JOHN'S GOSPEL

A Compilation of Principles
by Sons of God at
Gate Ministries Durban Central
Nov 2024 - Jan 2025

These have been written so
that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God

John 20:31

Second Edition

GATE



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Preface

This document is a compilation of principles extracted from John's Gospel, shared by sons of God at Gate Ministries Durban Central. These thoughts were shared from observations made during the daily reading of the 21 chapters in John's Gospel from 14 November 2024 to 21 January 2025. The principles were then collated into the present single document. This is a first edition - part of a work-in-progress. Keep an eye out for the second edition to be released soon.

The singular aim of this compilation is the edification and empowerment of the reader. This document is not for sale, and its free distribution is encouraged. The free and wide distribution of the document is encouraged in a bid to share grace with as many people as possible.

For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.
2 Cor 4:15 NASB

For your edification and understanding, included in this document is the original Reading Plan, Guidelines and three Introductions to John's Gospel from three sources. You are encouraged to engage these as well. We anticipate a second (final edition) after the second round of reading of John's Gospel.

Our sincere gratitude to all the sons at Gate Ministries who contributed to this document. You have willingly and sacrificially sown the wisdom of God made known to you through your reading, study and meditation on John's Gospel. May you reap even greater insights from God, the Spirit. You have refreshed others; may you in turn be refreshed perpetually.

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.
Prov 11:25 ESV

Special thanks to Britnee Adams, who collated the daily thoughts shared on the seven House Church WhatsApp platforms, into 21 separate documents relative to each chapter in John's Gospel, and then the assemblage of all chapters into the current document. May the Lord collate and assemble all the different facets of His will for your life into a singular, wholistic expression.

Great grace and peace be multiplied to you in Christ,

Pastors Randolph and Rene Barnwell

Gate Ministries Durban Central

50-DAY READING PLAN THROUGH JOHN'S GOSPEL

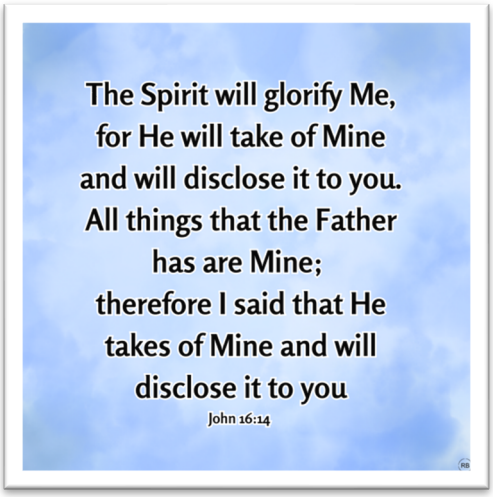
Read Monday Through Saturday Each Week.

Day	Reading	Focus
1.	Read Guidelines and Introduction 1	
2.	Read Introduction 2	
3.	Read Introductions 1, 2 and 3	
4.	John 1:1-18	The Word Made Flesh
5.	John 1:19-34	John's Testimony
6.	John 1:35-51	First Disciples Called
7.	John 2:1-12	First Sign
8.	John 2:13-25	Cleansing the Temple
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13.	John 5:1-17	Healing of the Paralytic
14.	John 5:18-24	Jesus' Equality with God
15.	John 5:25-47	Two Resurrections witnesses
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22.	John 8:1-11	The Adulterous Woman
23.	John 8:12-30	Jesus, The Light
24.	John 8:31-59	The Truth will Set You Free
25.	John 9:1-41	Blind Man Healed
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40. John 16:1-15 The Holy Spirit
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42. John 17:1-26 Jesus' High Priestly Prayer
43. John 18:1-27 Jesus Betrayed, Appears Before the Priests, Denied by Peter
44. John 18:28-40 Jesus Appears Before Pilate
45. John 19:1-30 The Crown of Thorns, The Crucifixion
46. John 19:31-42 Care of Jesus' Body
47. John 20:1-18 The Empty Tomb
48. John 20:19-31 Jesus Among His Disciples
49. John 21:1-14 Jesus Appears in Galilee; God Provides
50. John 21:15-25 The Love Motivation

GUIDELINES

- Read all the introductions provided here in this document before commencing with the daily reading plan.
- Read each Scripture section twice a day, e.g., morning and evening.
- Throughout the day, as often as possible, meditate on the verses thoroughly.
- Reading the text is the first stage. Meditation and study are the next important stages.
- Cross reference verses with other verses in other books - if you have the time.
- Highlight and memorise as many verses as possible. Isolate a favourite verse in each chapter.
- Be open to a greater degree of revelation and illumination regarding the person of Christ the Son, the strategic role of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit. May this deepen your own understanding of your sonship in Christ, your increased perception of and relationship with God, your Father, in the person and power of the Holy Spirit. (see Eph 1:16-18)
- Journal your thoughts in a book or digital file. Keep this record. God will use it later for you or for others. Be a source of refreshing of God's Word to your world.
- Be serious about reading, studying and meditating on God's Word, the Sword of the Spirit. As you do, you are installing the eternal, ageless and powerful nature of God within your being.
- Deliberately design and implement into your heart and life a practical and obedient response to all God commands you through this exercise. God will grant you grace for this.
- Remember – our focus: As we read, the Heavenly Father is going to illuminate our hearts and minds concerning our understanding and experiential knowledge of Christ, THE SON, because He, the Son will reveal the nature of the Father. As we engage in John's Gospel, we will be fellowshipping with Father and the Son in the Spirit.



INTRODUCTION TO JOHN'S GOSPEL #1

As you read his gospel, keep in mind the meaning of John's name, viz., "Jehovah has been gracious; Jehovah has graciously given".[1] The first part of this introduction below is a summation of thoughts from statements by Thamo Naidoo[2] in his recent introductory session on a new teaching series, "Sonship Reloaded"[3].

The PRE-EXISTENT ETERNAL CHRIST

The Apostle John starts his first epistle and his gospel with familiar wording found in the first verse of the Bible in Genesis, viz. 'beginning'. Consider the following verses[4]:

Gen. 1:1 In the **BEGINNING** God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3 In the **BEGINNING** was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

1 John 1:1 What was from the **BEGINNING**, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the **Word of Life.**

Rev. 22:13 **I am** the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, **THE BEGINNING** and the end."

The 'beginning' is more than the commencement of time. The **beginning is a person**, viz. Christ, the Son of God - by, through and for whom - all things were created (Col.

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[1] Smith, S., & Cornwall, J. 1998. *The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names (3).* North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos

[2] www.thamonaidoo.com

[3] View the two sessions delivered at the Perspectives on the Apostolic (POA) Western Cape in October 2024 via this link: https://bit.ly/3CiDiiC. You are encouraged to track the new series when it commences at the church in Sandton. Subscribe to the Thamo Naidoo and Gate Ministries Sandton YouTube channels for notification.

[4] Unless otherwise stated, all scriptures are from the NASB.

1:16,17). He is the eternal WORD OF GOD and the SON OF GOD. In His sonship identity on the earth, He was the WORD 'MADE FLESH' (John 1:14). The Word of God took on human form. John does not write from a perspective of the humanity of Jesus, but presents to us the **ETERNAL CHRIST**, who existed **before time began (pre-existent)**, who was contained in and expressed through the earthly humanity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus demonstrates to us how we, as sons of God, could live successfully on the earth by living from an understanding of our eternal origin in Christ, who chose us in Him before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

It could be argued that the Gospel of John represents the commencement of the New Covenant, since he focusses on the pre-existent Christ, and the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) are a part of the Old Covenant. This would reorder the divisions of the Bible into 42 of the Old Testament and 14 of the New Testament.

The Gospel of John was **WRITTEN TO PERSUADE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS**. **John 20:30** states, "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**." May your relationship with CHRIST the Son, and the Father, deepen as your engage John's Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. He will reveal Himself to you through His Word (John 14:21-23).

The Gospel of John focuses on **SEVEN of JESUS' SIGNS (miracles),** to show His divinity. Whereas Matthew, Mark and Luke (called synoptic Gospels) record several of Jesus' miracles, John only specifically and very selectively records SEVEN.

1. Changing water into wine at Cana - "*the first of the signs*". John 2:1-11
2. Healing the royal official's son in Capernaum. John 4:46-54
3. Healing the paralytic at Bethesda. John 5:1-15
4. Feeding the 5000. John 6:5-14
5. Jesus walking on water. John 6:16-24
6. Healing the man blind from birth. John 9:1-7
7. The raising of Lazarus. John 11:1-45

Some theologians, like E.W. Bullinger, have emphasised a sequence of **eight signs**, including the miraculous catch of fish in **John 21:1-14.**

What are SIGNS?

The Greek word for 'sign' is **'sēmeíon'**[5], meaning "sign, mark, token, miracle with a spiritual end and purpose. They are miracles which lead to something out of and beyond themselves; finger- marks of God, valuable not so much for what they are as for what they indicate of the grace and power of the Doer.

A sign is not the destination. It points to the destination. Do not camp at the sign without proceeding towards that which the sign points you to. Remember, 'signs' are designed to convey something greater beyond the actual sign. All seven signs or miraculous recorded in John's gospel are carefully chosen by him because either, (a) he wants to highlight something the PERSON of Christ, or (b) reveal a TRUTH of the PRINCIPLES of Christ contained in the signs, or a word confirming the signs.

For example, Jesus used bread and its multiplication as a sign pointing to His Person as the Bread of Life. This depicts GRACE inherent in the Word of God, which is akin to bread. Then further, this sign was the basis for further teaching.

As you probe each sign in John's Gospel as the spirit to show you what was God's original intent behind the sign. See beyond the sign. See the SON! See His speech.

Mark 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

Signs confirmed the Word. They were not an end in themselves.

John's Gospel also features **Christ's seven "I AM"** statements.

1. I am the Bread of Life — John 6:35,48,51
2. I am the Light of the world — John 8:12; 9:5
3. I am the Door of the Sheep — John 10:7,9
4. I am the Good Shepherd — John 10:11,14
5. I am the Resurrection and the Life — John 11:25
6. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life — John 14:6
7. I am the True Vine — John 15:1

[5] Strongs, G4592

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM**.”

JESUS INTERACTING WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE:

In John’s Gospel, you will see Jesus in a range of different scenarios.

- He makes the time to speak to thousands of people at once, but also …
- makes personal time to speak to a range of private individuals - from high-ranking scholars like Nicodemus in chapter 3, to the most immoral of women at Jacob’s well in Samaria in chapter 4.
- He displays great mercy to an unnamed woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8), clearly demonstrating the reason why He was sent to the earth (John 3:16-18).
- He seems to be very close in relationships to a whole family unit (Lazarus, Martha and Mary), whilst …
- having some very frontal and challenging confrontations with Pharisees.

Some Special Highlights:

- Only John records the details of Jesus’ prayer to His Father in Gethsemane (John 17).
- John also reports Jesus’ teaching on the work and person of the Holy Spirit (John 14 and 16) and …
- highlights the washing of the disciples’ feet by Jesus, exemplifying His humility (John 13).

INTRODUCTION #2: OVERVIEW OF JOHN'S GOSPEL EXTRACTED FROM 'THE ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF BIBLICAL IMAGERY'[6]

The author himself provides a key to the design of his book when he tells us near the end, …."*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name*"

(Jn 20:30 RSV).

John was overwhelmed by the vastness of Christ, not only as God himself but in the significance of His acts on earth. In fact, the author states hyperbolically in the last verse of the Gospel that if all that Jesus did would be recorded "the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (Jn 21:25 RSV).

John imposes **a strict and orderly framework on his narrative** especially through **the use of symbolism**. Realizing the ability of images and symbols to unify vast tracts of experience and truth, John resorts to them so incessantly that he gives us **a poetic Gospel**. But whereas the book of Revelation (which has numerous similarities to the Gospel of John) employs apocalyptic, otherworldly imagery, John uses the **symbolic quality of this-worldly events in his Gospel**, in the process evoking the ordinary world of first-century Palestine.

John's Gospel is perhaps the most consciously literary of the four Gospels. In particular, we may note John's preference for the **relatively embellished narrative** unit (in contrast to the more fragmentary and cursory style of the Synoptics), his tendency to **give extended discourses by Jesus**, and his **reliance on great images and symbols.**

Like the other Gospels, the Gospel of John follows in loose fashion the chronology of Jesus' public career. A distinctive feature of John's story is the self-conscious shaping by Jesus of his own career as highlighted by interspersed

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[6] See entry under "John, Gospel of" - Ryken, L (editor); Wilhoit, J.C. (editor); Longman III, T, (editor). 1998. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. IVP Academic

references to the ***"hour"** of Jesus; that is, **the climax of his life in his death and resurrection** (Jn 2:4; 4:21; 5:28; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 17:1; 21:1). Underlying the plot is **a progressive intensification of conflict between Jesus and his antagonists**. A **general outline** for the flow of the narrative is ….

(a) the prologue (Jn 1), followed by
(b) the **book of signs** (Jn 2-12) and
(c) the **book of the passion** (Jn 13-21).

A continuous narrative thread runs through each of the two "books."

John also gives his story of Jesus' life a unifying plot: **the conflict between belief and unbelief**. Keeping Jesus always in the center of the action, John presents **a series of responses by people** who come into contact with Jesus. These responses indicate either belief or unbelief. G. W. Knight has written that John's Gospel pictures Jesus "silhouetted against a world of formalized religion, hypocrisy, envy, evil and suffering" (Knight, 169). The narrative staple of plot conflict merges with the poet's impulse to **embody truth in image in several great contrasting patterns**, including **light and darkness, life and death, and acceptance versus rejection of Jesus' claims**.

The most obvious pattern of John's Gospel (comparable to Matthew's interspersing of narrative and discourse) **is that of combining an event involving Jesus with a discourse that interprets the meaning of the event**.

- Thus Jesus' request for a drink from the Samaritan woman is followed by his statements about the water of life (Jn 4),
- the healing on the sabbath is linked to Christ's words about his divine authority (Jn 5),
- the feeding of the five thousand is followed by the discourse on the bread of life (Jn 6),
- and the raising of Lazarus is accompanied by Jesus' claims about being the resurrection and the life (Jn 11).

A variation consists of linking a discourse with two surrounding events. For example,

- the discourse on Christ as the light of the world (Jn 8) is flanked by references to the Feast of Tabernacles with its huge torches (Jn 7) and giving sight to the blind man (Jn 9),
- and the discourse on the bread of heaven is placed between references to the Passover and the feeding of the five thousand (Jn 6).

Alternately, a single event is linked to two discourses, as when

- the healing of the blind man (Jn 9) illustrates Jesus' preceding discourse about the light of the world (Jn 8) and the man's expulsion from the synagogue leads immediately to Jesus' comments about good and bad shepherds (Jn 10; see Sheep, Shepherd).

The pattern that pervades all of the variations is simply the linking of event with discourse, along with the prominence of master images (water, light, bread, resurrection) **in the configuration**. We see highlighted here the twofold way in which all of the Gospels portray their protagonist-by his **deeds and his words.**

John's Gospel is also known for its motif of the misunderstood statement. These dramas in miniature unfold in three stages:

(a) Jesus makes a pronouncement,
(b) a bystander expresses a misunderstanding of the utterance, and
(c) Jesus proceeds to explain the meaning of his original statement.

This pattern, which **occurs nine times** (Jn 3:3-8; 4:10-15; 4:31-38; 6:47-58; 7:33-36; 8:21-30; 8:31-47; 8:56-58; 11:11-15; and with modification, in 2:17-22), usually revolves around **a figurative statement** by Jesus that a bystander interprets literally. John's Gospel also employs number patterns in a manner similar to the emphasis on seven in the book of Revelation. **Patterns of three are prominent:**

- three Passovers,
- three other feasts attended by Jesus,
- three witnesses by John the Baptist to Jesus' messiahship,
- Jesus condemned three times,

- three utterances from the cross,
- three denials by Peter,
- a three-stage restoration of Peter.

The imagery of seven is likewise pervasive. The central part of the narrative is structured around **seven great miracles or "signs"** that …

(1) Jesus performs-turning water into wine (Jn 2:1-11),
(2) healing the official's son (Jn 4:46-54),
(3) curing the paralytic (Jn 5:1-18),
(4) feeding the five thousand (Jn 6:5-13),
(5) walking on water (Jn 6:16-21),
(6) healing the blind man (Jn 9:1-17) and
(7) raising Lazarus (Jn 11:1-44).

Equally important are seven great "I am" utterances by Jesus, each followed by a metaphoric description of Jesus' person and work:

(1) the bread of life (Jn 6:35);
(2) the light of the world (Jn 8:12);
(3) the door of the sheep (Jn 10:7);
(4) the good shepherd (Jn 10:11);
(5) the resurrection and the life (Jn 11:25);
(6) the way, the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6); and
(7) the true vine (Jn 15:1).

The book also unfolds as a sevenfold witness to Christ - ….

(1) the witness of the Father (Jn 5:37; 8:18),
(2) the Son (Jn 8:14; 18:37),
(3) Christ's works (Jn 5:36; 10:25),
(4) Scripture (Jn 5:39-46),
(5) John the Baptist (Jn 1:7; 5:35),
(6) the disciples (Jn 15:27; 19:35) and
(7) the Spirit (Jn 15:26; 16:14).

The imagery of witness belongs to a pattern of juridical or courtroom language, with the implication that Jesus and his claims are on trial throughout the Gospel (see Legal Images). But those who hear the evidence are also on trial, with their eternal destiny at stake. Building his account around "signs," **John builds a case that demands a verdict.**

John's Gospel is sometimes referred to as the "cosmic" Gospel. Whereas Matthew concentrates on Jesus as the hope of the Jews and Luke as the friend of the underprivileged, **John presents a Christ of the cosmos, portrayed in universal archetypes like water, bread and light.** The opening prologue already sounds the keynote. Whereas Matthew begins with a human genealogy, **John begins with a divine genealogy**. Echoing and parodying a centuries-old Greek hymn to Zeus, John **identifies the incarnate Messiah as the divine Logos--a Word of wisdom and revelation**. John thus combines pagan and Christian thought for a Hellenistic audience. Having created the universe itself, this Word enlightens every person (Jn 1:2, 9). And the images associated with him in this Christ hymn are equally cosmic-light, life, power to bring people to spiritual birth, grace. Even the crucifixion of Christ takes on cosmic overtones through the imagery of the Son of Man being "lifted up" (Jn 3:14; 8:28; 12:32, 34) and "glorified" (Jn 7:39; 12:23; 13:31; 17:1-5), as if his death on the cross is the first step in his ascension to his heavenly throne.

According to M. Tenney, **the main truths of this Gospel are transmitted by fewer than two dozen images**. Some are ….

- pastoral (sheep, shepherd, vine, grain of wheat);
- some name universal staples of sustenance (bread, water) or
- common actions (eating, drinking, sleeping, birth);
- some are social (bridegroom, thief, bond-servant);
- some denote elemental good and evil (light, darkness);
- some are titles (Father, Son of God, Son of Man).

These images and metaphors variously highlight the indispensability of Jesus, the nature of the spiritual life for those who follow Christ and the cosmic conflict between good and evil. Above all, the imagery of John is universal.

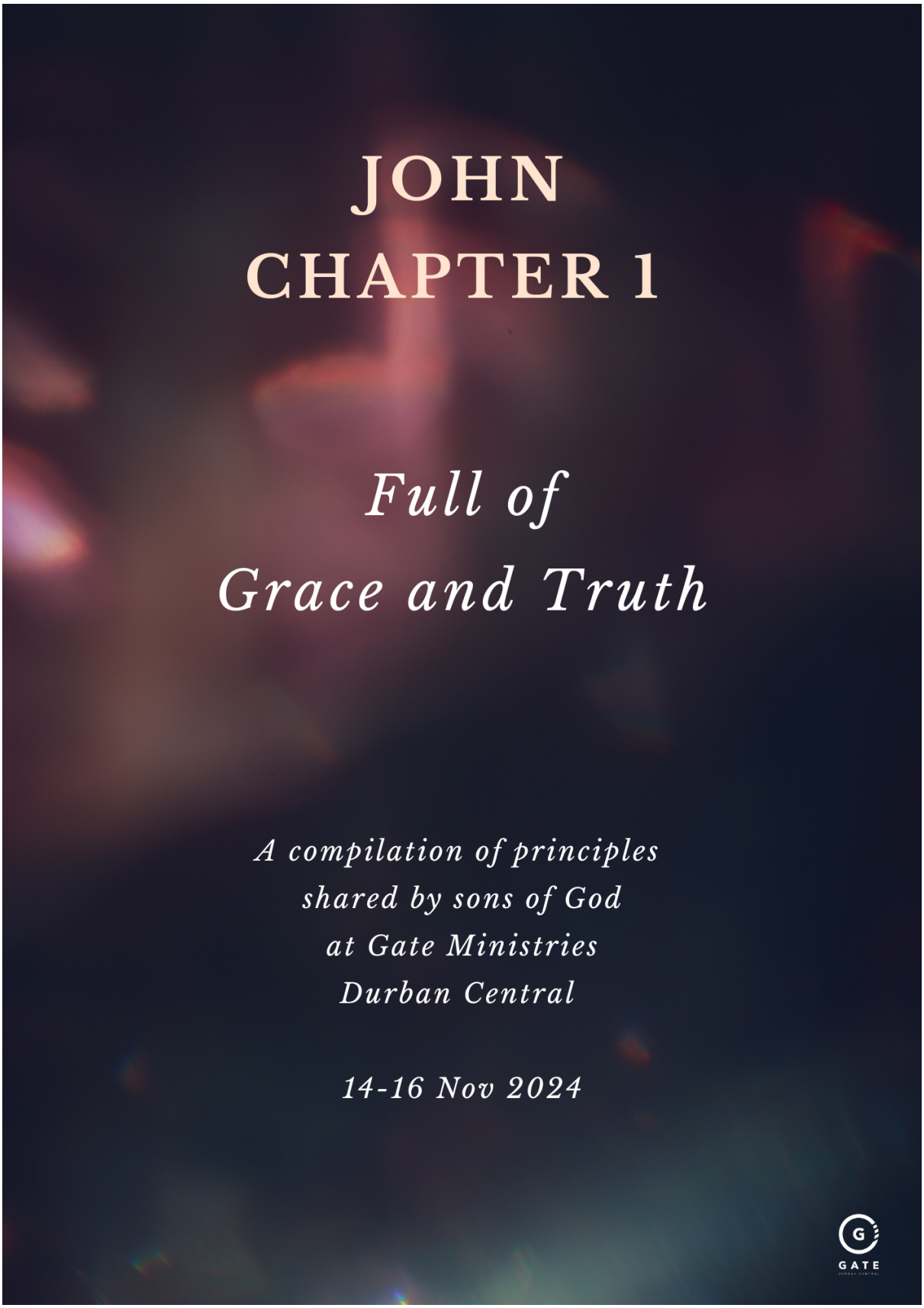
INTRODUCTION #3: Extracted from the New King James Version of the Bible[7]

Just as a coin has two sides, both valid, so Jesus Christ has two natures, both valid. Luke presents Christ in His humanity as the **Son of Man;** John portrays Him in His deity as the **Son of God**. John's purpose is crystal clear: **to set forth Christ in His deity in order to spark believing faith in his readers**. John's gospel is **topical as well as chronological**, and it revolves around **seven miracles and seven "I am" statements of Christ.**

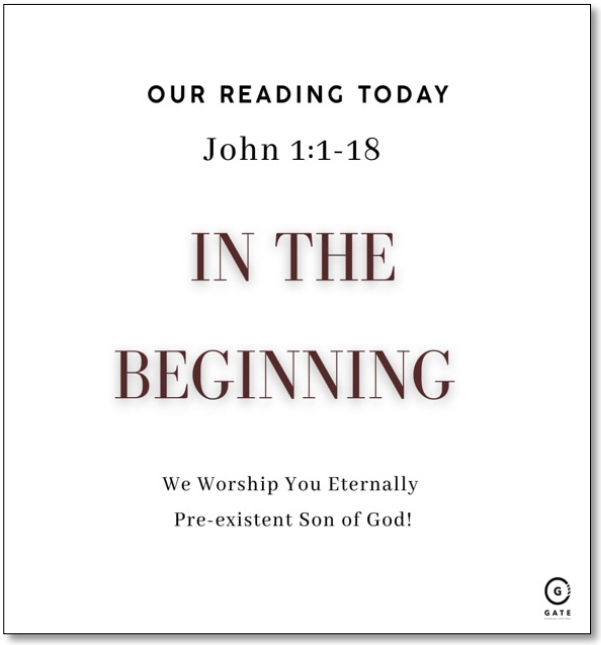
Following an extended eyewitness description of the Upper Room meal and discourse, John records events leading up to the Resurrection, the final climactic proof that Jesus is who He claims to be—the Son of God.

The title of the Fourth Gospel follows the same format as the titles of the synoptic Gospels: Kata *Ioannen*, "According to John." As with the others, the word "Gospel" was added later. *Ioannes* is derived from the Hebrew name Johanan, "Yahweh Has Been Gracious."

[7] The New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.


JOHN
CHAPTER 1
Full of
Grace and Truth
A compilation of principles
shared by sons of God
at Gate Ministries
Durban Central
14-16 Nov 2024
GATE

John 1:1-18 | The Word Made Flesh



Selwyn Young:

In Him: As I read John chapter 1, I cannot escape the thought of being "In Him" and that there is a place "In Him." “In Him was life, and this life was the light of all men” (John 1:4). We have our life in Him and we walk in light because of Him. Because of Him we have been transferred out of darkness into light. In Him we live, move and have our being (Acts 17:28). We cannot bear fruit apart from Him (John 15). We cannot do anything unless we are in Him, who was in the beginning. In Him we were also chosen and predestined (Ephesians 1:11).

There is a place for us. It is "in Him"

Augustine said "[O Lord] Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

We find rest in Him and we only truly find who we are in Him.

Carla Joshua:

It’s about life light and witness!

John introduces us to the word in the beginning, in that beginning was the word. Logos is eternal and the logos was God according to John.

“He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:2).

The word is God, the word is eternal, the word was in the beginning. It encompasses all that God is. God the Father was a distinct person from the word because he says

the word was with God. This makes for understanding God in 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father is distinct from the Son and the Son is distinct from the Father but they are equally God yet separate persons.
Without Him nothing that was made was made. There is so much bursting at us in this text, opening up a blast of revelation. God is great. “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it,” (John 1:5).
But there’s more!
“There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light,” (John 1:6-8).
Pater’s opening our eyes through this initiative: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,” (John 1:12).
And word became flesh to many who receive!
“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth,” (John 1:14).
He dwelt among us!
Anyone who wants to have a relationship with God come and receive Jesus, He is life and light, receive it in the Son who dwell among us.

Audrey Adams:
“In Him was life and the life was the Light of men” (John 1:4)
Jesus is our source, the originator and creator of LIFE- He came to give us eternal life and its everlasting.
This life leads us out from darkness to reflect His light, which is the truth (knowledge) to live by, so now we too, are LIGHT to all men. AMEN.

Quinton Adams:
[5] “The **Light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness did not understand it** or overpower it or appropriate it or absorb it [and is unreceptive to it],” (John 1:5 AMP)
It is clear to see, that **Light and Darkness cannot cohabit**. There is only room for THE TRUE LIGHT....
Darkness must flee at the entrance of HIS LIGHT.

REVELATION of HIS WORD in us expels ALL fragments of hostile darkness in our understanding, perception and reception of Grace.

Yolanda Young:

4: “The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. 5: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it” (John 1:4-5 NLT)

Light and Life. God our Father sent Jesus who is the LIFE (the way) that will show us the LIGHT. (The way to God our father).

God is the LIGHT and in Him there is no darkness at all (see 1John 1:5)

Light = God our Father

Life = Jesus

Darkness = spiritual ignorance.

Everard Saker:

“Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will but born of God,” (John 1:12-13)

Verse 12 is pivotal in that we need to understand the parameters of becoming a son of God. This is tantamount to having the full potential, power, and authority of our big brother Christ Jesus. Becoming SON enables us to know God's full potential as father over us. We cannot fathom the concept of what God's full potential as father is until we firstly receive Him and believe in Him with every facet of our being. God has called us to have dominion on the earth which means having the heavenly authority of God in an earthly dimension. This is because He gave us the right to become children in His kingdom.

Verse 13- We cannot have what I have explained above if we born out of the flesh. We must be born from above, born of God. God knew us in our purest form before the foundations of the earth, meaning we were born from Him as SON and not born from any natural descent, human decision, husband, or natural father's will.

Therefore, we born from above, of God and God wants to bring us back to our natural habitation via His fathering dimension.

We will not understand the power of being God's son if we do not enter Him as SON.

Moira Saker:

John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me,” (John 1:15).

John had a personal revelation of the vastness, greatness and the sovereignty of God. Through him all things were made, He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the author and finisher of faith.

“There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.” (John 1:6-8)

John’s’ witness flowed out from his personal revelation of the greatness of Christ Jesus the son, who was made known by God the Father. John’s purpose was to point others to the source of life and light so that they can also live as sons of God.

Mark Pillay:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,” (John 1:1)

"In the beginning":

Echoes Genesis 1:1, linking Jesus to creation.

"The Word" (Logos): Refers to Jesus, emphasizing His divine nature and role in creation.

"Was with God": Indicates Jesus' eternal relationship with God the Father.

"Was God": Affirms Jesus' divinity and equality with God.

Pre-existence: Jesus existed before creation. Jesus was involved in creating the universe. Jesus is not a created being but the Creator. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God.

Dean Govender:

“...to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God,” (John 1:12-13)

He brought us back into Sonship with the Father.

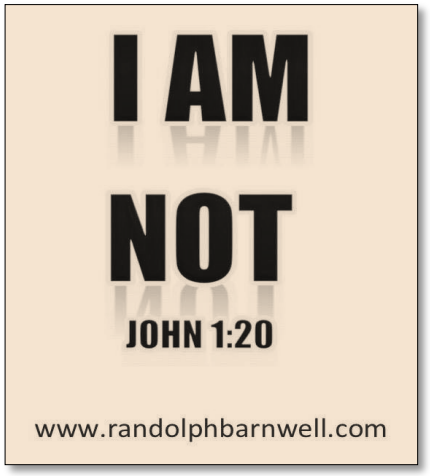
“He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me,” (John 1:15b NASB).

I'm in awe of the prophetic sight John had as he said this. He says "**existed**" not "**lived"**. John knew some things…

Randolph Barnwell

Note these two verses:

- **"**He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light." (John 1:3)
- Who are you?" And he confessed ... "I am NOT the Christ." (John 1:19-20)



John the Baptist answers a question as to who he was by saying who he is NOT.

To know who you are and consequently your assignment in God, you first have to be certain as to whom you ARE NOT. This takes pressure off you trying to be someone God never made you to be and also do something God never empowered you for.

Be at peace with who you ARE, by trying to stop or be who you ARE NOT. Know who you are not so that you can be who God has made you to be. John confessed that he was NOT THE CHRIST, but a VOICE crying in the wilderness. John the Baptist knew the boundaries of his assignment and did not go beyond those limits. You are most successful when you are mostly doing what God has graced for.

Fiona Beru:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," (John 1:1).

This beginning, we know was before creation and chronological time as we know it.

John introduces Jesus as "The Word" or logos in the Greek which has multiple meanings:

- Word, discourse, or reason
- Rational divine intelligence
- A universal divine reason
- An eternal and unchanging truth
- A unifying and liberating force

John did this on purpose, he wanted us to see Jesus not at the historical person, but as the supreme Christ at the beginning of time when creation took place. That we see His Actions and Words are the same. The establishment of who Jesus is, is cemented in to our minds before we read about Him. He is the Alpha and Omega; He speaks and Worlds are framed. He is God.

Shaun Beru:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

The word of God is fleshed out in our lives through an intimate relationship with Christ. Sonship connects and activates the Divine into our natural world.

Let all you do be an expression and a demonstration of the principles of the word you received.

Yvette Govender:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,” (John 1:1).

I am intrigued as my attention was drawn to the Word recorded 3 times and beginning with a Capital. It is obvious how important and of value this is for God to emphasize. Word = Logos = Divine expression. May the Eternal word of God always be kept central in our life.

“Then God said,” (see Gen 1:26), “For he spoke and it came to be,” (see Psalm 33:9).

In the beginning as we learnt is symbolic of the beginning being a Person namely Christ the Son of God by through and for whom all things were created.

“All things were made by him,” (John 1:3). Everything begins with a word.

A thought - written - or heard, leads to creative processes and constructive ideas.

God so loved us that He brought us into existence as His Divine Expression

May we also live out our Divine expression out of love beaming forth light, all to the Glory of God.

Fanele Zondo:

Christ the Beginning, Christ the End: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things

came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being," (John 1:1-3 NASB1995)

Christ is the Author of our faith—the One who creates, initiates, brings forth, and establishes it. Through Christ, our faith is also Perfected.

What He establishes, He also Perfects.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end," (Revelation 22:13 NASB1995)

Through Christ, our Sonship is brought to life. When we are Born of Christ, our ultimate destination is this Sonship status—being co-heirs with Him.

Now that we have received this knowledge, let us allow Christ to become the light that illuminates our eyes to see the wealth we possess by simply being in Him.

Errol Naicker:

In John 1:1-18 (NASB/STRONGS), verse 3 can be cross referenced with: 1Cor 8:6, Col 1:16 and Heb 1:2.

John brings us back to the reconnection of Human & Divine & puts us back in Christ, in a life that becomes a light, where we have fellowship.

Andre van Schalkwyk:

[12] But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name," (John 1:12 NASB1995).

By His Grace, the Father has adopted us into sonship and we find our identity. We are co-heirs with Jesus. He wants to reveal the Son through us.

Raylene Eksteen:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (John 1:1-5)

In the first few verses of the book of John we are made to understand who God is.

- He is eternal, unchanging and always present in our lives.
- He is the creator of all things demonstrating his power, authority, creativity and all knowingness.

- His very essence is life and light.
- He is divine but also became flesh as a tangible presence among the people.

As the one and only eternal God and creator of all things there is nothing that God does not know, therefore when we find ourselves facing situations that seem insurmountable (our darkest moments) we must find rest in the knowledge that **He is the light and our saviour.**

I think of when we I'm in a dark room; the darkness does not allow me to see everything around me and this causes me to me to feel anxious, afraid and unsettled.

However, once I switch the light on, I can see what is in the space and there is no evidence of the darkness. As the light, Jesus shows us the way and enables us by His grace to navigate through life's situations.

The switch in our spiritual journey is the word of God, as we engage the word the revelation of who Christ is shines through and offers us reassurance to face what lies ahead of us because we know and understand who He is.

Annie Reddy:



Selwyn Young:

John 1: **Verse 4-** Jesus is the light and life. He is the light to all mankind.

Verse 9- The true light which came into the world. To show people the way to the Father.

Verse 17- He is the grace giver.

Verse 34 (NIV)- He is God's chosen on.

Carla Joshua:

John 1 starts with an unmistakable sense of hope that comes from Who Jesus is. The life, light and infectious expectation from His character is captivating.

Dean Govender:

In John 1- John 6 (NET):

- "What do you want?" (John 1:38)
- "Give me some water to drink." (John 4:7)
- "Go call your husband and come back here." (John 4:16)
- "Do you want to become well?" (John 5:12)
- "Where can we buy bread so that these people may eat?" (John 6:5)

I see here that Jesus often uses questions to stir up or prompt deeper thought and understanding from the people He engages with.

I also see that God honour's our choices and the free will He has given us - Jesus often asked questions He knew the answers to, prompting us to choose and respond according to our free will.

"Now the Word became flesh and took up r**esidence** among us." (John 1:14 NET)

This word **Residence**:

σκηνόω skēnoō; in the Greek (to tent or encamp) I.e.(figuratively) to occupy (as a mansion) or (specially), to reside (as God did in the Tabernacle of old, a symbol of protection and communion): — dwell.

The words 'Son of Man' are mentioned 12 times in John's Gospel - 'Residence' and 'Son of Man' correlate and tell me that the Lord Jesus, in His humanity came to display the visible glory of God's presence and dwell among us - the Shekinah, as it was in the Tabernacle of old.

Rene Barnwell:

"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. For FROM HIS FULLNESS**, we have all received, **GRACE UPON GRACE**." (John 1:14,16)

Powerful word right here! Jesus reflected God's glory as a human on Earth through His obedience.

His glory was full of grace and truth.

From His fullness/super abundant supply/vast reservoir of Grace, we- His sons- receive Grace upon/on top of/ in place of Grace- a never ending supply! No gaps or spaces between, but like a waterfall, a continuous, constant, gushing flow.
Grace covers our deficiencies and weaknesses, closes the gaps and puts God's glory on display and not our human frailties.
May we enlarge our hearts and create greater capacity- through the study and obedience of God's Word - to receive waterfalls of grace on top of grace, thereby showcasing God's nature and glory to the world.

Debbie Bartleson:
Points I learnt from John 1:

1. **Be prepared**- God sent John to a secluded mountain to prepare the way for Jesus. John did not doubt, he obeyed and spent time in the Torah.

   When you are prepared you are bolder in the task to be carried out. Being in a position of preparedness is very important.
2. **Honour**- When God sent John to prepare the way for Jesus, John did not say this is my younger cousin, why should I do this? Instead, he honoured Jesus.
3. **Come into alignment** with your purpose through the word of God.
4. **No competitiveness**- The word said John was not that LIGHT but was to bear witness of The Light, Jesus.
5. **No bitterness**- When Jesus began His ministry, many of John's disciples left to follow Jesus. He explained to the other disciples who remained with him, that he had to prepare the way for the Messiah as He was not the Messiah.

Jerusha Sydney:
There are times when God feels distant, and we wonder why our prayers go unanswered or feel uncertain in our decisions. In these moments, it's easy to feel alone and in need of guidance.
Yet, we must remember that our Father is always with us. But where? We find Him in the Scriptures.
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1 NASB1995)

The Word existed from the start, with God, and is God Himself. In times of need, we don't have to look far—God is in His Word.

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

God's Word is not just a book, but a living revelation that reveals the heart and brings us closer to Him.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

God's Word guides us, revealing His will and character to those who follow it.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven... so shall My word be... it shall accomplish that which I purpose." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

God's Word always accomplishes His will. Engaging with the Scriptures brings us into His divine purpose.

Nolan Bartleson:

"There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." (John 1:6-9 NIV)

I love John the forerunner - the one who prepares the way for the Christ.

He knew his position and purpose and was not even distracted from his purpose when two of his disciples left him and went with Jesus.

He knew his role was to just point people to Jesus, the True Light the Bread of Life come down from heaven.

Jerusha Sydney:

God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that humanity needed a tangible representation of His nature to truly believe in Him. The Word, which existed before the foundations of the earth, had to become flesh to reveal the true nature of God the Father to the world. This is why Jesus was born. Through Him, God's power, glory, and love were made manifest.

Jesus demonstrated to a lost and broken world the evidence of God's character, showing acts of love, kindness, and mercy, ultimately sacrificing Himself on the cross as an atonement for the sins of mankind. God knew that humanity would only believe

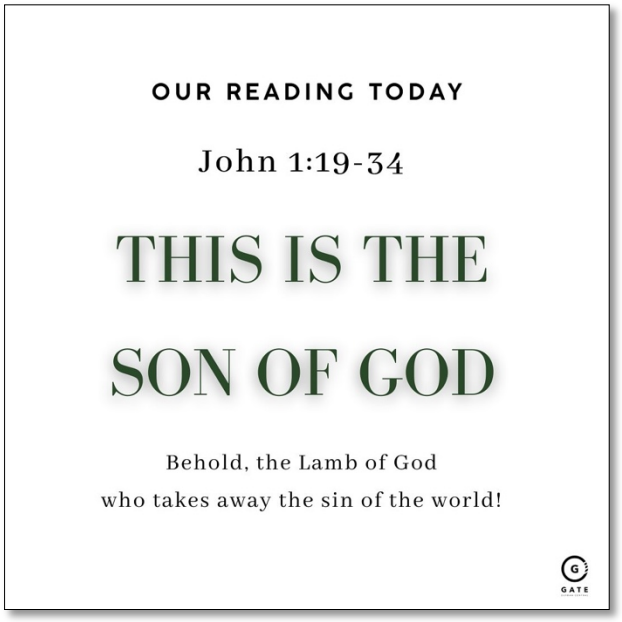
in Him when His nature was expressed through a mortal human being. As stated in **John 1:14**, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

God allowed the intelligence of the Logos—the divine wisdom of God—to be revealed through Jesus. This profound act not only showcased God's glory but also set the ultimate example of obedience and selflessness for us to follow. Jesus declared, "My food is to do the will of the Father," and spent countless hours in solitude with God, ensuring that His flesh was overcome and that He lived in perfect unity with the Father. As sons of God, we need to understand the intelligence and purpose behind God's decision to reveal Himself (the word) through Jesus. The onus is on us to mimic Jesus in every way—living a selfless life that is wholly devoted to doing the will of the Father. When we walk in obedience to the word and reflect God's love, God's glory will shine through us, drawing mankind to see and know God the Father.

Romans 8:19 says: "For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the Sons of God."

This verse emphasises that all of creation is longing for the moment when Sons of God will fully step into their identity and purpose, manifesting His glory and bringing His transformative power to the world. When we embrace this high calling and pursue God relentlessly, we become the evidence of His saving grace, revealing His truth and love to a world in need. Dear Family, let us arise in response to this high calling and live as reflections of Christ, drawing others to the Father through our lives.

John 1:19-34 | John's Testimony



Rene Barnwell:

So, they said to him, "**Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"** (John 1:22).

John the Baptist's message about the coming Christ being the Lamb of God and the Son of God, attracted a lot of attention from the Pharisees.

