

JOHN'S GOSPEL: JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
82. "Living the Christian Life in Every Day Living"
John 21:1 – 14

Introduction:

We are studying the Gospel of John. The goal of this series of messages is to have us **Immerse Ourselves** in the life, message, and work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The truth is if we can see who Jesus is and what He came to do, we will experience something truly profound in our hearts and lives as we choose to believe Him and receive His Spirit's presence in our hearts.

Given repeated exposure to Jesus over time, we will be able to make solid decisions about what to do with Jesus' claims to be the unique Son of God who alone can introduce us to a relationship with God as Father. Knowing the Father intimately as our "Abba Father" is one of the key themes in everything John writes in the Bible: He repeatedly calls us **Children of God**.

John's Gospel message is unique among the Gospels. The other writers wrote in the AD 60 to 68 era. John wrote his Gospel probably from what is now Turkey, in the late 80 or early 90's AD. They wrote about Jesus' tours of ministry, miracles, parables, Sermon on the Mount as He walked in Northern Galilee with the twelve.

John doesn't record a single parable. And He only records seven of Jesus' miracles, which he refers to as **Miraculous Signs**. John wrote about the ministry of Jesus in and around Jerusalem, and some of Jesus' longest teaching sessions in John's Gospel are actually taken from public debate with angry and persecuting religious leaders from the Sanhedrin.

What really grabs our attention is **what John says about why he wrote his Gospel message**. He wanted people everywhere, both Jewish people and Greek people to have the opportunity to examine the story of the life, the message, and the work of Jesus Christ, the unique, One and Only Son of God. Let's read together aloud John's reason for writing down this Gospel message.

It is found in John 20:30, 31: "*Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But **these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.***"

So let's take look at what John says are the three main things this incredible gospel testimony was intended to do:

1.) **This Gospel tells us Who Jesus Is**. He is the Christ, the Son of God, the central figure in all of human history and the effective agent through whom God Almighty has done His work on behalf of human beings. To bring out the meaning for believers in Jesus John uses many titles: Logos, God, Life, Light, Son, Messiah, Lord, Son of God, Lamb of God, Rabbi, King of Israel, and Son of Man. All of these titles for Jesus are found in the first chapter of John!

2.) **This Gospel tells us what Jesus Offers to His People. It sums it all up in one rich word: Life.** Many times it uses the phrase eternal life to express the completeness of the gift Jesus brings to our hearts and souls. **The idea behind the word "eternal" aion, in the Greek is, "belonging to an age."** The life we receive in Jesus means that we belong to an age that is yet to come, while we live here on earth. This life Jesus gives is a present gift with a future promise!

3.) **This Gospel tells us how, through the work of Jesus, People may Receive this eternal life.** The way is to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. **This believing must be a real faith.** It is more than verbal confession or mental assent to a series of facts. **It is a deep, complete, steady, and loyal trust in Jesus.** It leads us to radical lifestyle implications, to obedience, reverence, worship, and surrender. Believing calls for two clear-cut decisions that must be made and remade again and again: **Trusting Him** with all of my life and **Abiding In Him** each day.

This concept of the radical lifestyle implications of deep and completely trusting Jesus, believing in Him and what He has done for us, and desires to do with us and through us comes through powerfully in “the Vine and the Branches” analogy from John 15. In that wonderful text Jesus refers six times to our Christian lives as **Bearing** the **Fruit** He **Produces** as He lives in us. Then He reminds us, eleven times, that we can’t bear His fruit unless we **Remain** in Him and He lives in us, giving us real abundant life of heaven as we live on earth!

Instead of retelling the same stories Matthew, Mark, and Luke told, John took another approach and I for one am so thankful that he did. John focuses our attention on what the other writers did not write. John tells us who Jesus really is, His identity as God Almighty the Son, draws us to see Him from eternity. Then John asks us to respond well to Jesus' message and work. John says Jesus is the way and the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through Him!

We are ending our study in John’s Gospel today. Perhaps you are wondering why we are ending with John 21:14, when there are still several paragraphs to go. We did the study of Jesus restoring Peter when we studied his denial of Jesus on September 17. The message title that day was: **“With Jesus Failure Is Not Final!”** Today we will look at the awesome truths John has been sharing with us for twenty one chapters.

I. The Eternal Son of God Who Came Down from Heaven:

John 1:1, 2 **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”**

John 1:14 **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.”**

John 3:13 **“No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man.”**

Let's read together the testimony shared by John the Baptist to his disciples who asked him about Jesus, John 3:31 - 35 "**The one who comes from above** is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. **The one who comes from heaven** is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony ... **For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God** for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands."

