

Quarter Four: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson 13—Epilogue: Knowing Jesus and His Word

Sunday: Meeting in Galilee

December 22, 2024

- **Last Week:** “The Hour of Glory: The Cross and Resurrection”
 - John 18, 19, 20
 - Trial, crucifixion, death, & resurrection of Jesus
 - Initial appearances to disciples

- **This Week:** “Epilogue: Knowing Jesus and His Word”
 - John 21; also 4, 8, 11 & 15

- 4 sections of John
 - Prologue: John 1:1 – 18
 - Book of Signs: John 1:19 – 12
 - Book of Glory: John 13 – 20
 - Epilogue: John 21

- Review of Quarter
 - **Prologue:** John 1:1 – 18
 - Intro – Jesus as divine, preexistent, the Word become flesh
 - John’s prologue is one of most influential passages in the NT with regard to the church’s understanding of the deity of Christ
 - Discussion of light & darkness choice we all must make

 - **Book of Signs:** John 1:19 – 12
 - Why were the signs given?
 - John 20:30, 31 – “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”
 - That we would believe Jesus = the Christ, the Son of God
 - That we would have eternal life through Jesus

 - **7 signs** that point to Jesus as the Messiah
 - Water turned to wine in Cana – John 2
 - Nobleman’s son – John 4
 - Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda – John 5
 - Feeding of the 5k – John 6
 - Calming of the water – John 6
 - Man born blind – John 9
 - Raising Lazarus from the dead – John 11

 - **7 theological discourses** in John
 - The new birth – John 3
 - The water of life – John 4

- The divine Son – John 5
 - The Bread of Life – John 6
 - The life-giving Spirit – John 7
 - The Light of the World – John 8
 - The Good Shepherd – John 10
- **7 “I Am” sayings** in John
 - Form the bridge between book of signs & book of glory
 - I am the Bread of Life – John 6
 - I am the Light of the Word – John 8
 - I am the Door of the Sheep – John 10
 - I am the Good Shepherd – John 10
 - I am the Resurrection & the Life – John 11
 - I am the Way, the Truth, & the Life – John 14
 - I am the True Vine – John 15
 - **Witnesses to Jesus**
 - Multiple people testifying who Jesus is
- **Book of Glory:** John 13 – 20
 - First book encompasses 3 ½ years
 - This book encompasses 1 – 2 weeks
 - Farewell Discourse
 - Last testimony to His disciples
 - Trial, death by crucifixion, resurrection & appearance to disciples
 - **Epilogue:** John 21
 - This week’s study: mtg of Jesus & His disciples in Galilee
 - 3rd appearance by Jesus to the disciples
 - Transition for us – from head knowledge to heart knowledge
 - Taking Him at His Word
 - Not to make the same mistake as the Pharisees or even disciples
 - Refusing to take Jesus at His Word

Memory Text: ““You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” (John 5:39, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Meeting in Galilee (Jill)
 - John 21:1 – 19 – miracle with catching the fish; Jesus’ restoration of Peter
- 2. **Monday:** Keeping Your Eyes on Jesus (Ryan)
 - John 21:20 – 25 – follow Jesus – not other people
- 3. **Tuesday:** Light & Darkness (Daniel)
 - John 1; 3; 5; 8; 9; 11; 12 – choosing to walk in light (follow Jesus, as the Light); don’t build truth on a faulty foundation; rest everything on Jesus as the Light
- 4. **Wednesday:** Theology from “Above” or from “Below” (James)
 - John 4 – submitting to and accepting the authority of the Word of God
- 5. **Thursday:** Abiding in Jesus (SQ)
 - John 12 & John 15 – the secret of spiritual growth is to remain connected to Jesus