They sounded desperate ('who are you; we need to give an answer to those who sent us; what do you say?')

The world today is looking for answers ...looking for authenticity. They are drawn to sons of God who subscribe to biblical principles, yet at the same time are skeptical.

John knew who he was ("I am a voice"), and knew who he was not ("I am not the Christ"), therefore he could clearly define who Christ was.

Genuine appraisal of ourselves qualifies us for an accurate description of Christ to the world.

May we, as sons of God, be the answer to the world's soul-searching questions, giving them evidence of His transformative power working in our lives and thereby leading them to Christ.

Yvette Govender:

"He said: I Am The voice of one crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord…" (John 1:23)

“Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)
God uses the voice of His **Chosen Sent One** to communicate principles that builds us up to be at peace and successful. In this way we live righteously and our journey in life is thereby made straight.
In humility may our voices sound forth the word of God to build others up in their wilderness, preparing the way- giving Glory to God.

Nkululeko Freedom:
He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” (John 1:20).
“In order for you to know who you are, you first have to know who you are not.”
(#Ps Randolph's Famous statement).
Knowing who you really are eliminates the need to prove yourself or seek external affirmation.

Annie Reddy:
He said, “I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,’ as Isaiah the prophet said,” (John 1:23).
A few points on the above verse:
1. John is aware of a prophetic word spoken and knows his role in fulfilling it.
2. The "voice" brings awareness of "the Word," which people are then expected to respond to. (BibleRef)
3. The word straight is the Hebrew word "euthyno" which means to steer, steersman, helmsman. What we hear from spiritual fathers steers us to the way of the Lord.
4. A voice crying out - there's a deep urgency for things to be put in order. We also need to have that same urgency in this current time.
The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)
My desire in the reading of the gospel of John is to become more aware of the presence of the Lord.
Just as John in the scripture above knew when the Lord was nearby.

Selwyn Young:
Positioning is key: John was positioned correctly and more importantly where God had called him, in order for him to see Jesus as the lamb of God.

May we be positioned correctly this day and every day of our walk with the Lord in order to see Him as the Lamb of God.
Additionally, as we walk may we bring others to correct positioning to see the Lord as the Lamb of God.
John was 6 months older than Jesus (son of man) in His humanity, but John says this "... A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he **was BEFORE** Me.
John was alluding to pre-existing nature of Jesus in His words. He who was the word that was with God and that was God (John 1).
I marvel at the foresight, planning and strategic nature of God. Nothing escapes Him.

Carla Joshua:
“This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” (John 1:19)

Notice how John responds to the question, **Who Are you?**

He could have said simply no but he said, I am not the Christ. I know there’s something called a leading question but this for me sounded like a leading answer because it prompts a “so who are you?” response. We see that this opens him up further to a line of enquiry of who then are you? John discloses that his not but he is on a mission, he is a voice, an arrow, a realisation for me is also that those question who John had set him apart by virtue of what they recognised in him, there was something that they saw in him which led them to further investigate his agenda,

“These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing,” (John 1:28).

He was functioning in his testimony that caused certain attention to be drawn, whatever he was called to do he was already doing it before he could make a further definitive statement when He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said,” (John 1:23).

Notice how they categorized him with the Christ? Elijah? a prophet? the world must notice who you are in relation to sonship which validates the preaching what you practice dynamic. Also, he was gathered with these men when Jesus came the next day, so he could say, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit, the One greater

than me. Work the works of Him who sent you while it is day by being authentic representation.

Quinton Adams:

“He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.
The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.” (John 1:20, 29, 34 NIV).
May we always, in everything we say and do, POINT others into the direction of **GOD'S CHOSEN ONE.... CHRIST JESUS.**
May we be comfortable to acknowledge that there is a template **BETTER** than myself.
May the ministry highlight **FATHER AND SON** rather than any fame or personal gain.
May it be easy to say: **" HE is the WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.**

Moira Saker:

“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” (John 1:26-27)
Christ Jesus was not physically present with them at this time however John is referring to Christ Jesus the Son within him therefore John the Son of God carried the same greatness and power of Christ Jesus the Son that it was Jesus Christ standing amongst them through John’s life.

Selwyn Young:

In verse 19-28, John was previously asked who he was and he told the pharisees who he was not. But in verse 29 we see John point the Lamb of God. Drawing the attention away from where it was, (who he was) to where it should be. Focused on the bringer of salvation. Focused on the Lamb of God.
Behold: look, turn your attention, see, observe, perceive through sight.
John was asking the crowd to open their spiritual eyes and see the Lamb of God.
He must become greater and I must become less (John 3:30).
May God grant us the grace that our lives scream, Behold The lamb of God. May our lives point to Christ Jesus.

Dean Govender

“I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel,” (John 1:31 NASB)

“I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer,” (John 1:31 MSG)

This is speaking to me about our journey thus far - **crossing our Jabbok, Israel being revealed in each of us - having been prepared to now seek the Father, by way of the Son.**

Fiona Beru:

And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him,” (John 1:32)

John's witness of who Jesus was, was the Holy Spirit descending, and resting upon the son of God. The son of man was revealed as the son of God in and through this moment. In our lives, can others witness the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our actions and speech.

Shaun Beru:

Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” (John 1:19-20,23).

Knowing who you are 'Not' points you to who you really are.

John knew this and clarified his identity as a son of God, a representation of the Christ to come. Your status and position as a son are established when you know who you are Not.

Jerusha Sydney:

These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing” (John 1:28)

Bethany is a place where Jesus visited often. He loved Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha (see John 12:3).

At Bethany, Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Mary displays her maturity in identifying that Jesus is the lamb of God who will be crucified. Mary knew that using the expensive perfume to prepare Jesus' body for burial was of utmost importance. Mary wipes Jesus' feet with her hair. An act of servant hood, devotion & submission.

May the perfume of our lives always attract the Father to want to have fellowship with us. May we come to the place of maturity like Mary at Bethany to go against the grain to obey the voice of our Father. At Bethany, Christ Jesus ascended to Heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father waiting for His sons to arise to be His interface here on earth.

Corayne Walters:
"Now they had been sent from the Parishes," (John 1:24).
The enemy will come around to see if there is still any residue of himself within us.
All he must see is Son of GOD.

Yvette Govender:
There is a preference for the coming after that gives you hope to propel you into the future (John 1:30). This is he of whom I said, **after me** cometh a **man which is preferred** before me for, he was before me.
If in situations, may I encourage you:
The coming after out ranks the present. Surely goodness and mercy will follow you as you follow after Jesus in Humility. May we always remain humble and modest

John 1:35-51 | First Disciples Called



Rene Barnwell:

He said to them, "**COME AND YOU WILL SEE.**" So, **THEY CAME AND SAW** where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour," (John 1:39 ESV).

COMING is a prerequisite for SEEING- To SEE, we must COME. We will never see if we don't come. Coming =closeness; proximity.

Our prophetic sight is determined by our personal proximity to Christ and His Word.

1. 'After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "COME UP here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

2. AT ONCE I was IN THE SPIRIT...' (Rev 4:1-2a)

The same John who wrote the book of John wrote the book of Revelation. Here we see how COMING results in an elevation in the Spirit, almost immediately ("AT ONCE I was in the Spirit")- where spiritual sight is greatly enhanced.

It is just like the higher we climb up a mountain, the greater our panoramic vision will be. May we COME NEAR to Christ and His Word, and watch how greater revelation of His nature, His ways and His purposes we will see and experience.

Britnee Adams:

Jesus says to Nathanael: “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I saw you,”** (John 1:48 NASB1995). Jesus says to Jeremiah: ““Before I formed you in the womb **I knew you**,” (Jeremiah 1:5 NASB1995).

We have **been seen!** We have **been known!**

NOW ITS TIME TO SEE HIM! NOW ITS TIME TO KNOW HIM!

Randolph Barnwell

"The two disciples heard John SPEAK, and they FOLLOWED Jesus." (John 1:37)

Two thoughts here:

(1) When John spoke, people followed Jesus. The words of our mouths reveal the quality and contents of our hearts. Hence the words of mouths reflect the calibre of our lives. When people hear our CONVERSATION, they should be CONVERTED and provoked to follow Jesus. Our TALK needs to reflect a LIFE that is so LIKE GOD, when people hear us in basic daily speech, they should see something of God and DESIRE Him and so FOLLOW HIM. Your TALK should activate people to WALK after Jesus.

(2) When people hear us speak, they should follow Jesus, not us. All our teachings and preaching must ultimately lead people into intimacy with Christ. Don't make YOU the centre of your message. Keep the central focus on GOD always.

Annie Reddy:

“The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus,” (John 1:37).

Listening to the voices of spiritual fathers must cause an immediate reaction.

This must not be something temporal but a continuous movement.

In the below verse we see how the two disciples stayed with Jesus.

May we also continue to move forward by obedience to spiritual fathers and the word spoken so we can stay close to the Lord.

He ***said to them**, “Come, and you will see.” So, they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour,” (John 1:39).

Rene Barnwell:

'Nathanael answered him, **"Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"** Jesus answered him, "**Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."** And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man," (John 1:49-51).

Nathanael acknowledges Jesus' Sonship and Kingship after witnessing, in amazement, Jesus' prophetic sight to see and know things about him.
Jesus tells him that he will see greater things/ have greater revelation than what he witnessed…he will see the heavens open!

Seeing heaven opened alludes to revelation being unfolded to the one who believes.
Angels (messengers) ascend and descend on the son (you and I) who has a revelation of who Christ the Son is in us as sons.
As sons, we are positioned to access great revelation from the heavens personally and via accurate grace carriers who teach us God's Word …**ONLY WHEN**, like Nathanael, we have a revelation of Christ the Son in His fullness, and acknowledge His Kingship by allowing Him to rule in all areas of our lives.

Selwyn Young:

John's accuracy of identifying the Lamb of God, was a catalyst for the deployment of the first disciples. Andrew was one of the two, who heard John's confession. John's positioning started a chain of events that would call the first disciples and change the world forever.
These men were always predestined to fill this role according to the plan of God. But what would have happened if John was not adequately and correctly positioned? If He decided that, that day he did not want to be baptizing and looking out for the Messiah? What if Andrew had not called Simon? If he had disregarded what John had said about the Lamb of God? If he had ignored the prompting from God in his heart to follow this Lamb?
There is a great focus placed on my heart by God regarding accuracy and more important accurate positioning.

My prayer is that God positions us correctly as Son's to point others to the Lamb of God. All I want to be is accurately placed, in the will and plan of God.

Britnee Adams:

“He **found first** his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ),” (John 1:41)

-In Andrew’s zeal to meet Christ, he still **FIRST went to** find his brother Peter.

-As we “come and see”, don’t forget first **ensure we are holding the hands of our brothers to come too!**

Carla Joshua:

“… and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and *said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36).

John again says Behold the Lamb, this should be on repeat in the heart on a son, personally and as it relates to the call, to point others to God, brothers keep your eyes on the Lamb.

“And Jesus turned and saw them following, and *said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” (John 1:38).

Then Jesus saw them following Him and asks a vital question, what do you seek?

This should be soaked in the response of I want to know You, I want to be with You, I want to learn from You, I want to honour You. All this can only be achieved from the come and you will see framework. Follow that Man, the Lamb of God.

The first recorded words of Jesus in the gospel of John are What do you seek? A relevant question for every man that walks the earth, so are you seeking success, security, safety, love, what we are really seeking under all these valid things are primal and basic and it’s something that God Himself has put in us, we are actually seeking Him. Now it could take a long time to get that revelation but all the things we seek are in Him.

We find purpose in Him, a purpose that satisfies all those base needs or seeking that we have, what a powerful question in v38 that’s answered by COME AND SEE, connect with ME on a personal level, this is what Jesus is ultimately saying here, dwell with Me, aah let’s go and meet with Jesus.

“He **found first his** own brother Simon and *aid to him, “**We have found the Messiah**” (which translated means Christ),” (John 1:41)

I love this, he found his own brother and says “we have found the Messiah” There’s many ways that the good news of Jesus can be spread but one of the most successful ways is when someone you know already knows Him and says hey, let me tell you what happened to me, I found the Messiah!

Let’s all have beautiful feet as we are simultaneously being changed into His perfected image, not everyone will have a direct call, the important thing is that we all come and see.

Randolph Barnwell

“Again, the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.” (John 1:35,36)

John could identify Jesus as the ‘LAMB’ and even point others to HIM, saying ‘BEHOLD’ the Lamb, BUT John COULD NOT follow the LAMB himself. If there was anyone who should have physically followed Jesus, it should have been John.

Lessons to learn?

(1) It is possible to have the capacity of revelation and prophetic sight, yet fail to practically implement it. What we see prophetically must then compel us to adopt a series of practical steps in reference to what we claim to have seen. Revelation must be administrated into practical application. Sadly, many claim to SEE certain NEW realities in God, His Word and purposes, yet fail to embark on taking decisive steps of obedience that actually proves what they are fully convinced of the truth they claim to have seen. (Recall John doubted that Jesus was the Christ when he was imprisoned).

(2) It now time to DO things and not just SEE things! Let us start to now give practical expressions to all the truth we know. Take some decisive steps - do some ‘works’ to evidence the ‘faith’ you have since ‘faith’ without ‘works is ‘dead’.

(3) John did not follow, but his disciples did. He recognised the new season but failed to enter it. He fathered sons, to whom he pointed out the new season. They had the courage to leave John and follow Jesus. Fathers who fail to practically transition themselves even though they have an awareness of the

new, will lose sons who are courageous to align themselves accurately with the new seasons of God.

Selwyn Young:
Andrew called Simon. Phillip called Nathanael. Nathanael called out "You are the son of God..."
V41 Andrew said "We have found the Messiah"
V45 Phillip said " we have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote..."
V49 Nathanael says to Jesus "You are the Son of God..."
These men's heart we also adequately positioned and postured with expectation. They were waiting for the Son of God, the Messiah to be revealed.
This attitude and heart of expectancy is what positioned them to see the Lamb of God for who he truly is.
Let us remain with a heart of expectancy. That God will reveal the Son to us.

Quinton Adams:
“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip,” (John 1:46 NIV).
YES, NAZARETH gave us: MARY; JOSEPH; ELIZABETH; JOHN; JESUS and ultimately; **SALVATION** for mankind.

Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man,” (John 1:50-51 NIV).
This is truly an **exciting epoch** of time. Our sight is much clearer. Our understanding is much sharper. **Our thirst for more of Christ** is much more intense. **Our spiritual eyes have been opened.** The veil is torn, and we can peer into the deeper dimensions of the Word.
FATHER GOD wants to **show us HIMSELF** as we draw closer to the **MIRROR OF THE WORD. IMAGE and LIKENESS** will come alive.
Come and see is not a building or a physical venue, **it's a PERSON**.

Randolph Barnwell

John said to his disciples, “Behold the Lamb”. Andrew, a disciple of John’s, obeyed and just did not only SEE but followed. After the enquiry concerning where he lived, Jesus said to Andrew, “Come and See”. Andrew then invites Peter to see to Jesus. Philip, using Jesus’ words, says to Nathaniel, “Come and See”.

• John connected Andrew to Jesus!
• Andrew connected Peter to Jesus!
• Philip connected Nathaniel to Jesus!

Can you point to ANYONE that you have personally connected to Jesus?
Before you exit this life, may you consciously connect people to Christ. When you stand before HIM one day, may you be able to point X, Y and Z, whom you were personally responsible for connecting to Christ.



Andrew invited Peter! Peter becomes a key role player throughout the Gospels and book of Acts and will even get to write two books of Bible! When we are encouraged today by reading the epistles of First and Second Peter, we must actually THANK GOD for Andrew! You never what your simple invitation or sharing of a post on social media with someone can do.
Challenge: Trust God! Before this year is up, may you be able to point to one or more spiritually strong people and say, “It was I who said to them at one stage, ‘Come and See’.” May the GRACE for connecting people to Christ be on us all in a new dimension.

Dean Govender:

Outset (1A): The disciples having pre-existent knowledge of the Old Testament and the Messianic prophecies. John 1:39-51.
Verse 39: “Come, and you will see.”
‘Come and observe my life, my ways, how I live and what I was sent to do. I need not claim to be the Messiah, you will know it for yourself’

Jesus is teaching and echoing into eternity - A Son of God's response to the world. How our lives should display Christ the Godhead, all by actions informed by the Word made flesh and not necessarily works or words of mouth.

Verse 41: "We have found the Messiah"

Note here, the revelation of the 'Christ' came after observing who Jesus was. Observing the 'Word made flesh' (1A)

Verse 46b: Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Now see how fast (After the revelation of Christ) Philip becomes a disciple and asks Nathanael to now, "come and see".

He points him directly to the well of living water instead of trying to prove that something good can in fact come out of Nazareth.

Verse 51: "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

There is much to comment on, regarding the verses prior however I will just say that this particular verse 51 stands out for me.

Jesus the Christ now mirrors what Christ Jesus said to Jacob in the dream he had in Haran regarding the ladder and Angels ascending and descending.

Mark Pillay:

A disciple is someone who learns by following a teacher.

John (the Baptist) had been the teacher, but now it was time for people to leave John (the Baptist) to follow and learn directly from Jesus.

One of the disciples standing next to John (the Baptist) was Andrew and it is believed one of the disciples was John.

John (the Baptist) indicated to the disciples that it was time for them to leave his side and follow Jesus by looking at Jesus and calling Him the Lamb of God.

The two started to follow Jesus and Jesus turned around and said "**what are you seeking?"** As an answer to the question, the disciples called Jesus "Rabbi" which means teacher, indicating they were seeking to learn, and asked Him where He was staying, indicating they were seeking to stay with Jesus wherever He would go.

It was Andrew who told his own brother about Christ. Sometimes family is the hardest to talk about Christ, but Andrew gives us a great example to testify about Jesus even to our closest family. Not only did Andrew speak plainly to his brother about Christ, he brought his brother to Christ to introduce him to Jesus! Jesus looked at Simon and

gave him a new name because Jesus immediately knew the character of Simon. Jesus knows me just as well! Cephas is from the word "rock"
Peter is not always solid as a rock in the Gospels, but he became solid as a rock as the early church begins in the Book of Acts.

Jesus knew the real Peter before Peter even knew himself!

- Jesus's first disciples were Andrew, John, and Simon Peter and then the next day, Philip and Nathaniel.
- Andrew followed because of John's testimony/preaching.
- Peter followed because of his brother's witness.
- Philip followed because of a direct call from Jesus.
- Nathaniel followed because of a personal encounter with Jesus.

Fiona Beru:
Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. [36] And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:35-36).
He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour),” (John 1:39).

One of the disciples of John, named Andrew, heard John’s declaration of who Jesus was, and immediately they followed Jesus. They didn’t ask who are you? Or what are you doing? The question they asked is **“Where are you staying?”**
And Jesus told them “Come and see!” their seeing was not to see a location or residence, but rather Who is this person and how will they impact my life?
How do we attract people to Christ? Are we able to tell them, “**Come and see!”** You see people are no longer interested in just mere words, but actions speak louder. Can people come and see our lives? Are we like Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 3:1 2-3, “an epistle for all men to see.”
After his encounter with Jesus, Andrew went to bring his brother, Peter and then Philip to Jesus. Do our lives attract others to Christ or repel them?

Shaun Beru:
He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). And Nathanael said to

him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” (John 1:39,46).

COME AND SEE! --It is not just found in a thing but in a person called Jesus Christ! That is an invitation in the Gospel of John to Come and See who Jesus is and how we can abide with God each day.

It's encouraging to know that Jesus' plan was to show the disciples that security is not found in “something” but “someone,” **HIMSELF**. Invite people to come and see the Christ in your life.

Kate Muthunsamy:

"Come and see…" (John 1:39)

This was not an invitation to a physical address but rather an invitation to spend time with Him, to engage Him, to experience His presence.

When you experience things for yourself- it is easier to talk about it clearly.

"Follow me"

Not just a physical movement...but a spiritual movement and a transformation from what they did before. This was an invitation to embark on a journey... to walk in His ways and in His footsteps and to learn from Him (compassion, service).

In this journey with Christ, we must leave behind our old life (thoughts, habits; worries) and be begin a new fresh journey. Along the way- we may stumble but we have **Jesus at the centre who is merciful and gracious, full of love and compassion.**

Fiona Beru:

5 Characteristics in **JOHN 1** of the nature of Jesus that I can learn from:

- Jesus is the Word, what He says He does, He framed worlds with words and so can we.
- Jesus became flesh so that He could showcase His Father, so that we as humans can identify with Him. We too need to be pliable, and know how to function so that others can see Christ in our lives
- Grace and truth came through Jesus; we need to function in the grace of the Lord
- Jesus is the Lamb of God, He came sacrificially. Our lives need to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God (see Romans 12:1)

- “Come and see!” (John 1:39), Jesus wanted to be an example to all. In our lives let us be examples, let people come and see Christ in us.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

From John 1:

- Be an embodiment of the word;
- Be filled with grace and truth bringing glory to the Father;
- I am God's Son (As He is);
- Be a letter of Christ, inviting others to believe and experience the Father.

Julienne Bartleson:

Jesus, the Destiny Definer!

“Nathanael asked him, "How do you **know** me?" Jesus answered, saying, "**Before** * Phillip even called you from the physical location that you were sitting under (fig tree), **I SAW YOU**.″ (John 1:48)

There is a spiritual location that He has called us to and it goes beyond the physicality of where we are. It is revealed to us as we incline (bend) our hearts to Him (in the volume of book).

"Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him…" (John 1:47)- May we draw near to the one who knows who sees us, in whom our destinies are defined.

Rene Barnwell:

“Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, **“Come and see.”** Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I SAW YOU**.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel! And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **YOU WILL SEE** heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”” (John 1:46-49,51)

When Philip found Nathanael and told him they had found Jesus who was spoken about in the scriptures, he replied if anything good could come out of Nazareth.

Nazareth obviously did not have a very good reputation or credibility, so how could the Messiah come from there?

Jesus saying that Nathanael is a man without deceit, means that Nathanael was not being derogatory.

He was an upright, honest man, who could perceive that Jesus was not in essence from Nazareth but from above, from the Father Himself- His origin was not earthly...He was full of grace and truth!

Jesus confirmed His divinity by telling Nathanael that He saw him under the fig tree before Philip even called him.

Nathanael exclaimed 'You are the son of God," Jesus said in verse 50 that He will **see GREATER THINGS**, even Heaven opened.

May our prophetic sight be enhanced to see beyond the natural into the eternal/spiritual realm, and as we remain consistent in studying God's Word, may we too also see GREATER THINGS, as God reveals it to us through the Heavens being open over our lives.

Andre van Schalkwyk:

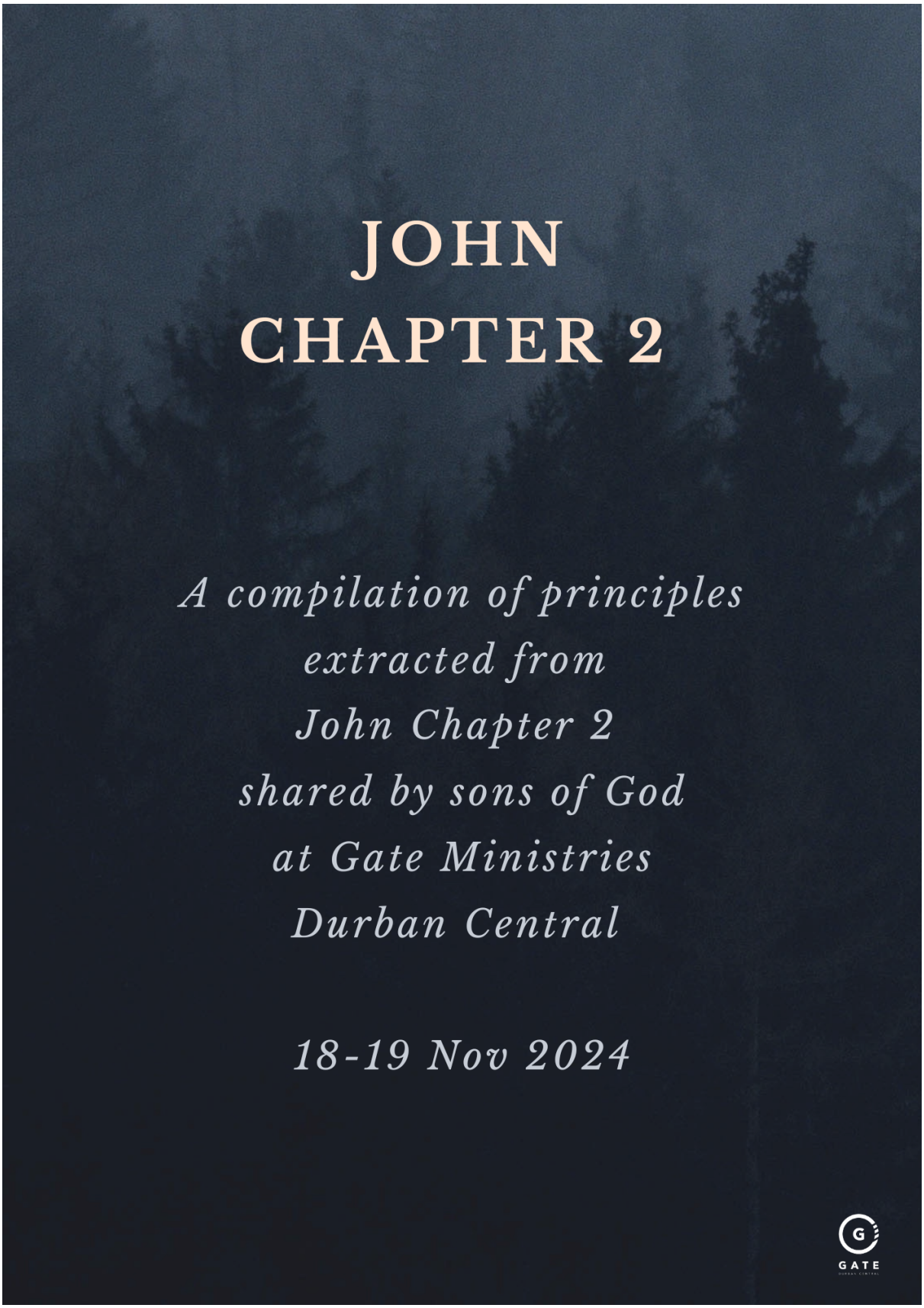
From John 1 to John 5 **Jesus the Son is:**

Eternal.	The Son of God.	Giver of living water.
Creator.	Performs miracles (Omnipotent).	Savior of the world.
Life-giver.	Zealous for God's house.	Equal with God.
Light of the world.	Bringer of new birth.	Has authority to judge.
God in the flesh.	Lifted up for salvation.	Worthy of honour.
Full of grace and truth.	Bringer of eternal life.	Resurrects the dead.
Reveals the Father.	Sent by the Father.	Does the will of the Father.
The Lamb of God.	Knows the hearts of people (Omniscient).	Light that exposes darkness.
Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.		

Anne Paul:

In **John 1**, John the Baptist was sent by God. His mission was to point others to the Light. We have been sent by God.

May we search the volume of the Book (The Holy Scriptures) to locate ourselves and accomplish His plans in us.


JOHN
CHAPTER 2
A compilation of principles
extracted from
John Chapter 2
shared by sons of God
at Gate Ministries
Durban Central
18-19 Nov 2024
GATE

John 2:1-12 | First Sign



Rene Barnwell:

Jesus said to the servants, "**Fill the jars with WATER**." And they filled them up to the brim. …" When the master of the feast tasted the **WATER NOW BECOME WINE**, and did not know where it came from..." (John 2:7,9a).

Before the miraculous took place, Jesus' first instruction to the servants was to fill the water pots/jars with water. They obeyed immediately and the miraculous took place- water was turned into wine. **Water is symbolic of the Word** of God; Wine is symbolic of revelation. When the Word of God is prioritised and obeyed, not only will Christ, His nature and His ways be revealed to us, but miraculous signs and wonders will follow the Word. Many want the miracles but are devoid of Word/Doctrine.

May we prioritise reading, studying and meditating on **God's WORD**, and experience **powerful REVELATION** of Christ the Son, who is the portal to our Heavenly Father- drawing us into intimacy with Him.

Then… watch how the **MIRACULOUS** will naturally follow His Word.

Annie Reddy:

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there;” (John 2:1).

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:7).

A marriage is a symbol of union of two. Two become one.

In the above scripture (Rev 19:7) Jesus, the Lamb, is compared to a Bridegroom and the church of God is the bride. What better place than a wedding for Jesus to perform His first miracle. He is confirming His union with us, the church.

Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” So, they filled them up to the brim. (John 2:7)

We are the waterpots (the vessels) that carry the water (word) of the Lord. Let us also fill our lives with the word of God to the brim.

And He said to them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So, they took it to him. (John 2:8)

Water poured into authentic sons can lead to wine being drawn out. Wine is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and His provision. All this happens on the third day, a symbol of the presence of the Godhead.

Selwyn Young:

Jesus' first miracle is turning water into wine. Changing an old covenant into new. Using jar for ceremonial washing. Jesus is creating the wine of the new covenant. The one that does away with the law and all its requirements. The significance for this is. Ceremonial washing will no longer be required. The new wine, the blood of the lamb is all that is required for cleansing.

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29).

It is very interesting, but actually I think it was purposeful that Jesus' first sign was performed at a wedding. A wedding which signifies a covenant between the man and woman and made before God.

Rob Toornstra said, "A Christian marriage is a covenant made between two persons, with God at the center; this means that God pledges to help us hold the covenant together..."

God is in the new covenant. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Carla Joshua:

"…and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding." (John 2:2)

What I see in this text is one of many revelations about inviting Jesus to an occasion in your life is that something great will happen, consciously inviting Jesus to the events of our life is setting yourself up for something great to happen. Jesus wants to come and make whatever you invite Him to better. I don't suppose they expected to run out of wine because in those days somehow it strikes me that weddings and wine are two things that naturally go together.

I suppose they could have not invited Him but I'm sure they were relieved that they did, I could say the same about many occasions in my life where in consciously invited Him.

"And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." (John 2:4)

I wondered why Jesus responded in this way, calling Mary woman, it was not a disrespectful way but could it have been that Jesus was indirectly highlighting that He has a surpassing relationship with His Father in heaven, and it's from that posture that He responded. Jesus took His instruction from the Father but it's amazing because His response might not have seemed positive to Mary but take note of her instruction to the servants "whatever He says to you, do it."

Could it be that Mary knew He would be the answer in that time? Jesus must have consulted His Father because Jesus says many times, "I don't do anything unless my Father tells me to do it"

Whatever Jesus says do, do it! The words of Mary are few but the ones recorded are powerful.

"Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each." (John 2:6)

This is a lot of water, so do the maths: 1 gallon = 3,785 litre.

Know that Jesus could have just performed a miracle and created the water in the pots, surely, they had to go to a well maybe with buckets and draw the water out, I don't think they had a hose pipe lol, water depicts the word for us, God wants to turn the water into wine and He wants to transform what you have, they did what they could

do, they participated, the servants didn't ask how much, when and why, no hesitation. They filled them to the brim, Jesus couldn't add anything, He doesn't want to add anything but He wants transform what you have, the word which is love, patience, forgiveness, obedience.
The first miracle was one of transformation and conversion, be a waterpot and let Jesus transform you.

Audrey Adams:
His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." (John 2:5)
There's a level of trust in Jesus that his mother displays, having full confidence in Him, with giving the instruction to servants, whatever he says…
There's an expectation of mighty works together with submission to His voice even without understanding of the process ahead. What a great turnaround of events, the first miracle once the servants took heed to His words spoken in vs 6;
Water turned into wine. Truly the words He speaks are Spirit and life (John 6:33).
Let's position ourselves in total submission and obedience to His voice, even when we don't understand the process to. "Whatever He says, just obey and expect the MIRACULOUS.

Quintez-Lee Wagner:
Jesus' first miracle took place at a wedding. A wedding is a celebration of covenant- two people coming together as one. A wedding also tells us that the couple is mature enough to make a lifelong commitment to each other. So, Jesus' miracle is the beginning of celebration of life, a new covenant, deeper commitment to purpose.
Jesus' miracle was to turn water into wine. Wine is a symbol of revelation. Revelation of the Son, Christ Jesus, that will reveal God the father to all who accept Him (John 1 tells us).
Jesus' mother needed to encourage Him to in order for Him to come out of preparation and dive into purpose. Jesus' parents were also the same people who took him from the temple when He was talking to the priest and told Him he wasn't ready. So, His mother telling Him he was ready is the thing He needed to confirm his maturity.
The wedding = covenant
The wine = revelation
Mum's permission = maturity

Spiritual oversight is a covenant and their guidance will catapult you to the next level until ultimate maturity as a son.

Britnee Adams:

“When the **headwaiter** tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from **(but the servants who had drawn the water knew**), the headwaiter called the bridegroom,” (John 2:9 NASB1995).

The headwaiter is ultimately the oversight of the servers and yet didn’t know where the good wine came from **but the servers who had drawn the water knew**.

-Many of us may be the servers in our environments. Serving in school, serving at work, serving in relationships. And we are Serving the good wine (grace and revelation) to all these spheres.

-While they question “what is it about you...” we, the servers know that the grace we carry actually comes or is drawn from the water (**symbolic of The Word**).

-Do not be discouraged if this is you. Jesus discloses Himself to the servers, sometimes even more than the headwaiters.

Yolanda Young:

The following event took place 3 days after Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael.

(On the 3rd day)

Here we see a plea for HELP from Jesus's mother stating, "They have no wine left".

Mary knew that Jesus was sent by God our Father to transform us. She wanted the people to know this too. She knew HIM. She believed in HIM. She fellowshipped with HIM. But she still needed to learn that Jesus could only act when the Father told Him to. This was her way of showing people who Jesus was. She was leading the disciples to Him.

Jesus's response was twofold: 'His time has not yet come'

Jesus's time to the die was not yet neither did He feel it was time to be 'Glorified' He was waiting on His Father.

Jesus' Glory was revealed to the disciples through this miracle and then they believed. They needed to see a miracle. This miracle was not flashy like some of the others we are yet to see but the disciples believed in Jesus.

God will reveal Himself through Christ Jesus to those who are ready to fellowship with Him. To those who believe in Him.

A 'virgin heart and mind'. A heart that longs to be with Him. A child like mind. One that is undivided.

Quinton Adams:

“Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so, they filled them to the brim.” (John 2:7 NIV).

- **Water:** **Word**
- **To the brim:** **Speaks of Capacity**
- **Six jars:** **6 is the number of man.**

Sons must allow their jars, their spirits, their mindsets to be fully configured by coming under the influence of the **SPIRITUAL REALM**. It's only once the eternal addresses our humanism, that our worlds can change for the better and the best.

ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR ELIVATION WHEN JESUS SPEAKS TO IT.

Britnee Adams:

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana…” (John 2:1 NKJV).

-From my study, it would definitely take three days to travel from where John was baptizing to Cana.

It took 3 days until the first miracle of Jesus!

Guess what also took 3 days? **The resurrection of Jesus!**

3 days for His first miracle: Water to Wine.

3 days for His last miracle: The Resurrection.

3 denotes a day of release; new life; completeness.

God’s timing is everything. This was a full-circle moment.

Dean Govender:

Zoning in on John 2:4-11 we say in:

Verse 4

Speaks about the timing of God and that everything does indeed, have a season. (Ecc. 3) - Jesus was about His Father’s will and lived in accordance with this.

Verses 7-8 The Miracle

"This beginning of miracles" exhibited the character and "manifested forth the glory" of His entire Mission. (Commentary by Jamiesson, Fausset and Brown)
Just the significance of Jesus' first miracle being performed at a wedding - Under the sanctity of an institution created by the Father.

Verse 10

The mistake of not having enough wine for the wedding was not only rectified by Christ, (God as redeemer) but also the fact that this was of better quality than the wine that was originally served - This speaks to me about God's nature as Restorer. Things are restored to a better position than they were originally.

Verse 11: "And manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."
As much as we pray, fast and align ourselves to His perfect will - I feel that we as believers need to see His glory manifested in our lives (the church) from time to time - this increases our faith as believers.

Mark Pillay:

This miracle at Cana of Galilee has much to teach us, which John calls **"the beginning of signs."**
"Turning water into wine", as the other signs in the Gospel of John, teaches us about the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose is simple: that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that in believing you might have eternal life.
This transformation of water into wine is closely related to chapter 1
"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14)
In the first few verses of this Gospel, John informs us that Jesus of Nazareth is the Logos, who was not only with God in the beginning, but was God in the beginning.
He is the Creator, who brought all things into existence.
Is it any great wonder that we should see Jesus "creating" wine from water, just as He once created the cosmos from chaos? The disciples and servants at the wedding beheld His glory through this miracle which was their sign.
This is what John tells us:
"This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him".

Cindy Pillay:

His mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5)

Are you prepared to do whatever our Father tells you?

Rita Naidoo:

His mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5)

This verse also shows Mary's total submission. She recognized that Jesus was more than her human son. He was the son of GOD!! When we take our problems to Christ, we sometimes also tell HIM what we expect HIM to do. I don't think Mary was expecting a miracle, but like Mary we should just submit and allow HIM to deal with our problems as He sees best.

Jerusha Sydney:

The first miracle of Jesus of turning water into wine:

The no 6 speaks of man's imperfection and human frailties. The 6 empty waterpots is symbolic of human vessels whose lives are empty and void of the power of God's word.

Eph 5.26 speaks of washing of water by the word. Water is symbolic of God’s word. These pots are filled with water highlights that we as empty human vessels can only lead fulfilled, meaningful lives when we exude God’s word.

The water turning into wine depicts lives that flourish & prosper as we bask in the revelation of hidden truths in God’s word. As we draw closer to the Father, He will reveal more about His son to us by removing the veil of our hearts to see and grasp the hidden truths in His word.

Fiona Beru:

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” (John 2:1-3).

We could ask ourselves why would the first miracle John recorded, be this one. John realized and knew that without the infilling of our Lord and savior we would be just sounding gongs. This miracle story shows us how, we need more of God in our lives.

If **our lives (the clay jars)** are not filled with the word of **God (the Water),** then we cannot **reveal God (wine)** in our lives.
The obedience of the servants, when given the command “just Do it!” from Mary in verse 5 is key. If they did not listen, and thought Jesus was crazy for wanting water in jars, because they knew the situation of lack of wine, and did not obey the miracle would not have taken place.
Sometimes we don’t understand the word released but that must not stop us from being obedient, because in our obedience, revelation comes.

Shaun Beru:
“His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” (John 2:5)
Just Do It comprises two components: **Faith and Obedience**
"Just do it" emphasizes the importance of putting words into action. It's about accurate, reflexive obedience to the word of God.
The miracle you seek is in obedience to the Word. You’ve got to obey His word and do what He says. Just Do It.
The Best is yet to Come
And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!” (John 2:10)
This is a powerful statement that despite circumstances, historical experiences, and present situations, God still has the best for us. The plans God has for us are good, and we have a hope and a future (Jer 29:11).
"GOD AIN'T DONE WITH YOU YET"

Riley Reddy:
It says Jesus and his disciples were **INVITED** to the wedding... Apart from being obedient to his mother and attending the wedding.
As everything belongs to God the father, we have to show willingness and invite him into our lives...miracles can happen.
When the wine was finished... Jesus's mother did not go to the host of the wedding, she mediated between the host and Jesus, she spoke specifically to Jesus when the wine ran out because she recognized that he would or could do a miracle and which he did.

If we apply this in realistically in our lives, this story teaches us 3 things - we have to believe that nothing is impossible with God, just as Jesus turned water into wine.
Without the creator's authority nothing can change.
We should also follow the command / instruction of God just as he instructed the servants to bring 6 stone water jars.
By turning water into wine, at that point he had the power to change the nature of a thing he transformed not just the state of the liquid but transformed lives... At the wedding that was a start of a new covenant.
Water is symbolic of the Word and wine represents his blood that was shed.

Derrell Petersen:
Water being synonymous with the word of God, wine with revelation, and six being the number related to man. When we are filled with the word of God and His Spirit, revelation even in the form of our everyday speech toward ourselves and others will point them to the Christ.

Julienne Bartleson:
"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory," (John 1:14 NASB2020).
In John chapter 1, the profile of Jesus the SON is explained to us, **now**, in John chapter 2 at the end of this first miracle, we begin to SEE His person and power on display His glory is being revealed.
"This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him." (John 2:11 NASB2020).
As Pastor Randolph says **"The CRISIS must meet the CHRIST"**
This was an ordinary context, with a *problem of a CRISIS at this wedding ... no wine! But because **the SON** of God was present, **the WORD** became flesh and dwelt amongst this context, and **the WORD said FILL** the waterpots, then **DRAW**... and suddenly, the miraculous takes place, and His glory is revealed. **The CHRIST gave an instruction a word to bring a Solution to this CRISIS.**
The SON in us, the WORD in us, must become the GLORY of God revealed through us in our ordinary contexts of life bringing solutions and answers to everyday problems. **Christ is IN me the HOPE of GLORY!**

Randolph Barnwell

This was the beginning of signs - the FIRST of the signs. The ‘firsts’ sets the foundation for the best of the signs. How you start is how you continue and how will will finish.

The disciples believed on Him because of this. the ultimate objective of signs, wonders and miracles is that people believe in Jesus. Where a sign has been performed, with no accompanying belief in Jesus, the performance of the sign has missed its objective. This is largely due in part to those who perform signs - many do so out of selfish ambition or pride to showcase their anointing and in so doing Christ is not glorified, thus not believe upon.

