

PROJECT “B.3”

Discussion Questions

5 November 2013

John 1

1. Why does John describe Jesus as “the Word”?
2. What is the role of John the Baptist in the story of the Gospel?
3. What can we learn from the way that Jesus began assembling his disciples?

John 2

4. What is the symbolism behind Jesus’ first miracle (changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana)?
5. The “cleansing of the Temple” is the only incident in which we see Jesus displaying anything resembling wrath. What does this say about Him?
6. John is very careful to say that Jesus did not “entrust Himself” to the people expressing faith in Him. Do you think this is still true today?

John 3

7. What does it mean to be “born again”?
8. What is the significance of the imagery Jesus uses to define the Spirit?
9. What is John the Baptist’s last testimony concerning Jesus?

John 4

10. Why was it so unusual for Jesus to ask the Samaritan woman for water?
11. Why do you suppose that Jesus was so unusually direct with this woman, and then so “indirect and spiritual” with his disciples upon their return?
12. What is the deeper meaning of the second miracle performed by Jesus (the healing of the royal official’s son at Capernaum)?

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10 December 2013

John 5

1. Jesus says His Father is still at work, what is He doing?
2. In v. 29, is Jesus proclaiming a “works-based” gospel?
3. Jesus gives a legal argument in defense of His ministry. Who are the witnesses?

John 6

4. Jesus introduces His next miracle by asking a question. Why did He do this?
5. What did Jesus mean when He said: “I am the bread of life”?
6. Peter and Judas were both among the twelve. How did they differ from the others?

John 7

7. How was Jesus treated by his earthly brothers during His ministry?
8. How does Jesus use the Law of Moses to explain His ministry?
9. How does Nicodemus enter the story again?

John 8

10. Why might the story of the adulterous woman be missing from many manuscripts?
11. What does Jesus mean when He says: “I am the light of the world”?
12. How does knowing the truth set us free?

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29 January 2014

John 9

1. Why do you suppose Jesus chose this particular method for this miracle?
2. Why were the Pharisees so troubled by Jesus performing healing on the Sabbath?
3. What is significant about Jesus’ response to the previously blind man’s worship?

John 10

4. What did Jesus mean by the statement: “I am the good shepherd”?
5. Jesus made a rather bold claim in v.30, how did the Jews respond?
6. What does the scripture mean when it says: “I SAID, YOU ARE GODS”?

John 11

7. What do you think of Thomas’ response (in v.16) to Jesus’ proposed itinerary?
8. The shortest verse in all of scripture is here. What does it tell us about Jesus?
9. John explains to us the Caiaphas unknowingly spoke a profound prophecy. What was it?

John 12

10. What was the significance of Mary’s act of worship, with respect to the perfume?
11. We read in v.28 that the Father spoke audibly. What is Jesus’ explanation for this?
12. John pauses to quote Isaiah here. How did Jesus fulfill this particular scripture?

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25 March 2014

John 13

1. What are some of the ways that Passover was the perfect “Last Supper” for Jesus?
2. What are some of the ways that we can “wash one another’s feet” in this world?
3. How is Jesus’ “new” commandment (v.34) really different from previous scripture?

John 14

4. How do you interpret the promises made in v.2-3? What does Jesus mean by a “place”?
5. In v.13-14, Jesus seems to distinguish between requests made to the Father and those made to Himself, but both with the same response: “I will do it.” Is this a “blank check”?
6. What is the type of peace (v.27) that Jesus offers to us?

John 15

7. When Jesus says “I am the true vine,” how does this metaphor play out in our lives?
8. Jesus says that he lays down His life for His “friends,” and He no longer uses the term “slaves” for the disciples. What is the significance of this change in terminology?
9. If the world doesn’t hate us, should we be worried?

John 16

10. What is the work of the Holy Spirit in this world?
11. Jesus predicts the disciples will have great sorrow, followed by great joy. What causes this emotional roller coaster?
12. The disciples claim to finally “get it” in v.29-30. Do you think they really did?

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22 April 2014

John 17

1. Jesus begins His prayer with many uses of “glory” and “glorify.” What is glory?
2. He then makes it clear that we (His flock) are not “of this world.” What does He mean?
3. How are we doing so far on Jesus’ prayer (v.20-21): “that they may all be one”?

John 18

4. John’s account of the arrest is almost comical – who was wielding the real power?
5. All accounts are careful to tell us of Peter’s three denials. Why is this story preserved?
6. When Pilate asks Jesus, “What is truth?” why do you suppose Jesus does not reply?

John 19

7. Pilate has been appointed a leader, but he fails to do so here. What are his mistakes?
8. What is the significance of the inscription that Pilate wrote, to be placed on the cross?
9. Unlike the other apostles, John beheld the crucifixion, what blessings did this bring?

John 20

10. Why was Mary Magdalene chosen as the first witness to the resurrection?
11. Both of the first two times the risen Jesus appears to the apostles he says: “Peace be with you.” Why?
12. What is Jesus’ point in adding the story of “doubting Thomas”?

John 21

13. John 21 almost reads like an epilogue – is there any evidence in the text itself that John might have added it later?
14. When Jesus appears to the disciples, what were they doing? Was this their true calling?
15. What is the deeper meaning of Jesus' seemingly simple command: "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught"?