John 6:33 "For the bread of God is **he who comes down from heaven** and gives life to the world."

John 6:38 "For **I have come down from heaven** not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."

John 6:41b "**I am the bread that came down from heaven.**"

John 10:36 "What about **the one whom the Father** set apart as his very own and **sent into the world?**"

The powerful truth John writes to us is something that he repeats again and again so we won't miss it! John says Jesus is Divine, Jesus is the Eternal Son of God! He is the Word of God who chose to become a human being solely for the purpose of living a perfect life of relational love with the Father, so at last there would be one "**Once-and-for-all-Sacrifice for Sins!**"

John the Baptist speaks to everyone who will listen to his words about Jesus. John 1:29 "*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'*"

The author of Hebrews writes about this wonderful sacrifice Jesus made for you and me, when he uses the term "once for all" in the texts we are about to read together. What Jesus has done to set us free from the power of sin is the focus of the entire New Testament and it should be the **Focus of our Faith in Him!** This is what you and I must have firmly set in our hearts and minds, as we battle with temptations to commit sins that we face in life!

Hebrews 7:25 – 27 "*Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.***"

Hebrews 9:12b – 14 "*he entered the Most Holy Place **once for all by his own blood**, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"*

Hebrews 9:26b – 28a “*But now He has appeared **once for all** at the end of the age **to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself**. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face the judgment, s Christ was **sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people**.”*

One of John’s major themes is that Jesus chose to come into the world from heaven. Jesus chose to live a human life to make available for everyone who **Believes** Him and **Receives** Him in our hearts, the forgiveness of sins and acceptance in the family of God, being made to be citizens of heaven, from the heart of the Father, through the Son, by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

II. Jesus Came to Earth to Completely Fulfill the Will of the Father:

John writes to tell his readers Jesus came into the world to surrender Himself to the will of the Father for His life. This is one of John’s clear and major themes written throughout the Gospel text. Depending on your translation you are using the theme of Jesus coming to earth not to do His own will but to do the will of the Father is mentioned 23 or 24 times!

One of the major themes of John’s Gospel is that Jesus walked through life in deep **Love** for the Father, motivating Him to absolute **Submission** to the Father’s **Will** for His life. Depending on your version you read, this theme occurs 23 or 24 times in 21 chapters!

Jesus demonstrates for us what a human life surrendered to doing the will of God looks like. It places its own wants and desires subservient to the will of Abba God. Walking through life indwelt by the same Holy Spirit who lived in Jesus, experiencing His **Love**, and His **Power** to **Transform** our **Nature**, doing the will of the Father God will become the desire and pursuit of simple people like you and me!

Let’s read together some of the statements Jesus has made, recorded by John in this Gospel, that tell us Jesus knew He was the Son of God, sent from His Abba Father to come to our rescue.

John 5:30 “*By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.*”

John 7:28b, 29 “*I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.*”

John 8:28, 29 “*When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be, and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.*”

John 12:49, 50 “*For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.*”

John wants his readers to hear the word of truth that Jesus was a real human being, subject to all of the things that real human beings are subject to. John makes it clear that Jesus had physical limitations of being one place at a time. Jesus breathed, ate, worked, and slept. Jesus was subject to the allures of physical appetites. Jesus could have sinned when He was repeatedly tempted to

do so. And Jesus had a real **Human Nature**, with its insidious draw to **Obey the Voice of Self-Interest!**

But He was also the eternal Son of God as He lived His human life. He is the only human being who ever lived, who could say to God, to his friends, to his enemies who hated Him and wanted Him dead, and to Satan Himself: *“Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?”* John 8:46. He is the only human being who ever lived who could say, *“The prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”* John 14:30, 31

But here is what is so amazing about the life Jesus lived in victory over His own fleshly appetites, allure of sin and self-interest. Jesus took that perfect life He lived, and took into Himself all of our fleshly appetites we have indulged, our sins, and our self-interest and put them all to death for us on the Cross!

Because He was guiltless of His own, sinful indulging His own appetites, sins, and self-interest, He was qualified by His Father to take ours for us! That is what we celebrate as His followers today. **We may have the incredibly wonderful experience of sins forgiven, of inner victory over the allure of our appetites, and deliverance from the insidious draw of the voice of self-interest!**

III. Walking Through Life with the Risen Lord Jesus:

John tells us Jesus appeared again to seven of His disciples when they were out on the Sea of Galilee doing a fishing expedition. John records the event of the miraculous catch of fish for the readers in John 21:4 – 9:

“Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, ‘Friends haven’t you any fish?’ ‘No’ they answered. He said, ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.’ When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, ‘It is the Lord,’ he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.”