Corayne Walters:

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." (John 2:5)

JESUS said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So, they filled them up to the brim. (John 2:7)

And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So, they took it to him. (John 2:8).

Now, **these 6 waterpots were big**, holding 20 or 30 gallons each.

A gallon is 4.546lt - that's an approx. **total of 810 litres of water.**

These servants never questioned, debated, grumbled, sulked, shunned anything from the 1st instruction from Mary. right down to the last from **JESUS.**

As Sons, we too are called to **serve.** We serve to reveal the nature of **FATHER and SON** to this generation. And look how GOD "rewarded" those servants, part of Verse 9 (but the servants who had drawn the water knew).

These servants were the first to witness JESUS' first miracle. They were given a glimpse of the divine nature of the FATHER within His Son. What an honour and privilege accorded to servants at a wedding! Let's submit, surrender, obey joyfully as our **FATHER draws GMDC** to Himself to reveal His Son to us and within us.

What will GOD disclose to us, His Sons?

Randolph Barnwell

You cannot ‘DRAW OUT’ that which you have not FILLED UP.

Water Pots used for purification of feet were filled with water but wine was drawn out. The point? Out from the degree which you have allowed the water of God’s word to both purify and prepare you (Feet speak of preparedness to preach - feet shod with

the preparation of the Gospel of peace), is the degree to which you can draw revelation (wine) to serve JOY (wine) to a sad world.

Yvette Govender:
Jesus was invited to the wedding ceremony and performed his First miracle. There is significance in that with the presence of God being in the center of every marriage, he gives his blessings and we would be under his Care and Provision as the miracle - turning water to wine.

Andre van Schalkwyk:
On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there;" (John 2:1 NASB1995)
On the third day, Jesus was raised from the death. Resurrection Power. Jesus turned the water into wine on the third day. In Bible numerology 3 represents completeness, perfection, and fulfilment.
Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. (John 2:6 NASB1995)
The number 6 in bible numerology represents man, imperfection, and man's tendency to rebel against God.
We are the six jars Jesus took and filled with water.
Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So, they filled them up to the brim. (John 2:7 NASB1995)
We were not perfect and in sin, but as we fill ourselves with the Word [water], the Father cleanses us and fills us with the Holy Spirit [Wine].
We emptied ourselves when we did the Jabbok fast, let us continue to empty ourselves from unwanted unholy things and fill ourselves to the brim with water [The Word] so that we can be the true representation of the Son.

Randolph Barnwell
Jesus did not claim glory for the miracle. Only the servants knew He had converted water to wine. The headwaiter or steward should have addressed Jesus, but instead he speaks to the bridegroom, supposing he kept the best wine for last.
We just need to allow God to powerfully use us and then step back, not taking glory for anything. This is an important posture of humility.

As a result of this FIRST SIGN, the disciples believed in him. This was the result and reward Jesus got. Always seek after results God wishes to bestow upon you that will fast track your purpose and destiny in ways fare more powerful and effective that that what you perceive would.
SO HERE are issues of PROTOCOL and RANK: Jesus specifically instructed the servants to serve the headwaiter FIRST. Jesus respected the protocol governing the occasion. He was not a loose cannon displaying His miraculous power within adherence to principles governing contexts and relationships.

Carla Joshua:
Jesus celebrates with us and He knows and understands that there will be times where celebration, enjoying one's self, festivity, events or occasions will take place. But, not only does He understand this, He gets invited to such an occasion.
If Jesus was a religious and dull party pooper, I don't think He would have been invited, rather He turned water into wine.

Yvette Govender:
What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory. In John 2:

- **Verse 3** – "They have no wine"
- **Verse 5** – "Do whatever he tells you"

Jesus the effectual doer of the word as released by Mary in verses 3 & 5 (see above) was able to do his first miracle manifesting the Glory of God. God Revealed.
This act demonstrates everything is possible for one who believes and does.

Nolan Bartleson:
"When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so…" (John 2:3-8 NIV)

Jesus the Christ, the son of God, knew that his time had not come for him to perform miracles, yet the demand his mother placed on him activated or fast tracked his ministry.

His obedience as a man to his earthly mother Mary caused the supernatural to take place even before he felt it was the right time. Even Jesus obeyed his natural parents (Mary) to demonstrate a principle of submission as a man even though he was God.

Obedience to the word we receive and obey from our spiritual parents will manifest in supernatural doings and working of God in our lives. He was God (Spirit) yet he obeyed as a man. First the natural then the spiritual. God honours the principle of obedience to his word. Do not expect miracles if you are not walking in obedience to his word.

Raylene Eksteen:

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus *said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus *said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.” His mother *said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing [b]twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus *said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim. And He *said to them, “Draw some out now and take it to the [c]headwaiter.” So they took it to him. When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter *called the bridegroom, and *said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.” (John 2:1-10)

I like, Nolan was also drawn to this portion of scripture. Jesus was invited to the wedding and as such **when the crisis took place, He was present** and could perform the miracle. Although Jesus said to his mother that His hour had not come, he was obedient and attended to the need, He stepped in and turned the situation around to avoid shame and embarrassment that the families could have faced by running out of wine.

“Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance.” (Isaiah 61:7)

Jesus used what was available in that place- the water and the stone waterpots which were already there but served another purpose and in so doing created the best tasting wine of the event.

We have to invite Jesus in to every area and situation of our lives to allow him to do what only He can do.

Jesus, using the water and the stone waterpots to turn water into wine, was not normal process followed to make wine and this highlights that He is not confined to natural processes or procedures, His ways are above our ways and He is not limited by what we define as how something should be done or what is possible.

In the above Jesus was invited, used the vessels which were filled with water to perform a miracle that created something outstanding which was in abundance. We are the vessels and if we are filled with God's word when we invite Him in to our lives he attends to our needs in a miraculous way. There was no lightning bolts or great sounds when the water actually turned into wine but at His instruction the miracle happened using what was already available. Let us not be deterred by what we see, think and understand about the situation in our natural mind.

Let us focus on filling our minds, hearts and spirits with God's word, invite Him in and trust and believe (like Mary) that He will do the impossible in our lives too. He is the same God.

John 2:13-25 | Cleansing the Temple



Rene Barnwell:

And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make **MY FATHER'S HOUSE** a house of trade." (John 2:16).

The temple was a holy place - a place of worship where people were taught the Word of God and sacrifices were offered to God. Our bodies are the temple of the living God.

In Romans 12:1, we are encouraged to "present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God". Our lives must be a praise unto the Lord and give off a sweet aroma of worship. To live sacrificially is to prioritise the will, the ways and purposes of God above everything else.

Like Jesus cleansed the temple, His Father's house, may we cleanse our temples and remove any obstacle that would defile us.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, "...So glorify God in your body". (1 Cor 6:19-20).

Randolph Barnwell:

Issues here in John 2:

1. Not succumbing to temptation to **monetise the message**, peddling the Word of God, using the context of God's House for personal enrichment to the total neglect of the main purpose for the house. etc.
2. Buying and selling was taking place in the temple. **Economic gain and greed** lead to an abuse of the purpose of the house of God. The same still persists today. Many have converted the house of God into an economic system designed to sustain their personal welfare and pursuit after riches.

   One cannot help noting that while oxen, sheep and doves were sold, it is to those that sold doves that Jesus' harsh rebuke is levelled. Doves were used in sacrifice unto the Lord – for sin offerings, amongst other things. They therefore denote the mechanism by which one approached God and was accepted. A dove is also symbolic of peace and the Holy Spirit. 'Peace of mind' and the 'anointing' are being traded in the house of God today. Simon the sorcerer thought he could buy the ability to impart the gift of the Holy Spirit to others via the laying on of hands. Peter rebuked him sharply, highlighting the great 'wickedness' in his heart. Peter called trading divine things for money 'wickedness'. This is true!
3. The focus of those who sold in the temple **was for personal benefit or private gain**. In stark contrast to this, Jesus emphasises that the house is designed to benefit 'nations. Every person in the house must be corporate conscious, not individual conscious. The predominant mindset must be: "How can I personally and privately bring benefit to the welfare and advancement of the corporate group?", AND NOT "How can I exploit the corporate context for private gain, self-enrichment and personal advancement." The thrust must be to give and not gain. The amazing thing is that when this mind-set persists, the individual inevitably becomes the beneficiary of some of the most profound blessings from the Lord.
4. Jesus' actions were prompted **by a ZEAL for His Father's house.** The house = fathers and sons executing divine purpose. 'House' alludes to Divine arrangement and function. The arrangement is the order of fathers and sons where Christ is formed in sons through the agency of fathers. The function is

the dispensing of grace to nations. Where these are violated, zeal for the house will prompt corrective action within sons who are faithful ‘OVER the house’

Carla Joshua:

“And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables;” (John 2:15).

This scene might seem frightening and seem like violence is the theme here, no the theme was authority, He was after preserving His Father’s house. He drove them out. All the things that were illegally taking up space in the temple were driven out.

The first part of the chapter was conversion and in this second part we see a cleansing taking place, much like the process is when God saves us, He coverts us first then starts doing housekeeping as we hear the word day by day this process takes place, we like the Jesus of the wine but we must also like the Jesus of the whip. You don’t have to feel the wip if you start doing your own housecleaning and remove the things that spoil the worship and reverence that must in place in the temple, You are the temple, He will clean you, John shows us a wonderful picture of Jesus, you don’t have to be clean first and then come, just come, He’ll convert you then He’ll clean you up and His the Jesus of the joy and wine and He wants us to enjoy and celebrate but His also the God of purity and He is concerned with moral clean hearts, sexual purity, righteousness and Holiness.

John shows us the Jesus is not one dimensional, He wants us to enjoy the occasions of life and our kids and have success and see the goodness of God in the land of the living. If Jesus were to come to the temple of your heart know that it was written “Zeal for Your house will consume me.”

Some think this is over zealous but He loves you and others might get uncomfortable when they see the process happening and think it’s too much, God wants us to be fully converted and cleansed and He knows what is in man so He knows how to do it and what to do, we must trust Him.

Selwyn Young:

“But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people.” (John 2:24 NIV) Jesus did not put his faith in the applause, acceptance or the testimony of man (people). But rather singularly focused on hearing from His Father and seeking praise

from His Father. "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17, NIV).

The testimony of men can be fickle and changes on a whim. Today people think you are the best thing since sliced bread but tomorrow, they will find a new person or thing to throw their praise at.

Jesus understood this about the hearts of men and did not entrust (put his faith) in them. Jesus understood that people have flattering lips when it favour's them.

“a man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet. (Proverbs 29:5 NIV)

May we always live for the praise of our heavenly Father rather than for the praise of men(people). Let us understand that the praise of men is fickle and changes very easily.

But rather, let us live to hear the words, "well done my good and faithful servant."(Matthew 25:23 NIV)

Yolanda Young:

His disciples remembered that the scripture says, "My devotion to your house, O God, burns in me like a fire." (John 2:17, GNT)

This is my prayer for us. That we will be devoted to God our Father and His kingdom. To read and meditate on His word regularly. To uplift and encourage those we come into contact with as well as each other within the house, with sound doctrine from God's word. That our spirit man be on fire (hungry) for the word that we will lose sleep while meditating and seeking God our Father.

Quinton Adams:

“So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “**Get these out of here**! Stop turning my **Father’s house into a market**!” (John 2:15-16 NIV).

#Jesus responds with a deliberate holy anger....

HE drove out, scattered, overturned and stopped every form of inaccurate form of temple activity and worship

HOLINESS AND EXACTNESS WILL AMPLIFY THE VOICE OF THE CHURCH IN THIS SEASON.

Verse 16 I notice that **JESUS had a softer** more tolerant stance about **the DOVES.** It could be that **HE knows the spiritual connotation of the doves**...." A dove descended and a voice declared **THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.**

Jesus answered them, "**Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days**." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, **and you are going to raise it in three days?"** (John 2:19-20 NIV).

The people and spiritual leaders of the day showed a lack of **SPIRITUAL SHARPNESS**. Their spiritual antennae were of course, not in sync with Heaven's frequency; hence they could not pitch into the words they were hearing. HEARING **PROFOUND WORDS,** but fail hopelessly to assimilate Heavens plans and purposes.

Moira Saker:

The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. (John 2:18-21 NIV).

Our bodies are the temple of the Lord, the place where the Son of God dwells and will manifest himself through our every thought, word and action that we live out as His sons.

The inaccuracies, impurities, incorrect mindsets that we have developed over the years must be destroyed and cast out of our lives at once.

When Christ Jesus comes into our temple and takes rulership, he will remove the inaccuracies and rebuild us by His supernatural workings, bringing acceleration to the rebuilding process making our transformation a sign of His resurrection power for others to see His glory and be drawn to Him too.

Fiona Beru:

Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." (John 2:17).

Are we concerned about God's house, and we concerned about our temples (our bodies) as these are the temple of the Holy Ghost. Our administration of these, both spiritually and physically is important. Without the strength and health within our

spiritual bodies, we cannot function effectively here on earth, and without spiritual maturity and zeal we will ineffective as sons of God. Jesus's actions showed His heart toward this. He would not allow the house of His father be and bring dishonour to His Father. Jesus was zealous for things that honoured His Father. Are we consumed with the things that consume our Father?

Jerusha Sydney:

And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." (John 2:15-16 NASB)

Jesus' behaviour in this scripture impels us as Sons of God to address inaccuracies and misalignment to the truth in all spheres of life.

May God grant us the wisdom, courage and boldness to fearlessly counteract the deceitful, manipulative ploys of the enemy. May we trust in the prompting of the spirit to risk going against the grain in boldly confronting injustices or malfeasance whilst emulating the truth.

Derrell Petersen:

John 2:23–25 Shows that Knowledge of Jesus is not a Relationship with Him. In other words, there's a kind of belief that does not lead to relationship with Jesus. We know this, James makes this clear, even demons believe in God. They don't have relationship with him. Jesus showed miracles and wonders to everyone, but He entrusted His ministry and the Kingdom to the 12.

Anne Paul:

Scripture records Jesus driving out demons, but there's no record of Him driving out people except in John 2. He was always drawing people to Himself. His passion for purity of the temple (His Father's house) must be our passion. The Jews were so fixated on a sign to validate His actions.

They could not perceive the Son of God in their midst.

Follow Christ for who He is, not what He can do.

Julienne Bartleson:

And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” (John 2:16 NKJV)

Jesus' disposition to what was happening in the temple was based on his sight, understanding, and passion for what His Father represented. The motive behind his operation of cleansing the temple was " **My father's house".**

May we **become so connected to who our Heavenly Father** is and to **what He likes/dislikes, what He wills/disallows** that all our decisions for our own lives (our Houses) become ruled by this measurement.

I think of children when they say **" I have to ask my father if I can go**.” The innocence of this statement yet the authority in it. It's something we must aspire to walk in and live by.

Ongama Tshawe:

Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19 NASB).

We continue to see the Jabbok experience that represents emptying of one's self and old identity. So is the destruction of His physical body (the ultimate self-emptying) represents transcending the physical realm, and revealing His divine identity in us in resurrection.

Debbie Bartleson:

My thoughts on the readings John 2:1-25: The chapter begins with "on the 3rd day" The number 3 appears several times in the Bible. God is always purposeful about timing as we read across the Bible. We need to be so aligned to God and His timings that we never miss out on His purpose for us.

This was such an important 3rd day: Jesus performed His first miracle and it was the beginning of his ministry. Mary understood this 3rd day, angel Gabriel spoke to her that her son would be the Messiah, she purposefully told him that the wine at the wedding was finished, her nurturing and teaching was over, she wanted to propel him into His divine purpose, as the Messiah.

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. (John 2:23).

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)

Randolph Barnwell:

Note that Jesus FASHIONED A WHIP

This is a scourge for ‘exclusion’, i.e., the driving out of false elements/positions from the house – those who simply refuse to repent after several warnings. But there is also a scourge for inclusion – the chastening or pruning of the Lord to those who will as result of it, obey – Read Hebrews 12.

There is presently a growing Divine intolerance for repetitive and perpetual disobedience in the House. God will judge this with a view to redemption. His judgments for his people are not essentially designed to be punitive but redemptive. Whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.

Judgement in and of the House of God: This Passover is about restoring and preserving the culture of the house. Judgement will begin at the house of God before it proceeds to the world. God needs His house in absolute accuracy and purity in order to have a basis upon which He is justified to judge sin in the world.

“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God.”
(1 Peter 4:17)

Here is a serious warning: Many are self-deceived in thinking they have zeal for God’s house, but yet by their disobedience to biblical principle, such a claim is denied. You can be faithful physically, but unfaithful in principle, i.e. you cannot be faulted for your physical presence and devotion in your attendance at meetings, but yet you are divorced from the culture of God’s house because in your personal lifestyle, you are deliberately violating key principles of God's Word; and by transgressing particular norms by which the house of God functions (e.g. honour & respect for leaders and others; financial obedience, forgiveness, love, etc.). Faithfulness is more of an internal exactness than being externally politically correct. Be faithful in principle and you will be faithful in practice.

Yvette Govender:

His disciples Remembered that it is written, Zeal for your house will consume me (John 2.17).

Zeal is dedication or enthusiasm, if you have zeal, you are willing, energized and motivated. Therefore, we are to take all the actions needed to destroy those things that is displeasing to the Lord in order to cleanse and rebuild (see John 2.15-16).
Zeal must be based on intense enthusiasm and understanding. Let us keep up our spiritual fervour.
Never lag in Zeal and in earnest endeavour be aglow and burning with the spirit serving the Lord (Romans 12:11).

Randolph Barnwell:
BE CAREFUL OF ENTRUSTING YOURSELF TO PEOPLE TO SEEK OR MAINTAIN THEIR AFFIRMATION OF WHO ARE YOU - YOUR IDENTITY AND WORTH.
"But Jesus DID NOT COMMIT Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had NO NEED THAT ANYONE should TESTIFY of man, for He KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN." (John 2:24,25)
Testify means to bear witness or be a witness.
Jesus was confident within Himself and did not rely on external validation of who He was. When we entrust ourselves to others in a bid to seek their validation in order anchor our identity or calling, we run the risk of being misunderstood, hurt and aborting the divine purpose attendant with our lives.
If you depend on people to affirm you, you are susceptible to being controlled by them. Thus, you subtly bow to pressure brought to bear upon yourself because their expectations of you become the measure for your life. This could potentially result in a distortion of what God called you to be and do.
The source that affirms you, is the power that configures your identity and function – consciously or inadvertently. Be confident and convinced in who God, your Father made you to be in Christ, without requiring external approval from men. Since God validates you, God singularly then determines your identity and role, the execution of which will be regulated and determined singularly by HIM alone.
Because the Father affirmed Jesus' sonship identity at the River Jordan, the Father influenced and directed His words and deeds, which many times cut across the expectations and permission of men.
Remain confident in Your identity as God's son, an identity, which derives its nature and associated function, not from men, but from the FATHER Himself.

Selwyn Young:

Jesus is a miracle worker. He turns water into wine. When he steps into our context, when we invite Him in, He can do miracles for us.

In John 2:17, **Jesus is full of zeal** for the Father's house. The Father's house must be respected and the standard of the Father's house must be upheld. Jesus noted a sense of familiarity with the Father's house, and wanted this to stop. The sanctity of the Father's house had been undermined and Jesus was sorting this out.

In John 2:24 **Jesus did not entrust himself to them**- This reminded me of our blessed position. Though our hearts sometimes stray and our affection are directed elsewhere, Jesus in His mercy still has mercy on us and loves us. He waits patiently for us. **Jesus is merciful.**

Carolyn Moonsamy:

In **John 2:**

- Understand that I have a set time and place to fulfil destiny and purpose in God. My steps are ordered by Him *Maintain righteousness whilst waiting for and discerning 'the appointed time'.
- Ensure reading, studying and meditation on the word> being filled with the word allows for a greater revelation of Christ (water> wine)
- Practical ministry (ensure that the house of God is revered)

Fiona Beru:

In **JOHN 2:**

- Jesus listened to His mother, even though He said it was not His time. He trusted her judgement. We need be obedient even when we don't understand
- Jesus's humility, even though He changed water into wine, He did it quietly and without fanfare.
- Jesus' passion and zeal for the house of God
- Jesus knew His purpose here on earth (verse 19). Destroy this temple and in 3 days it will rise up.
- Jesus discerned the hearts of the people, and was not easily persuaded by them.

JOHN
CHAPTER 3

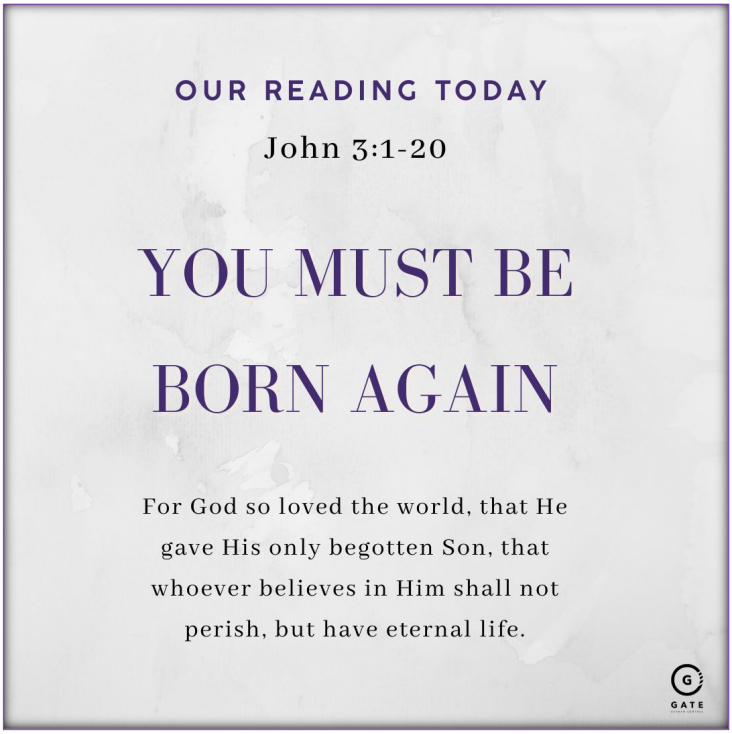
A compilation of principles
shared by sons of God at
Gate MinistriesDurban Central
21-22 Nov 2024



For God so loved The World

GATE

John 3:1-21 | The New Birth



Rene Barnwell:

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a **RULER** of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "**RABBI**, we know that you are a **TEACHER COME FROM GOD**, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him. Jesus **ANSWERED** him, "Truly, truly, I say to you**, UNLESS ONE IS BORN AGAIN** he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:1-3).

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, was a highly ranked ruler/leader of the Jews.
Jesus engaged him just as He would any other- there was no preferential treatment because of Nicodemus' great stature.
Nicodemus addressed Jesus as Rabbi (a term used only when addressing/recognizing high ranking teachers), and proceeded to praise Him...no questions were asked.
Yet Jesus 'answered' because He discerned Nicodemus's unvoiced question.
Jesus was not distracted or flattered by the praise given to Himself from Nicodemus, but focused on the issue at heart/hand.
Praise of us by people can cause us to be blind to their true state/condition and burning questions.

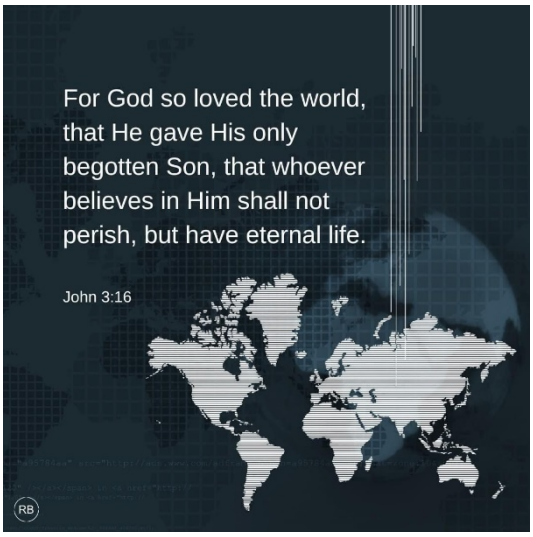
Although Nicodemus was a secret disciple in that he came to Jesus by night, probably fearful of the other Pharisees, he is to be commended for later defending Jesus publicly before the Sanhedrin (John 7:50-51).
Also, after Jesus died, it was he, together with Joseph of Arimathea, who asked for Jesus' body when most of the other disciples had scattered.
May we use discernment and pitch into a burning question/issue on someone's heart- and 'cut to the chase'/cut across pleasantries- to address a matter directly and immediately. In doing so, we preserve the Body of Christ, like Nicodemus did, and cause others to stand up fearlessly for what is right.

Carla Joshua:
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
The offer, God loves the world every continent every nation, He gave this only son before any change, while the world was still in sin this was done, He gave, He didn't wait for us to get with the programme. His only begotten Son. The object of God's love is the world! He loved, so He gave! Love is measured by how much you give.

"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:17).
The misconception, if you believe you won't be judged but those who don't believe will be judged. That was never God's intention but the offer has inherent consequences because men love darkness rather than light. The world rejects because they don't want to submit morally to God.

"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:18)
The consequence, do the truth, we all have the opportunity to confess and repent, accept and believe the new life because if you don't believe you will face the judgement of God, Who IS merciful, Who IS patient, Who IS generous, Who IS faithful, Who IS loving!

Randolph Barnwell:



God's amazing love for humanity was most powerfully demonstrated, when, rooted in His great love us, He sent His willing and compliant SON, Christ Jesus, to die in order to atone for humanity's sin (John 3:16). The **Son** was **SENT**; and the SON came obediently. Now, we are left with a choice, the results of which are either **(a) We Perish or (b) We access Eternal Life.**

Jesus was not sent into the world to condemn it (John 3:17), but to save it. Those who do not accept believe in Jesus and accept Him as Lord and Saviour, in essence reject God's offer of salvation, and will indeed perish (John 3:18).

I encourage us all today: **BELIVE IN JESUS CHRIST** and you will have **ETERNAL LIFE**. You too will become God's son. Believe!

Audrey Adams:

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned.” (John 3:17-18 NKJV)

Jesus’ mission, His purpose, was to bring salvation through faith to all of mankind and not to condemn them.

He came to rescue, bring wholeness, offer life and hope.

What an awesome reminder in this passage of how much he loved us.

He knew we were already condemned so he offers us something greater in the gift of salvation, through believing in His son.

The key though **is by faith**, we must believe, deliberately choosing this life.

The result then is new birth in Him: **WE ARE SAVED NOT CONDEMNED.**

He truly is our light and salvation.

Quinton Adams:

“Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are **born of water and the Spirit**.” (John 3:5 NIV)

“For you have **been born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23 NIV)

My first birth involved earthly dynamics but my spiritual birth involved the eternal dimension.

Reminds me: " and be renewed in the Spirit of your mind:

Any **spiritual son**, who wants to do **spiritual matters**, needs the **birth from above.**

Annie Reddy:

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;” (John 3:14 NASB)

“And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.” (Numbers 21:9 NASB)

The bronze serpent was a symbol of God's grace over the Israelites. When the Israelites were bitten by the serpent, they looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

In the same way Jesus offered His life for us on the cross, that we may look to Him and live.

God always makes a way out for us in our wilderness. He sent His Son to be that way out for us.

Dean Govender:

Nicodemus meets Jesus, Nicodemus, a Pharisee that was respected by the Jews, a scholar of the Old Testament and well versed in the laws of Moses.

How could a holy man that knew God, not understand what the son of God was saying to him? Jesus explained that to understand these things, one must be born again and believe in **the Son.**

“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven” (John 3:27 NASB). “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:4 NIV)

God sent down His Son - the most perfect gift as he atoned for our sin and allowed for us to be born again.

Nicodemus knew of the Father but not the Son. Jesus says, the only way to truly know the Father is through the Son. God sent the Son to us, in order for us to know the Father in a greater dimension - this is the only way.

Notice how the disciples knew of what Jesus was saying yet Nicodemus did not. Nicodemus, arguably had better knowledge of the Old Testament than perhaps Peter did, yet Peter had the revelation of Christ.

Fiona Beru:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 NKJV).

God the Father gave so that we might be saved. What a wonderful God, Father, we serve! He **GAVE** so that we could **LIVE**. This overwhelm thought, is one of gratitude and honor.

So many times, we think God is there just to punish or condemn us, but it is the opposite, it is because He **LOVES** us that Jesus, the Son, was given, so that **THROUGH** Him we might be saved.

I John 4:10 says: "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins. "And I John 2:2 says: And He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Propitiation means to satisfy the wrath of God against sin (The Gospel Coalition).

When we come to Him in salvation, He no longer sees our sins, but He see Jesus' atonement for us. What a wonderful Savior!

Jerusha Sydney:

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:5-8 NASB)

Our natural birth and human existence do not qualify us to be citizens of God's kingdom. The prerequisite to enlist to the royal priesthood is individuals who are born twice...the second birth is to born of word and the spirit. What does this mean to be born again? How is this second birth accomplished?

In order to be born again, one has to first die to have a second rebirth experience.

'Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer

is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.' (Romans 6:8-11 NASB)

We are called to crucify our sinful nature daily and to arise daily immersed in God's word, being led by the holy spirit.

This is indeed a high calling, requiring much discipline & obedience. However, the rewards of our obedience are not temporal but eternal impacting generations to come.

May we do everything in our power to not subscribe to our sinful nature or conform to the wickedness of this world.

As Christ died for our sins and rose again, may we allow our flesh to die and we approach life in the resurrection power of our Saviour.

It is incumbent upon us to allow our minds and spirits to washed in God's word so the flesh can be crucified and the spirit is nourished and renewed.

Shaun Beru:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 ESV). The motivation and purpose of God to introduce the gift of His only son to us was LOVE

"God SO loved the world..."

- Our sonship is birthed in love
- We can also notice the tense 'Loved' is past tense, meaning we were loved in eternity before creation. (Eph 1:4, Jer 1:5, Gen 1:26).

Riley Reddy:

'How can someone be born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born.' (John 3:4)

Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus was saying... Which means he could have been struggling with his identity and he was seeing things in the natural and not in the supernatural.

Jesus also questioned Nicodemus. Him being a teacher he should have known these things...Jesus clearly was speaking about spiritual re birth and someone who is born again must evidence this by a new life.

Verse 16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life

The above verse God demonstrates True Love and true love will cause us to act!! He didn't just love the world a little... he loved/loves so much that he gave his only son!

Verse 20: Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

Our Spirit has to be greater than our heart because the spirit knows everything.

If or when we sin the Spirit must convict us of the wrong and must cause us to desire to change to live for God, this verse also reminds me/us that God knows everything and sees everything and since He "knows everything." There is no hiding our feelings or sins from Him.

Jerusha Sydney:

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8 NASB)

The word wind in the original Greek is pneuma...meaning breath or spirit.

And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father." (John 6:65 NASB)

For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ((Romans 9:15-16 NASB)

So, then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. These scriptures above explain that the holy spirit blows where it wishes. The holy spirit determines which lives it will touch.

"And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. "(Luke 2:25 NASB)

The sound of the wind can be heard refers to the profound way the Holy Spirit impacts our lives will be witnessed by those around us. Simeon was filled with the holy spirit and his life bore testimony of this.

"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." (1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB).

This scripture explains that not everyone (people devoid of the spirit) may understand what the holy spirit would prompt us to do and speak. Our lives led by the spirit are separated lives not akin to the lives of people of this world.

Derrell Petersen:

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:17 NASB2020)

For as Jesus was sent into the world to speak life; so are we meant to do in our spheres of operation. We are **as the I AM** was in His time on the earth. Image bearers and light/life givers.

Anne Paul:

I wonder why Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? Nicodemus, a teacher and leader of the Jews, had a limited knowledge of earthly things and needed to be elevated in his understanding of heavenly things. **Yet,** he recognized that the Son had come from the Father because of the signs performed.

May we see with the eyes of our spirit and be born again!

Carolyn Moonsamy:

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.” (John 3:8, 12-13 NKJV)

Verse 8 Reminds me of how often we go into distress if we feel unsettled, unstable, unproductive or are going through a tough time in the natural trying to figure out where we are going with our lives. But the latter part assures us that everyone who is born of the Spirit is led by Him, that means even when we feel that distress, there is a peace in knowing that Abba, through His Spirit is the gentle wind steering us in the right direction during those times. All we need to do is set our gaze on Him and focus on the eternal and not be shaken by what may be happening naturally.

How? **In verse 12-13-** Jesus places an emphasis on heavenly (eternal) things over earthly things. Our focus and priority should be on THE SON who is in heaven and

brings us heaven (Ephesians 2:6 says, "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus".)
Although we often stress about things in the natural, let us make a conscious decision to shift our **focus to being immersed in and led by the Spirit**, prioritizing eternal treasures.
“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.” (Matthew 6:33-34 KJV)

Yvette Govender:
This man came to Jesus by night and said to him Rabbi we know that you are a teacher come from God for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him Jesus answered ', unless one is born again.
Jesus answered truly I say to you unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. (John 3:2,5)
Night is mentioned and is symbolic of ignorance adversity spiritual darkness and uncertainty - a world without a presence of God, unless is conditional upon the individual. In these times and at All times may we continue to be renewed with word/water and Spirit & abide in the presence of God. We are never too old and may we always be light spirited like the wind.
“It is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

Errol Naicker:
A further thought based on Yvette’s message above.
Nicodemus who was a teacher of high repute in the Jewish community sought to speak to Jesus in the dark of night. From his conversation with Jesus could not understand many of the words of Jesus, simply because his natural mind could not understand. When we read the scriptures, we need to read with a spiritual mind to decipher the secrets of the Word. If we choose to be like Nicodemus, we will remain in the night symbolically speaking.

We must take a quantum leap from the “Natural to the Spiritual.”
Yvette Govender:
Shared word by FF Bruce - John 3:16:

God	- The Almighty Authority
So loved the world	- The Mightiest Motive
That He gave His only begotten Son	- The Greatest Gift
That whoever	- The Widest Welcome
Believes in Him	- The Easiest Escape
Should not perish	- The Divine Deliverance
But have everlasting life	- The Priceless Possession

The love of God is Limitless. The best that God had to give, he gave – his only Son, his well-beloved (FF Bruce). May we strive to have the heart of Our Father. Perfect unconditional love.

Randolph Barnwell

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NASB)

The term "born again" in the original Greek text literally reads as "**born from above."**

As sons of God, we are not of the earth; we are from above – from God Himself, literally **"OF God"** (see also 1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4,18).

"That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**, and that which is born of the **Spirit is spirit." (John 3:6 NASB)**

Any disadvantage (real or perceived) you have in your natural life can be overcome by pitching into and fully comprehending and actualizing the profundity and power of who God is revealing within you. In doing so, we renew our minds after who God made us to be, his sons and to what standard we are being conformed, viz., His Son, who is being formed within us.

Don't live by the limitation of your natural humanity or contextual environment – Do not "consult with flesh and blood" (Gal 1:15,16). Paul said he did not confer with flesh and blood - he did not consult earthly natural conditions or circumstances to understand what vests in him – the revelation of THE SON in Him. We too must break with the earth's imposition on our understanding of we are. Untie yourself from inaccurate perceptions of who you are.

Remember …. “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, **not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”** (John 1:12 NASB)

Britnee Adams:

There are quite a few instances in the book of John where **Jesus is referred to as a Teacher.**

- **John 1:38** - “they said to Him: **“Rabbi”** (which means **teacher**) …”
- **John 3:2** - “You have come from God as a **teacher**…”
- All the way up to **John 20:16**- ““Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “***Rabboni!” (Which means, Teacher**).”

These are just to name a few! **Jesus in his own right was a TEACHER to many.**

In light of this, I love the question Nicodemus asked Jesus in John 3:4 which reads: ““Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”” (John 3:4 NASB1995)

Nicodemus **engaged Jesus the teacher, as a learner**, asking a rhetorical question but asking nonetheless with such purity because he was putty in Jesus’ hands- waiting to learn, asking the questions, wanting to be moulded according to God’s instructions through the Word made flesh.

When you engage the teacher of Jesus, make sure you come as the learner, that you may be teachable, pliable and willing to be transformed.

Side notes here however: Coming as a learner doesn’t always mean you have to question Jesus.

Just believe the word.

I found that Nicodemus asked a rhetorical but valid question but after Jesus explains further (see John 3:5-8) Nicodemus asks more questions- to the point where it seems he doesn’t believe. As we would say colloquially: “his doing the most.”

Come as a learner yes, ask questions as a learner yes, but don’t come without also knowing how to believe.

Raylene Eksteen:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son

into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16-18).

- The above well-known portion of scripture highlights that **sacrificial loving nature of our Father.**

We acknowledge Jesus as our saviour through this act.

- This scripture also shows that our father is **merciful and absolutely determined** to ensure our salvation.

Gods heart for humanity is made clear and all we have to do is believe.

- God's love for us is so **pure and unconditional**.

As a parent I can't imagine that there is anything that would make me consider allowing Leah (my daughter) to be harmed let alone die. In reflecting on this I have a new appreciation for the fact that God loves me. If he allowed His son to die for me, why would he allow trials and tribulations to destroy me? What would the sacrifice have been for then?

Jesus died so that we may be saved and live a life in relationship with the Father. The revelation of this pure and absolute love that God has for us through this act, assures me that He certainly has a plan for us and He is working with us and for us (even when we don't see or feel Him). He is committed to us living a full life completing the plans and purposes that He has for us. If not, He wouldn't have made such a great sacrifice. I feel so humbled and blessed by this.

Yvette Govender:

"Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again* Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:3,5)

Without the Mercy of God:

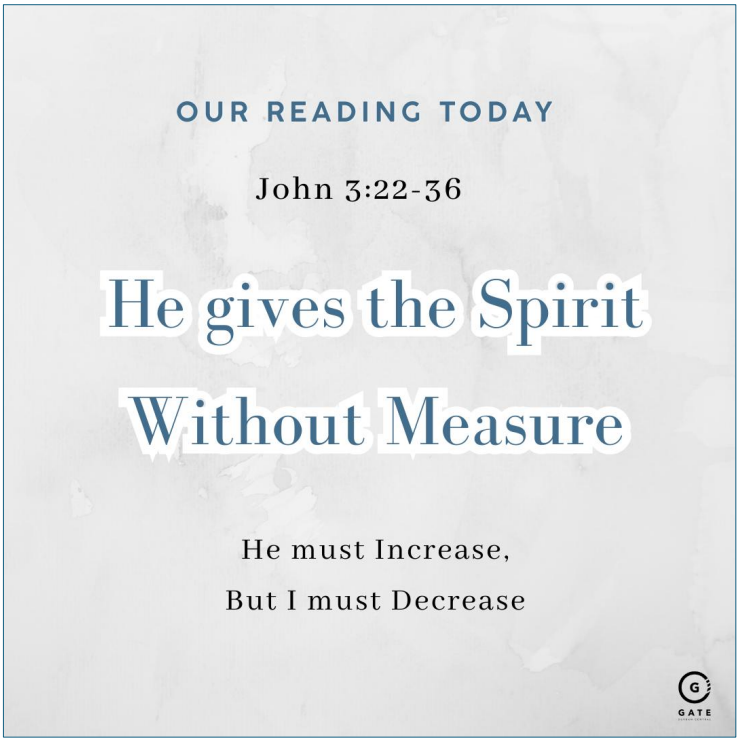
No one can see- no spiritual insight and no Holy Spirit as comforter, helper, teacher, & protector unifying us to God

No one can enter- no inheritance of the riches and promises of God.

- Thank you, Father for your Mercy, the gift of new Life and for the fruitfulness of the spirit.

It is a mind-blowing thought that God Chose Us!

John 3:22-36 | John's Last Testimony



Rene Barnwell:

And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—**LOOK, HE IS BAPTIZING, AND ALL ARE GOING TO HIM.**" (John 3:26)

"...Therefore, this joy of mine is now complete. "(John 3:29b)

"He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

"He… is above all..." (John 3:31a)

John was told by his disciples that Jesus, whom John was proclaiming and preparing the way for, is now baptising (although Jesus' disciples were baptising on His behalf- John 4:1-2) and many are following Him.

Their tone subtly implies that they are comparing the two-as though there is a competition. John immediately replies and affirms that Jesus, as God's Son, is above all and that his (John's) joy is now complete, as this was the purpose for which he had come- to be a forerunner of the Messiah. And as Jesus increases, so must he (John) decrease.

This answer is loaded with humility, honour and void of any insecurity, as John was seeing his purpose being fulfilled before his eyes. He was to draw people to Jesus, not himself.

May we remain humble and quickly douse being drawn into making comparisons / competing, as our focus as sons of God should only be on glorifying and obeying Christ, not ourselves.

Annie Reddy:

And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him.” John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.” (John 3:26 -27 NASB)

A statement was made in verse 26 of the above scripture, but John felt the need to answer (v. 27).

How often do we sit and listen to people who speak inaccurately and remain silent? Sitting in silence makes you in agreement with these things spoken.

John understood his purpose and didn't allow his disciples to speak against Jesus.

“He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So, this joy of mine has been made full.” (John 3:29 NASB)

We need to remain humble and know that whatever we do in life is meant to exalt the Lord and not ourselves.

When we accomplish the things of the Lord, we too must say, "So this joy of mine has been made full."

Wesley Joseph:

In His hands - “The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands.” (John 3:35 NLT).

The Father has placed everything in the hands of His Son Jesus. He even holds our lives in His hands. Everything we need and everything we are to become is fashioned from His hand.

According to the blue letter bible these are the usages of the word hand in the text above:

1. by the help or agency of anyone, by means of any one
2. applied to God symbolising his might, activity, power
3. in creating the universe
4. in upholding and preserving (God is present protecting and aiding one)

5. in punishing
6. in determining and controlling the destinies of men

There are many other things that come from God's hand: healing, blessing, comfort, guidance, correction and formation etc. I think Pastor mentioned this, that we receive all the hand has, when we seek His face.

