the Gospel

- The Humanity and Deity of Christ
- The Sovereignty of God in Salvation
- Jesus is now the Center of Worship
- Authentic vs. Superficial Faith

The Word was God

John 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

The Word: The Creator

John 1:3

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

The Word Brings Life and Light

John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Witness to the Light

John 1:6-9

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

Born of God

John 1:10-13

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Word Became Human

- John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Questions for Next Week

- Read John 1:15-2:25
- 1) What is the significance of the “Nathaniel account” in John’s narrative?
 - 2) Are the “purification jars” and “wine” in the “water to wine” miracle important to understanding John’s meaning?
 - 3) Why does John place the “Temple cleansing” episode where he does? Are there any difficulties with where he places this event in comparison to the synoptic gospels?