This is the second miraculous catch of fish that is recorded in the Gospels. Luke records one that happened very early on in the ministry of Jesus when Jesus was using Peter and Andrew’s fishing boat as a pulpit. Jesus told the disciples to put out a little further into Sea of Galilee and let down the nets for a catch. Simon Peter was a bit disgusted with the request. Simon is quoted by Luke in Luke 5:5 – 11:

“Simon answered, ‘Master we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat

to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken and so were James and John the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him."

Let's make a couple of observations from that first miraculous catch of fish. First and probably most important for us to see is that Peter needed a lot of help in learning to be soft and pliable in the hands of Jesus. Peter was brash, stubborn, and often blustering about things from his position of negative emotions. **The miraculous catch of fish sends a message to His disciples: I can walk with you and work with you in your everyday lives. I can enable you to do things that you will never be able to do in your human strength alone.**

Peter's last name could very well have ended with the letters: "ner" or "man!" What I mean by that is that Peter was a man who could very well have grown up in our PA/German/Dutch culture right here in central Pennsylvania. Our culture has been characterized by hard-working and pretty strong-willed people. Peter would have fit right in here with his "hard-working, no nonsense, get out of my way and let me show you what I can do here mentality!"

Peter and the other disciples of Jesus had to learn the "**Because-You-Say-So-Lord-Jesus**" mentality. When it comes to being men and women who seek to love and follow Jesus in life, this is a lesson we very much need to learn. There will be times when Jesus will whisper to us asking us to do things that simply do not make any sense to us whatsoever! When Jesus does this He is asking us to permit Him to lead us to the very center of His will!

Those thoughts then lead us to the second really important insight from that first miraculous catch of fish: Peter, the other disciples, and you and me today, have to learn the hard-to-understand lesson about what it really means to know and follow Jesus in life.

The lesson Jesus is teaching is what God is looking for is **Broken Human Strength**, for His followers to cultivate a **Soft, Broken, and Contrite Heart** of love for Him, that He may lead us to overcome our self-interest!

Jesus began with a miraculous catch of fish with those earliest followers. In a deliberate message to His followers just before He goes back to heaven He enables them to have a second miraculous catch of fish. "Just throw your nets on the right side of the boat fellas and you will find some fish." Then John, one of the sons of Zebedee, makes the observation that their nets were full of large fish, 153 of them to be exact. Their physical nets could not have held that many large fish. But Jesus was in charge of the catch!

What Jesus is leaving them with is a message they will never be able to erase from their minds. It is the message Jesus has been imparting to them the whole way through John's narrative in this Gospel testimony. Jesus is saying to those first disciples and to you and me today: **Choose** to be **My Followers** in life. Walk with me and let me lead you deeper into my heart, mind, and will.

Remain in me and let my **Words** remain in you. If you do you will bear much fruit for eternity in your everyday lives!

There are things we will face in life that we will simply have no human answers for. There will be people in our sphere of influence who will be very difficult for us to reach, people whose minds and wills are already set against knowing and following Jesus in life.

We must learn the lesson that there are so many things and people and issues in life for which **we need the Soft Whispers and Loving, Gentle leadership of Jesus**, “Love me and let me lead you!” “I will make you to be successful with people in your sphere of influence in ways you could not be otherwise!”

**JOHN'S GOSPEL, JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD:
82. "Living the Christian Life in Everyday Living"
John 21:1 – 14**

Introduction:

We are studying the Gospel of John. The goal of our study is to **I**_____ **O**_____ in the life, teachings, and work of Jesus Christ for us all on the Cross and in His resurrection victory!

Given repeated exposure to who Jesus is, we can make quality decisions about what to do with His claim to be the Son of God who can introduce us to a relationship with the Father as **C**_____ of **G**_____.

John's Gospel testimony to Jesus is unique among the Gospels. He wrote some 25 years after the others. They wrote about Galilee, the parables, and lots of miracles. John tells us about Jesus in Jerusalem and the last week of Jesus' life on earth! John doesn't include a single parable and only seven miracles which he refers to as **M**_____ **S**_____.

John tells the reader exactly why he wrote this Gospel: John 20:30, 31. He tells us three things in that "reason for writing:" 1. Who **J**_____ really **I**_____ ... 2. What Jesus offers to people: **L**_____ ... 3. How we may receive the life Jesus gives to us: **B**_____ Him. Believing, entrusting our lives to Jesus requires two actions to be made daily: **T**_____ Him as He leads my life, and **A**_____ in Him.