Also, we the church, His body are His hands on the earth, as He is the head. Whatever is in His hands will flow to us for the benefit of others. God intrust to those who mature, the authority of the right hand, the ability to manage and distribute grace to others. Sons receive grace, fathers release grace. As we draw closer to Christ may the abilities of the Father and the Son become more clearly formed and expressed in and through us.

Selwyn Young:

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. (John 3:31 NIV)

John is encouraging his disciples to develop a heavenly mindset. That is, develop a mindset that is not fixed and wholly concerned with earthly matters.

The matters of who is baptising, winning more disciples and having titles.

He reminds His disciples of what he previously stated in John 1:30 "a man comes after me has surpassed me..." A reminder that they should not focus on the messenger but rather the one who is from above. He who was sent to fulfil destiny.

We should remember this. Our minds must not be so focused on earthly things that we cease to see the son. When we focus solely on earthly things and have a more carnal mindset, it halts our spiritual maturity.

We should do as Colossians 3:2(NIV) says, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Titles, positions and status will all fade but the SON will never fade.

Carla Joshua:

"John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the

bridegroom’s voice. So, this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:27-30).

Johns’ response to the disciples who came to report that Jesus was baptising was a powerful one that we must adopt as sons corporately and privately. Firstly, John says what I have is a gift from God, therefore it’s not important who treats you appropriately as you go about God’s business. You must just continue in love, obedience and faith. His second response was that his not the Christ. John knew who he was not and who he was, he knew he had a place and that he was sent by Him who is greater. Find out what God has called you to and what He hasn’t called you to and find that sweet spot to let God use you. Thirdly, he says I’m not the bridegroom, I shouldn’t be getting all the attention. He also says in a way that him just being there is enough and by that his joy is full, wow, praise God. Finally, he says that God must increase and I must decrease. This must be the attitude of every son, be an arrow, point to Jesus, the subtle desire to make an impression is not the goal. **When you’ve left, people should remember God and not you, a son doesn’t eclipse the glory of God in any setting.**

Audrey Adams:

“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:35-36).

Father's nature has been poured into the Son-from His love for Him, which resulted in the gift of salvation being born out of this loving relationship.

The Son being the perfect executor of salvations plan.

He came to give us Eternal Life.

This is Father's desire for us, if we in faith believe in the Son, being joined to him (He has been given ALL authority from Father), is that **we as sons of God experience eternal life. Redemption!**

We shall never die, no separation or darkness!

Jenny Pillay:

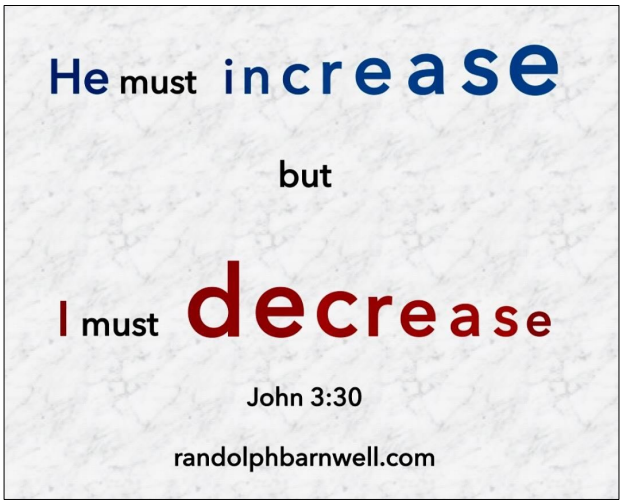
When we live our lives according to God’s righteous standards, our lives become illuminated and transparent for all to see.

Those that sin and walk in darkness do not like the light for fear their hidden sins will be exposed. This is what truth and light does, it exposes.
As sons of God, we should not fear darkness because we have the light of Christ dwelling inside of us. When we live rightly and the light of Christ shines, even the darkness will be drawn to the light, so let us be like a beacon of light on the hill signalling the lost to the light of Christ.
But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God (John 3:21 NIV)

Fiona Beru:
“He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30).
Pastor Randolph taught us this principle: God doesn’t increase because I decrease, no, in our lives more of Christ must be seen and less of my carnal nature.
Secondly in John 3:34-35 it says: “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.”
God the Father sent His Son to speak His words to us. We need to honour those that have been send, we need to listen and obey.
Because of the exact representation and the love of the Father, the Son has been given all things to rule. God loves us too as His sons, and we too can rule things within our lives.

Jerusha Sydney:
“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36 NASB)
As we approach our Day of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the priceless gift of eternity—a gift freely given and beyond the reach of human wealth or effort. No amount of money can buy it, and no earthly gift can compare to the value of eternal life.
Death holds no power over us. We walk boldly, like superheroes, as recipients of our Father’s boundless love, renewed grace, abundant mercy, and, most of all, His resurrection power that transcends the laws of this world.
We are not merely residents of this earth but citizens of Heaven, called to live with the hope and assurance of our divine inheritance.

Randolph Barnwell:



We often inaccurately misquote “I must decrease and He must increase”, when the verse actually reads, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). The former places a burden on us, whereas the latter permits Christ to increase in stature within us - and the natural result of this would be that we decrease.

You don’t decrease to make Him increase; He must increase, so you will decrease. Your decrease is natural outcome of HIS increase. As He increases in us as Firstborn Son, every residue of the orphan and salve in you will diminish until it’s thoroughly removed. When we allow Christ to BE all He desires to BE in us, anything that we strive to be in Him will diminish in the light of all He is becoming and increasing in us.

The same is true of the firstborn reality: HE, the Firstborn Son, must increase in us, and the carnal, Adamic, orphaned nature will be reduced into powerlessness. HIS INCREASE as the Firstborn Son, DECREASES the orphan and rebellious tendency in me. Let Christ increase in you today.

Anne Paul:

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30).

Jesus would have increased at a greater pace if John had shut down his own ministry and aligned to the ministry of Jesus.

Often, we want for **Him to increase but we choose to decrease at our own pace**.

Prayers that we submit, **hand over and let HIM increase**. Die quickly!

Julienne Bartleson:

“He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.” (John 3:30 NLT). “For he is sent by God. He speaks God’s words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit.” (John 3:30, 3:34 NLT).

John had a revelation of the Greatness of God. He made reference to this often in his writings... We know that **our Great God can become great and greater IN us by the power of His Holy Spirit.** Here we read in John 3:34 that the Spirit is limitless.
We have **TWO** dimensions:

- **A GREAT GOD**
- **A SPIRIT without LIMIT**

John saw this and was trying to bring his disciples into this understanding. May our eyes be opened to His greatness and to His ability to work in us by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit. **We must yield to Him, our Great God.**
"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him." (Ephesians 1:19 NLT).

Derrell Petersen:
"Now John also was baptizing in Aenon, near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there; and people were coming and being baptized…" (John 3:23 NASB2020).
Aenon = Place of fountains/springs
Salim = Peace
John was baptising at fountains of fresh water=revelation in abundance through being soaked in the water/ word; there was no stagnation, in a place of peace.
Prayer, let us allow the fresh flow and saturation of the now word to wash over us perpetually giving way to peace in whatever we may face.
"The Father loves the Son and has entrusted all things to His hand. The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (John 3:35-36 NASB2020)

- **Belief in the Son = Obedience resulting in eternal life.**
- **Disobedience = Death, and a life left to our own devices.**

Prayer, let us seek to obey the Father through the belief in the Son and righteous living. This will lead to Christ increasing and us decreasing.

Carolyn Moonsamy:
"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (John 3:36 ESV)

We cannot claim to believe in God and be disobedient to Him (The eternal Word-Logos). Similarly, "We cannot claim to love God and not love His Word"- Randolph Barnwell

Believing and obeying go hand in hand.

Yvette Govender:

Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him Rabbi he who was with you and to whom you bore witness - Look he is baptising and all are going to him." (John 3:25-26).

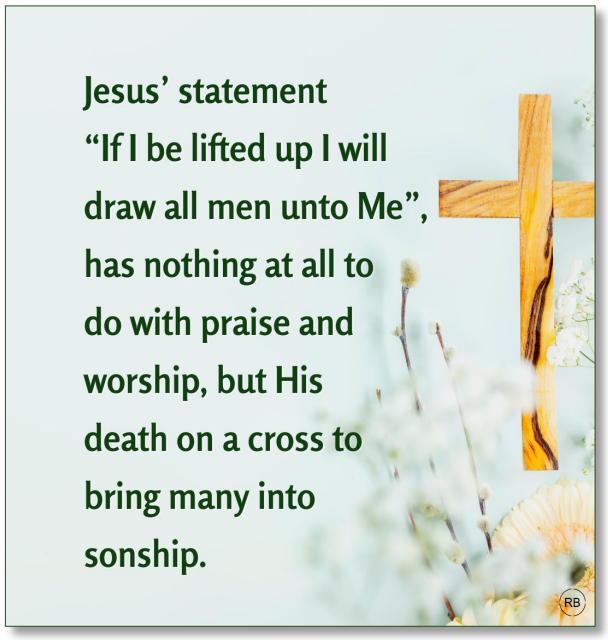
This discussion was not held in John's presence but among themselves. They came to John to create doubt and encourage John to Deny the Christ.

John answered, A person cannot receive even one thing **UNLESS IT IS GIVEN HIM FROM GOD.** (John 3:27)

Truth be Told. Every single thing a person gets comes from God and it does not only apply to material things but all things – wisdom, understanding, discernment, perception, spiritual insight etc.

"He must increase, but I must decrease," (John 3:30).

Randolph Barnwell:



Often, in a corporate worship setting, I have heard worship leaders say, "Let us lift Jesus up with our praises, for He will draw us unto Himself". This is biblically inaccurate. When Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me", He was directly referring to His death on a cross, its spiritual effect and purpose in reconciling many sons to God, His Father, and establishing them in His Father's spiritual family (see John 3:13,14; 12:32,33).

What have we been drawn into? Sonship!

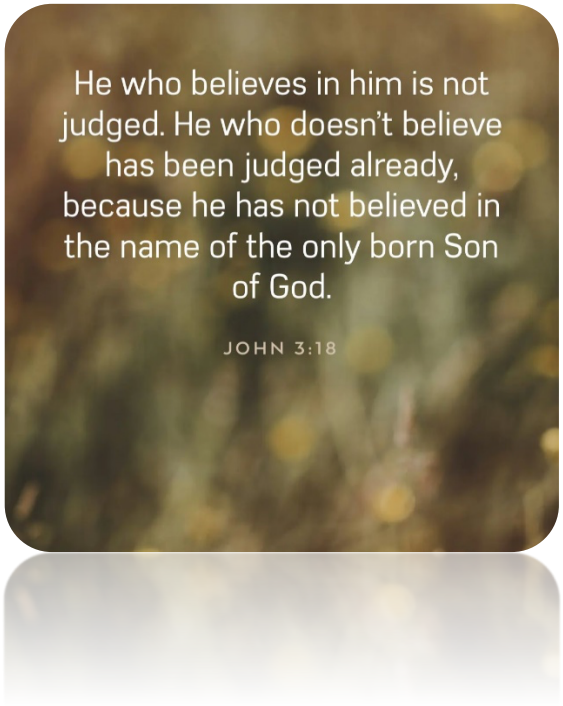
What was the cost? The death of the pre-existent SON, Christ Jesus.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

In John 3:

- Live IN the spirit (Baptised in Christ)- cultivate the fruit of the spirit.
- Serve with humility.
- Adopt standards of righteousness.
- Be forgiving.

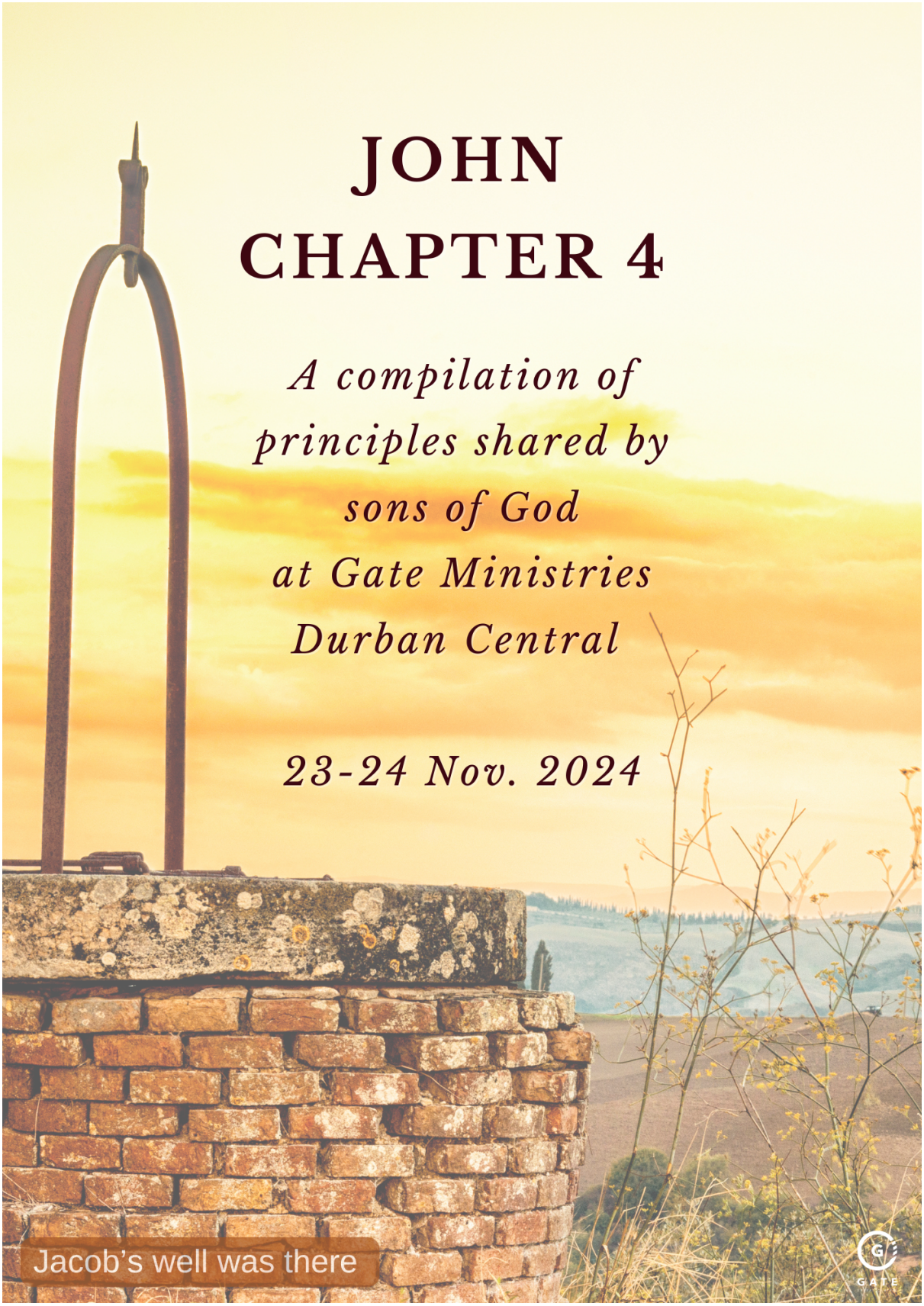
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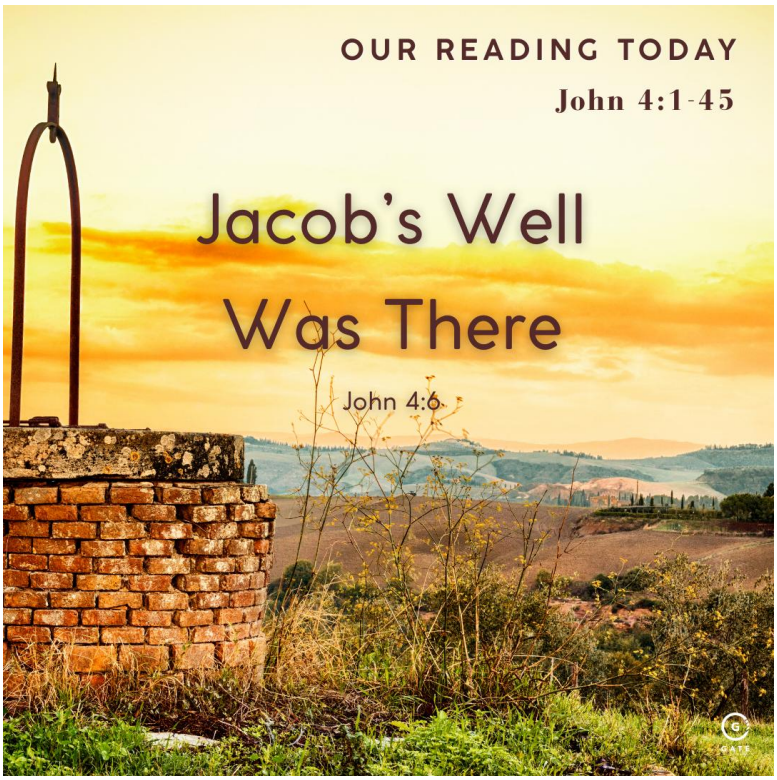
Fiona Beru:

In JOHN 3:

- Sight is given when our spirit has been reborn;
- Jesus accepts us as we are – Nicodemus;
- Jesus loved us so much He died for us;
- Jesus doesn't condemn us if we believe in Him;
- We need to choose the light or darkness;
- We need to know our position in Christ and not be persuaded by anything or anyone;
- God must increase in me.


JOHN
CHAPTER 4
A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God
at Gate Ministries
Durban Central
23-24 Nov. 2024
Jacob's well was there

John 4:1-45 | The Woman from Samaria



Rene Barnwell:

"**JACOB'S WELL WAS THERE**; so, Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was **SITTING BESIDE THE WELL**. It was about the sixth hour." (John 4:6).

The conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus, took place at the well of Jacob. Jacob had built the well hundreds of years before, yet it was still active and had a good supply of water, used by generations years later. What you build substantially today can positively impact and influence generations to come -hundreds of years later. May we have a mind to BUILD...build principles into the lives of people, journal/document your thoughts from scripture, write books/songs, tell your story of what God has done for you.

All of these things can be perpetuated and flow from generation to generation, positively impacting and transforming lives along the way. May the water in your well (water symbolic of God's Word), remain alive, active and quench the hunger and thirst of generations to come!

Nolan Bartleson:

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” (John 4:13-15 NIV)

Give us this living water Father and we will thirst no more. Draw us Father and we will run to the never-ending supply of life-giving water!

Springing up within us, a well to overflowing.

Leigth Eksteen:

When Jesus is missing from our lives we are never satisfied, we try to fill the void with external things. Only when we walk with the Lord, are we truly satisfied. You will never be satisfied by trying to quench your spiritual thirst with physical experiences!

The Woman at the well had multiple husbands; this speaks to her always thirsting for more, hence multiple relationships. Only through Jesus and drinking from Him, will you be truly satisfied.

Without Jesus we are empty.

Just like the woman we need to run back to the city and proclaim the goodness of God. By doing so, others will believe and draw closer to God; they will be healed.

There is no distance or time between God’s power.

Kiyana Bartleson:

“They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”” (John 4:42 ESV).

Once again, the notion of **“Come and See”** is reflected in the passage of scripture. The Samaritan women told people in town about her encounter with Jesus and yet many had to go to witness this for themselves. But besides hearing for themselves, I believe that there is also a knowing that is important. Hearing is one level but knowing is the next level.

This passage encourages me to:

- Encourage my world to come and see so that they might hear, have an experience, and know the Son of God and by doing so have them know that God is their Father and he may be revealed to them.
- Continue to draw closer to the Son to know Him on a more intimate level.

Debbie Bartleson:

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” (John 4v39).

Jesus reached out to one Samaritan woman and a whole city was impacted.

If we reach out to one person, maybe a whole family can be impacted. When you reach out to someone, the worse that can happen is that they reject you, but that's ok; **you have planted a seed**.

Fiona Beru:

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24 NKJV).

Worshipping God is not singing songs, it is a lifestyle that glorifies our Father:

• Worshipping God is walking in obedience and is more than sacrificial (When Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac, he walked in obedience to do what God required of him– Gen 22:5).

• In 1 Samuel 15:22 Samuel told Saul “…that obedience is better than sacrifice…”

• Worshipping Him in Spirit and truth is not just speaking in tongues, but your spirit engaging the Father motivated by love and gratitude.

Britnee Adams:

“The woman answered and said, “**I have no husband**.” Jesus *said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband,” (John 4:17 NASB1995).

Jesus deliberately used the word “husband,” while already knowing the Samaritan women’s’ status quo.

And **she answered correctly** by saying “I have no husband”

Many times, Jesus already knows our mishaps and our shortcomings. It’s important we become aware of these and negate them.

Because if it's brought to task by the father, we must be able to answer correctly.

Jenny Pillay:

> 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Water is symbolic of the word of God. Therefore, when we partake in the things of this world there is no satisfaction- we will constantly be seeking outlets to try and feel satisfied. When we drink of God's word however, we will be in a constant state of refreshing and satisfaction that there will be no need to look to the world for anything. The things of this world cannot give us the most important thing we need and that is eternal life.

Drinking from the well of God is a life-giving source.

Drinking from the well of the world is a life draining source.

Jerusha Sydney:

"The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly. The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet." (John 4:15-19 NASB)

When the woman asked Jesus for this water that will perpetually quench her thirst, Jesus responds by questioning her about the moral condition of her life.

The woman does not deny her transgressions; neither does she defend her wrongdoings.

Likewise, if we are living questionable lives, we first need to be honest to ourselves and transparent to the Father about our shortcomings.

We cannot live pretentious lives. After all God is omniscient, He knows all things.

Our God is a loving Father who died on the cross for people like you & I who fall short daily. His purpose as Jesus was not to judge the sinner but to help us overcome by showering us with his unconditional love and mercy.

God did not judge this woman. He simply describes her condition. He does provide her with the option to choose to accept Him and to know that obedience to God's word makes you complete and satisfied. You are no longer dependent on anyone else or the systems of this world to satisfy your thirst or need.

The prerequisite for us to be conduits of this living water is to humble ourselves and confess our areas of weakness to our Father. We need to lead transparent lives before Him. **We cannot foolishly live-in denial**. When we chose to adopt this posture of worshipping God in spirit & truth, we are guaranteed eternal life.

This woman did not shy away because of her misdemeanours, instead, she was quick to discern that Jesus, a stranger, who knew the intimate secrets of her life could be no ordinary person. Instead of evading Jesus to hide her immoral lifestyle, this woman pursues and engages Jesus, determined to find out more about him.

The light of God's word will bring meaning and fulfilment to our lives. Every area of darkness in our lives will flee as the power of God's word illuminates every crevice of our being. May we too respond like this Samaritan woman, proclaiming the good news of our Saviour to this decaying world!

Carla Joshua:

This was a woman despised by the religious establishments and had a questionable reputation yet, Jesus deliberately engineered an interaction or a conversation with her. A contrast from who Jesus spoke to in chapter 3; a respected man and ruler of the Jews (Nicodemus). He was from the religious establishment, yet Jesus told him you must be born again.

Jesus loved and had something to say to both these people. There are some people who are despised by religious groups but Jesus takes the time to engage with these people, who are questionable to our norms. Jesus took special care and concern to show this woman the love of God.

"The woman *said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet." (John 4:19).

When Jesus ventilated the very thing that she might have wanted to keep a secret, possibly the thing that made her want the water that would make her thirst no more, is the moment that she perceived the supernatural insight that she had come face to face with when she met Jesus. Jesus saw her in a way that she had never felt or seen before.

It might have been an uncomfortable conversation but those are the ones that are sometimes necessary.

Quinton Adams:

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24 NIV).

A woman is symbolic of the church!

She calls HIM:

- SIR
- PROPHET
- MESSIAH

As we mature in our understanding of His Fathering over us, **we can respond more accurately.** Our worship will be more aligned and targeted **once we know HIM in His true DIETY.**

We must search out **HIS FACE AND HIS HEART, LOOKING INTO THE WORD.** Our worship and serving will escalate to that place of pleasing the Father.

Britnee Adams:

“I sent you **to reap** that for which you have **not laboured**; others have laboured and **you have entered into their labour**,” (John 4:38 NASB1995).

Imagine that! To reap even where we have not laboured.

Many of us have laboured for years and surely there is a reaping season. But Jesus is about to put us in **positions of reaping where we haven’t even laboured.**

A reaping season is upon us where we may **not even have to work for it**. It’s just gifts from our Father.

Stay humble and stay expectant.

Selwyn Young:

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” (John 4:13-15 NIV).

The Hebrew word for thirst is:

- Tzama or tsame/tsama (Strong's H6772).

The word means a strong desire, passion, craving or to yearn for.
It is my belief that the reason Jesus asked about the woman's husband was because He knew she was not thirsty for water. She had a deeper thirst, and a greater desire and that she yearned for something more.
She had a deep desire and yearning to be loved and accepted. She had been married 5 times and now resigned herself to living with a man outside of wedlock. Desperation for love, led her to accept less than God's best for her.
Jesus took this opportunity to do a few things:

- Jesus accepted her for who she was. With her mistakes, past relationship failures and current sinful condition.
- He revealed himself as the messiah to her, a Samaritan living in "sin."

What a great lesson of acceptance. He did not judge her according to her current condition but just did the work the Father had called him to do.
May we follow our master and Lord's example and accept people, knowing that God is working on them. Just like He worked on us.

Yolanda Young:
John 4: 8 is for us to understand that Jesus and the Samaritan women were alone.
"His disciples had gone into the town to buy food." (John 4:8)
In the craziness of this season of deadlines, yearend business and festivities, God is saying:
We need to be still. We must set aside some alone time to listen to Him by reading our word and just waiting for Him to speak to us through His word.
We will not hear Him speak if we don't make time to listen. Alone time is important.

Selwyn Young:
"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4:34 NIV)
May completing the will of the Father fill us up. May this be the desire, hunger and yearning of our lives always. To be filled with the joy of doing Father God's will.

Julienne Bartleson:

Jesus comes to a **Samaritan** village called **Sychar.** Meaning of the word:

- Sychar = Hire, wage, labour, drunk.
- Samaritan = mixture.

Jesus replied, "**If you only knew** the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." (John 4:10 NLT).

This Samaritan woman is at a place (Sychar) that resembles labour, wage, hire; which refers to slavery. She is also bound by the weakness in her flesh, which is a promiscuous lifestyle.

Jesus presents a **GIFT** to her. This gift is able to bring her freedom! **SONSHIP is presented** at the place of slavery (Sychar). **She is coming out of slavery and coming into SONSHIP.**

Symbolically, the fact that this exchange is done at the well speaks to our ability to be **transformed daily by the living word (well/water).**

Like this woman, whatever seemingly represents a mindset, a way of life in us that is of Sychar (slavery); as we continually **SIT at the well**, so too **are we renewed**, and our sonship is strengthened. This then brings us to a more accurate way in our worship to Him... **in Spirit and in truth**.

In verse 10, when Jesus says: "If you only knew the gift God has for you…" I am reminded of (2 Corinthians 9:15 NASB2020) which says: "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" **I am extremely grateful for sonship!**

Selwyn Young:



Jesus answered her, "**If you knew** the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." (John 4:10). Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—**I AM HE**." (John 4:26)

It is very interesting that Jesus decides to reveal who He is to this Samaritan woman. He was face to face with one of the leaders of temple but did not speak plainly to him... But to this Samaritan woman Jesus speaks plainly.

Prayer Point:
Lord speak plainly to me.
Let me see things plainly.

Moira Saker:
"Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. Jacob's well that he built many years ago, became a place of refreshment for Jesus at that moment of his journey. …When a Samaritan woman came to draw water... Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (John 4 :6-7, 10 NIV).
May God build our lives to become a place of refreshment for others to come to when they are feeling tired or weary along the journey of life.
Verse 7: Jacob's well was a place of natural resource and provision. May God build our lives to become a place that can offer provision for many to benefit from.
Verse 10: Jacob's well was a place where spiritual interactions took place.
May God build our lives to become a context for Jesus Christ to manifest himself through us where others that come to us will experience more than natural provision from us but they can receive revelation of the ultimate source of life, causing them to believe in Jesus; to go tell others about their revelation and bring them into this great revelation too.

Yvette Govender:
"Jesus answered her, if you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (John 4.10)
How often, in conversation, we hear 'if only you knew' which keeps us wanting to know more. Jesus in His conversation with the Samaritan woman was drawing her closer to God and prompts/leads her to ask for living water in verse 15.
Jesus makes it clear by saying: "… but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Revelation of Jesus being the living Water. Indeed, the water I give them

will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” (John 4:14-15).

May we draw closer to God wanting to know more, welling up to eternal life and never thirsty as we continue to drink from the fountain of living water. The Son, Christ Jesus is our living water.

Dean Govender:

Reflecting on John 4:1-45 Jesus was showing us that in His humanity, he needed rest. Being wearied from His journey of fervently seeking to fulfil the Will of the Father, He needed to be replenished.

The water in the well represents the Word of God, as Mama Rene mentioned.

Jesus shows us that when we are weary from the journey, we should return to the source of our strength, which is the word of God. The word which can also be likened to the library of doctrine we’ve been exposed to over the years - our notes, thoughts and revelations must be noted down as this forms part of our ‘well’

The Samaritan Woman

Jesus has set out to accomplish a few things here:

Verse 10

The Samaritan woman was sinful in the eyes of many, it is not clear whether or not she was a prostitute but she was married multiple times and unsuccessful. She had counted herself out at the sight of Jesus as she recognised, He was a Jew and that she would not have been worthy to speak to Him.

“Give me a drink”, says Jesus- What Jesus required from her was faith.

He proceeds to speak about living water. There is a comparison here: The water in the well represents the Old Covenant and the living water represents the New.

I believe this is His aim - abolished the old covenant and established a new one, which restores us back to sonship with the Father.

Note: He chose an immoral/imperfect woman to offer this truth to.

Verse 20:

This becomes more evident when the Woman at the well believes that according to the Jews you are only meant to worship the Father in Jerusalem.

Verse 23:

“When the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23)

Jesus makes a point about the new covenant He means to establish - that the Kingdom of God is within you and not bound to a specific place.

Verse 26:

“Jesus *said to her, “I who speak to you am.” (John 4:26)

Such a play on words from the Father in Exodus 3:14 who says: “I AM WHO I AM.” Jesus and the Father are one in the same.

Verse 39:

This woman went into Samaria and testified with Zeal, which caused those that heard her, to believe in Jesus. Divine orchestration that she met Jesus at the well that day.” (John 4:39).

So much to soak up here but these are a few things that stand out to me:

- The journey is tough. We require rest.
- Rest and replenish yourself with the well of truth.
- God will use an imperfect person - do not count yourself out. God can and will use. you.
- You must have faith.
- The truth you are exposed to, will impact and bring others into Sonship.

Randolph Barnwell:

The woman at the well was fixated on the location of worship, challenging Jesus as to the most accurate physical site for worship. For Samaritan Jews, this was Mount Gerazim and for the pure Jews this was the temple at Jerusalem (verse 21). Jesus simply ignores this city-mountain argument and hits the heart of the issue by saying that true worship is not a function of external physical location, but rather it exists within the spirit of the worshipper: John 4:23 – ‘But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers’. Geographical setting is not a requirement for worship, for worship takes place within the spirit of the worshipper. In fact true worship is not dependent upon any external physical requirement, even musical instruments.

These may facilitate worship, but cannot substitute for worship. Our spirit is God's contact point with us. In the Old Testament a physical location was often used as a point of reference or contact joining God and man: example Jacob met God at Bethel; Moses met Him at Mount Sinai; Israel had the Tabernacle, etc. Since God now resides in our spirits (1 John 4:13,15; Romans 8:16), this becomes the primary place of interaction between God and us.

When we become born again, our spirits are made alive unto God – regenerated – we have a vital and living relationship with Him. Hence my spirit can respond to, love, adore and worship God.

True worship starts in my spirit and filters out to the soul (may or may not include becoming emotional like crying or being joyful) and then filters out to the body (may be expressed bodily like the lifting of the hands or bowing). But the expression of the soul or body is not the source of the worship. Worship initiates from my spirit and then is expressed through the soul and/or body. It is not the expression of the soul or body that constitutes worship; it is the deep affection and love for God in one's inner spirit that is true worship; this then is expressed in terms of the 'emotions' (the soul) and can include 'motion' - bodily expressions as well. The 'performance' does not constitute worship; it is worship that prompts and spurs the 'performance'.

Corayne Walters:

"Many more believed because of HIS word; and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, **for we have heard for ourselves** and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world." (John 4:41-42 NASB).

"The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back." (Isaiah 50:5 (NIV)

JESUS transcends all prejudice and racial barriers between Jews and Samaritans by speaking to the Samaritan woman.

Perhaps she arrived at the well at that hour to avoid all the other women because of her unsavoury reputation.

BUT JESUS snatches the opportunity to engage her in a life changing dialogue. Which in turn brings salvation to many other Samaritans.

Gracious, Merciful, GOD!

Clare Lottering:

John chapter 4:3-10 gives an account of Jesus's journey from Judaea to Galilee, passing through a town Sychar in Samaria. Weary from His journey, Jesus sat by Jacob's well alone. At this time a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. Being midday, with the sun at its peak, Jesus was thirsty, probably dehydrated and having nothing to draw water, He asked her for a drink.

In this journey of life, we too become weary as we sometimes experience hardships that weigh us down.

When we find ourselves in a **"midday" season of trials**, with trouble at its peak, scorching us and suctioning our energy, let us follow our Saviours example of retreating, resting and sitting the well- Jesus (the Word manifest). Jesus, the One Who gives living water will refresh and hydrate us.

We must be mindful that our refreshing is not just for us.

Further in the text, verses 26-28, we read that when Jesus revealed Himself to the Samaritan woman, she left her water jar and went to tell others of Him.

So, as we continue on our life's journey sometimes passing through "Sychar" (disappointment- one of the Hebrew meanings):

- Let us rest at the well- Jesus;
- Let us put our water jar (trials) down;
- Let us drink living water.

In so doing, we too can pour into others when we tell them about our Jesus so that He can refresh their souls as well.

Blessings and remember to drink up! #retreat #rest #refresh #tellofJesus

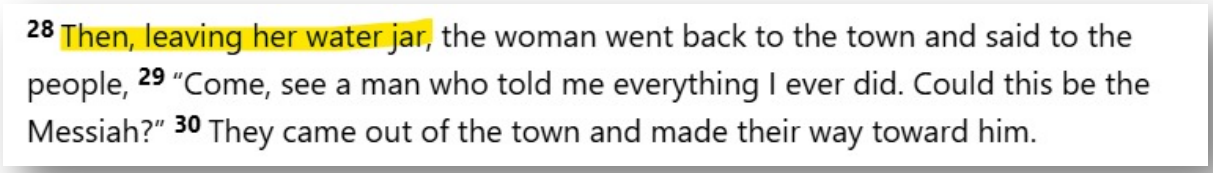
Annie Reddy:

"Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed again for Galilee." (John 4:1-3 ESV)

Jesus left, when accusations came against Him. He chose not to cause conflict but rather keep the peace.

May we also learn from this, walk away from situations that may lead to conflict or disagreement. Be humble and keep the peace.

Anne Paul:

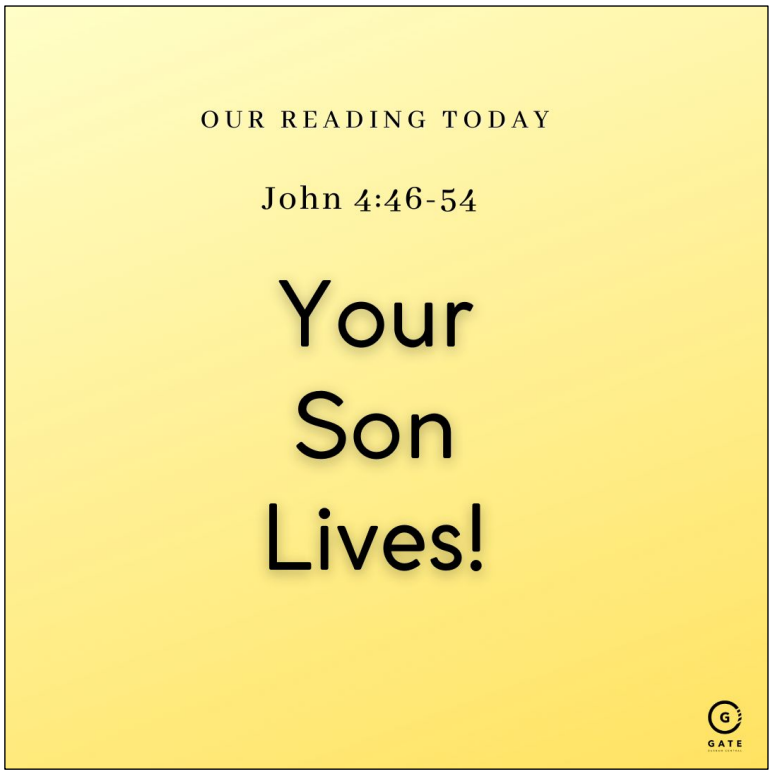

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

The woman's encounter with Jesus immediately opened her eyes and knowledge to the **Wellspring of Life.**

Her own natural water jar was insufficient to contain her divine revelation of Jesus and she had to leave it behind (see above image of John 4:28).

Leave the old wineskin and earthen vessels behind and **make room for Him!**

John 4:46-54 | The Nobleman's Son



Annie Reddy:

"Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off." (John 4:50).

The man believed and he then started off - **'poreuomai'** - this means to pursue the journey on which one has entered; to continue on one's journey. **The word was spoken and the man believed. He immediately continued his journey.**

When we pray, we need to believe and then continue with our journey, don't become stagnant, and remain in that situation. We must continue to walk in faith, believing the word spoken. Before the man could go and see his son, he was met with his slaves who said that his son is living. Get ready for an acceleration!

Wesley Joseph:

Healing of families!

"Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." And he and his entire household believed in Jesus." (John 4:53 NLT).

The sickness of this son, ignited the fathers chase after Christ. Which not only brought healing to the son, but the whole family to Christ. Our personal sufferings that

we go through in Christ can produce grace to not only bring healing to our lives and family but has power to bring many people and families to Christ.

Rene Barnwell:

Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man **BELIEVED THE WORD THAT JESUS SPOKE** to him and went on his way.” (John 4:50).

The official/nobleman, whose son was at the point of death, requested Jesus to come to him before he died. Jesus simply, yet confidently said **“Go; your son will live”.**

From the official, there was no questions asked or any attempt to negotiate or persuade Jesus to come with him. **He simply BELIEVED THE WORD and OBEYED**, and his son was healed “as he was going “- in the process of obedience.

May we too simply believe that God will do what He said He will do in His Word. As we quickly walk down the path of obedience, we will see the fulfilment of His promises before us.

Randolph Barnwell:

John in his Gospel carefully selects and **records only these seven miracles of Jesus** which he calls **'SIGNS'**:

1) Changing water into wine at Cana. (2:1-11)
2) Healing the royal official's son. (4:46-54)
3) Healing the paralytic at Bethesda. (5:1-15)
4) Feeding the 5000. (6:5-14)
5) Jesus walking on water. (6:16-24)
6) Healing the man blind from birth. (9:1-7)
7) The raising of Lazarus. (11:1-45)



What are SIGNS?

The Greek word for ‘sign’ is ‘sēmeíon’, meaning “sign, mark, token, a miracle with a spiritual end and purpose. “They are miracles which lead to something out of and beyond themselves; finger-marks of God, valuable not so much for what they are as for what they indicate of the grace and power of the Doer.” (Zodhiates comment).

A sign is not the destination. It points to the destination. Do not camp at the sign without proceeding towards that which the sign points you to. Remember, ‘signs’ are designed to convey something greater, beyond the actual sign.
All seven signs or miracles recorded in John’s Gospel are carefully chosen by him because either,
(a) he wants to highlight something of the PERSON of Christ, or
(b) reveal a TRUTH of the PRINCIPLES of Christ contained in the signs, or a word confirming the signs.

For example, Jesus used bread and its multiplication as a sign pointing to His Person as the Bread of Life. This depicts GRACE inherent in the Word of God, which is akin to bread. This sign was the basis for further teaching.
As you probe each sign in John’s Gospel, ask the Spirit to show you what was God’s original intent behind the sign. See beyond the sign. See the SON! See His "speech." Also, whenever God does a "SIGN" in your life, do not camp at the sign, proceed to its intended destination. There is something easy more powerful than the sign itself. God will reveal this to you. After you joyfully and ecstatically WONDER at the 'sign', PONDER meditatively as to its deeper meaning.

Fiona Beru:
“Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.” (John 4:48 NKJV).

- This man went to seek after Jesus, and maybe Jesus was his last resort, so he was desperate.
- His faith was addressed, because Jesus said people are only believing because they sewing.
- Vs 50 says: “Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives. So, the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.”
- The man believed the word and he went.
- We need to believe, not because we see it but because God said it. Our faith and trust must carry us through all circumstances.
- God is faithful.

Riley Reddy:

Reflecting on John 4: 46-54, this was the 2nd miracle that Jesus did.

Verse 46 says “a Man heard…” This man obviously heard people speaking about Jesus and the miracle he has done.

If we as Gods’ children and believers do not speak about Jesus and what he has done or is doing for us, unbelievers will not know that we serve a miracle working God!

The importance of verse 46 to 54 is that we must have FAITH! Which means Trust.

