

John: Loved First – March 1, 2023

John is related to Jesus:

Matt. 4:21 - Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets.

Mark 3:17 - James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder"),

Matt. 27:56 - Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. *(She is unnamed in Matt, but named in Mark)*

Mark 15:40 – Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and **Salome**. *(named, but connection)*

John 19:25 - Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. *(John identifies his mother as Mary's sister)*

John: part of inner 3. Saw things others did not, but nothing indicates John was loved any more than others. No favoritism. **Nazareth/Capernaum**

John – the beloved. John refers to himself as one loved by Jesus.

Radically changed by love. Felt love... & knew it.

John 13:21-24 - Now Jesus was deeply troubled,^[1] and he exclaimed, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!"²² The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean.²³ The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table.²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, "Who's he talking about?"

John 19:26 – "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,'"

John 20:2 - Mary Magdalene "came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'"

John 21:7 - Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it) & jumped into the sea."

John 21:20 - Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. He was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper to ask, "Lord, who is going to betray You?"

John knew Jesus loved him. Knew this was amazing love. Great love.

John understood God's love: unending, always giving, blessing.

John 1:16 - For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

God loves us even tho we sin, not perfect:

1 John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful & just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

- God is forgiving; forgives & forgets. God's love purifies: make better.
 - B/c of this love, John could forgive himself, accept himself as he was – flaws & all. "Sons of Thunder"

- **1 John 4:10** – “This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”

- **No need to feel guilty with God:**

1 John 3:20 - whenever our hearts condemn us; (know that) God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things.

Whenever our conscience condemns us, we will be reassured that God is greater than our conscience and knows everything. – **God's Word Translation**

John knew he was part of a family – child of God:

John 3:1 - See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

B/c we're loved, we can risk loving each other?

1 John 4:11 - Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

1 John 4:7 – “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

1 John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.”

John knew God. Was changed by Love. Saw God's love thru Jesus.

Our ability to love comes from knowing God's love for us.

We're part of family - “brothers & sisters” – we love others, honor God:

1 John 4:21 - Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Love acts. Love does.

1 John 3:16-18 - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

Struggling w/ love? Spend some time knowing God's love for U

1 John 4:19 - *We love each other because he loved us first.*

- John knew he was loved. Do you? Know the depth of it?
 - Jesus walked this earth to show us the love of the Father.
 - “if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.” – **1 John 4:12**

Song/Week: I Am Loved – Sandi