The concept of radical lifestyle implications of trusting Jesus are shown to us in "The Vine and the Branches" analogy of John 15. Christians are called to **B**_____ the **F**_____ He **P**_____. Then He tells us 11 times we must **R**_____ in Him and hear His voice leading us!

John doesn't retell what Matthew, Mark, and Luke told in their stories. He gives us information they didn't write about! John tells us who Jesus really is: "The Son of God!"

I. The Eternal Son of God Who Came Down from Heaven: John 1:1, 2; 1:14; 3:13; 3:31 – 35; 6:33; 6:38; and 10:36

John says Jesus is **D**_____, the Son of God who became a human being, lived a perfect and sinless life, so at last there would a **O**_____ - and-for-all-**S**_____ for **S**_____! John 1:29 John's testimony!

What Jesus has done for us to set us free from the power of sin to enslave us is the focus of the entire New Testament. It should be the **F**_____ of our **F**_____ in Him! The author of Hebrews says it so well ... Hebrews 7:25 – 27; Hebrews 9:12b – 14 and 26b - 28

One of John's major themes is: Jesus chose to come into the world from heaven. Jesus came to make available to everyone who **B**_____ Him and **R**_____ Him, the forgiveness of sins, acceptance in the family of God, and citizenship in heaven while we live on earth!

II. Jesus Came to Earth to Completely Fulfill the Will of the Father:

Jesus' surrender to the will of the Father is one of John's major themes. Jesus walked in love with the Father by the Holy Spirit, motivating Him to absolute **S**_____ to the **W**_____ of the Father.

Walking through life with the same Holy Spirit who lived in Jesus, we will experience His **L**_____ and **P**_____ working in us to **T**_____ us, to enable us to **D**_____ to do the will of the Father too!

Jesus statements about His identity and His mission: John 5:30; 7:28b, 29; 8:28, 29; 12:49, 50

John wants the readers to know Jesus had a real **H**_____**N**_____, subject to desires, appetites, and the draw of the **V**_____ of self-interest. But He is also the “perfect Son of God.” John 8:46 and 14:30, 31

Jesus’ perfect life qualified Him to be the only human being ever to take into Himself our sins, our caving in to our flesh, and our self-interest and put them to death for us all! We may now have **F**_____ of sins and inner **V**_____ over our appetites and fleshly desires!

III. Walking Through Life with the Risen Lord Jesus:

John records a miraculous catch of fish, John 21:4 – 9. This is the second miraculous catch of fish recorded in the Gospels. Luke 5:5 – 11.

Let’s make two observations about that first miraculous catch of fish:

1. Peter and the others needed help in becoming soft and pliable in the hands of Jesus. They had to learn the “**B**_____ **-Y** **-S** **-S**_____ Jesus mentality!
2. The hard-to-learn lesson in life: God is looking for **B**_____ **H**_____ **S**_____. He desires for us to have a soft and contrite heart that He may lead us to overcome our self-will and self-interest!

This second miraculous catch of fish is sending them a message: In your everyday, normal life **C**_____ to be my **F**_____ and I will lead you deeper into my heart! **R**_____ in me and let my **W**_____ remain in you. Stay soft and I will **W**_____ my leading to you!

Discussion Starter Questions for Home Groups

1. What is the goal John has in his heart as he writes this Gospel? What does John want his readers to take away from this Gospel testimony?
2. What reasons can you think of why John decided to call the miracles of Jesus “miraculous signs?” What do the signs point the reader to see and understand?
3. John tells us Jesus lived a life of relational love with the Father, and He was inhabited by the Holy Spirit motivating Him to desire to do the Father’s will. What can we take learn about walking with Jesus today, from this picture of Jesus’ relational love with the Father God?
4. Why do you think John goes to such great lengths to make sure his readers know Jesus came down from heaven to do the will of the Father?
5. John tells us Jesus was a real human nature, subject to all of the things we are subject to and yet was without sin. Why is this truth so important for us to know?
6. Why do you think John includes the story of the seven disciples out fishing and the second miraculous catch of fish?
7. What should we take away from this story about Jesus working in His followers’ lives to create in them, and in us, soft, broken, teachable hearts?
8. Read together aloud Joel 2:12 – 17 and share with one another insights you see in the text about God’s longing for His people to live repentantly?
9. Read together aloud the story of “the Pharisee and the Tax Collector” from Luke 18:9 – 14 and discuss insights you have regarding the importance of repentance.
10. Do you think living a deeply contrite and repentant lifestyle is something that gets a “lot of press” in the Church in North America? Why is living a repentant lifestyle so important to God that He repeatedly calls us to it?