“Faith comes by Hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

People won’t believe or won't trust in Christ Jesus without seeing a miraculous event.

Jesus heals the royal official’s son from the fever and did it at a specific time. Jesus's instruction was clear to the man, he said "Go, your son will live...”

It was therefore, up to the man, if he wanted to believe or not. So, he believed, he went, and he did not question Jesus. We should listen to God's instruction and believe that he knows what best for us his children.

Jesus could have said many things like your son will be healed from the fever or your son is better now; but he said your son will **LIVE!!** This means Jesus meant more than just recovery from the fever.

“Healing is the children's bread,” (Mathew 15), which means healing belongs to God's children.

Jerusha Sydney:

“Therefore, He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum.” (John 4:46 NASB)

Nazareth is a city in Galilee where Jesus spent his childhood.

“After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honour in his own country.” (John 4:43-44 NASB)

The Galileans witnessed Jesus grew up among them. He was one of them hence they were too familiar with the human Jesus. This familiarity was the reason why the Galileans were unable to discern that Jesus was the Christ.

Jesus returns to this unbelieving area of Galilee once again. A region of dishonour and unbelief.

“So, Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.” (John 4:48 NASB).

This explains why Jesus responds so curtly to the desperate Father (nobleman). Jesus is not just speaking to this man but he is also addressing the spirit of unbelief in that region.

These people of Galilee were just hung up with the signs and miracles that Jesus performed (that which they could see) but were blinded to discern that the same Jesus that grew up with, in their vicinity is the Lamb of God who will lay down His life to restore what Adam lost, overcome death and restore mankind with eternal life. This free gift far outweighs signs and wonders!

The emphasis of Jesus' response is for us to **simply believe God by His word.** We are required to mature as Children of God. Even when there is no tangible evidence, our faith should not waiver as a mature Son because we should be grounded on His word and on our past testimonies. Our Father is not a man that He should lie! Our Father will never abandon us!

Likewise, we too can be found guilty of becoming too familiar with our God and His word. We too can develop a ritualistic approach to knowing the power of our God and His word. We too can only be seeking for tangible evidence of his power yet become benign to the true depth of God's promises resident in His word.

We can become the bride (church) that takes the bridegroom (Christ) for granted.

What does John 4:14 mean?

"…but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (John 4:14).

These statements are life changing statements.

We can read the word, yet not hear what the Spirit of God is saying to us.

When our understanding heightens to knowing the greatness of our Father, we will not be bogged down by our daily needs. Instead, we will embrace each day with a renewed zeal and anticipation of God manifesting his greatness through us.

God will never perform miracles in an atmosphere of unbelief. May we arise to receive this water where we will thirst no more, not be a needy/desperate people, but have faith to trust our God for the miraculous.

May our lives represent the well of water that springs up with eternal life. How can God use us to transform our environments when we walk in unbelief?

Arise Church of God. Arise!

Carla Joshua:
Jesus draws faith out of the nobleman that began as an ordinary faith that comes from seeing. Let's have an extraordinary faith that only needs a spoken word. Are you a Galilean who received Jesus because they saw all that He did, or a Samaritan that believes because they had heard?

"It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world." (John 4:42). "So, Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe." (John 4:48).
Jesus mentions this and we need to operate with this kind of faith. Yes, some seasons in life will pull this type of faith out of you. These are the last days, a devastation or suffering that the nobleman was in, his son was at the point of death. Faith can start out as a seed. Place your feeble faith in Jesus and watch it grow.
The nobleman heard about Jesus and went to Him, let us come to Him. He begged/ implored Jesus to come. His emergency was the opportunity for Jesus to draw faith out of him.

Some issues/sickness or situations are not unto death but for the glory of God.
I like how in verse 48-49 and 50 Jesus assesses and gauges the nobleman's faith and tells him to go; giving the Father an opportunity to respond. When the nobleman believes, he goes back home because of what Jesus said. This man must have originally thought Jesus needs to come down to his house but Jesus was working out a good work in him.
The nobleman leaves Jesus's presence with only a promise.

Audrey Adams:
"" The royal official said to Him, 'Sir, come down before my child dies.' Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off."" (John 4:49-50).
A powerful reminder that the official in this passage was persistent with Jesus.
He had a **NOT GIVEN UP MENTALITY.**
Even when Jesus rebukes him for not believing unless signs and wonders are evident (Jesus had recently turned water into wine).

He goes back a second time asking for healing of his son at the point of death. The fact that he travelled so far was an indicator of his desperation, coupled with great faith.
Distance was not an issue because his faith was at a level where he understood: “Speak the word Lord and I believe.”
Similarly, like Jacob when he said “I won't leave you until you bless me".
Let's have faith in His divinity and His word.
Watch the miraculous take place when we adopt this posture!

Selwyn Young:
Geography does not affect the healing power of Jesus. He was over 30km's from the sick boy, but all He needed to say was: "Go your son will live,” (see John 4:50 NIV).
There is no place or person that is too far gone for Jesus to save, heal and restore.

Yvette Govender:
“Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “You will never believe.” “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” (John 4:48, 50). **The man took Jesus at his word and departed**. **Belief** in God and His word is in the Heart and mind. Signs and wonders must not be the basis on Believing God.
Now in the account of Mark 9 Jesus heals the boy with the deaf and mute spirit. “If you can say Jesus, everything is possible for one who believes.” (Mark 9:23).
You now witnessed and heard the voice clip at Thanksgiving of the miraculous of the little boy Alef speaking. **Believe! Believe! Believe!**
Immediately the boys’ father exclaimed “I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief.”
An unbelieving evil heart makes you fall short of Gods’ Glory.
Take Jesus at his Word!

Carolyn Moonsamy:
Reflecting on John 4:52-53 (ESV):

- The healing of the official’s son took place at the 7th hour signifying the perfect, complete and divine timing and authority of God.
- Trust in Him and believe that He is an Always on Time God regardless of your present reality. He is sovereign.

- Jesus spoke the words "Your Son will live" and he did. He did not need to physically lay hands on the boy for him to be healed.

We have that same power and authority as sent ones (12- Apostolic people) **IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.**

“And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal,” (Luke 9:1 ESV).

Anne Paul:

"The man took Jesus at His Word and departed." (John 4:50).

The power in the Word of God **requires our activation of faith** to believe.

We no longer need to stand in long queues for hands to be laid on. The spoken Word heals, brings life, restores health and gives the future an expected end.

Every situation must bow to the supremacy of the Spoken Word of God.

Stay in close proximity of His Word for miracles to take place.

The sign, wonder and miracle of the healing of the young boy pointed to the salvation of the entire family.

The end is never in view if we stop at the sign.

Keep going!

Carolyn Moonsamy:

In John 4:

- Love ALL regardless of race, gender or mistakes of the past
- Live a life of worship > in spirit and truth
- Lead others to Christ using your testimony

Britnee Adams:

John 4 deals with:

1. The Samaritan women and;
2. The Nobleman’s son.

The Samaritan women deemed unworthy, while the Nobleman is deemed a royal official yet:

- Both experienced **the same God** through Christ Jesus!
- **Jesus meets you where you're at** whether you're a prodigal son in a pig sty, a sinful Samaritan or a royal official.
- Jesus **regards** you!
- Jesus **defends** you!
- Jesus **heals** you! Without even needing to hear your story! All He says is "Go, your son lives" (see John 4:50)
- Jesus is **LOVE epitomised**!

AND WE MUST BELIEVE! The Samaritan women and the Nobleman **walked away from Jesus believing**!

Raylene Eksteen:

In John 4- When I read of the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well, I consider that by all accounts this meeting should not have happened.

It was not common practice for Jewish men to be seen speaking to women, at the time Jews had no dealings with Samaritans and finally this woman was an adulteress who was looked down on by others, BUT Jesus spoke to her. This confirms once again the **Jesus did not conform to the norms** and rules especially if these hindered His ability to complete the assignment for which He had been sent.

The woman did not discern who she was speaking to and didn't entirely grasp what was happening in the moment. Whilst she knew of the Messiah and the fact that He would explain all things to them, she did not recognise that she was in His presence. Jesus was patient to continue with the conversation and share with her truths and principles key to the Kingdom. He did not become impatient or give up on her.

Jesus revealed to her the He knew of her life choices but based on how she responded to him it is clear that Jesus spoke to her in a way that made her feel loved and accepted where others may have made her feel judged and condemned. He showed her compassion. By speaking of her life choices Jesus revealed His all-knowing nature but He did not embarrass her, also revealing His merciful nature. He revealed these things so that she could be healed and not allow the shame of what she had done to keep her in bondage. She received healing and deliverance.

When the woman encountered Jesus her focus changed, she left that bucket and went to bring the people to Him. She shared of her encounter with others and they followed

her to meet with him. This encounter with Jesus urged her to know the truth and to encourage others to know Him as well. She was no longer focused on the literal water because she had experienced the living water of Christ. This encounter with Jesus released a boldness and courage, a confidence that she probably did not have before which caused her to go and look for people and tell them about her encounter without considering how people may react towards her. She was empowered for purpose and as a result many more believed.

Fiona Beru:

In JOHN 4:

- As a source of living water, **Jesus quenches our spiritual desire**. I too need to be a thirsty quenching source. Water is symbolic of the Word, the Word (Jesus) gives us the word (logos), when we are filled with the Word, we too can replenish others.
- **Jesus knows our situation before he asks questions**, but He wants to see **the integrity of our heart**. When He asks questions, answer truthfully, and a character or nature of Christ will be revealed to you.
- **Jesus knew His purpose** and was eager to see it fulfilled. We too must focus and fulfil our purpose here in earth.
- **Jesus spoke to one person, yet she impacted the whole city** to come met Jesus. We sometimes don't realize the importance of how one person's life can change so many others. We need to work on our lives so that we can impact others.
- Have faith and believe; **our faith will impact what we believe**, and will give us our breakthrough. The nobleman **believed the word of Jesus**, and went in obedience even though he could not see the results yet. May we walk in obedience, trusting in that our Father knows all things and He is our source.

Selwyn Young:

From John 4, Jesus does not judge us when we are far off the mark like the woman at the well. Rather He calls us to come closer. He does not require us to clean ourselves up and correct things in our lives.

Jesus does not wait for us to change before accepting us.

But it is in coming to Him that we are able to see our shortcomings and make corrections by the grace of God and the word.
Jesus did not condemn the woman because she was living with a man that was not her husband but rather called her closer.
Grace in operation.

Carla Joshua:
In chapter 4 we see Jesus, weary and humble that He asks the Samaritan woman to give him a drink. **Jesus was very much man** as pastor Thamo says.
But notice how He also uses His own need as an opportunity to offer living water to the woman. A different person would wait for the disciples to return with food but Jesus humbly and purposefully wanted to get into this woman's story and offer her life.

JOHN
CHAPTER 5

A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God
at Gate Ministries
Durban Central

26-28 Nov. 2024

John 5:1-17 | Healing of the Paralytic



Rene Barnwell:
“So, the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” (John 5:10).

Can you believe it?! A man who had been a cripple for 38 years just got healed by Jesus.
The whole town should have been excited and in celebratory mode, knowing he was limited to one spot for 38 years- and is now free to run/walk and enjoy a totally transformed life. But the Jews prioritised legalism over relationships, they chose to strictly adhere to one rule yet at the same time displayed no love or compassion for their fellow human.

Remember how the Pharisees were strict on honouring the tithe, yet they lacked mercy and love?

May we ensure that we **honour ALL principles**, and not be totally obedient to one yet neglect the other.

Annie Reddy:

"… for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted." (John 5:4)

Water is a symbol of the word. The word is living and active according to Hebrews 4:12 (verse below), but it needs to be stirred up. Many of us read the word and hear the word, but don't allow the word to change and transform us. When the word enters us, let it stir up in us a desire to elevate in our sonship.

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

Carla Joshua:

"When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He *said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" (John 5:6).

This man was afflicted with this condition for 38 years when Jesus saw him lying there. One wonders where his focus was since Jesus had to ask him if he wished to get well. You might say "isn't it obvious" - why would Jesus have to even ask?

What strikes me is that the man was so focused on the water (likewise all the people who were there waiting for the stirring)- they were more fixed on the pool that nobody recognises Jesus and His power right there in their midst. There's no record of voices calling out Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!

Yes, we get fixed on the breakthrough' the healing, and the deliverance that we miss the Giver! **My prayer is that we not be too focused on the gift and more fixated on the Giver.**

Look at how Jesus said pick up your bed and walk- this man didn't even have to get into the stirred water, he simply responded in faith, and had the strength to stand up, pick up his bed and walk.

Your healing won't necessarily be in the way you think or even the way it was done in the past. Jesus will heal or deliver you in whatever way He chooses.

Be innocent, be nimble minded, be ready and keep your ear to the Lord.

Selwyn Young:

"Then Jesus said to him, **"Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.**" At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked." (John 5:8-9 NIV)

The paralytic man had enough faith to do exactly what Jesus said immediately. Without hesitation, questioning, and reasoning. He simply picked up his mat and walked.

This man did not reason that he had not walked for a very long time or how the simple words, "pick up your mat and walk" healed him. **He was simply obedient** to Jesus' words. **Our faith calls for us to do the same.**

Not for us to pause at the pool or reason: "If I wait one more time for the water to be stirred, I could make it in." Questioning, "how can I be healed simply by the words get up, pick up your mat and walk" can cause you to place your own affliction here.

But faith calls for us to take immediate action, pick up the mat, walk confidently on the sabbath with the mat in hand.

Yolanda Young:

"Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk. And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked." (John 5:8-9 ESV)

While this man may have been physically paralyzed, we must be careful not to fall into spiritual paralysis.

This could be mentally or emotionally. This paralysis is the very thing that takes our attention, our focus away from having fellowship with Christ Jesus.

The five covered colonnades mentioned (see John 5:2) reminds us of God our Father's grace. We have a gracious Father. Jesus was ready to heal then, just like He is ready to heal now.

Without excuses like the paralytic, we need to take that step. We must spend time in prayer and read the word daily, in order for us to stay clear of becoming spiritual paralyzed.

Selwyn Young:

"… and so, the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." (John 5:10 NIV).

Legalism and liberalism. Two of the most dangerous Ls in the world.

The religious leaders of the time were so wrapped up in observance of the law that they missed the sign (miracle) and the gravity of the miracle performed. This man who for so many years was kept rooted to that spot could now freely walk. This was a miracle. Instead of proclaiming this great act they pointed out the law.

Similarly, if we are not careful and observant to the move of God we can be caught with a religious, legalistic mindset because we hold on to words like "we don't do that here", etc. **Let us always be open to the move of God. The miracle that God is performing in our midst.**

Akira Boodhai:
"Jesus said to him, Rise, take your bed and walk." (John 5:8).
As sons of God, we need to move forward. We cannot continue being in a state of inertia, **sitting in complacency and developing dropsy**. We cannot be filled with the word but not moving. Let's quickly embed the word and migrate to the next level.

Selwyn Young:
"Among some of the meanings of the word Bethesda are "house of mercy" or house of Grace," (biblestudytools.com)
I was reminded by these names that we can come to the house of mercy and sit at the periphery. Like the man at the pool- he was at the pool but just could not tap into the grace that was present.
His main reason I think: **EXCUSES.**
He had excuses that someone else got there ahead of him. He never searched for alternatives or cried for help. Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." (John 5:7 NIV)
May we always be perceptive of the grace available to us and more importantly may we also tap into that grace.

Yvette Govender:
"One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well? Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into

the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me. Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” (John 5:5-8).

For 38 years the man's hope for healing was deferred. Yet, in all this time, he kept returning in the hopes that he would be healed. **At once on hearing the spoken word of Jesus the man was cured.**

We must never lose hope no matter how long it takes until fulfilment. God always shows up especially on Sabbath- when we are at rest and He is at work.
“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working,” (John 5:17).
“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” (Proverbs 13).

Carolyn Moonsamy:
“…See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” (John 5:14 ESV).
In this verse Jesus emphasizes responsibility that comes with the healing process. Many times, we receive healing in an area of our lives and continue to live as we were. Although God is merciful and gracious in nature. There is a responsibility that comes with receiving grace: we must turn and repent from sin (living outside of sonship) or else we will have to face the consequences!
Secondly, it can be implied that sin was the thing that caused the man’s physical ailments. Let us ensure that our spirit man is in check... live righteously and all will be well with the entirety of your being (body, soul and spirit).
Finally, there is no mention of the man asking for his healing even after Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. But, our gracious, merciful, and loving God reached out to Him showcasing His mercy and love. All in humility.

“In this, the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
1 John 4:9-10 ESV).

Reshma Boodhai:

“For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.” (John 5:4).

- Water = Word of God.
- Stepping in = Action.

Every time we hear or read the word of God; we receive a renewing revelation. Therefore, when the Word of God is 'stirred' OR released, we must act immediately to receive grace. As we have been taught, through God's word, grace is imparted.

Dean Govender:

John 5:

Verse 2-3:

Here lies a house of mercy, which contained a grace to heal those that were sickly. Sickly, to me, represents those that succumbed to the trials of life and the world but had little to no knowledge of God or His word.

The difference between a pool and a well:

- Well: you are required to draw from the well. The water of the word which you draw from replenishes and grants strength & healing.
- Pool: you are required to submerge yourself in the waters. The water of the word heals your very being as it surrounds you.

Verse 3-4:

“They waited for the moving of the waters to be healed. This happened in certain seasons” - They relied on external factors surrounding the pool, as healing only occurred in certain seasons of life.

Verse 7:

“Sir I have no man to put me in the pool” - Even the sick man relied on getting into this pool to be healed but look at what our Lord Jesus does here.

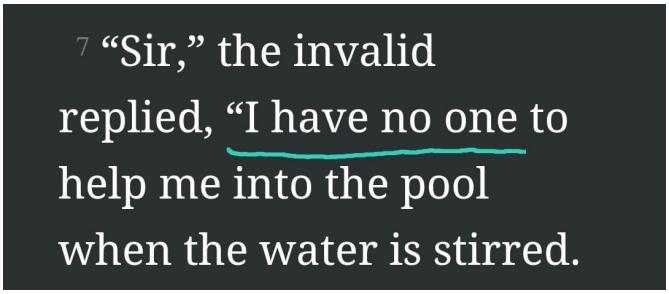
Result: He heals the man without that man having to step into the pool - Jesus just destroys a mindset that these people had. Not only can healing take place in any and every season of life (perspective) but also, healing can occur in an instance, without any requirement or external factor. Jesus is the house of mercy. Jesus is the grace that heals

Requirement: Faith in Jesus and obedience to the word made flesh.

Faith in Jesus: “Do you wish to get well?” (John 5:6)

Obedience to the word made flesh: “behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so nothing worse happens to you.” (John 5:14)

Anne Paul:



38 years; the same spot; the same condition; with no one to help (see John 5:7).

This man needed to be placed into a family.

His encounter with Jesus not only brought healing but introduced him to a culture of family.

Fiona Beru:

John 5:1-17

There are many principles that we can learn from this passage:

- Bethesda in Hebrew means House of Mercy or flowing of water.
- This house has the proceeding Word of God and the Lord has been merciful to this house
- There are five porches., means that there is grace in the house as well.
- But in this house are sick people,
- People that are blind, that cannot see the purposes of God
- People that are lame or paralyzed so they cannot walk un the purpose of God
- And people the make excuses when asked questions
- However, Jesus is coming to us, and he wants to heal those things that hold us back from fulfilling destiny.

Shaun Beru:

GOD IS STILL MOVING

“In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” (John 5:3,8).

In the midst of all the challenges in life, God is still moving.
- God moves in our infirmities (sickness)
- God moves even when we can't see (blindness)
- God moves when we can't move (Lameness)

That is why we can Rise up, take up our challenges, and walk in the purposes of God and the destiny He has set before us.

Jerusha Sydney:
John 5:1-3 is a picture of a maimed church with immature sons. No one has matured to the point of living victorious, overcoming lives. Instead, these people have disqualified themselves from enjoying their inheritance by remaining infants in Christ, swayed by false doctrine.

- “As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;” (Ephesians 4:14 NASB)
- “A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.” (John 5:5 NASB)

This man remained in this debilitating state for most of his life.
This narrative serves as a strong reminder that when people stray away from trusting God and His word and put their confidence in man-made truths (false doctrines), they run the risk of living unwholesome, incomplete, premature lives. Lives devoid of experiencing all that the Father has prepared for his faithful, obedient children.

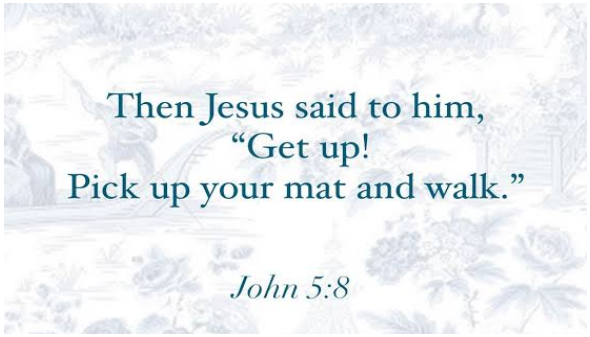
The Lord tells this man to... Get up. Pick up your bed and walk. Our Father is merciful and gracious to help us overcome our unbelief. If ever there is a cry from the Father for His sons to discern what the Spirit is saying....is NOW.

We are on the precipice of God depositing more of his nature, more of His grace, more of His resurrected power in us. If ever we need to be aligned to the voice of our Spiritual Fathers is NOW. The Spirit is desperately appealing to us to walk circumspectly, in absolute submission to the Lord and His precepts.

Yolanda Young:

Let us not stay in our weaknesses or go back to our old selves.

Instead let us pick up our mats and walk in and experience the fullness of God our Fathers' love for us.



Wesley Joseph:

"… one of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?" I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me. Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" (John 5:5-9 NIV)

Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath.

I believe there are some sons of God that are also challenged like this man, who carry a sickness or weakness for many years, and we make excuses of why we are where we are. Jesus responds to this thinking and behaviour with a strong response, 'stand up' – get out of this mentality of excuse and blaming others and this perspective of self-pity, get up and take responsibility 'Pick up your mat' – get rid of the things you use to comfort and escape from your weakness and short fall, the things you rely on that keeps you stagnant. 'And walk' – Move with purpose and intention from your current position, mentally and move towards the water (the word) and stop looking and blaming others who are going ahead of you that are accessing the waters (word) first.

"… for an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had." (John 5:4 NKJV)

Angel – Sent one, messenger of God.

Healing took place here when the angel – sent one, went into the pools at a Kairos (opportune or seasonable) time and stirred up the waters.

Stirred – tarassō – meaning, to agitate, trouble, to cause one inward commotion, to disquiet, make restless, to stir up, to trouble, to perplex the mind.

Jesus was also dealing with a mentality issue here, this man was making excuses, blaming others on his distance and inaccurate position. Rather than being close too

and accessing the word from sent ones that is designed to deal strongly with the issues in the soul. You must go to the pool first to receive healing, this healing comes to those who don't waste time, those who move quickly, who are eager and have a strong desire, like the lady with the issue of blood who pushed through the crowd to receive, this type of heart and mind is one who receives. This is a strong encouragement for me dealing with my own mind and limitations that need to be adjusted I hope it does so for you too, grace and peace.

Leigth Eksteen:

John 5: Jesus heals a man who had been an invalid for 38 years, demonstrating His compassion and power.

"When Jesus saw him lying there and realized that he had already been there a long time, He asked him, 'Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6).

Just as the invalid man sought healing, we are invited to bring our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs to Jesus, trusting in His power to restore.

In John 5:16-30 Jesus' Claims about His Authority and Unity with God.

When persecuted by the Jewish leaders for healing on the Sabbath, Jesus declares His unity with the Father, asserting that He only does what He sees the Father doing. Jesus further explains that just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so also the Son gives life. He also states that the Father has entrusted all judgment to the Son. Jesus claims equality with God, emphasizing His divine authority to give life and execute judgment.

"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He wishes." (John 5:21).

Let us embrace Jesus' authority in our lives, submitting to His will and recognizing His power to give life and judge righteously.

Raylene Eksteen:

John 5 For the many times I have read about the man at the pool of Bethesda I have struggled with this man.

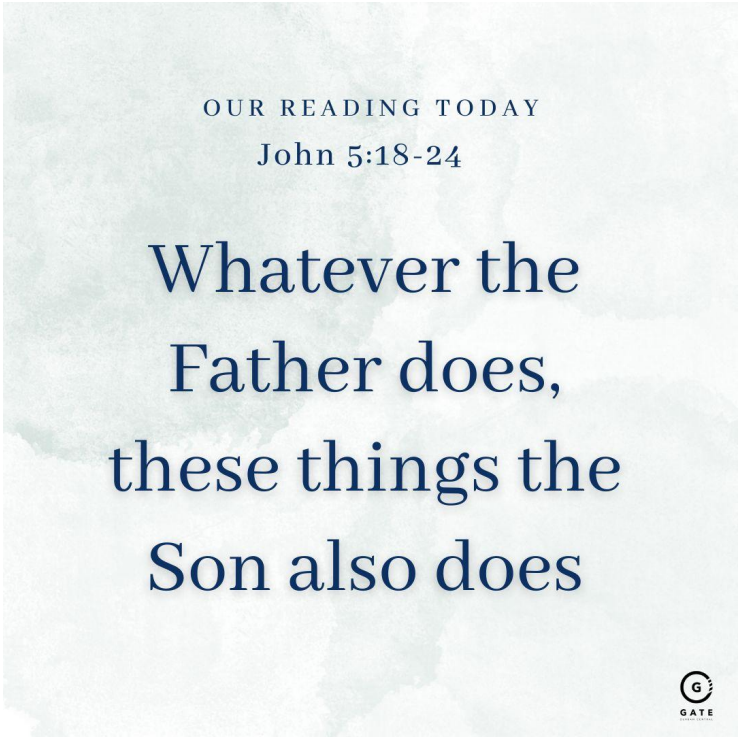
This man was dealing with his condition for 38 years and had been in the place where he could receive healing for a long time yet he was not healed. He could see the pool; he knew the process for healing to take place yet he was not healed.

In reading the scripture this time I was drawn to the question that Jesus asked him … **Do you want to be made well?** The man clearly believed that healing took place here and the fact that he had been here for a long time he must have witnessed the healing but is it possible that he did not believe that the healing was possible for himself?

Is it possible to have faith because of what you have seen yet also be without hope because of what you are experiencing (reality)? I have often thought the man could have dragged himself to the pool and left his hand in the water to ensure he would be healed. I have thought that maybe he wasn't desperate enough or that he had become complacent with his situation.

But in reading the scripture this time I realise just how hopelessness and the sense of helplessness can stagnate us and prevent us from receiving all that God has for us. It keeps our focus on everything that is working against us. Jesus saw beyond the man's posture and disposition and took the opportunity to restore the man's hope through healing. Jesus showed the man compassion where everyone passed him by rushing for their healing and breakthrough, **the Healer himself stopped to talk to the man**. Jesus demonstrated **His limitless power** in that the man was healed in the very place he was in and didn't need to go to the water. Once again confirming that **God is not confined** to the ways of the world. Jesus saw the man, sometimes our situations can make us feel so insignificant, hopeless and helpless and we can question why would anyone want to help or even be around us but we never have to question Gods love for us **even when we don't love ourselves, He loves us.**

John 5:18-24 | Jesus' Equality with God



Rene Barnwell:

"… the **Son SEES** what Father does; the **Father LOVES**, **SHOWS the Son ALL**; **Father GIVES** life; **Son GIVES** life." (John 5:19-21 ESV).

We can see clearly the oneness/harmony/synchrony/partnership between Father and Son.

The Son does only what He sees the Father do.

The Father shows the Son ALL that He is doing and even greater works.

You and I are sons of God, our Father.

May we too be ONE with Father and allow Him to show us, teach us, love us...and as we SEE what He shows us, we do likewise and even greater works, bringing life and hope to all we encounter.

Carla Joshua:

They saw this as a sabbath violation (see John 5:18). They could have seen that it was a miraculous healing. Always wear spiritual specs because they change your view- that we may have a vision that sees with a deeper revelation regarding things in our lives.

Jesus tells them the Son can do nothing without the Father; the Son is in submission to the Father. Jesus lives and functions in this way. Whatever He (the Father) does the Son also does in like manner; what the Son does is a perfect reflection of the Father.

This is also our role as sons, to emulate Jesus to perfection.

The Father is not the mean scary judge that we must be afraid of. I think some people have this perception of God the Father which creates a misconception and divide between the Father and the Son.

God has that love, mercy and compassion as we allow Jesus to be revealed to us. See in John 5:21 how Jesus says: “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.”

Honour the Son as you honour the Father, hearing His word and believing the One who sent Him who has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Moira Saker:

“Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.” (John 5:19-20 NIV).

Jesus Christ, the Son can do only what he sees his Father doing. This is the spiritual sight that comes from his intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit which makes him live in tune with his Father, he walks and talks with him, he hears what he is saying in every situation, he is sensitive to his leading and completely dependent on the Father. **In him he lives, moves and has his being.**

We as sons of God must develop our intimacy with the Father through the Holy Spirit which will enable us to have greater spiritual sight causing us to live in tune with the Father so that every word, thought and action is only what the Father has shown us.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20). **As sons of God, the flesh must die daily for Christ to live through us.**

Audrey Adams:

“Therefore, Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.” (John 5:19). Jesus the son demonstrates profound unity and perfect submission to Father. He will not do anything outside of God's will. There's accurate representation of Father here:

- "In like *manner,” in what he does.
- My food He says- to do the will of the Father.

So, we as sons must love Father.

Our identity must be lived in Him as Jesus accurately demonstrated.

The common saying: “What Would Jesus Do?” - Therefore, the way we conduct our lives must bring honour to Father in all things.

Selwyn Young:

“Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.” (John 5:19-20 NIV)

The Son relied on the Father while he was on Earth. So too we must rely on the Father. We cannot survive let alone thrive in life if we are not connected to and copy the Father.

A good Son emulates the Father, and a good Father provides a good example for the Son to emulate.

The worship and spiritual practices that we hold to, and prioritize- these are the ones our children will prioritize.

Because the Son (child) can do only what he sees the Father (parent) doing.

Britnee Adams:

“It’s urgent that you listen carefully to this: Anyone here **who believes what I am saying right now and aligns himself with the Father,** who has in fact **put me in charge,** has at this very moment the real, lasting life and is no longer condemned to

be an outsider. **This person has taken a giant step from the world of the dead to the world of the living."** (John 5:24 MSG)

To gauge and understand what Jesus is saying here demands maturity. A maturity the Jews lacked. They were stunned at the idea of Jesus "calling God His own Father," (see John 5:18).
Yet to engage the Son, is in the same breath to engage the Father. In doing so, we choose LIFE. **We choose the way the Father would rather have it** (see John 5:24 above).
To understand this concept without thinking like the Jews I created a mental picture for my reconfiguration. I see this verse of scripture almost as the symbol used to depict the cross: 

- The vertical line (|) depicting the Son's connectedness to the Father on earth as it is in heaven: "… whatever the Father does, the Son does in like manner." (John 5:19 NASB1995).
- The horizontal line (—) depicts Christ Jesus, the Son, who was sent from the Father, for US to engage and honour as we would honour God the Father because that's the only way, we get to know the Father: "So that all will honour the Son even as they honour the Father." (John 5:23 NASB1995).

TRULY TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, believe the Father = believe the Son! "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me." (John 14:1 NASB 1995)

Yvette Govender:
"For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel," (John 5:20).
The Divine nature and unity of God Our Father and Son of God is Love.
The relationship between Father and Son is in **oneness** where there is no separation, where there is unity therein lies strength.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

In John 5:18, we learn that Jesus is equal to God the Father, this is so important for us to understand the identity of Christ as God the Son. He embodies the nature and characteristics of Father but functions distinctly as Son.

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” (Hebrews 1:3 ESV).

As Sons of the Son who represent the Father, may we, too, represent Him in our various spheres just as God the Son so accurately does.

Dean Govender:

“... the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.” (John 5:19a).

Wow, **Jesus is speaking about the nature of the Father** - healer, redeemer, restorer etc. He can only but model the nature of His Heavenly Father.

This forms a juxtaposition between the above mentioned and the relationship I have with my spiritual Father - all I’ve done this year is model his behaviour in and out of Church.

Close proximity along with honouring his teachings, has served as an aerial - receiving a Fathering grace which transforms me into the image of Christ daily.

“I DO as my father Randolph does. THEY watch me and do as I do.”

As Grace is received. It is imparted to others - at gym, at school, at home, in church. Christ in me, flows through me.

“He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent Him” (John 5:23a).

Jesus points out that we must honour His words and teachings, just as we honour the Fathers statutes and commandments - live in accordance with the Word of God.

If I am a spiritual son to Pastors Randolph and Rene, I need to be worthy of honour in order to bring honour to them. Thus, bringing honour to Christ Jesus and the Father.

Anne Paul:

In order to have eternal life, we must hear and believe. We cannot hear if we are not connected to the frequency of God's speaking. Hearing the words of the Son and believing the Father opens the door for us to cross over from death to eternal life.

Fiona Beru:

“Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.” (John 5:19 NKJV).

- The son does nothing of Himself, this is a total dependence upon the Father, that leads to total obedience.
- Hebrews 1:3 in the NIV expresses it like this “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

Shaun Beru:



We are called to be exact representations of the Father. This is done through sonship. Christ is our standard and the pattern for us to imitate and represent Him accurately.

Jenny Pillay:

When we believe the word of God and put our faith and trust in God Himself, God will forgive our sins and we shall have eternal life. Meaning we will have a relationship with God and not death where we are separated from God. Sin separates us from God causing spiritual death. May we not come to that place where we are separated and

24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25 Very truly

God's face is turned away from us. May we be in a constant state of repentance from intentional and unintentional sin. (See John 5:24 above).

Emmarentia van Schalkwyk:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and BELIEVETH on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that HEAR shall live. My sheep HEAR my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” (John 5:24-28 KJV).

In this passage of scripture, Jesus highlights the promise of eternal life to those that HEAR and BELIEVE. Jesus makes it very clear in John 10:28, that His sheep hear His voice. Jesus came to present to us the Father, and yet no one can come to Jesus unless the Father has drawn them. **We have been drawn to Jesus through the love of God the Father**. It is also written, 'that the law came through Moses, Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ. God has opened our eyes of understanding so that we can HEAR His voice. **Let us listen to His voice filled with so much love and compassion and enter into the promised eternal life.**

Jerusha Sydney:

In John 5:18, the Jews wanted to kill Jesus because he made himself equal to God. Their religious mindsets prevented them from believing Jesus to be the Messiah. Even though all the signs were evident, their unbelief blinded their fate.

Similarly, we are often hindered by conventional ways of thinking about God, trapping Him in a box that limits our understanding and experience of His infinite nature.

The call to evaluate these mindsets is a challenge to step beyond the safety and comfort of familiarity, and to approach God with fresh eyes- recognizing that He is all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful. By doing so, we position ourselves to experience His full potential in our lives, just as Jesus did. Jesus, as the patterned

Son, demonstrated how we are meant to live—always in close communion with the Father, doing only what He sees the Father doing.

In John 5:24, Jesus teaches that eternal life is found in hearing His word and believing that the Father sent Him. This belief enables us to transcend the limits of time and mortality, viewing life not from a chronological standpoint, but as eternal beings. When we truly embrace this, we begin to live as Jesus did—empowered by the Father to do greater works and to judge the earth, bringing life and transformation to those around us.

To live in this way, we must engage with the Scriptures not as a mere devotional exercise, but as a deep, intentional search for God's will, particularly the dynamic of the Father-Son relationship. This is the standard to which we are called, and by creating the capacity for God to reveal His purposes to us daily, we align ourselves with His eternal purposes and live out our identity as His Sons.

In summary, **embracing the call to be imitators of Jesus means breaking free from traditional religious limitations** and stepping into a deeper, more dynamic relationship with the Father—one where we **view life through the lens of eternity and partner with Him** in bringing life to the world.

Nolan Bartleson:

“When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,” (John 5:6,8-9 NIV)

The **compassion of Jesus** and his desire to see people whole and healed was more important to him than observing religious rituals and ceremonies.

Jerusha Sydney:

In **John 5:3, 5, and 7**, we encounter a scene where a multitude of sick, blind, lame, and withered individuals are gathered by a pool, waiting for the waters to be stirred, believing that an angel’s intervention in the waters would be their answer to healing. Among them, there is a man who has suffered for thirty-eight years. When Jesus asks him if he wants to be healed, the man responds, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, other steps down before me.”

These individuals, in desperate need, are surrounded by the very means of healing—yet they are deceived into believing that their healing is contingent on the stirring of the water. Similarly, the man in this story, consumed by his ignorance and apathy, justifies his condition and spends almost four decades in the same helpless state, blaming his inability to reach the water in time. What he fails to see is that the true answer—the Word of God, represented by Jesus—is right before him, and it is not bound to a fleeting moment or a mystical event.

In his blindness, he overlooks the fact that the Word of God is always available, always accessible to those who earnestly seek it. In the same way, Jesus, who is the Word made flesh, has the power to heal, restore, and deliver, and He is present with the man in his deepest moment of need.

The man's response also highlights a lack of understanding of the Word's true power. As the psalmist says in Psalm 1, those who meditate on God's Word Day and night are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in season, and whose leaves do not wither. Whatever they do, will prosper.

This man, in his despair, failed to recognize that the true source of restoration and healing was not in the stirring of the pool, but in the Word of God—Jesus Himself.

This passage calls us to reflect on where we seek our answers. In our own lives, how often do we fall into the trap of waiting for something external or for a momentary event to change our circumstances? Like the man at the pool, we may find ourselves making excuses, blaming external factors, or becoming distracted by worldly concerns. But the truth is, our restoration, our answers to prayer, and our miracles are all found in the Word of God. Our Father is calling His sons to arise, to awaken from spiritual slumber, and to pursue Him wholeheartedly through the Scriptures. May we not be distracted by the trivialities of the world, but may we single-mindedly seek God in His Word, where true healing and restoration are found.

Aran Boodhai:

What do we extract from a 38-year-old Illness (see John 5: 1-15)?

This is truly **a stubborn illness** that has been difficult to cure, these are diseases that show no signs of improvement, even after many years of treatment, they seem to get better, but only to recur.

A stubborn illness may not necessarily be one's physical illnesses but it can also be attributed to one's Spiritual and Emotional state, for example: problems in marriages, unresolved issues may persist even after 20- 30 years etc.

Spiritual Stubbornness is trying to believe in yourself that your current location is an accurate one, and in this state, you hinder growth and the move of God upon your life! Do not be caught in this state, break forth and breakthrough, and obey the call of the Lord.

Julienne Bartleson:

- **Jesus the Mobiliser!**

"**Get up**, pick up your pallet, and **walk**. Immediately, the man became well, picked up his pallet, and began to **walk**." (John 5:8-9)

This man was in this lame position for thirty-eight years. His life was defined by this impediment.

Jesus releases a word to him. In that word is the **power to mobilise** this man from his incapacitated state.

"The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and LIVE." (John 5:25)

Jesus' heart was moved as he did not want this man to remain in the same condition that he had been. vs6 "he knew that he had been there for a long time in that condition.

As we submit our lives to the quickening of His word, there are things which have been long standing in our lives that can be changed.

We, too, must become **mobilizing agents** that bring activation to those around us who feel stagnant/lame in any area of life. MOBILIZING GRACE to each and every one of us!!

Fiona Beru:

JOHN 5

- **Jesus asked a question**. Even though He could see the man's condition, He needed the man to speak it so that internally the man could see the possibility of being healed. Sometimes we too can be caught up in our external conditions that we become comfortable where we are, **God wants to move us.**

- Verse 7- even though the man's answer was truthfully, yet it was still an excuse**, we need to stop making excuses.**
- Verse 8- "Rise, take up your bed and walk." **Jesus wants us to arise from the situation or condition we are in**. Also, we need to remove anything that would cause us to return in that place. Roman 12:2 says:

- "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- Our transformation comes by the renewal of our thinking.

- Verse 14- "and Jesus found him at the temple." The man's transformation found him in the house of God. **Our transformations must relocate us**, so we too are found in a place where we can grow and walk in the things of God.
- Verse 19- **As sons we must rely on our Heavenly Father**, He is our source and resource. Jesus never operated and did His own thing. His purpose was to fulfil the will of the Father.

Newman Chigwade:

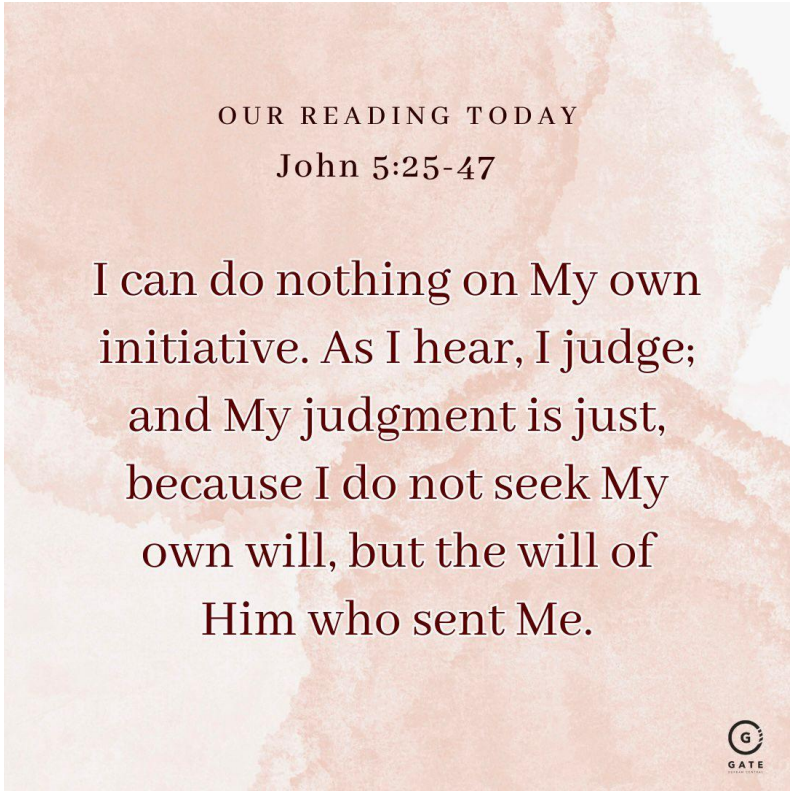
Honour the Father and Son:

"But Jesus answered them, My Father has been working until now, and I have been working, therefore the Jew sought all the more to kill Him because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. Then Jesus answered and said to them "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son cannot do nothing of Himself, but wat He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." (John 5:17-19)

- As sons to our spiritual Father we need to Honour our spiritual Father by doing what he does. We cannot do anything on OUR OWN. We need to see what our Father does and do the same.

