

## What Have You Done With Jesus?

John 1:6-15 <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ”)

### ❖ Introduction

#### ➤ Sermon Series

- Who is Jesus...
- We want to become better acquainted with Jesus
- The more we know of Him
  - The more we can love Him
  - The more we can be faithful to Him
  - The more we can love those around us...

#### ➤ John's Purpose

- John 20:30–31: “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.”

#### ➤ John's Viewpoint

- Very Unique because of his close relationship with Jesus.
- He writes this book towards the end of his life.
  - The church had been living with mainly oral witnesses of the life of Jesus.
- As the rest of the first hand witnesses were dying off, John needed to write it down as a witness
  - So John writes this book not just as a history, but as an evangelistic Witness to the world

#### ➤ Themes

- Things He really wants us to know about Jesus... He repeatedly speaks on these things like
- Light in a dark world
- Life from God
- Abiding in Christ
- Truth... Real Truth
- That Jesus is the I AM
- Jesus came to give eternal life to those who believed

#### ➤ Recap of vs 1-5 (John Presents Jesus as)

- 1) He who was in the beginning (source of beginning)
- 2) The Word of God
- 3) As being with God
- 4) As God
- 5) As Maker of everything that was made
- 6) As Life
- 7) As Light in the darkness
- 8) As One who can overwhelm the darkness

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light... <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ”)

## ❖ A Witness for God

### ➤ John the Baptizer a man

- John was bearing witness about (or concerning) the Light that came to bear witness, and to bring illumination to men... Jesus
- **John the Baptist**
  - Physically He was the older cousin of Jesus
  - Humble Man
  - Not trapped up in the cares of this world
  - Live in the wilderness
  - Wore camel skins
  - Ate honey
  - Preached a word of Repentance to the people... ..
  - He had many that came to listen, and many who followed him.
    - ◆ Some of his disciples actually became Jesus’ disciples
  - He always spoke the truth...
  - This got him put into prison
  - King Herod had him arrested because John said it was unlawful for him to have taken his brother Philip’s wife as his own...
    - ◆ So Herod’s new wife Herodias got her daughter to ask for John the Baptist’s head on a platter... and so they beheaded John the Baptist.
  - Jesus said of John, **Matthew 11:11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.**
- **John the Baptist said of Himself in regards to Jesus**
  - **John 1:27 <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”**
  - **“John 1:30 <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’**

### ➤ A Man –

- Not the God who became man... a different guy named John the Baptist

### ➤ Sent from God

- Called out and placed on mission by God

### ➤ As a witness

- His job was to make the paths straight for the way of the Lord
- A Witness tells the truth about something, or someone.
- A witness is used for finding out the truth of a story.
- So John was this witness for Jesus... He helped usher in the earthly ministry of Jesus

### ➤ All Might Believe –

- **All** - All people...
- **Might** – might is not a word there in the greek text... rather it is in the form of the verb
- **Pisteo** – to believe... in the active voice...
  - Meaning the All are doing the action of believing...
  - Subjunctive Mood – indicating that it is a possibility...
    - ◆ The believing might happen... or that believing is a possibility for the Subject... All

- **Theological Truth that Jesus came here for all people,**
  - And all people have the possibility of believing on Him
    - 2 Peter 3:9 ...is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
    - Romans 10:13 <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- **He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light**
  - A man with great influence
  - With great speaking ability
  - With a great following...
  - Knew His place... Knew He was creature and not creator
  - Knew He was a light bearer, not source of the light.
  - He came to bear witness
    - How often have we seen people in ministry that just maybe like the sound of their own voice
    - And they think people have come for them... and maybe many have
    - And they begin to point people to their own greatness instead of the greatness of God...
    - John was not like this...
      - ◆ John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.”
- **2 Applications**
  - **1) God has called human beings to be his witnesses.**
    - Even when Jesus walked this earth He was using someone to bear witness about Him
    - We are called to be witness of the Light
    - Of the Truth
    - Think about that... Light and Truth...
    - How do you bear witness of the Truth, and how do you shine your light in this world?
  - **2) The story is about Him...**
    - It is about Jesus.... Not ourselves...
    - Our testimony and life should be about Jesus...
    - **Often we forget we are here on mission for God**
      - ◆ Not for self... we are not here to make a name for ourselves
      - ◆ Rather we are here to make a name for God.
    - Ask yourself: In what ways am I actively trying to make a name for God.
    - And in what ways am I trying to make a name for myself.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