Sunday: Meeting in Galilee

John 21:1 - 19

- Meeting in Galilee: renamed – “**The restoration of Peter**”
- John 21 = Epilogue
 - John 20:30, 31 – “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”
 - That we would believe Jesus = the Christ, the Son of God
 - That we would have eternal life through Jesus
 - Last 2 verses of chapter 20
- Jesus’ miracle & appearance to disciples – Vs 1 – 14
 - Jesus’ 3rd appearance to the disciples
 - Met them (minus Thomas) the night of the resurrection (John 20)
 - Met them (including Thomas) one week later
 - Details of the miracle
 - Location: Sea of Tiberias (Roman name for the Sea of Galilee)
 - Indicates the Passover week is over and they’re out of Jerusalem, back in Galilee
 - 7 disciples together (Vs 2)
 - They returned to their pre-Jesus occupation
 - Fished at night – caught nothing
 - Jesus appeared – “cast net on right side of the boat”
 - Goes against best fishing practice (would’ve been in the sun, & should net fish either at night, or in the shadow of the boat)
 - How far from the shore = 200 cubits (about 300 feet)
 - Caught 153 fish
 - John recognized Jesus first
 - Vs 7 – “Therefore the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’...”
 - Peter jumped overboard & swam to Jesus
 - Jesus had already prepared breakfast
 - Fire with fish on it, and bread
 - Purpose of story
 - Reminded of miracle when He first called them (Fishers of men)
 - Renewal of the disciple’s commission to follow Him
 - Death of their Master didn’t lessen their obligation to work for Him
- The Denial of Peter
 - John 13:37 – “Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.’”
 - Said after the foot washing, the very night of Jesus’ arrest
 - Conveys Peter’s self-dependance & arrogance
 - Lack of self-awareness; lack of need of Jesus; lack of humility
 - All 4 gospels discuss Peter’s denial of Jesus
 - All 4 gospels mention Peter denied Jesus 3 times & that the rooster crowed

- Matthew & Mark said Peter denied Jesus with cursing & swearing
- When the rooster crowed
 - Luke 22:61 – “And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.”
 - Even in Jesus’ pain & Peter’s sin, Jesus cared for Peter’s salvation
 - Matt 26:75 – “And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ So he went out and wept **bitterly**.”
 - Bitterly = violently, bitterly – used twice – both with Peter’s denial of Christ
- **3 points of Peter’s denial**
 - **1. Peter’s sin began with arrogance & pride**
 - Lack of self-awareness
 - Lack of dependance on Jesus
 - **2. Peter’s sin was public**
 - The disciples / apostles all knew
 - The servants & common people knew
 - Servant girl who asked Peter
 - **3. Peter’s sin turned into his conversion**
 - He went out and wept bitterly
- The Restoration of Peter (Rafferty – “SOD”)
 - 3 times Jesus ask Peter, “Do you love Me?”
 - Jesus = Two Agape; one Phileo
 - Peter = 3 Phileo
 - 3 times Jesus instructs Peter, “Feed My lambs (1st); then feed My sheep (twice)
 - **3 points of Peter’s restoration**
 - **1. Peter’s restoration began with recognition of his need**
 - Before he said, “I’ll lay down my life for You”
 - Now, he says “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You”
 - Peter doesn’t express his own opinion of his devotion
 - Peter doesn’t boast that his love is greater than other disciples
 - Peter appeals for Jesus to know and read his heart
 - **2. Peter’s restoration was public**
 - Jesus restores Peter in front of the disciples – he had dishonored Christ & incurred the distrust of the other disciples – must show his repentance before all
 - Peter himself felt that he had forfeited any right to be a disciples
 - 3 times Jesus asked – Jesus showing to the other disciples the depth of Peter’s repentance
 - He could still be useful in ministry – still be a leader in the NT Church
 - **3. Peter’s restoration turned into his ministry**

- Without love for Jesus, the work of any Christian minister or disciple of Christ is a failure
 - Jesus predicts how Peter would die for Him, after giving his whole life to ministry
 - Vs. 19 – “This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’”
 - Jesus: “I can still use you. Work in my vineyard. Follow Me.”

- **3 points to restoring others to ministry**
 - **1. Restore with humility**
 - Gal 6:2 – “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any **trespass**, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”
 - Trespass = Gk, “mistake, falling away, slip-up, non-deliberate”
 - But for the grace of God, so go I
 - Amp: “...restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness],...”

 - **2. Respond with love**
 - Gal 6:3 – “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
 - What is the “law of Christ?”
 - Rom 13:10 – “...love is the fulfillment of the law.”

 - We often respond with
 - Judgment, criticism; arrogance, superiority

 - **3. Recognize the fruits**
 - Gal 6:7, 8 – “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (8) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”
 - The fruits of the heart will eventually be seen
 - Not judges of the heart; simply fruit inspectors