#honor #see #do!

John 5:25-47 | Two Resurrection Witnesses



Rene Barnwell:

“But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish**, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.**” (John 5:36)

Jesus’ actions, through His demonstration of power through the miracles He performed, validated John’s testimony and provided proof that His Father had indeed sent Him, backing Him up with His authority and power.

As sons of God, we all have an assignment/purpose to accomplish in this life, just like Jesus did.

May the works that we are doing bear witness of God’s power and His nature which is truth, integrity, love, compassion and so much more.

Our powerful words and promises are wonderful, but meaningless if actions do not follow our speech.

Our ‘doing’ the works is evidence of the truth of that word and the source from which grace flows to accomplish that work-our Heavenly Father.

May we, enabled by the Holy Spirit, showcase the Son, Christ Jesus, by our words, works and actions, bearing accurate witness and bringing glory to the Father.

Yvette Govender:

"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, **I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.**" (John 5:30)

God is spirit.

God in His Sovereignty is the Judge of all things and Jesus forbids us to Judge.

"For in the same way, you judge others, you will be judges and with the measure you use it will be measured to you," (Matthew 7:2).

"**You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one**. And yet if I do judge, my judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me." (John 8:15).

Carla Joshua:

"… and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." (John 5:29)

The latter referenced in the above text is chilling. Understanding this naturally makes you want to do all you can to be on the right side of the equation here. **This hour that is coming shouldn't make us forgo the right living and pursuing the intimacy with Jesus that develops eternal virtues.**

Jesus tells them why they should believe in Him, Jesus's claims about Himself are not only His, there are witnesses of His nature, character and purpose.

- Witness of John
- Witness of works
- Witness of the Father
- Witness of the Scripture

"… and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life." (John 5:40).

He's a living, loving Jesus!

Akira Boodhai:

“I do not seek my will but the will of the Father who sent me.” (John 5:30).

Let us put away our wants and desires and place God's purpose first in our life.

Allow His purpose to increase and our own desires to decrease.

Let's choose to fulfil God's kingdom by putting Him first in everything we do.

Julienne Bartleson:

“I can do nothing on my own.” (John 5:30 NASB2020).

“Therefore, Jesus answered and was saying to them**, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself.”** (John 5:19 NASB2020)

Jesus, the SON who by now had performed a few miracles showing forth great power and authority. Yet in all of this, He maintains His posture of **Inter**dependence and **humility.**

He did not allow himself to become puffed up or conceited because He knew His source of supply (Father). In a world where everyone is currently seeking self-glorification and attention, can we be the ones whom the Father can entrust? Can He entrust us to show forth His power/glory and yet remain connected and keep our humility in acknowledging that "without Him we can do nothing?"

The plug without the power connection is of no good. The connection is the vitality of LIFE.

One of our apostles had mentioned that **" outside of God we are like fish out of water."** paraphrased. He is our habitation; He is our life supply!

May we be leading people who daily declare our dependence upon Him.

“For by Him, through Him, and in Him are ALL things...” (Colossians 1:16)

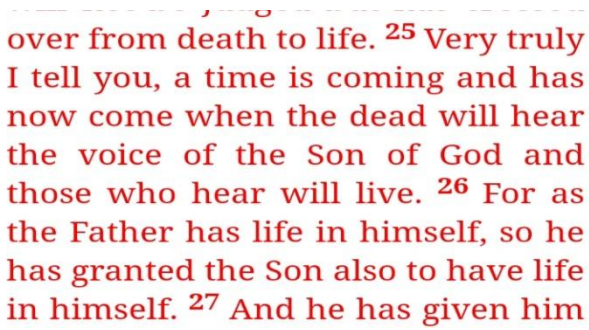
Fiona Beru:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.” (John 5:25).

This is the **third time** Jesus uses the words **“Truly, truly I say to you…”** which would imply first-hand information and that He is speaking the truth about important issues.

In verse 25, He refers to salvation and because of our disconnection we were dead and could not hear His voice. **But now we are given the opportunity to have life, if we believe what we hear.**

Jenny Pillay:

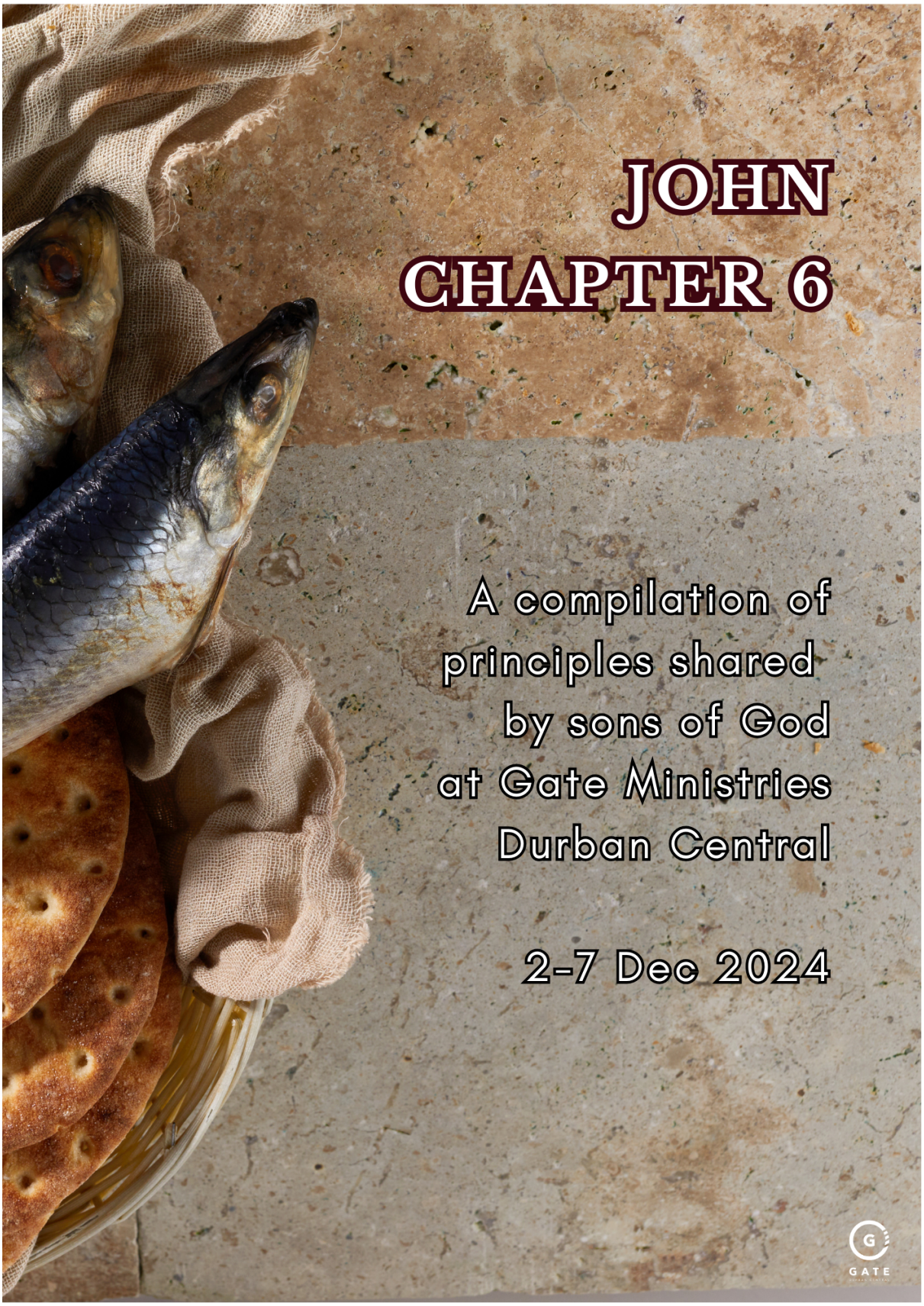

over from death to life. 25 Very truly
I tell you, a time is coming and has
now come when the dead will hear
the voice of the Son of God and
those who hear will live. 26 For as
the Father has life in himself, so he
has granted the Son also to have life
in himself. 27 And he has given him

When we hear and are obedient to the voice of our spiritual Father, any dead areas in our life can be brought to life because Father God has poured of Himself to His representations here on earth. In the persons of our spiritual father just as Father God poured of Himself to Jesus Christ, Father God has given them the authority. That is why it is so important as to whose voice we listen to because there are too many voices out there waiting to lead us astray. (John 5:25-26 NIV).

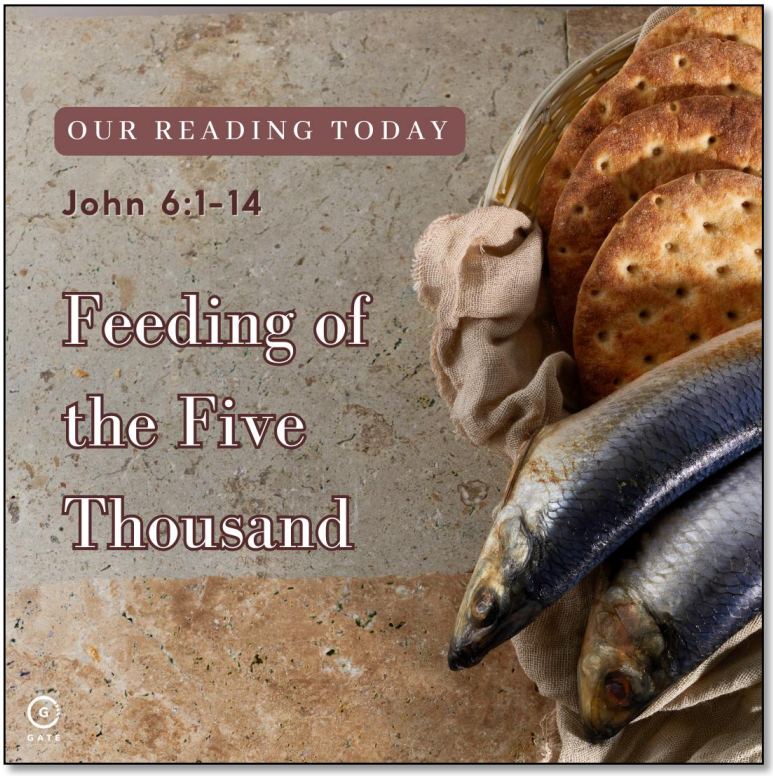
Carolyn Moonsamy:

In John 5:

- Have a heart for those in need;
- Speak words of healing with power and authority vested in us in the name of Jesus;
- Know and understand my identity- God is my Father.
- Show honour and reverence to God the Father;
- Do nothing in my own accord- only what He says.


JOHN
CHAPTER 6
A compilation of
principles shared
by sons of God
at Gate Ministries
Durban Central
2-7 Dec 2024
GATE

John 6:1-14 | Feeding of the Five Thousand



Annie Reddy:

“The people followed Jesus because of the signs He was performing. So, Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.” (John 4:48). Jesus knew that they needed more than that, **His desire was to feed them the bread of life**, which is His word.

“Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, in number about five thousand.” (John 6:10)

Reclining with the Lord is having fellowship with Him. Jesus needed all His people to come to that point in their lives. Learn to recline at the table of the Lord. This is our place of security and trust.

As we heard from the message, we have to become Word saturated.

Wesley Joseph:

“Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him.” (John 6:3 NLT).

This heavenly transaction took place on a hilltop. The hilltop in the Bible is a reference to the church and in receiving revelation, word, food from heaven:

- “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14 NLT).
- “It is high and magnificent; the whole earth rejoices to see it! Mount Zion, the holy mountain, is the city of the great King!” (Psalms 48:2 NLT).
- “Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel.” (Exodus 19:3 NLT).
- “Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!” (John 6:7 NLT).

Philip was natural in his response to Jesus’ question and lacked faith in God's ability to provide. You cannot serve both God and money (Matt 6:24).
Andrew responded in faith in presenting the boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish. This act of faith became grace multiplied from 5 to 5000.
This multiplied grace was distributed by the disciples to 5000 fathers whom I'm assuming distributed to their families.
It's a wonderful example of what a little faith can produce in God's hands.
Those who live and abide in the family of God know how to live and rely on God's grace, which is distributed by Apostles and fathers through the word. This grace makes them full and complete. There is no lack but abundance and overflow to share and release to others.

Carla Joshua:
“Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?” (John 6:5).
Phillips responds to this was exactly like an unbeliever in an impossible situation. Prov 3:5 says: “Trust in the Lord!” Phillip failed the test because He was standing with Jesus. While we might be in a situation where we feel helpless and cannot change it alone, we must factor Jesus into the situation.
The need for bread was a simple one if we take into account the miracles that Jesus was performing: healing the sick, lame to walk, blind eyes seeing. An impossible situation is where Jesus shines, this is where the impossible becomes possible.
When we face an impossible situation, be careful of your response, don’t count why it’s impossible, rather count **Who is with you.**

Also, the barley loaves were something that they had and offered it up becoming the very thing that Jesus used. May we never be slow to give what we do have, which God can use. Surrender your little so that you may gain the abundance of the Lord. Let Him turn it into His abundance.

Audrey Adams:

“This He was saying to test him. Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." (John 6:6, 10)

Phillip having walked with Jesus and seen water turned into wine still has a lack of FAITH and understanding of who Jesus is. We also see Jesus setting the order in verse 10 before performing of the miracle: **"MAKE THE PEOPLE SIT"**

We cannot respond like Phillip after having been a disciple for so long- his perception of Jesus is faithless.

We must trust Him completely and know His power.

Bring order to your life (bring everything in our lives under submission).

Create the mindset to receive from the table of His speaking to us as the "Bread of Life" while grace is dispensed.

Britnee Adams:

“Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise, also of the fish as much as they wanted.” (John 6:11 NASB1995)

1. **Jesus does not overlook the spirit of gratitude:**

While He is well within His right to showcase His power in God- He ensures to gives thanks! Don’t be so cool that you cannot gives thanks to the source.

2. **“Distributed to those who were seated:”**

To SIT denotes INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP & POWER.

Have you ever quickly grabbed a bite of something standing? It’s most times uncomfortable and quick.

To be seated in this setting therefore speaks to the divine intimate fellowship that took place. Furthermore, it speaks to the power of being invited to sit with the King and dine with Him. It’s one thing for the Son of God to call you into His presence but it’s another thing to sit with Him and break bread with Him.

- Don’t neglect your intimate relationship with the word (bread).
- Do not neglect the gathering of the saints!
- Do not despise your sonship and invitation to the kingdom of God.
- Be mindful of the power of you hold seated on the right hand of the Father.

Selwyn Young:

Not just the spiritual but also the physical. Jesus has been seeing the people's spiritual needs and teaching them about the kingdom.
Performing miracles and signs among the people.
Demonstrating that even as a spiritual leader we too, must care for the physical needs of the people we feed spiritually.
If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? (James 2:16-17 NIV)
Jesus was not disconnected from the people's need. Neither should we be.
Bread sustains physical life. The word sustains us spiritually.

Anne Paul:
The Bread of Life gives thanks for the 5 loaves and 2 fish. He does nothing outside of the will of His Father.
One boy gives up his lunch to feed a multitude = Aggressive Provision.
The varied miracles through the living Word are now impacting thousands.

Fiona Beru:
“Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.” (John 6:10-11)

Verse 11 says “to those sitting down,” so it leads me to believe that some people remained standing and therefore lost out on the meal. The people had to obey the command.

Sitting in the Bible has multiple means and can represent different things according to context, however in this passage I think it means the humbling and submitting of one's self. When one is seated, you are in a posture learning, of listening, and fellowship. Distribution only multiplied in the posture of corporate obedience.
Let us as sons, come to a posture of corporate obedience so that divine purpose and mandate can be fulfilled. As we receive from our spiritual fathers, then we to can distribute to others.

Shaun Beru:
"Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do." (John 6:5-6).
It's so encouraging that Jesus knows our needs before we even ask him. As well as He knows what he will do for us.
So, we can make our request known to God with expectation because He has heard us.

Jerusha Sydney:
"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?" Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise, also of the fish as much as they wanted." (John 6:9,11 NASB).
These verses where Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish, is a profound demonstration that our limited resources are never too small for God to work with. He can take what seems insignificant and make it abundantly more than enough to meet every need.
In 1 Kings 17, the widow's faith in God's provision, even when faced with a dire situation, allowed her flour and oil to not run out. When we trust in Jehovah Jireh, He can make the little we have gone far beyond our expectations. Our part is to trust and obey, knowing He is our provider and can work miracles with what we offer.
In Matthew 7:9, we are reminded that God, as a loving Father, desires to bless us. Just as a father wouldn't give his child a stone when they ask for bread, God will not withhold good from those who seek Him. This passage reassures us that when we approach God in obedience and faith, He responds with care and provision.

As we wash our minds with the word, may we be renewed in our thinking to grow in faith, trusting that God is more than able to meet every need, no matter how big or small. His provision is limitless, and His love for us is steadfast.

Yvette Govender:

“Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.” (John 6:5-6)

As a side note: Jesus found Philip and said to him “follow me.” In following Jesus, we will be exposed to many truths and experience the miraculous of The Lord.

Likewise, as Jesus tested Philip to expose his lack of Faith, may we be continuously be built up in Faith knowing the Sovereignty of God. Jesus Himself is Our Provider. It is only with lifted eyes as Jesus demonstrates will we experience this Reality.

Nolan Bartleson:

Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So, they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.” (John 6:7,9,11-13 NIV)

Half a year’s wages would only have provided the crowd with one bite, yet, when Jesus took the boys lunch of five loaves and two fish everyone had enough to eat and twelve baskets were collected after they were all full.

There is no comparison to the efforts we can make in the natural or our own strength in trying to sort the magnitude of our problems or needs out than when we give it to the master.

The miraculous takes place when we take our little and place it in the master's hands. Looking at John 6:12-13 it is our tendency to not value something or someone when they are around until that person is no more or we lose something of importance to us. Here Jesus is teaching his disciples a valuable lesson "gather the pieces that are left over and let nothing go to waste" Note that only the bread was left over. From the five

loaves 5 the number of Grace; bread is a reference to the word; twelve baskets were gathered ;12 the number of the apostolic (no reference to any of the fish being gathered up which suggests it was only the bread that was left).
Higher value must be placed on the grace of his word which is able to sustain us. Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
He was teaching his disciples the importance of gathering for themselves from the grace he was dispensing to them because he was the word made flesh, the bread of life come down from heaven. Let nothing go to waste. Gather for yourselves treasures where rust and moth doth not corrupt (see Matthew 6:19-21).
Let's treasure the Father and the grace gifts God has blessed us with as a household. Let nothing go to waste.

Rita Naidoo:
In John 6:8-9 the boy gave what little he had and it made all the difference. If we offer nothing to God, He will have nothing to use but He can take what little we have and turn it into something great. We must be ready, obedient and willing always for God to use us for His glory.

Mark Pillay:
“Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews was near. Therefore, Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, *said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?” This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do. Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.” (John 6:4-7).
The feeding of multitude with a boy’s lunch – five barley loaves and 2 fish is a great sign of the Father’s divine supernatural provision, we can relate this incident with the supernatural feeding of Israel in the wilderness with manna, meat falling from heaven and water supplied from the rock.
John tells us that a large crowd had gathered after witnessing the miracles of Jesus, said to be “five thousand men” excluding “women and children” (John 6:10).
To feed such a huge crowd in the natural was an impossible task and yet Jesus poses a strange question to Philip.

This was a test of Philip's faith in God which is quite relatable to a modern-day son of God.

It is simply a fact that new challenges often expose a deficiency of our faith in God and brings to light any weak areas in our lives. After following Jesus and seeing signs first hand, Philip answers the Lord employing natural means.

We fall victim to the same thinking; we try to fix our problems in our own natural means instead of considering how Father God can divinely solve our problems supernaturally. This was a teaching moment for Jesus to guide Philip by exposing his weakness. Philip's lack of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was exposed.

Don't be surprised if Jesus asks you to do something that seems impossible to your natural mind. Trust Him and trust the process!

Dean Govender:

In John 6:9 All things became possible through the willingness of a 'lad' - aim to be a lad in the House of God.

5 loaves of bread into 5000 - grace multiplied

Pre-requisite of the above:

- The people had to sit down- be in a state of rest.
- Jesus gave thanks to the Father- be in a state of thanksgiving… "but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Phil 4:6-7)

Jerusha Sydney:

"Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, *said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?" This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do." (John 6:5-6 NASB)

We may find ourselves in precarious situations, and in those moments, let us be reminded that our Father could be testing whether we will respond with belief and trust in His provision. May we grow in our faith and not give in to prolonged unbelief.

May we evolve from infants into becoming **mature (Huios) sons of God**.

Yvette Govender:

“Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.” (John 6:2)

Jesus the Son of God, the leader, helper and initiator brought healing to the sick, provision to the hungry, living water to the thirsty and faith to the fearful.

Jesus continued fuelling the followers with faith and hope, dispelling fear and hopelessness in the process.

“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life.” (John 6:40)

Glory to God!

Fiona Beru:

JOHN 6

- Jesus tested His disciples in verse 6. The testing that we go through is not because God has nothing to do. But it allows us to be stretched, to think outside the box, to learn to rely not on human understanding or intuition, but to **learn to trust God.**
- Verse 10 “Make them sit down.” **We need to listen to instructions**. Sitting is a posture of rest. We need to rest in the presence of God and trust Him in the process. When you are seated, it is easier to be in a mode of reception.
- **Thanksgiving is a powerful attitude** or disposition, because besides being grateful for what you have it also shows contentment of where you are.
- **Jesus is the Bread from Heaven**. He said this three times. Bread give nourishment, it is a source of energy. When we feed of Jesus, we are seeing his characteristic, his nature and we are imbibing internally so that doing them.
- **Rejected by His own.** We must not think it strange when people judge us and are quick to point fault in us. It is because we should be setting an example as there is a Standard to which we must live. Jesus is that standard.
- Jesus said we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. He is not promoting cannibalism, but rather we cannot only accept the good times or things in our walk with Christ, but even through difficult times**, we must realize that**

it is a time of growth and development and that it too is good for us spiritually.

Debbie Bartleson:

Pondering on the 6 jars Jesus used in the miracle in John 2, I felt that this was not a coincidence. Through research the 6 jars were used for ceremonial cleansing- if anyone was defiled, they would come to the temple and they would cleanse the person with water from the jar. **The number 6 represents unconditional love.**

Jesus asks the servants to fill those jars with water and when the chief servant tasted it, it was the best wine. Jesus was setting a new order by dying for us and shedding his blood for our sins, represented by the wine.

We no longer need the jars of water to be cleansed. The servant asked: “why do you keep the best for last?” It was because Jesus dying on the cross was the final act for the forgiveness of sin. I would commend Mary as she knew the hour. From that time on Jesus began his ministry.

John 6:15-25 | Jesus Walking on The Water



Annie Reddy:

"… and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them." **(John 6:17)**

Don't get into your boat without the presence of the Lord. You can't get to your place of comfort (Capernaum) without Jesus.

Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they *saw Jesus' walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened." **(John 6:19)**

3 or 4 miles was a long distance. Their visibility could not have been good, but they heard Him speak.

The voice of the Lord must become louder to us when fear starts to set in.

"So, they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately, the boat was at the land to which they were going." **(John 6:21)**

When we receive Jesus into our boats, we will find ourselves in a place of comfort and safety. Even when the strong winds come, we will make it to land.

Verse 25 says the people asked Him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

The Lord is always ahead of our situation.

He is not delayed!

Don't feel that He has forgotten you because He is always before you.

Rene Barnwell:

“When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and **JESUS HAD NOT YET COME TO THEM.”** (John 6:16-17)

In prior verses, after Jesus performed the miracle of multiplying the fish and the bread and feeding thousands of people, the people wanted to take Him by force and make Him their earthly King, perceiving Him to be the Messiah.

Jesus hurriedly withdrew to a mountain alone, knowing that it was God’s will for His kingship to be established through His suffering on the cross. He was not a people pleaser but a Heavenly Father pleaser.

After that, in verses 16-17 above, we see that the disciples got into a boat and sailed across to Capernaum, without waiting for Jesus, naturally presuming He would follow soon.

The sea got rough and they had to face their darkest hour alone...until Jesus walked on the water and joined them on the boat.

Immediately and miraculously, they were at their destination without sailing the last few miles there.

May we not be so impatient and venture forth without Jesus as part of the plan, as we will end up in rough waters!

Let us allow Him into out boat from the onset and watch how He will fast track and accelerate the fulfilment of His will in our lives.

Dean Govender:

“So, Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.” (John 6:15)

Jesus’ response to glory

As we grow from strength to strength, it is easy to get caught up in the glory that comes from new found wisdom and understanding of things from above - Jesus teaches a powerful lesson here:

When it feels like you’re getting ahead of yourself, withdraw from people and be alone. Return to the upper room. Return to your Father’s presence

“There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.” (John 6:23)

Notice the emphasis here: it wasn't 'the Lord had performed a miracle' or 'The Lord had fed 5000'
It was that Lord Jesus gave Thanks and everything that came after that was associated with His Thanksgiving to the Father.

Mark Pillay:
"All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." (John 1:3 NASB).
This verse tells us that the Son of God "Jesus Christ" was part of the creative order from the beginning. The sea and winds came into being through Him therefore are controlled by Hm.
He controls everything that He created. His graceful presence changes the surrounding environment.
The disciples were professional fishermen and experience life at sea during darkness and bad weather conditions; however, the scripture tells us only when they saw Jesus walking on water, they were afraid.
What they witnessed could not be understood in their natural mind.
Jesus walking on water is another sign and faith test for his disciples.

- Fear = little faith.
- No fear = perfect faith.

Jesus' presence in the boat brought calm, peace and rest to the disciples, there was immediate results in reaching their destination. We need ensure that Christ Jesus is always involved, included and in charge in our life.
How is your faith in Father God?
…."when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
Lord increase our faith.

Carla Joshua:
"So, Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone." (John 6:15).
Jesus was careful not to be sucked in by how many followers he had attracted. He understood His agenda, purpose and representation. He also understood that some crowds will support you for their own agenda, maybe some of them didn't feel they

needed God but Jesus would be a perfect king and save them from the Roman government.
But Jesus had His head so deeply buried in His Fathers business that they had no chance. He took rather to the mountain, suggesting that He went pray alone. He wasn't impressed by the popularity and His great following.
For the people Jesus was the perfect candidate, He was so kind (feeding them), He has supernatural power, The prophet that Moses spoke about.
To Jesus was a temptation from the devil, Jesus was more impressed with being with his Father alone.

Quintez-Lee Wagner:

"But He *said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." So, they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going." (John 6:20-21 NASB1995)
After Jesus announces himself to his disciples, **they opened their hearts** (willing to receive) and allowed Jesus into the boat. Immediately when this happened the boat was at its intended location. In reading this I realised that we can see ourselves as the disciples; sometimes storms come and fear sets in but when we open our hearts to Christ Jesus and when we are willing to receive His counsel and wisdom, immediately God will take us to our next destination or place in him.
Sometimes it's natural like in this portion and other times it's spiritual. But the **key here** is willingness to let go of fear and **receive the I AM**.
We see the same thing in the account of Jesus' Birth in Luke 2.
"And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:9-11 NASB1995)
When the shepherds stopped fearing, immediately good news of great joy was eminent.

Moira Saker:

"When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. But he said to them, "It is I; don't

be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading." (John 6:19-21 NIV)

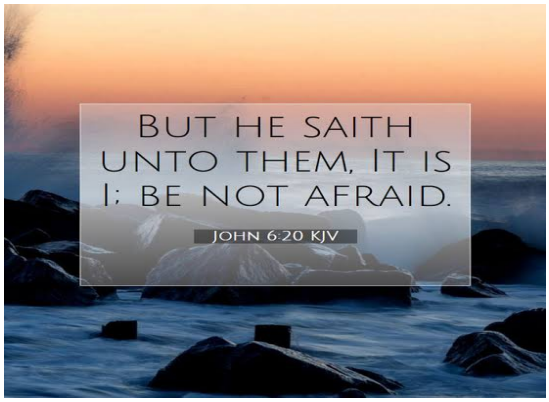
In verse 19, the disciples were afraid at the appearance of Jesus - the revelation of Jesus may come in a form or in a way that we are not expecting and we cannot comprehend it; as it was not something normal for a person to walk on the water.

In verse 20-21, when Jesus speaks to them then they come into the understanding of who was being revealed to them. The revelation of Christ Jesus came through the spoken word. It brought understanding, removed their fear and opened their hearts to bring Jesus closer and to journey with him.

Zoning in on verse 21 further, when Jesus is close and journeying with us, there will come an acceleration of movement to arrive at a destination, a place of safety and security.

Cindy Pillay:

When we acknowledge **IT IS I** in our storm, our fears change to courage, peace and we experience accelerated results (see John 6:20 KJV).



Julienne Bartleson:

"It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them." (John 6:17 NASB2020). The disciples undertake a journey, BUT Jesus, who is the **WORD** of God, the **GRACE** of God, is not with them.

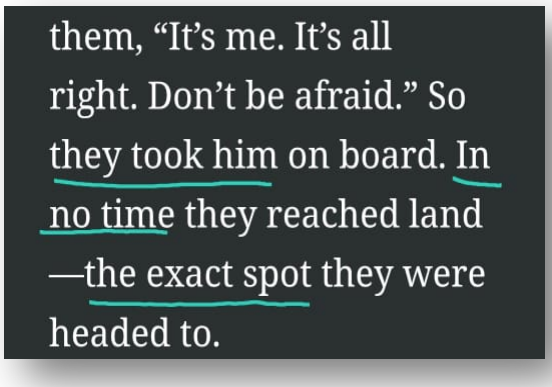
When He comes to them, the strong wind and raging sea become insignificant as His presence **IMMEDIATELY** silences these external factors and transports them across. He is the WORD who comes with a WORD to them, and immediately, they are transitioned to land (place of destination).

Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!" (John 6:21 NLT)

As Pater shared on Sunday, my prayer **is COME**, Jesus **WORD of God**, and cause a quickening in our lives that will transition from where we currently are to the **NEXT** place. The **Word of God** is **living** and active (**QUICK**- see Heb4:12!)

As His **word becomes more present in the US**, may we begin to **see the quickening** of things in our lives!

Anne Paul:



Jesus, the Word of God, is priority on our boat (this journey we are on, life, vocation, decision-making, family, words. See John 6:23).

He eradicates all fear.

He is guaranteed to accelerate our impact and that, with precision.

Fancy hitting bull's eye and never making a wrong turn. Don't launch out without Him. Jesus, the Word, a trusted GPS!

Fiona Beru:

“But He *said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” So, they were willing to take Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.” (John 6:20-21).

What a wonderful reassurance we have when we are troubled or in fear. Jesus’ words of **“It is I!”** must have brought consolation and relief to the disciples.

I don’t know if in vs 2 they left because of instructions from Jesus or of their own free will, but about 5km into their trip a storm blew up. And sometimes that is like us. We leave God behind and things we can do things ourselves, until storms of life hit us.

But we can reassure, Jesus is always there.

Andre van Schalkwyk:

“A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.” (John 6:2 NASB1995)

This verse shows how the crowd followed Jesus for the signs and miracles, but our **motivation as Sons** should **go beyond** what He can do for us. It comes from the truth of His Love for us. John 4:19 says: " We love, because He first loved us." It is because of **who He is and His Love** draws us to follow Him, **not for the blessings** or miracles, but out of gratitude and devotion.

Jerusha Sydney:

“Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they *saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. But He *said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” (John 6:19-20 NASB)

The disciples had seen countless miracles and had direct experience with Jesus' divine power, yet their fear in the face of the miraculous was a clear indication of their **limited understanding and faith.** Despite all the wonders they had witnessed, they still struggled to grasp that Jesus, the Son of God, was able to do the impossible.

Often, when we encounter difficulties or seemingly insurmountable challenges, we too can fall into the trap of fear and unbelief. It's easy to forget the times God has worked in our lives, providing for us, healing us, or guiding us through tough circumstances. Just like the disciples, we sometimes let our immediate fears cloud our ability to **recognize the power of God at work in the present**.

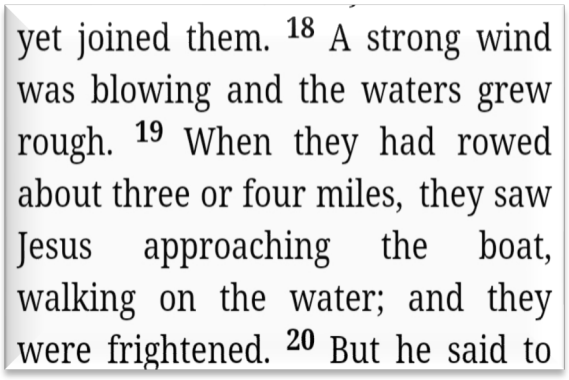
The storms of life may shake us, but we should remain grounded in the truth that the **Great I AM**, the Creator of the universe, is with us. He is sovereign over all things, and nothing is too big or too impossible for Him.

May we face the challenges of life not with fear, but with a strong, unwavering understanding of who our God is—the one who calms the storms, makes the impossible possible, and walks with us through every trial.

Jesus spoke to His disciples, saying, "It is I; do not be afraid," **He reminds us that He is present**, and we can have courage because of His power and presence in our lives.

Jenny Pillay:

John 6:18-19 highlights life's trials which we can face at any time and if our lives are centered on faith and trust in Jesus we can be assured of Jesus's presence and protection in the midst of life's storms.


yet joined them. 18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. 20 But he said to

In verse 19, 3 or 4 miles = 5 and 20 or 30 furlongs. The number **25 symbolizes grace upon grace** and the number **30 represents protection of divine order** and the right moment in God’s plan.

God gives us grace to endure the storm and in the midst of our storm His intention and purpose will be revealed to us at the perfect time.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

Jesus statement in John 6:20 "It is I, do not be afraid" is more than just a consolation to the guys. He is affirming His own identity as **SON OF GOD: I = I AM.** To be called His own, is the position where our immunity, divine protection and provision and ALL the benefits of SONSHIP are established. When the disciples received Him into the boat, I believe they received their identity causing an immediate shift in the physical environment.

“I have called you by your name; You are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burner, nor shall the flame scorch you.” (Isaiah 43:1b,2 NKJV)

Yvette Govender:

“Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.” (John 6:21).

Jesus had departed to the mountain to be by Himself alone. The disciples went down to sea and got into the boat and was journeying towards Capernaum. There was not much progress, they were rowing in the dark, great winds were blowing and the sea arose causing them much fear anxiety and frustration. Then they willingly received Jesus and immediately they reached their destination.

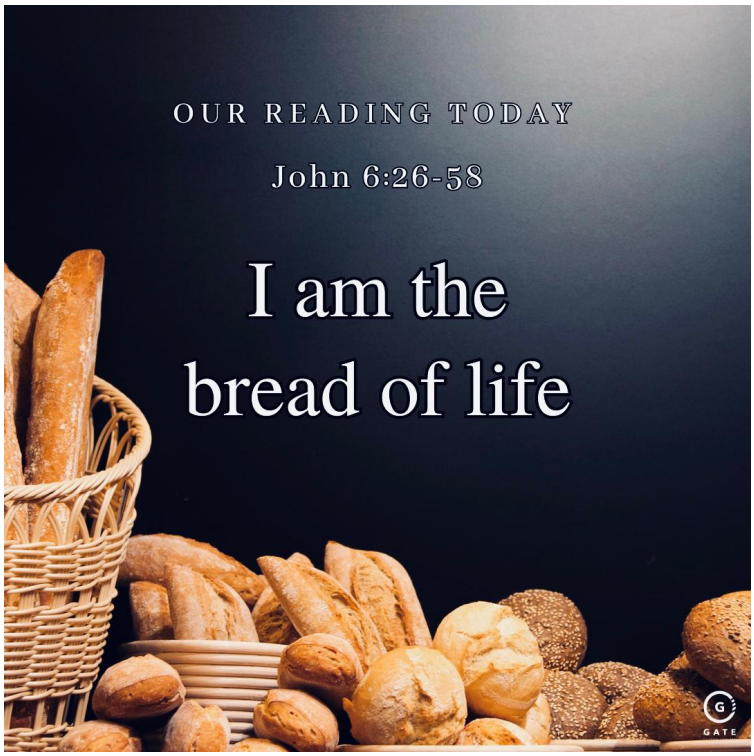
Jesus took them further than they could have gone on their own.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 6:

1. When you know your identity, there is nothing to be afraid of (and those around you can become beneficiaries of that too) - John 6:18 "...it is I, do not be afraid"
2. Focus on the eternal and not temporal for we have the seal of Father to accomplish purpose by believing and modelling the righteous pattern.
3. Sit amongst your betrayer, hold steadfast the word and do not fear those who may reject you. Abba is in control- adopt this mindset just as Jesus did.

John 6:26-58 | Jesus Explains The Bread



Wesley Joseph:

We live by every word that comes from the mouth of God!

“Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs.” (John 6:26 NL)

As we have been taught by pastor, that the miracles are signs that point to a greater reality.

The feeding of the five thousand has many kingdom principles but what stands out the most is that there is bread from heaven that will sustain us and build us up. The word. Jesus showed us in this sign, how it will come into the earth and be distributed among and too families.

“But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone.’” (Luke 4:4 NLT).

Many just follow Jesus so there physical and personal needs can be met but have no understanding or desire for the greater reality of possessing Him the bread of life itself.

The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” (John 6:33 NLT)

Rene Barnwell:

“Do not work for the food that perishes, **BUT FOR THE FOOD** that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set **HIS SEAL.**” (John 6:27)

There is a frenzy today to work for ‘the food that perishes’ i.e., not only physical food but every other material thing we need/want in life, which is temporary.

However, priority should be given to the ‘food that endures to eternal life’- Jesus is the Bread of life who dispenses Grace(‘bread’) to us.

Grace empowers, refreshes, strengthens and enables us to navigate through life successfully.

Shouldn’t we then put all our energy (‘work’) into growing in Grace by living according to Kingdom principles that we are being taught?

Provision will automatically follow us!

May the ‘seal’ of our Father ...His approval, authorisation, authentication... be upon us as we manifest His glory which is full of Grace and Truth.

Carla Joshua:

“Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’” (John 6:31)

The people said their fathers ate manna from heaven which made them seemingly believe that this was the ultimate benchmark for them. But Jesus responds to this by later saying: “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.” (John 6:49)

It is possible see, hear and witness the greatness of the Father and not live.

Jesus also mentions that their motivation for believing is wanting.

It is as Pater said, so critical to be immersed in the word in every aspect- everything we think, do, say and feel must be from a posture **of IN Jesus**, as in Joshua 1:8.

The claim to be working the works of God is tested by your diet- are we eating His body and drinking His blood daily, regurgitating the word in all we do? Are your pores soaked with the truth and life of Jesus who is our benchmark? Is there a pungent smell of Christ coming from you in all matters of your life? If a post-mortem is done on a son, what should the findings be?

It’s is possible to be a spectator with the thinking that you are a partaker like the fathers that the people allude to who ate manna from heaven. But Jesus rebuts this, saying

that the fathers who ate the manna are dead but the bread that is **HIM (bread of life)** shall give life forever.

Audrey Adams:

“Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.” (John 6:35,40,47).

We know bread to be a basic necessary food.

Jesus declares He is our bread of life- our **sustenance of eternal life.**

If we but only put our full confidence in Him, we will live eternally in the **"I AM"-** His divine nature.

This was the purpose for which He came, so that we may have everlasting life.

We don't need another sign as those that walked so closely to Him, yet lacked faith to believe He is the "I AM".

As He was the "I AM" with Moses and provided manna, we now have a new and living covenant where He is our eternal life through the power of His word is us. **Therefore, we must be partakers of the Bread of Life by the word being manifested in us.**

Selwyn Young:

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:35 NIV)

"I am" is emphatic and without a doubt. Jesus is saying He is **"THE"** one and only bread of life.

Bread as I mentioned previously, is a sustainer of life and Jesus is reminding us that He will sustain our lives but not just our natural life. Not just the natural hunger, but the deep hunger that we have. But our spiritual lives and our spiritual hunger.

Pascal mentions the God shaped vacuum. In this way "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ" (Pascal, 1670).

Before we accept the Lord and align our lives to Him, we try to fill this void, this hunger, this vacuum with everything else but only the Lord can fill this.

Additionally, Jesus says come and you will never hunger.

Believe and you will never be thirsty.

Jesus can confidently make this statement because he is the real, true bread of life. He is the only one who will fill that "God-shaped vacuum."

Mark Pillay:

Bread = a staple food, naturally satisfies physical hunger providing sustenance and energy.