## ❖ The True Light

- **Enlightens – Shines light..**
  - Jesus is the True Light
  - The True light is actively shining light to everyone
  - **Enlightens is in the Indicative mood...**
    - As opposed to the Subjunctive which means it is possible...
    - Indicative mood means it is real... this is really happening... it is a fact
  - **Whereas – believing on Jesus, by the people of the world is a possibility for all of them**
    - Jesus shining His light is Actually Happening even now...
  - **Which enlightens is in the present tense...**
    - It was present at the time John was writing about

- It was present at the time John was writing
- And it is even now present...
- The Light from Jesus is Transcendent throughout time.

### ➤ True light

- Makes a point of its Truthfulness
  - This Jesus is True...
  - He knows that the one thing people need to know is that they are getting the truth
  - The world was, and still is filled with Fallacies, with lies and half truths.
  - Satan has done a great job of telling the world lies they sink their teeth into...
  - **One Example: The you can apply the principle of this across the board**
    - ◆ Adam and Eve in the garden.
    - ◆ God says don't eat of the fruit of this tree or you will die
    - ◆ So Satan lies to them and says they wont die, and not only that... it gets even better...
      - You will be like Him... Like God
      - So this sounded like a good proposition to Adam and Eve...
      - They were going places in this world...
      - They had dominion over all the animals... nothing stopped them from thinking such highly and lofty goals.
      - So they ate and spiritually they dies right there, and would later dies physically.
      - Jesus calls Satan : **John 8.44b** "When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- **The Light illuminates the soul trapped in darkness**
  - John 12:46 <sup>46</sup> **I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.**
  - We all have been or currently are locked in darkness
  - **I Ask:**
    - ◆ Is it possible that right now you are being deceived as to truth and lie this morning
    - ◆ If it is possible...
    - ◆ I am here to tell you that one came to this earth claiming to be the Truth...
    - ◆ And through this truth one can find the way to eternal life...
      - This should cause at least a little bit of interest

### ➤ Was coming into the world

- The Word of God... that speaks things into being
- That is Truth...
- That is the source of all life
- That is light...
- Was coming into the world...
- **A new occurrence**
  - No longer was this light in heaven alone
  - Or coming down on the occasional visit
  - Or being spoken of through prophets
  - Or being known through the written Word of God...
- **This True light was coming into the world in the form of a person.**
  - This Person Was and Is Jesus Christ

### ➤ The Expectations of a Coming One

- **The Jewish People had long awaited the coming of a chosen one**
  - They thought the Son of God would come...

- A Messiah and King
- A Deliverer to Deliver them out of their bondage
- **Throughout the World, throughout History**
  - A Chosen One has been expected.
  - There have been and still remain various myths concerning this person's coming
- **Even in Pop Culture we have seen it**
  - From Eddie Murphy and the Golden Child
  - To 10,000 b.c. and Star Wars
  - Even in Kung Fu Panda
    - ◆ The concept of the Chosen One, or coming One...
    - ◆ To deliver a group of people from some sort of bondage
- **The Expectation has been clearly seen....**
- **He comes:**
  - **Before our next point... Lets skip ahead a few verses... without going into detail on them**
    - John 1.14 <sup>14</sup> **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
    - John and the disciples had recognized Him...
    - And as we know through Jesus Christ, the whole world has been set on fire
  - **2000 Time Magazine**
    - Did and Article on the Most Influential Person to ever live... Guess who won in a secular mag
    - JESUS... Jesus did... and they did a really good write up on Him.
  - **Virtually no place on earth**
    - That has not been touched in one way or another at some point in history by Jesus and the Gospel....
    - With love and hate and apathy Jesus is known in at least an “intellectual way throughout the world....
- **But... there has been a major mishap**
  - On part of the human race...
  - That looks to find hope and a future in Wordly things...
  - Money, possessions, land, children, leaders, etc....
  - The world has missed out on Jesus

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

## ❖ The Rejection of the Light

- **What or Who is the World?**
  - **Kosmo – 1 something well arranged, order....**
    - 2 Also in reference to this planet that is inhabited...
    - 3 Also, the sum of all created being in heaven and earth....
    - 4 And more specifically all mankind throughout the world...
  - **And we also see another meaning throughout the Bible...**
    - 5 Referring to unredeemed mankind that is hostile toward God...
  - **The word “world” is used 3 times in one sentence here...**
    - IN fact... He loved this word because He used it 78 times in this gospel alone...
    - And what John's intentions are with the use of each one may have died with Him...
    - I do think it is clear the meaning of the text...