In The Old Order- God provided manna, a bread-like substance, to feed their hunger and sustain the Israelites in the wilderness.

John 6 :31 reads: “Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

In The New Order- John 6: 35 says: “Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life.”

Jesus’ role, is like natural bread symbolizing a fundamental food source, providing sustenance and energy.

He is the source of all our spiritual nourishment, satisfying spiritual hunger.

Bread broken, is symbolic of Jesus' broken body and sacrifice (see Isaiah 53:51 & Corinthians 11:23-24,).

Jesus taught His disciples to pray for "daily bread", emphasizing reliance on Father God for physical and spiritual sustenance.

In Him we live, we move and have our being.

Dean Govender:

“I myself will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:40b NASB)

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange things were happening to you;” (1 Peter 4:12 NASB).

The Lord Jesus explains here that all those who believe in Him, **He will personally raise up in the last days.**

The time period we’re currently in is also known as ‘the last days’ and all the pruning and pressing that we’ve been experiencing, can be attributed to the Lord Jesus preparing us for our purposes and ministries.

Sons are being raised up in this season.

Fiona Beru:

In this passage of scripture Jesus refers to Himself as the ‘’Bread of Life!” twice and as also as the “living bread.” **Bread is the Bible symbolize many things:**

- **The Provision of God**– When manna was given to the Israelites in the wilderness and also feeding of the 5000.
- **It can symbolize fellowship**- the coming together to eat and commune with one another as well as sharing with one another.
- **The body of Christ** – at the last supper Jesus broke the Bread, and gave it to His disciples for them to eat and partake.

Jesus wants us to partake of Who He is. **He is the one in whom we can be sustained.**

Corayne Walters:

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:48 NASB)

Bread:

- a basic necessity of life.
- sustenance to nourish our physical bodies.

"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:40 NASB)

This BREAD is all we need eternally. Full of Grace! Full of Glory! Full of resurrection power and authority! CHRIST JESUS!

Anne Paul:

“Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” (John 6:29).

Belief informs behaviour (TN).

When we believe in the sent one (Apostles), everything we need in this life is locked up in that belief. Let's not sweat over bread and milk but anchor out belief in the ones sent to us. THIS, is the work of God.

Yvette Govender:

“Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” (John 6:27)

We are not to labour for material things that perish but rather for spiritual things that endures to everlasting life. Our confidence is in Jesus as God has Guaranteed and Authorised His seal on Him

Both material and spiritual things is given to us by the Son of God.

Rene Barnwell:

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)

Jesus physically came down from Heaven to Earth...but His spiritual base of operation was Heaven - where His Father dwelt.

Jesus’s will was not separate from or contrary to His Fathers’ will- it had the same goal: to save mankind -that no one be lost but preserved until the last day where we will be raised up (verse 40) to eternal life.

May we always be conscious of the fact that while we are physically on this Earth, we operate from the realm of Spirit- doing only the will of the Father in EVERY area of our lives, and not be carried away by our own whims and selfish ambitions.

Grace is given to empower us to obey God’s principles until the finish...let’s finish strong as we together accomplish the Father’s will in the earth.

Nolan Bartleson:

“Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread. Then Jesus declared, “I *am the bread of* life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” This is the

bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." (John 6:32-35,47-51,58 NIV)

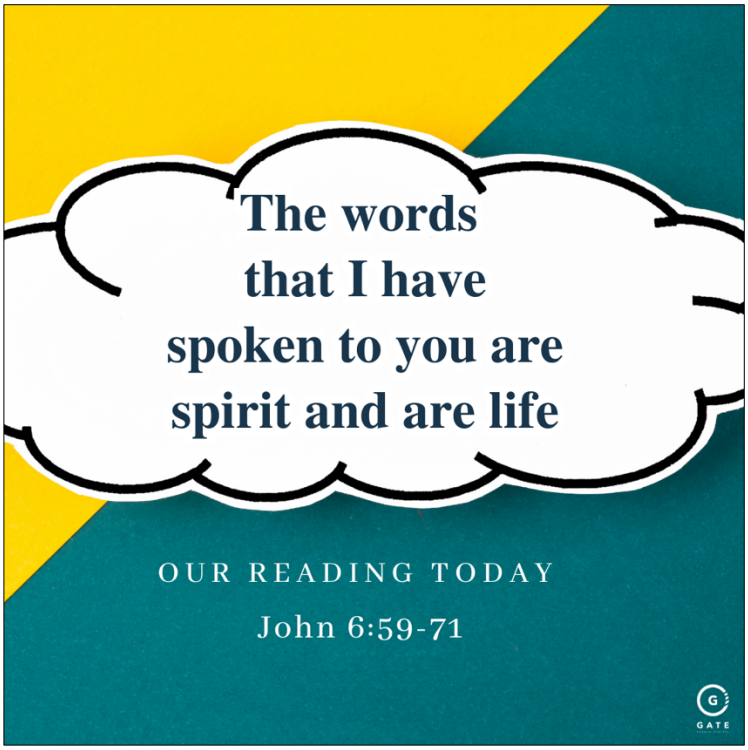
Whoever receives the son (the bread come down from Heaven) will have eternal life.

Jesus the Bread of Life.

Whoever eats of me, Jesus said will live forever.

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John 6:59-71 | Words to the Disciples



Rene Barnwell:

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. **THE WORDS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE**." (John 6:63-64 ESV)

But there are some of you who do not believe." (For **JESUS KNEW** from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

There is life in God's Word/s through the power of the Holy Spirit.

But there are 'some of us' who do not believe!

Jesus KNOWS our hearts, knows the measure of our belief/unbelief and knows the one who would betray Him.

Betray= unfaithful, disloyal, to break a promise.

How sad was it when Jesus said in verse 70 - **"DID I NOT CHOOSE YOU, the twelve? AND YET one of you is a devil."**

We betray God when we are unfaithful and disloyal to Him, to His kingdom principles, and when we easily break our promises -taking lightly the covenant we made with Him to follow and serve Him with all our heart.

May it never be said of us -after having the knowledge that God personally chose us- that we would betray our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus.

Carla Joshua:

Every word that Jesus spoke and miracle that He performed was to the same end, to bring people into belief. The miracles that Jesus did were secondary to the WORDS that He spoke.

“It is the spirit that quickened; the flesh profited nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)

The words are spirit and life but only to those who eat it, not by looking at it, or talking about it, or by knowing its ingredients, or by taking pictures of it or even selling it, but by eating it and assimilating it. Who can understand it unless by faith will it come into revelation?

The disciples questioned whether people would be able to accept this. I don’t believe they didn’t understand it but the accepting and the obedience to Jesus’s instructions by faith satisfies hunger for Christ. Our cry is making it clear Lord, make your word a word of understand as we search You word.

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” (John 6:66).

This is the place where people give up and turn back from this dynamic, this is the place where we decide to go deeper by eating the flesh and drinking the blood which defines whether we operate on the level that God has prepared for us or we plateau indefinitely forgoing the deep secrets things that Pater alluded to in this morning’s prayer meeting (see Dan 9:22).

Audrey Adams:

“But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (John 6: 68-69).

Peter reminds us with firm conviction and unwavering faith that the 12 disciples choose to remain with Jesus.

Acknowledging that He truly is the source of life. The words He speaks are spirit and life.

This passage starts with crowds following Jesus but ends with only the 12 (which Judas is part of).

Disbelief causes him to walk away and betray the son of God-a very sad reality.

May this be a keen reminder today that even though He chose us; our response must be: “Lord, we choose You in faith believing, YOU truly have" Words of Life.” (Matt 16:16).

It was Peter who said: You are the Christ. May we fill our lives with the word being made flesh in us, manifesting eternal life.

Selwyn Young:

“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.” (John 6:63 NIV).

There is no confidence to be placed in the flesh. The flesh fails daily, because it is weak. Additionally, the flesh cannot be carried into eternity. The flesh actually has opposite desires to the spirit. “The spirit is [always] willing but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41 NIV).

“For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.” (Galatians 5:17 NIV)

The reminder for us is to keep investing and building into the spirit rather than into the flesh which counts for nothing.

“The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life.” (John 6:63 NIV)

The link between the verse above and the ones below are so striking.

“In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.” (John 1:1)

The word was with God, ***HE was WITH God...**

“God is spirit and His worshipers must worship in Him in Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24 NIV)

The Son and word are inseparable. The Son in the word, the Son speaks words that are spirit and life. He was the word from the beginning. The Son is the word and the Son speaks the word.

Fiona Beru:

“Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:68- 69 ESV)

When the disciples were asked if they too would leave, Peter answered:

- **To whom shall we go–** in our lives it is not about the where, but it is about the Whom, the relationship that we build with our Heavenly Father, the relationship we build with our spiritual fathers and also with one another.
- **You have the words of Life–** our resource must be our Lord that framed the worlds with His words. (see Heb 11:3)
- **We have believed-** we as sons of God need to believe Him.
- **Have come to know–** each one of us need to come to know God for ourselves, we need a personal relationship so that we too can say we know Him.
- **You are the Holy One of God–** our knowing must not bring a familiarity that we disesteem or dishonour. But rather to a place of total reverence, submission and obedience

Jerusha Sydney:

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." (John 6:63 NASB)

Our own reasoning, logic, and limited understanding cannot fully grasp the deep truths found in God's Word. In fact, these often-become barriers to truly understanding His message.

The Holy Spirit, however, is our teacher, revealing the profound truths of God's Word, enabling us to embrace them so they can bring life within us.

Thus, we cannot approach God's Word merely through intellectual knowledge. By meditating on the Scriptures, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, we uncover hidden truths.

We must approach God's Word with the understanding that there are precious treasures waiting to be discovered—truths God desires to reveal to those who seek Him. The key is to be His children, relentlessly pursuing a deeper relationship with our Father, desiring to remain in His presence every moment.

Andre van Schalkwyk:

As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So, Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.” (John 6:66-68 NASB1995)

Many of the disciples left because they wanted to follow Jesus for their own earthly benefit and needs. Peter told Jesus where else will he go to find eternal life. We also get challenged on a daily basis, our faith and commitment to our Father should not be superficial, but true and we should follow diligently. We have great examples in PA and Mamma as well as the elders in our sphere.

Shaun Beru:

But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also, we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (John 6:68-69)

We need to come to the full realization that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life in our lives. There is no one else to turn to than Christ, nowhere else to go but God.

The Psalmist said that in Psalms 137:7-12 "Where can I go from your presence..."

Christ has the words of life. So, we need to come into a relationship with Christ, the pattern Son of God.

Julienne Bartleson:

We have believed and confidently trusted**, and [even more]** we have come to know **[by personal observation and experience]** that You are the Holy One of God **[the Christ, the Son of the living God]**.” (John 6:69 AMP)

In the preceding verse, we see a group that abandons/walks away from Jesus and from the Word that He is proclaiming because their natural minds could not accept it. Yet we see others who cling to Him, like Peter, who makes this bold confession! Belief informs the decision of either leaving or clinging.

May we be those who continue to pursue Christ, and may there be an **IGNITING of faith and not a *RECEEDING.**

“But our way is not that of those who shrink back to destruction, but [we are] of those who believe [relying on God through faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah] and by this confident faith preserve the soul.” (Hebrews 10:39 AMP)

Carla Joshua:

Jesus’ goal and mission was not fame and personal ambition. His mission was a humble one: to die and be the way for the world; bringing glory and honour to His Father. Jesus maintained humility throughout His walk on the earth. Not even His

brothers believed in Him but Jesus understood that His father's timing is a critical factor in running the race with patience, being committed to His purpose. Jesus oozed the spiritual gift of patience. Jesus was constant.

Raylene Eksteen:

John 6: Jesus feeding the five thousand has always been a source of encouragement especially when we are faced with situations that threaten our provision.

The disciples had been with Jesus and observed him (front row seats) turn water into wine and heal the sick. Yet, when faced with this crowd and asked the question, "where will we buy bread for all to eat?" Philip thought of the physical approach to the situation which was daunting and seemed impossible. He did not consider where he was, what was available or more importantly who he was with.

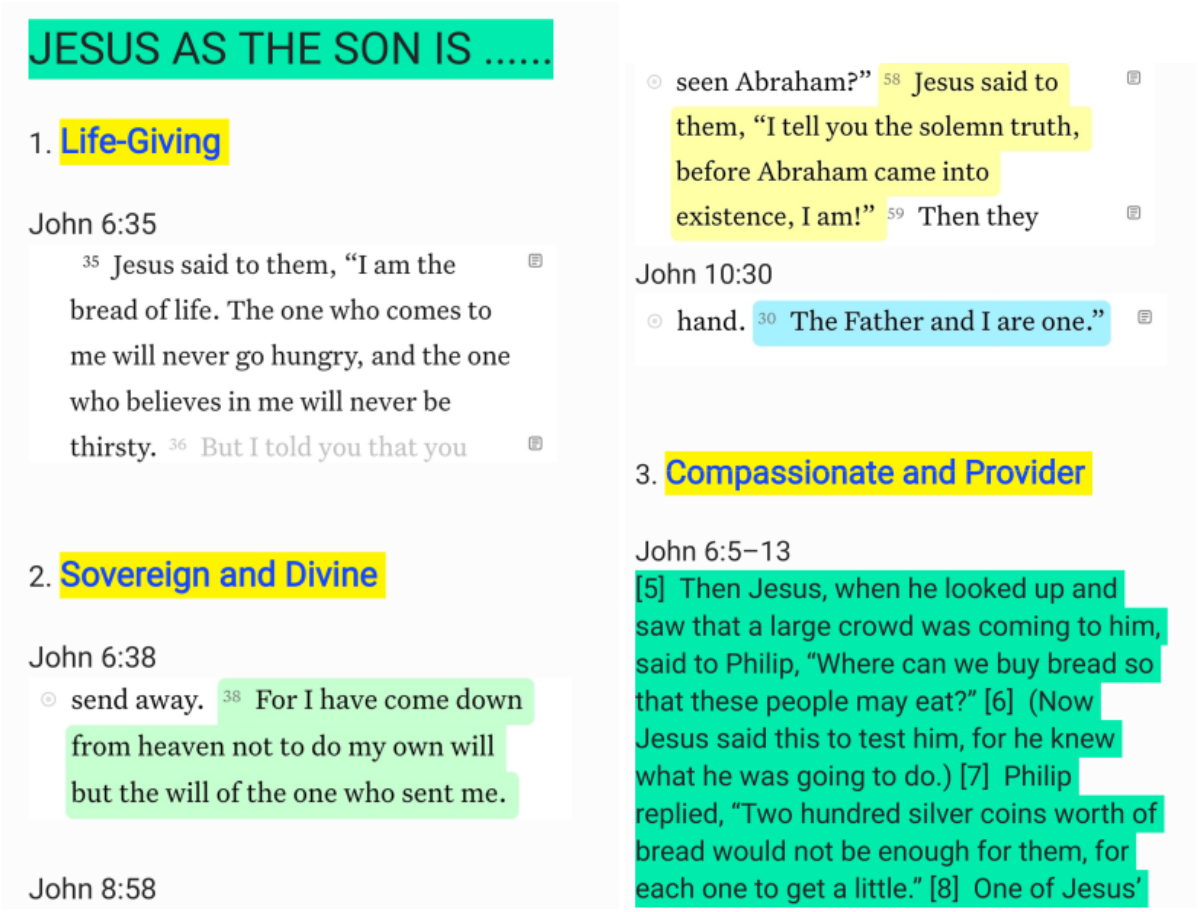
Andrew on the other hand did some work to understand what was available to him but doubted whether it could help. Although slightly different both focused on what they were faced with and not who they were with. You would think that after observing Jesus perform miracles already, they would automatically turn to Him to provide. But I, in my own life, have been much like both Philip and Andrew, focused on the problem and even try to figure out a solution on my own yet in the back of my mind still fearing that it wouldn't work. I have done this even after God has showed up for me before and proved His faithfulness to provide. I still allowed myself to be overcome by the problem instead of being comforted by the knowledge that God is for me and will provide a way out.

5000 hungry people must have been quite a sight, loud and most probably chaotic. Jesus requesting the disciples to have the people sit down caught my attention. At this point the solution was not known to the disciples yet they obeyed without questioning. In getting the people to sit down Jesus created a sense of calm/peace, order, rest and expectation. There was an expectation that a meal would be served.

Jesus took the 5 loaves and 2 fish and gave thanks for them, that which seemed like it would not make a difference to Andrew, Jesus gave thanks for. I considered that if Jesus took them, the little boy had to be willing to release them, believing that they would help. Instead of only considering himself, the little boy was willing to surrender all that he had to be of service to others, a demonstration of sacrificial giving. The release indicates that the little boy believed and had faith that the 5 loaves and 2 fish could make a difference.

Jesus attended to the need of the multitude. He used what was already available in that place to provide an abundant meal ensuring everyone was fed and there were left overs. After the food was given to the crowd Jesus instructed the disciples to collect the leftovers and ensure nothing was wasted. Jesus also taught the disciples the importance of good stewardship, even though there is abundance we are to be responsible in how we manage the distribution of that which we have received.
Jesus in his approach brought about peace, rest and order to a situation that could have been tense, chaotic and volatile.

Andre van Schalkwyk:



disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, [9] "Here is a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what good are these for so many people?" [10] Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." (Now there was a lot of grass in that place.) So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. [11] Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed the bread to those who were seated. He then did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted. [12] When they were all satisfied, Jesus said to his disciples, "Gather up the broken pieces that are left over, so that nothing is wasted." [13] So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves left over by the people who had eaten.

John 9:1–7

[1] Now as Jesus was passing by, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. [2] His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who committed the sin that caused him to be born blind, this man or his parents?" [3] Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but he was born blind so that the acts of God may be revealed through what happens to him. [4] We must perform the deeds of the one who sent me as long as it is daytime. Night is coming when no one can work. [5] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." [6] Having said this, he spat on the ground and made some mud with the saliva. He smeared the mud on the blind man's eyes [7] and said to him, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated "sent"). So the blind man went away and washed, and came back seeing.

4. Truthful and Illuminating

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus spoke out again, "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 13 So the Pharisees objected,

John 8:31–32

31 Then Jesus said to those Judeans who had believed him, "If you continue to follow my teaching, you are really my disciples 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 "We are

5. Just and Righteous

John 8:3–11

[3] The experts in the law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. They made her stand in front of them [4] and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. [5] In the law Moses commanded us to stone to death such women. What then do you say?" [6] (Now they were asking this in an attempt to trap him, so that they could bring charges against him.) Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger. [7] When they persisted in asking him, he stood up straight and replied, "Whoever among you is guiltless may be the first to throw a stone at her." [8] Then he bent over again and wrote on the ground. [9] Now when they heard this, they began to drift away one at a time, starting with the older ones, until Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. [10] Jesus stood up straight and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" [11] She replied, "No one,

Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you either. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.

6. Protective and Self-Sacrificial

John 10:11–15

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not a shepherd and does not own sheep, sees the wolf coming and abandons the sheep and runs away. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. 13 Because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep, he runs away.

14 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me – 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other

7. Powerful and Authoritative

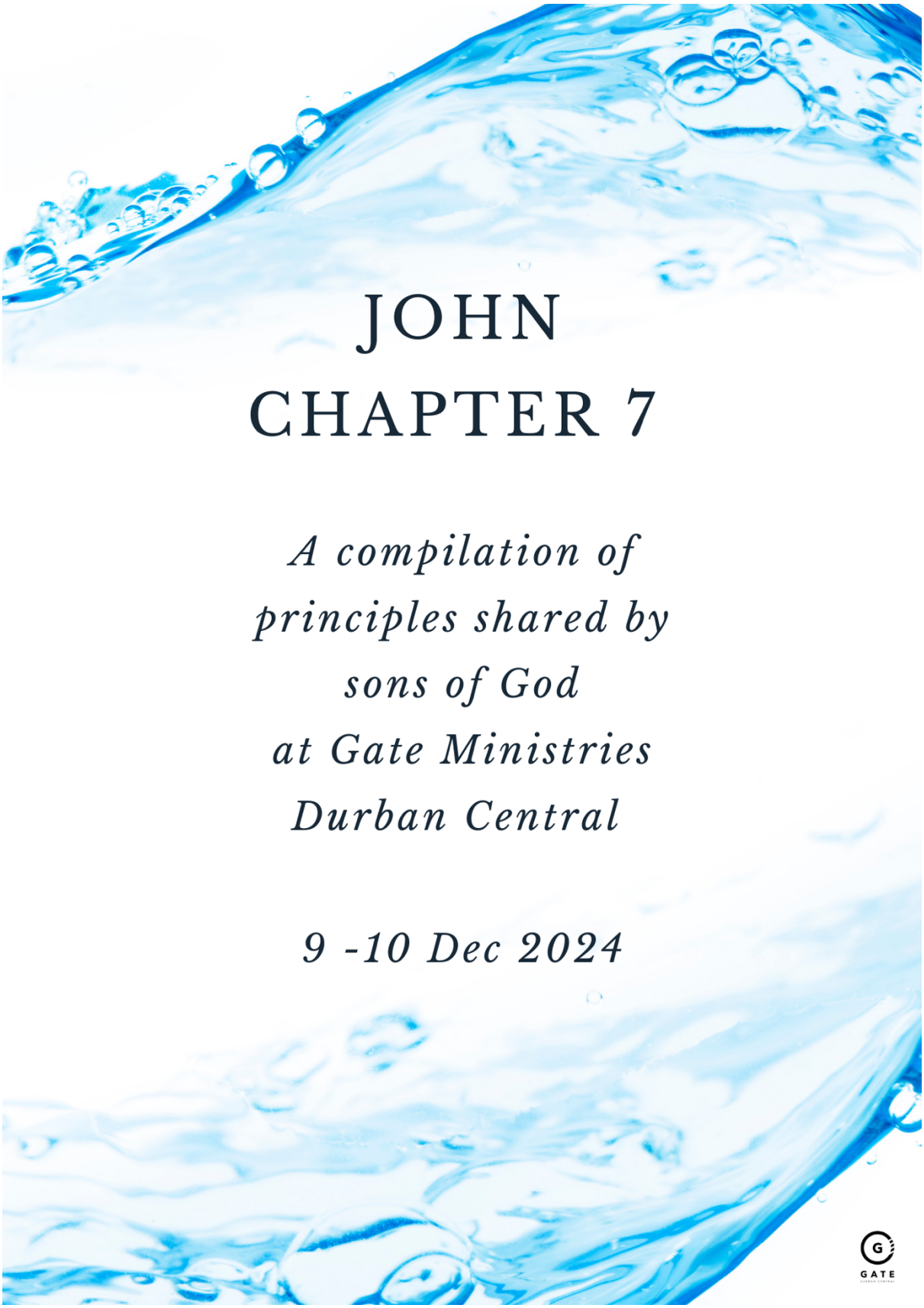
John 10:18

18 No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down of my own free will. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it back again. This commandment I received from my Father."

8. Inclusive and Welcoming

John 10:16

life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not come from this sheepfold. I must bring them too, and they will listen to my voice, so that there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 This is why the Father

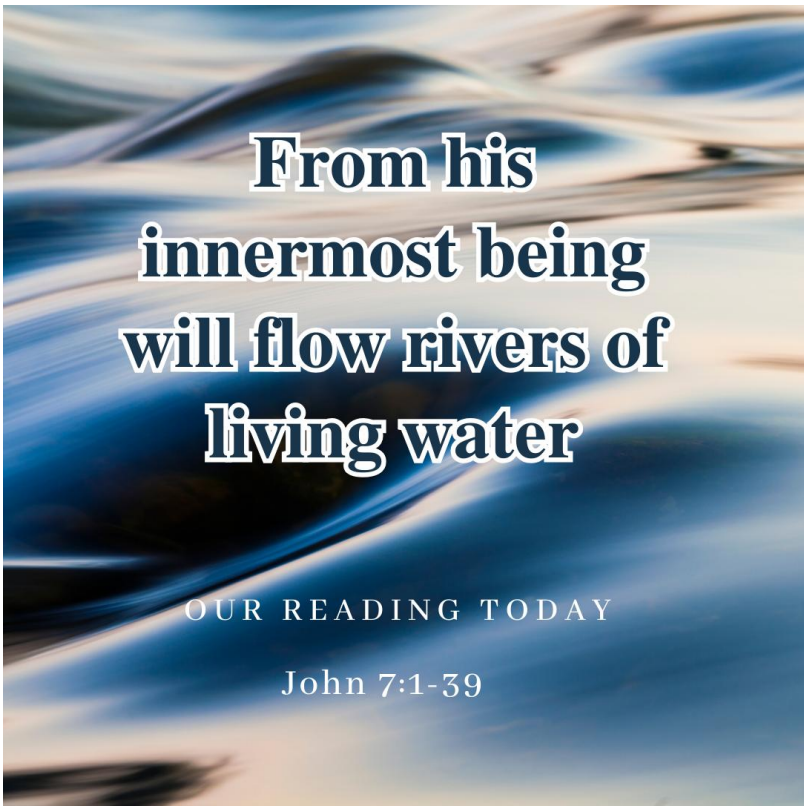


JOHN
CHAPTER 7

A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God
at Gate Ministries
Durban Central

9 -10 Dec 2024

John 7:1-39 | Jesus at the Feast



Rene Barnwell:

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **OUT OF HIS HEART WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.** Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive...” (John 7:38-39a)

Lord I believe!

May rivers of living water flow out of my heart.

Come Holy Spirit, flow in me and through me, that I may bring eternal life to others.

Wesley Joseph:

The secret place: You can’t become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world! For even his brothers didn’t believe in him.

But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view.” (John 7:4-5, 10 NLT)

Many flaunt their giftings for fame and fortune. But Jesus always chose the secret place. He valued privacy over public praise and adoration. He was focused on pointing to the one who sent him and making Him seen.

So, Jesus told them, “My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me.” (John 7:16 NLT)

"My time has not yet come" - a statement Jesus mentioned often. Trusting in the Fathers’ timing to bring things into fruition. He knew how to patiently wait upon the Father and allow Him to navigate his life. He was Father focused and fixated. He did not need validation or approval from men.

The flesh in us desires to be seen, to be liked. We care what people think and speak. In this chapter so many people had different views and opinions on Jesus, some saying he was a fraud and possessed. Jesus was not fazed by this, he was truly dead to such things, I believe this posture from Jesus allowed the Father to move strong and freely through Him. His relationship with his father was greater than anything else and the most important thing in his life.

May we too value the secret place, where the Father is. As we choose to dwell there, we will come to know Him more and better reflect Him to others.

Dean Govender:

There is Unbelief amongst Jesus’ brothers (James, Joses, Judas and Simon – see Mark 6:3b) as well as the people. They wish for Him to reveal Himself to the world in order for ALL to believe, yet Jesus responds “**my time is not yet here” (A), “but your time is always opportune”** (B) (see John 7:6).

(A) I feel that His brothers pressured Him due to messianic prophecies afoot. When Jesus says “His time has not yet come”, He is pointing to the final act which is His death on the cross - this would become His public Proclamation as Messiah.

Did some additional reading and I was led to a beautiful scripture in Psalms that mirrors Jesus’ current dealings with that of David’s

(Psalm 69:8-14 NASB) *If you would like to peruse.

(B)” your time is always opportune”

This for me, is symbolic of OUR readiness and preparedness as Sons of God and co-heirs or ‘brothers’ to Christ Jesus, to carry out God’s will on the earth.

Jesus will allude to this twice and continues to explain here “If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.” (John 7:17)

Annie Reddy:

“They were looking for a way to arrest him, but not a hand was laid on him because it wasn’t yet God’s time.” (John 7:30 MSG)

The Father is in control of everything.

No man could lay their hand on Jesus until the Father said it was time.

Dean Govender:

“For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.” (John 7:33a NASB)

Just wow...

A physical aspect to this as well as a spiritual.

- His upcoming death on the cross. That He will go to Heaven and be with The Father. The Pharisees cannot physically follow Him there.
- The Pharisees rejecting the New Covenant and not being able to tap into this dimension due to their legalistic and ‘self-righteous’ mindset (see John 7:18a).

Yvette Govender:

“Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, “‘You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.” (John 7:28-29)

The authenticity of Jesus as The Christ was being questioned. Jesus cried out telling the people they know him both in his fleshly and earthly nature but not of Him in Spirit for he did not come to be recognized in the flesh but To Do the will of the Father that sent him to give everlasting life, for they that believe in him shall receive the *Holy Spirit which was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Carla Joshua:

“Jesus’s plan was not to be famous or popular, His call was not for fame or notoriety, another translation says “You can’t become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!” (John 7:4 NLT)

Jesus understood that his purpose was not about what He could do. His mission was to die, display and be the way for us. **He did many glorious things on the earth but they were nothing compared to the dying of the cross of Calvary** and paying the penalty for our sin.

The verse that tells us …. **"For not even His brothers were believing in Him."** (John 7:5). Imagine if those closest to you don't believe you in their heart or take into account how difficult the life and the work of Jesus was. Anyone in Christ knows the importance of love, respect and support at home. The rest and love in the home is important but could be a challenge to a son if it's not there. Jesus walked through that specific challenge with perfection.

Gods timing also comes through strong in this portion of the text. Jesus speaks repeatedly about His time that has not come. He relied on and respected the timing of God. This I know God is developing in us, to **"stay here"** until the appointed time comes. **The "staying here" is full of revelation** - meditation, obedience, acting right, praying, believing, trusting, giving, displaying, being good council, dying to self. **The "stay here" posture is loaded for us as sons or us as brothers of Jesus.**

Audrey Adams:

"Jesus said; "My time has not yet fully come" (John 7:6).

My time: "In this passage the word is Kairos, which characteristically means an opportunity; that is, the best time to do something, the moment when circumstances are most suitable."

As Jesus obeyed His Father, He lived out the truth that God's timing is an important expression of His will.

Something may be in God's will but not yet in His timing.

Let's continue to commit ourselves to prayer, so like Jesus we will know without a doubt God's will for our lives to the perfect the thing that concerns us in His perfect timing- that Kairos moment.

Committing our ways to Father who will surely direct our path.

Selwyn Young:

"The right time for me has not yet come..." (John 7:6 NIV)

Jesus was in sync, in tune perfectly aligned to the Father's will. This meant that He knew exactly when His time would come.

This was the Feast of Tabernacles, a time to remember their time in the wilderness and to remember God's provision. **This was not the correct feast for THE LAMB.**
Jesus is the Lamb of God, and the Lamb is offered at Passover and not at Tabernacles.
1 Corinthians 5:7 says "For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. “By the simple words" my time has not yet come", Jesus is communicating His deep understanding that He is the Lamb of God that will be offered at Passover to take away the sins of the world.

Jerusha Sydney:
In John 7, there is ongoing confusion among the Jewish people about whether to believe in Jesus or not. **We are called to worship the Father in spirit and in truth**, not through the logic and reasoning of our minds. Each day, our spirits battle with our thoughts. Let us renew our minds daily, so that we may wholeheartedly pursue Jesus and remain steadfast in our trust and obedience to our Father. May we reach a place where we can confidently declare that our true sustenance is to do the will of the Father.

God does not want us to seek Him for miracles alone. He urges us to pursue Him because without Him, we can do nothing. In Him, we live, move, and exist. May we be so consumed by the pursuit of His nature and rest in the knowledge that He is our Father, that the desire for our needs to be met fades in comparison to the hunger to uncover the hidden truths in His Word.

Fiona Beru:
“After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. For not even his brothers believed in him. So, they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.” (John 7:1,5,30)
In these portions of John chapter 7, we see that Jesus is facing so much opposition not only from the Jewish religious system, but **also his own brothers** did not believe Him. Yet he was **still willing to minister love** and offer salvation to those that would believe.
What would our reaction be?

In John 7:16-17 we see Jesus' response: “So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone's will be to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. “
When you operate in the will of the Father, your desire, your mission is to fulfil His mandate and not your own agenda, even if that means opposition and death to self. This is not easy as none of us like opposition, but we need to realize that not everyone is in Christ and are only doing what their father would do.

Jerusha Sydney:
"His brothers therefore said to Him, “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” (John 7:3-4 NASB)

Jesus' brothers suggest that if Jesus truly wants to gain a following and be recognized as the Messiah, He should go to Judea during a major Jewish feast like the Feast of Tabernacles. They challenge Him, almost as if they are pushing Him to prove Himself. Their words reflect a misunderstanding of Jesus' mission. They assume that if Jesus wants to make His works known, He must do so publicly and seek fame. However, Jesus' purpose was not to seek fame or popularity; His mission was about fulfilling God's will, not catering to public opinion.
These words “show yourself to the world." echoes the worldly attitude of desiring public recognition and glory. But Jesus had a much deeper purpose—His death on the cross and His resurrection for the salvation of humanity were at the center of His mission, not public spectacle.

"For even His brothers did not believe in Him." (John 7:5)
This verse reveals the painful truth that even Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him as the Messiah. Despite having grown up with Jesus and witnessing His miracles, teachings, and life, they still did not accept Him. This highlights the deep spiritual blindness that can occur even in those closest to the truth. Their scepticism may have been influenced by familiarity, as they saw Jesus as a regular man they had known since childhood.

This verse is particularly tragic because it shows that even those with the most direct access to Jesus, such as His own family, struggled to believe in Him. It speaks to the difficulty of recognizing the truth, even when it stands right in front of you. This would eventually change for some of Jesus' family members after His resurrection (Acts 1:14), but at this point, they were not yet convinced.

This passage illustrates the contrast between the expectations of the world (including Jesus' brothers) and the reality of Jesus' divine mission. While His family pushes Him to seek public fame and recognition, Jesus' purpose was far different. His purpose was not to be a worldly figure, but to reveal God's kingdom through His words, actions, and ultimately His sacrifice on the cross.
It's also a reminder of the difficulty of faith—how even those who were closest to Jesus struggled to believe. This passage foreshadows the misunderstanding and rejection He would face, even among His own people. It highlights the deep challenge of recognizing Jesus for who He truly is, not just as a man, but as the Savior of the world.

Andre van Schalkwyk:
“There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray. Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.” (John 7:12-13 NASB1995).
We are chosen people (Sons) to be the salt and the light of the earth as the Word declares in Matthew 5. The people were scared to talk about Jesus openly, and this still happens in today's life where we just go with the flow, especially this time of the year. We should stand out this December, where people should be able to read us like open letters as we were thought.
As we install God's Word in us, He is revealing himself to us and His voice become clearer and He will lead us all the way. The word becomes a spring of water and people can drink from us.
Let us not be distracted, but let's keep our eyes on the Author and the Finisher of our lives.
Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and

perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB1995).

Shaun Beru:

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

Your external expression and manifestation of your sonship are determined by your internal disposition in Christ. This is a deliberate choice on our behalf.

Our belief and faith in God are key to allowing the flow of grace in our lives.

I declare that there will be rivers (plural) of the word that will overflow in every aspect of your life in Jesus Name.

Anne Paul:

The presence of the Son of God will interrupt feasts, ceremonies and rituals!

John 7:40-53 | Division of the people over Jesus



Rene Barnwell:

“Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and WHO WAS ONE OF THEM, said to them, does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” (John 7:50-51)

Nicodemus was a Pharisee who previously went to Jesus at night, when no one could see him, to ask Him some questions.

Now we see in verse 50, the same Nicodemus, who was now a follower of Jesus, boldly and publicly challenging the chief priests and the Pharisees about judging a man without giving him a hearing.

Nicodemus, being “one of them”, meaning he too was a Pharisee, could also mean he being now ‘one of followers’ of Jesus, arose with boldness to defend Jesus, even though challenging fellow Pharisees- **not concerned about possible negative repercussions.**

May we too, **being ‘one of the sons of God’**, rise up boldly and stand up for truth, opposing injustice, because our confidence is in the Person of Christ to whom we belong and represent.

Yvette Govender:

“Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?” (John 7:48)

Jesus was being rejected by the authorities. Many in the crowd were believing.

The Rulers and the Pharisees were high minded and considered themselves higher in Rank as well as all knowing in the law than Jesus’ teaching. Therefore, there was rejection disbelief and division amongst them.

May we always have an open mind and a receptive ear to receive word with understanding.

Carla Joshua:

“So, a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.” (John 7:43)

There was a division of opinion about Jesus, some based on ignorance, they didn’t know Him. The division came became some will believe and some won’t but the message of Jesus remains true.

“Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him.” (John 7:44)

The Spirit power Christ is mightier than the power of a sword. Imagine police officials coming to arrest individuals, finding fault with them but saying nothing.

“Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) *said to them,” (John 7:50).

Nicodemus was a secret believer, he made a weak stand here for Jesus, it wasn’t nothing but it wasn’t enough. Maybe he feared being mocked or judged by his peers.

Selwyn Young:

“On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet. Thus, the people were divided because of Jesus." (John 7:40,43 NIV)

This is still the same today. Jesus continues to divide opinions, with some people believing He is Prophet and others believing that He was just a good man.

But **WE know** and believe that **HE is the Messiah**, the Christ who has come into the world and has given Himself as an all-cleansing sacrifice. We know this "... for [we] know who we have believed..." (2 Timothy 1:12 NIV)

There is no second guessing and doubt in our minds and hearts that Jesus is the Christ. **That He is the perfect atonement for sin and He is the Son of God.**

Corayne Walters:

"So, a division occurred in the crowd because of HIM." (John 7:43 NASB)

There was no alignment, agreement, no gathering as one man, with one heart.

"Everyone went to his home." (John 7:53 NASB)

They never knew the privilege and significance of Family.

Therefore, there was no revelation of The CHRIST within them, **they were blind to the privilege of having EMMANUEL with them.**

Fiona Beru:

Who is He? This the question that many, many people asked of Jesus. Different answers arose, but it boils down to this, that different people knew him at different levels of intimacy or acknowledge Him at different levels because of the proximity or relationship they had with Jesus.

You see our relationship with Christ, will answer that question. Whether we just see Him as a provider, or a comforter or as the Son of God.

Our perception will determine our reception of Him.

So, I ask us the question, "Who do we say He is?"

Jerusha Sydney:

"They answered him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee." (John 7:52 NASB)

The Pharisees dismiss Jesus because of his origins in Galilee, a region they saw as insignificant and unsuitable for a prophet. This comment highlights their failure to see beyond their prejudices and assumptions. While they may have known of Old Testament prophets like Elijah and Jonah who were from Galilee, they were blinded by their biases, choosing instead to uphold their narrow interpretation of prophecy.

The Pharisees' rejection of Jesus was not only theological but also deeply connected to their desire to maintain control. In John 11:48, they fear that if Jesus continues to gain followers, the Romans will come and take away their place and nation. Their opposition to Jesus was as much about preserving their political and religious power as it was about their doctrinal beliefs.

May we, as the Body of Christ, not be like the Pharisees, who served God with selfish and ulterior motives. Every activity we engage in must be rooted in sound doctrine, not in man-made traditions or prejudices. Teachings like first fruits and tithing truly test our obedience and trust in our Heavenly Father. We must diligently search the Scriptures and rely on the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word, so that we may live in accordance with them. **Let us also trust in the guidance of our spiritual father, who is called to lead us into all truth.**

Rene Barnwell:

"The officers answered, **"NO ONE EVER SPOKE LIKE THIS MAN!"** (John 7:46 ESV)

Whilst Jesus was teaching, the Pharisees and chief priests ordered His arrest.

But the officers were so impressed by Jesus's preaching and convinced of the truth He was sharing; they changed their minds about arresting him and hence answered the Pharisees when questioned as to why they did not arrest Jesus: "No one has ever spoke like this man!"

Jesus' words of grace, wisdom and truth had the power to change wicked intentions and soften hearts. It also gave the officers confidence and strength to answer the Pharisees without fear.