- Now, it is normally not very good Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics) to take the same word used more than once in a sentence and ascribe different usage to each one...
- But, we may have to here...

- **In John's Gospel the term World is not used to refer to the earth apart from the people...**
  - **2 Meanings I want you to focus on...**
  - 1) In reference to the sum of all mankind (the world)
  - 2) In reference to unredeemed mankind
    - ♦ How do you know this... you ask?
    - ♦ By looking at the context, and looking at how the word is used throughout the Bible...
    - ♦ Words don't have meaning as much as they have usage...
    - ♦ And the way a word is used makes all the difference...
- **So what does He mean...**
  - Is He using this word here in reference to unredeemed man that is hostile toward God
  - All three times...
  - Well, that is surely possible...
  - **But I think He is using the word in two different ways here...**
    - ♦ Even if His intentions are not as it seems as I have studied it...
    - ♦ What I am seeing is Biblical nonetheless and supported throughout scripture...
- **From the Whole Bible what do we know...**
  - He was in the World... He came into the realm of created Human Beings...
  - And the World was made through Him.... So He is also the creator of all human beings...
    - ♦ We see His love for the entire World in these verse:
      - John 3:16 <sup>16</sup> **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
  - Yet, the world did not know Him... That part of created Human beings that are unredeemed and hostile toward God, Rejected Him...
- **All that for this:**
  - He came into the realm of created man, as one of us...
  - And the “world” – aka unrepentant man... did not know Him...

#### ➤ **Who were his own?**

- **This is in reference to the Jewish People....**
  - He came born into the nation of Israel...
  - Israel was the chosen people of God...
  - The nation out of all the rest that God chose to bless mightily
  - And give the laws and commands....
  - And to bring forth the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world...
- **Now, they were a part of the world also...**
  - But John singles them out here...
  - Because they were supposed to recognize God when they saw Him...
  - These were His special people...
    - ♦ **Isaiah 41:8 <sup>8</sup> But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;**
- **...And His own people did not receive Him**
  - We see that their leaders rejected Him...
  - Arrested Him...

- Even put Him on trial to see who He is...
- And after they measured Him out... and looked Him up and down...
- After hearing of His miracles, and His power, and if they would have looked
  - ◆ Would have seen He met every single prophecy concerning Messiah...
- They did not Receive their God...

➤ **The World Didn't know Him**

- As Maker... He was unknown

➤ **His Own people didn't know Him**

- As long awaited Messiah King... He was unknown

➤ **More Reject Him than Believe on Him**

- Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

➤ **Both Groups should have known Him**

- The World because He made them
- His own people because He had closely revealed Himself

➤ **A Trajedy... to say the least...**

- And a trajedy that was needed so He would be killed and suffer for our sins...
- So we would have Life...

➤ **Are you making the same mistake?**

- **As part of the World created by Him, have you failed to realize who He is**
  - Look around you at the ordered Creation
- **As one of His own people, Have you missed Him**
  - This is kind of being ironic I guess
  - A part of His church
  - Maybe joined years ago
  - Maybe have been serving in His church
  - Maybe went on a mission trip
  - Do you know and understand who He is.

❖ **Jesus came into the “world”**

- Calling people out of it and into the kingdom of God...
- The world stayed there...
- But as we will see next week... there will be many who come out of the world.

❖ **Don't miss out on Who Jesus is.... And what that means for You**

- Don't be left with this knowledge of Jesus...
- And never truly know Him...
- Don't let your life be a tragedy...

❖ **Invitation**

- His call is the same today as it was when He came
- Repent and Believe on His name