May the words we speak be laced with grace, truth, love and wisdom, so that we too convince people of the reality of a loving Heavenly Father who desires to walk with His sons in intimacy and fulfil His purposes through their lives.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 7

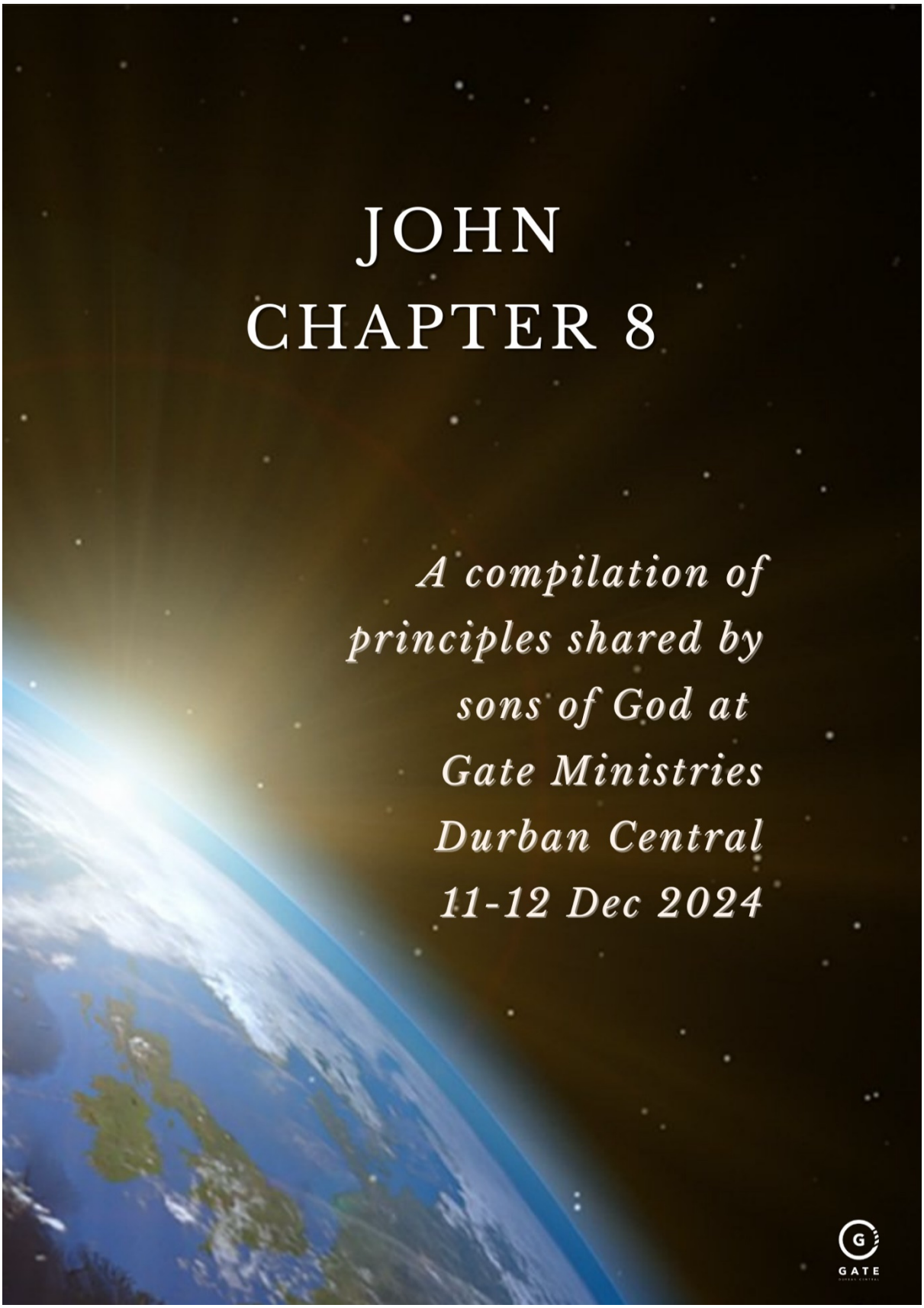
- Discern the will of God, seek His wisdom and not just earthly counsel;
- Stand firm on truth despite opposition;
- Rely on The Holy Spirit
- Trust that God's timing is perfect.

Fiona Beru:

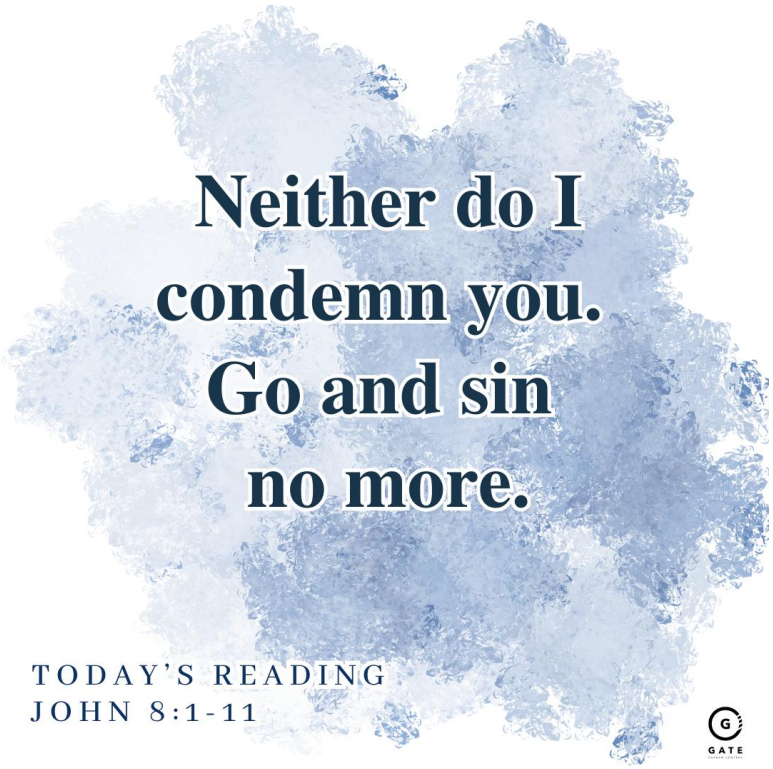
JOHN 7

- Jesus teaches us to push through adversity, He faced opposition from His own family. Some people might not accept your journey.

- God’s timing is crucial. Jesus deliberately waiting before going to Jerusalem sometime we can rush things thinking we doing good but might be out if timing of God. Waiting on the Lord.
- Jesus acknowledged that the world will hate him. The world hates the truth, and we must stand for the truth
- Jesus actions were often misinterpreted, we must be discerning and careful in our interpretation of the Word
- Jesus is our source, the living water that quenching our thirst.
- We must recognize and discern true and genuine teachings and be obedient.


JOHN
CHAPTER 8
A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God at
Gate Ministries
Durban Central
11-12 Dec 2024
GATE

John 8:1-11 | The Adulterous Woman



Fiona Beru:

Two principles that spoke strongly to me today as I read this passage, one is **judging others** and secondly is **condemning them and ourselves** by not forgiving them or ourselves.

Firstly, **in John 8:7** says: "So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

We are so quick to judge others, and forget to examine ourselves first.

Fault finding in others is so easy, yet we ourselves are riddled with sin.

Matthew 7:4 says: "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? "

Our perception or vision of another person may be blurred because of the stuff in our own lives. It is not about the other person; **it is about us dealing with issues in our own lives first.**

But when we come to salvation in Christ Jesus, we are on the right road to dealing with issues and sin with in our lives.

Romans 3:23 says: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Once we are saved, just like Jesus said to the woman.

“… And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” (John 8:11)
In Romans 8:1, Paul tells us “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Jesus has forgiven us; He has not condemned us but given us eternal life.

Jerusha Sydney:
In these verses, Jesus shows great compassion toward a woman caught in adultery, choosing not to condemn her, but instead offering forgiveness. This act of mercy points to a deeper reality: Jesus, the pre-existent Christ, knew before the foundations of the world that humanity would fall into sin. He knew that He would one day come to Earth to restore humanity back to being conformed to the image of God.
Jesus' response to the woman is not just about her specific sin but a reflection of His ultimate mission—to redeem all of humanity. He does not condemn the woman because He knows that soon He will bear the penalty for sin on the cross, offering forgiveness and reconciliation to all who believe in Him.
This moment serves as a powerful demonstration of God's love and mercy, not only for the woman but for all of mankind.
Through this display of grace, Jesus invites everyone—this woman included—to turn away from sin and follow Him. His mercy is the catalyst for change, encouraging all to choose obedience and to walk in the new life He offers. In His love, He calls us to be transformed, to live as children of God, and to "sin no more." The story of the woman caught in adultery is not just about forgiveness, but about the opportunity to live in the freedom and righteousness that Christ brings.
As emerging Sons of God, we are called to reflect God's love and mercy in our lives. Let us never become like the Pharisees, who saw themselves as superior to others. Instead, we are called to remain humble and respond to others with compassion and grace. Our actions should never be driven by self-righteousness, but by a sincere desire to show the love of Christ to everyone.

Shaun Beru:
YOU ARE NOT CONDEMNED!
When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you? She said,

“No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” (John 8:10-11).

"There is, therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ..." (Rom 8:1)

There are two aspects of condemnation: judgment and mercy.

The world is quick to judge and right us off, but Gods’ nature, love, and forgiveness covers our sin. He does not condemn us but shows us His mercy.

The call to us is to stop sinning and live a life of repentance. This opens the heart of God towards us.

So, no matter what your sin might be, in a posture repentance, as sons, we can then function with confidence and without shame or embarrassment because Father God has forgiven you!

Rene Barnwell:

“This they said **TO TEST HIM**, that they might have some charge to bring against him...” (John 8:6a).

The Pharisees and scribes brought an adulterous woman before Jesus to test if He would uphold the law by stoning her. I am sure they predicted He would not, hence they would have reason to accuse/arrest Him.

Jesus’ wise answer silenced the accusers...and forgiveness prevailed.

In life, we will be tested and have accusations hurled at us on a regular basis.

May we choose to silence our accusers by responding in love and forgiveness, causing them to walk away.

If they do not walk away but persist, then may we walk away and the fruit borne in our life vindicate us and glorify God.

Selwyn Young:

Neither do I condemn you!

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 8:11).

These powerful words spoken by our saviour Christ Jesus.

Staying true to what God had called Him to do.

Providing a pardon for sin and showing the exact reason He came into the world. Jesus came to save sinners and bring the lost sheep back to God.

Religious mindsets will always favour legalism, instead of mercy and grace. The book of John reminds us "Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given." (John 1:16)
Grace upon grace. "... His mercies never come to an end." (Lamentations 3:22).
Jesus came to save and not to condemn. Religious leaders of Jesus' day, led from a point of superiority and not from a place of service. The latter leads to a heart of pardon and avoids condemnation. Understanding that God can turn the heart of the vilest sinner.
"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

Quinton Adams:
“At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.” (John 8:9 NIV)
Jesus, **being gracious, merciful, and loving saw this woman with prophetic eyes**. She needed help and she needed cleansing and forgiveness. Sounds like us at one stage. **She is a church in need of GRACE instead of JUDGEMENT.**
Jesus' focus was on this woman, but creating a moment for her accusers to look into the **mirror** of their **own internal configuration**. " Judge not lest you be judged…"
Jesus does not downplay her sin, but He reveals to her and those around her the LOVE OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER.
Make sure that when the crowds who accused you are many in number, that you are left alone with the **carrier of GRACE: Jesus.**

Audrey Adams:
She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go from now on and sin no more." (John 8:11).
Jesus demonstrates mercy and forgiveness even though the woman is morally and legally guilty of her sin.
He chooses grace that empowers her to no longer be a victim of sin; "go from now on and sin no more,” also redirecting the religious leaders to rather examine themselves; "Neither do I condemn you" (Rom 3:23) states “For all have sinned...”
“He saw no one but the woman…” (John 8:10)

It takes that one moment; alone with the master, that can restore and transform our lives. Our response to Him must be one of true repentance resulting in this transformation (leaving our sinful ways behind and following Him).
He truly is full of mercy!

Carla Joshua:
"They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground." (John 8:6).
I wondered why they would bring a woman to Jesus while He was teaching in the temple. Public shame and humiliation are the nature of the ungodly- they wanted to trap Jesus into making a decision so they could have cause to kill Him (they must have thought well now we have Him).
There's no way that you can trap someone whose heart is pure, think about that. Jesus was perfect in all His ways. I can imagine looking in the eyes of someone who you know wants to kill you but there's a rest that's recruited when you are pure in your intentions, thoughts and action, when your hands a clean and your heart is pure.
When you following the Fathers, principles concerning all things, you have a peace that surpasses all understanding. The crowds knew the existing circumstances, the onlookers were probably more stressed than Jesus ever was in that moment.
Then Jesus stooped down- He lowered himself to her level. Jesus showed us how to deal with situations where we could judge and condemn sinners, He drew near to her like He did with us, stooped down from heaven a paid the price for our sin, He then tells her she's free but not to sin again. **Mercy leads to repentance.**

Dean Govender:
The Character of our Lord Jesus.
I see two schools of people here:

- The accusers
- The sinners

How did the Lord Jesus respond to His accusers? "Let him be the first to throw a stone at her."
"Again, He stooped down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older one" (John 8:7c-9)

Jesus intentionally bends down and allows for them to walk away, one by one - avoiding embarrassment and the shame they may have felt - His response to them was not of condemnation but of Love

How did the Lord Jesus respond to the sinner?

“Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” (John 8:10)

He poses a question here and only requires a truthful answer from this woman.

Note: she could have lied and claimed that one of them threw a stone seeking favour from Jesus.

We see this again here. “Go, call your husband and come here.” The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” (John 4:16) as Pastor mentioned in prayer meeting - all Jesus required was a truthful answer.

Truthfulness with Jesus lead to an acceptance as well as an instruction. “From now on, sin no more” (John 8:11b)

The healing at Bethesda

“Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.” (John 5:14)

Anne Paul:

The guilty woman was brought to the centre of the courtyard, her sin exposes, uncovered and put on display.

Jesus, the law made flesh, the one without sin is supposedly put to the test.

In one statement He disperses a crowd of sinners without revealing their own sins.

There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Careful that we do not go back to sin when we are forgiven.

Corayne Walters:

"Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them." (John 8:2 NASB)

"So, JESUS answered them and said, "My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me." (John 7:16 NASB)

Even in the midst of all the threats, the harassment, the knowledge of HIS impending death, JESUS never wavered in carrying out His FATHER'S divine will. Let's endeavour to have that same passion, zeal, obedience.

Nkululeko Freedom:

John 5:14 says: “Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

After healing the lame man, Jesus told the lame to sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon him. Sin can hinder our spiritual walk/progress with God and lead to spiritual death.

Jesus repeats the same words to the woman caught in the act of adultery.

They could have killed her.

As much Christ does not condemn us, may we resolve to sin no more after being made well.

Yvette Govender:

The woman caught in adultery (The accused) was placed in the midst of Jesus. Verse 8:3 says: “The accusers were also in the midst of Jesus,” and 8:7 says: “Both parties heard the speaking of Jesus.”

At all times the accused remained quiet and still, however the accuser felt convicted of their sin and left, not privy to the hearing of further words spoken of God.

The accused remained and Jesus said “Neither do I condemn you Go and from now on sin no more” (John 8:11). The accused was forgiven and absolved of blame but the accusers remained convicted. **The Lord is our Vindicator- remain with Him.**

Emmarentia van Schalkwyk:

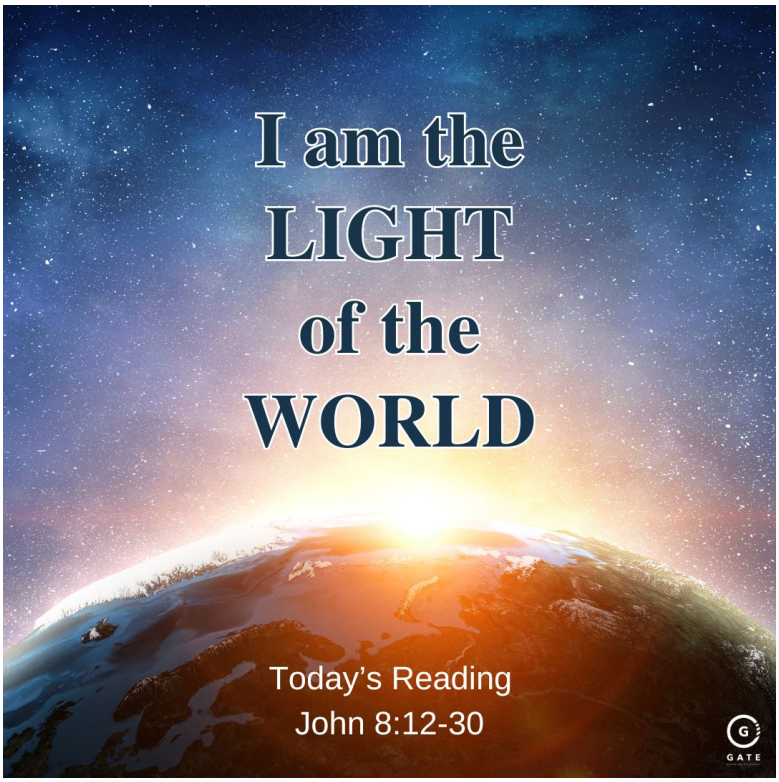
The story of the adulterous woman in John 8:7 when Jesus answered them, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her." These scribes and Pharisees basically dragged this woman to Jesus. Hoping that she will be condemned. But what they meant for evil turned out for her good. She received her God-ordained divine moment of repentance.

Jesus asked her, "Woman, where are those your accusers. Has no man condemned thee? "No man, Lord." Jesus said to her. "Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more." There is no record of the woman trying to justify her sinful way of living. For she was caught red-handed. At the Word of Jesus, she was forgiven and told to sin no more. Likewise, we are open and can hide nothing from the site of the Lord. He knows all things. But when we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us. When He says we are forgiven, we just need to believe it. John1v17 says, "for the law was given

by Moses, grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross; when Father looks at us, He does not see our sin or filthy rags, He sees the blood of His Son.
For whom the Son sets free, is free indeed. We are redeemed.

Nolan Bartleson:
“Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:10-12 NIV)
Jesus does not condemn the woman like the pharisees did wanting to stone her according to the letter of the law of Moses but rather he chooses to show her a better way and forgives her saying " Neither do I condemn you but go and sin no more."
He goes on to say, " I am the light of the world whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." Light dispels darkness. **Walk in the light**, fellowship with me, and you will not fulfil your own fleshly dark desires.

John 8:12-30 | Jesus, The Light



Rene Barnwell:

"Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. **WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME** will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).

"And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I ALWAYS do the things that are pleasing to him." (John 8:29)

IN v12, whoever follows Christ **will have the 'light of life'** which is Christ, the Light of the world.

In v29, Jesus says He always does the things that **are PLEASING to His Father**.

Can we see the link between the 2 verses?

When we PLEASE the Father by obeying His Word/principles, we are FOLLOWING Christ and as a result will radiate His light to a dark and dying world.

Selwyn Young:

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 NIV).

- **I AM** The light that shines the way to the Father.
- **I AM** disclosure of the Father.
- **I AM** the light of the revelation of who the Father is.

- **I AM** the one who will reveal the Father to you.
- **I AM** the one who removes the ignorance of who the Father really is.

See also:

- If you have me, you will not walk in ignorance, about who the father is. You will have full disclosure of the Father, because whoever has seen the Son has seen the Father. (John 14:9)
- "... But he that acknowledged the Son hath the Father also. (1 John 2:23)
- "In the Beginning God said let there be light." (Genesis 1:3)
- "In these last days God speaks through His son" (Hebrew 1:2)

In these last days God has revealed Himself through His Son.
Jesus is the light of world because He is the full disclosure of who God is to the whole world. He is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form (Colossians 2:9). Disclosure to the entire world and not just the nation of Israel.

Carla Joshua:
"Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify about Myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going." (John 8:14).
We see Jesus' nature by the above statement. Jesus knew that His testimony is true because Jesus knew where He came from (He is the Son of God) and where He was going to (His purpose and what He was sent to do).
Knowing this sets our lives in exact alignment with the graced capability to stand in the things that God has called us to on this earth, and I'm talking simply about walking in this world with love, obedience and grace.
Even when we do get backlash and resistance from the issues faced. We must have the witnessed perspective that the word of God gives us in the BOOK that has been challenged so many times. Jesus is the word and that is the functioning component for our sojourn.
"And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."" (John 8:29)
Like this we must be in this knowing without shadow of doubt that we are not Fatherless but more than that,

He never will leave us; He is a very present help in time of need; **He is the I AM.** Taking hold of who God is proves more enabling than just what His done for us. We thank Him for what His done but we want to live in a place of worship for Who He is. The Sweet Rose of Sharon.
In challenges, mountain terrain, unfavourable circumstances, they are good both in garden landscapes and indoor, a symbol of love, beauty and immortality, it grows and spreads quickly. Like this Jesus is and like this we are as sons.

Yvette Govender:
“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)
“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)
Jesus being the Light heals the blind man from birth, Jesus anoints eyes to be opened after he had to go wash, - cleanse the mud off his eyes. He received sight and came back seeing.
From Darkness to Light.

Selwyn Young:
Jesus the Light of the world.
“I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6 NIV)
“I am the light of the world.” This was Jesus opening up the scriptures to them.
See: Isaiah 9:2, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 58:8, Isaiah 60:1-3, all references to the light that God would send into the world.
Jesus was pointing to the scriptures to show them who He was pointing them to the scriptures that spoke about Him and His coming.
He is asserting strongly who He was, and those who studied the scriptures (pharisees) would have perfectly understood and know what Jesus was saying.

Fiona Beru:
John 8:12 says: “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

The revelation of the Christ only comes when there is enlightenment of the mind. Light does that, it dissipates darkness (ignorance) or causes the darkness to disappear. The more light, the less darkness.
An example of this it dawns, just before dawn it is very dark but as the sun rises, the dark slowly gives way to the light.
And that is how it is, when we come to know Christ, the more we get to know Him, the less darkness or ignorance in our lives. The more illumination of the Word in our lives, the less of our Adamic nature is seen.
May our lives be enlightened as we read the Scripture and the Revelation of the Light of God become known more and more to Us.

Andre van Schalkwyk:
“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life. So, the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true. Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.” (John 8:12-14 NASB1995)
Back in the day light houses were used to indicate direction of a city. When there was a storm ships could navigate through treacherous water towards safety. They just followed the light.

We have to focus our eyes on Jesus, by staying in The Word and installing biblical truths into our lives. The word enlightens our minds and give us clear direction. The Bible is our source of divine truth. By immersing ourselves in Scripture, we align our lives with God’s wisdom, keeping His light as our guide (Psalm 119:105).
At my work, we use a device called a lux meter. "A lux meter is a device used to measure the intensity of light, typically in lux (lx), which is the SI unit of illuminance. It helps determine how much luminous flux (light) is falling on a surface. Lux meters are commonly used in various settings.
People should be able to measure us by the light [fruits] we give off. Open letters we are. **" We are the only Bible some people will ever read”** as Pst. Randolph referenced.
Stay in the Word. Live out biblical truths. Seek His direction. Walk in the light.

Jerusha Sydney:

"I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12)

This is one of the seven "I am" statements in John's Gospel that reveal aspects of Jesus' nature and mission. Jesus is declaring that He is the only source of true spiritual illumination in a dark and fallen world.

John 8:24 is especially striking: “unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” The word "He" is in italics in many English translations, indicating that it was added for clarity, but it is not present in the Greek text. The literal translation would be “unless you believe that I AM”.

In this statement, Jesus is making a profound claim: belief in Him as the eternal "I AM" is the only way to salvation. To reject Him is to remain in sin and face spiritual death.

John 8:28 says: "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He and I do nothing on My own initiative." The focus here is again on the phrase "I am" (without the added "He" in the English translations). Jesus is predicting His crucifixion, referring to being "lifted up" on the cross.

When Jesus is lifted up (crucified), the full revelation of **His identity as the I AM will become clear.**

The use of **"I AM"** by Jesus in these passages is deeply connected to the divine name revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14, when God speaks to Moses from the burning bush and declares, **"I AM WHO I AM."**

This name signifies God’s self-existence, eternal nature, and sovereignty. By using the phrase "I AM," Jesus is making an explicit claim to divinity. He is identifying Himself with God, asserting that He is the eternal, uncreated One who exists outside of time and space, who has always been and always will be.

He is not merely claiming to be sent from God or to speak on behalf of God; He is claiming to be God Himself, the I AM. This is a claim of absolute authority and divinity.

In John 8.25, when the religious leaders ask, "Who are You?" Jesus responds, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning." When you remove the italicized "from “which was added in English translations, Jesus' response is the beginning.

He is the eternal, pre-existent Logos of God, the "Beginning" who has always been with God and is God (John 1:1).

This is a profound statement: Jesus is affirming that His identity is not new or limited to the current moment. His identity has been consistently revealed since the "beginning," meaning since eternity past, as the Word, the eternal Son of God.

The I AM.

This also connects with the "I AM" statements that Jesus makes throughout the Gospel of John, which further reinforce His eternal and divine nature.

In this light, Jesus' response to the question of His identity is much more than a simple declaration. It is a profound revelation of His divine nature, as the eternal Word who has always existed with God, and who is, in fact, the "Beginning" itself.

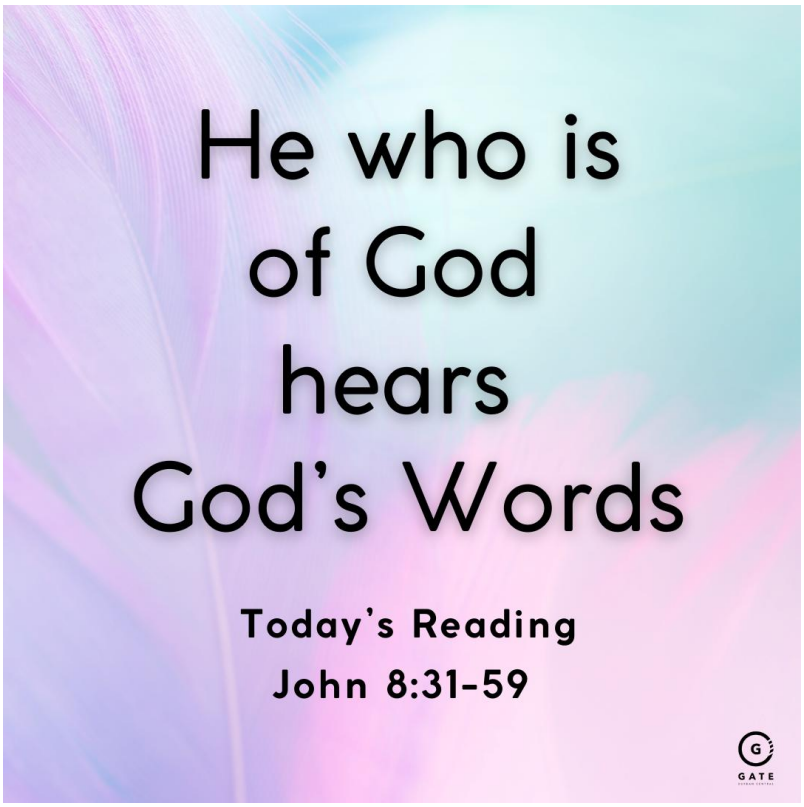
The "beginning" is not a moment in time but a description of Jesus Himself—He is the eternal Logos, the Alpha and Omega, the "I AM." His identity has been evident throughout His ministry, and He is the One who was with God from the very beginning of all things. This is a powerful affirmation of His divinity and eternal nature, not just a historical explanation of who He is.

Yvette Govender:

“I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.” (John 8:18).

I AM ONE denotes a Oneness, unison agreement wholeness togetherness with the Father. This implies we are without doubt or division within Our Being - Living Our True Self walking in obedience in the ways of the Lord. As John 10:30 says: “I and the Father are One”

John 8:31-59 | The Truth will Set You Free



Rene Barnwell:

"I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because MY WORD FINDS NO PLACE IN YOU." (John 8:37)

The Jews were Abraham's offspring, yet their behaviour did not match Abraham's spiritual identity- I.e., his reverence for and willing obedience to God.

The reason for this: Jesus' Word found 'no place' in them.

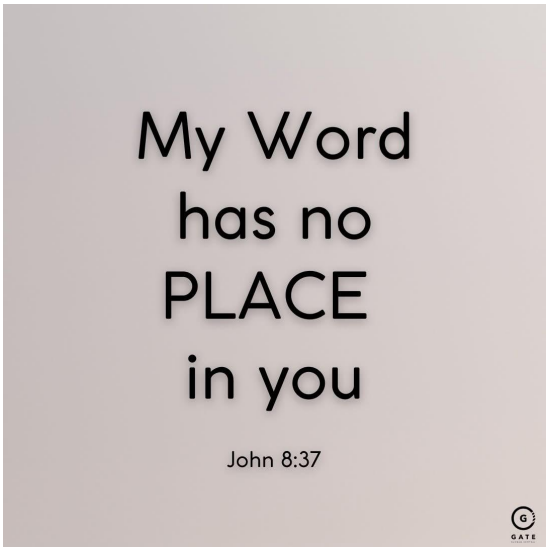
'No place' alludes to no progress, no acceptance, no rootedness, amongst other meanings.

When God's Word is not accepted/received in our hearts, it does not take root so therefore we will not obey it.

What then happens is what the Jews manifested...we lash out in anger, falsely accuse, dishonour, disrespect toward others and even Christ (they said He had a demon).

May we allow God's Word to find a place in our hearts, and may our claim to be God's sons be validated by our commitment to love and obey His Word and not oppose/kill/abort God's purposes.

Randolph Barnwell:



Is there PLACE in you for God's WORD?
John 8:37 -I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because MY WORD HAS NO PLACE IN YOU.
In the original Greek, the phrase, "my word has no place in you", literally reads as follows: "my word finds NO PROGRSS in you".
The Greek word translated as "PLACE" in this text is 'choreo' and means the following:
to pass, enter, to hold, admit, to make room, give place, yield, to go forward, advance, proceed, succeed, to have space or room for receiving or holding something
The **Word of GOD** must have **'PLACE'** in you and I. It must **PASS** into and **ENTER** us, having ease of **ADMISSION, PROCEEDING** into the **ROOM** we have created for it in our lives so that we can **RECEIVE** and **HOLD** it there.

EVERY DAY MAKE ROOM for GOD'S WORD IN YOUR DAY.
The 'PLACE' you make for God's Word in your life determines the SPACE God needs to move and act in your life.
"The ENTRANCE of His Word brings light and understanding!" (Psalm 119:130).

Carla Joshua:
"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;" (John 8:31)
Continuing in His word is more than just reading, knowing and hearing the word, it's acting out in all situations what Jesus dictated.
It's knowing Jesus and making His response your response. We've seen so many examples of how Jesus ran the race with patience as He walked the earth.
Knowing the truth that Jesus speaks about in the next verse suggest incarnation of the principle or the truth. This is what makes us free
"The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" (John 8:48)

This is the responses that sets sons apart. Knowledge of the Father informs the son's behaviour. In their above response to Jesus, it's obvious that they were not intimate with His word.

"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word." (John 8:43).

The word hear here encompasses both the physical act of hearing and the deeper understanding or comprehension. Hearing Gods voice prompts faith within to be obedient. A deeper knowing and perception is required to hear accurately.

Annie Reddy:

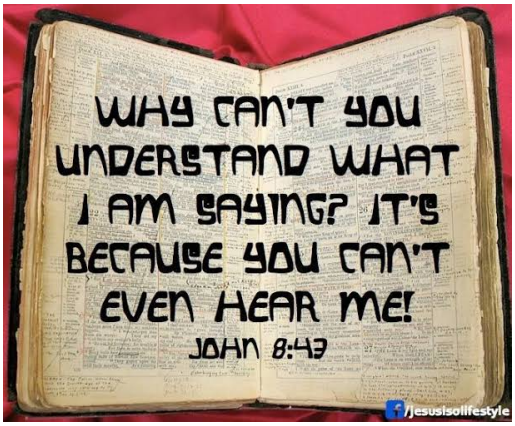
A slave cannot have an inheritance in his master's house. Only a son can.

Jesus as set us free from a life of slavery to sin.

We have been reinstated as sons.



Cindy Pillay:



Your ear is a womb.

What you listen to will eventually be conceived and born into your reality.

Choose carefully what you listen to.

(Extract from Facebook).

Nkululeko Freedom:

"Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM"** (John 8:58) Jesus revealed his pre-existent name **Yahweh**. The same name that was Revealed to Moses. We worship the I AM! The one who is before all things.

Carla Joshua:

Jesus always filled a dual role: lowering Himself to humbly be on the woman's level and then straightening up to address the Pharisees (see John 8).

Jesus doesn't answer the Pharisees the first time, but He does drop down or lower Himself to write in the sand- giving them a chance to see Him, see what His doing and learn from it. But they didn't see and learned He stood up with authority and spoke the law of the Spirit of life that has set us free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. The law of love and forgiveness.
Straight after He stooped down again, Jesus shows such sterling character because He wins every and any argument hands down but He never once takes advantage of the situation, at that point He could stood straight up and gestured showing "well there we have it, the room is cleared" He doesn't He stays in the loving character of His Father, proving that His heart is fixed on His Father and purpose.

Selwyn Young:
In John 8:
Jesus full of mercy and grace does not condemn someone who is clearly caught in sin. Mercy triumphs over judgement (James 2:13)
Jesus spoke with authority to the Jews. This can be contrasted with the arrogance of the teachers of the day (Pharisees, Sadducees). Jesus' confidence and authority came from the fact that the Father spoke through Him. Theirs came from the facts that they knew the scriptures.
He hears the Father and speaks what the Father says. May our lives be just the same. As the Father speaks so do, we.
May we have authority in matters relating to the Father, but the grace that Jesus had in our actions.

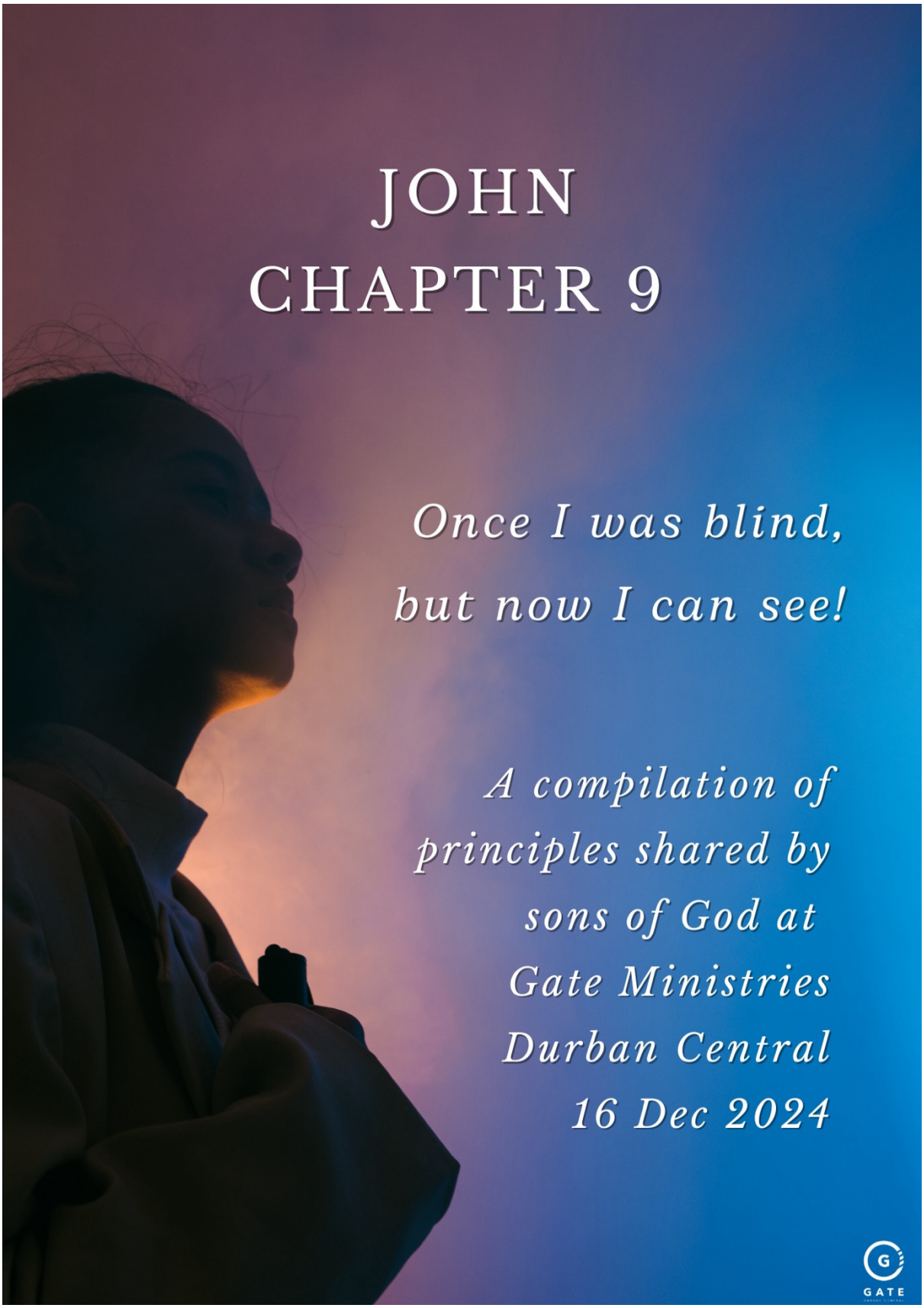
Fiona Beru:
JOHN 8

- We must not be quick to judge others;
- Need to examine our own lives first;
- We need to stop condemning our own life, if God has forgiven us, then we are forgiven;
- We need to be examples in our environment;
- Verse 58– Jesus reveal that He is the "I am", in any situation Christ is the solution. He is our source. When you consider that phrase, two small words yet such powerful assurance that God has got our backs.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 8:

- Be forgiving. Condemn nobody
- Speak with authority vested in Christ (Spirit of Father)
- Abide in the word
- Live as a sent one
- Know God- keep His word


JOHN
CHAPTER 9
Once I was blind,
but now I can see!
A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God at
Gate Ministries
Durban Central
16 Dec 2024
GATE

John 9:1-41 | Blind Man Healed & The Deity of Jesus



Rene Barnwell:

'He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. WHY DO YOU WANT TO HEAR IT AGAIN? ...' (John 9:27a ESV)

After the man was healed and the neighbours asked him how he received his sight, they brought him to the Pharisees who asked him the same question over and over (**about 3 times**).

The evidence of Jesus' healing was obvious to all, but the Pharisees asked the man repetitively, looking for a loophole/discrepancy in the story to discredit the miracle, that they might accuse Jesus falsely.

But praise God, when you are the recipient of the Master's divine touch, you cannot change your story to be a people- pleaser, but just like the man did, boldly proclaim the truth, giving glory to God, at the expense of being cast out, which he was.

However, his parents, knowing he was blind since birth, should have been ecstatic about the miracle that just happened, yet because they feared the Jews, they played it down when questioned (literally forsook their son) and said to ask their son themselves.

May we boldly declare God's truth and ways, and allow the fruit in our lives to override theological argument.

In v35, Jesus found him after he was cast out and conversed with him, disclosing His identity to him.
When you are cast out because of standing on God's truth, God will find you and disclose more of Himself to you, bringing you to a place of humble surrender and worship.

Dean Govender:
"And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him." (John 9:1-3)
You are not to blame for your current trial and the sufferings you have endured. There is no shame in what you have experienced.
And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28 NASB)
As The Sculptor moulds us more and more into the image of Christ, it's easy to lose sight of the big picture. It's often only at the end of the process, do we, with a holistic view, see the changes that have been made. God does this for His glory. He always gets the glory for the work He does in us. By faith in Him and through His grace. We make it through… Again, it's not your fault. It's just that God wants to see more of Himself in you.

Annie Reddy:
The blind man was not expecting to be healed on that day.
All he had to do was obey the word spoken by Jesus, "go wash in the pool of Siloam."
The man had to be cleansed of his sin for his sight to be restored.
"… and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing." (John 9:7)
This man was not seen as a beggar anymore.
"Therefore the neighbours, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" (John 9:8)
"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Our obedience to the Word of God renews us and cleanses us from all sin and shame.

Dean Govender:

“Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” (John 9:8)

You are not the same person after you have encountered Jesus, have listened to His instruction/teaching and followed through with it.

The blind man did all this in faith, perhaps not understanding or believing, but as someone without ‘sight’, someone living in ‘darkness’

What do you have to lose?

“The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes...” (John 9:11)

God always gets the Glory!

Carla Joshua:

“They said to him, “Where is He?” He *said, “I do not know.” (John 9:12)

In reading the accounts of Jesus in John, we find that Jesus encounters people who need the healing virtue that He walked in- these were people who had an issue and required the mercy of God.

Ideally, we should seek Jesus out for ourselves. Develop and grow in the knowledge of Christ; if not affliction and trials is what draws us to Christ.

It was mostly those with infirmity, some need or missing component that encountered Jesus in John. The previously blind man didn’t seem to know the location of Jesus after the miracle of receiving his sight.

Even before you get an answer to a prayer you should at least know exactly where the answer lies but if not, then at least after the fact, a desire to stay in His quarters should be a given. The man (who was blind before) didn’t know where His Healer was when asked by the people.

Don’t not know! Jesus wants us to know Him.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might” (Ephesians 1:18-19).

Selwyn Young:

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” (John 9:3 NIV)

Sometimes the afflictions we face are part of a greater glory to be revealed in us. Sometimes the affliction we face is meant to bring **glory TO GOD.** It is meant to bring focus on His power and ability to heal, to save and to deliver.

When we are saved and taken out of darkness, into the kingdom of the Son He loves (Colossians 1:13).

God does this so that we may be a beacon, a light and a hope that they too can be delivered.

“His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him. But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” John 9:8-9(NIV)

So great will your deliverance be, that people will doubt that it is really you. God's transformative work in your life will be so great that people will be left in disbelief about whether it is really you. How could such a drastic change occur, they will ask.

How could a life of such darkness be so filled with life and hope?

This is the opportunity for you to point them to the Son of God, the man they call Jesus. (John9:11, NIV)

We are able to see that our former condition and our current standing, are for the glory of God. That others may see the glorious work of God in our lives.

Carla Joshua:

God has an interest to work in our affliction- we can rest in that affliction doesn’t always have to be because of sin but more importantly to reveal God to Himself to the world. Imagine the man was blind from birth and seeing for the first time, he must have been so excited seeing a new feature in your life, a new world. It’s true it was all the same for others who had sight but **HE WAS NEW** to this.

That’s the miracle: when God reveals Himself through Jesus, we are reborn like it spoke of earlier in John 3. **To the Pharisees the big news was that He broke the sabbath but to the previously blind man his eyes were opened.**

“but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age; he will speak for himself.” (John 9:21).

The man’s parents were questioned by the Pharisees about what happened to him. They were wanted as witlessness’s so the Pharisees could make their case against Jesus. However, the parents threw their son under the bus.

How many times when we challenged do, we slip and say we'd rather not be involved. There are definitely times that I've faced this in my life. The parents should have spoken and said yes, he was blind from birth and Jesus healed him.
I pray that God would strengthen and enable us to face the challenging moments and stand firm in our testimony. Maybe the parents wanted to deny any affiliation with their son or the miracle. **Let's be bold and not deny the miracle of Christ.**
"Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." (John 9:37)
See here, that him being blind was a prerequisite for seeing Jesus and talking to Him.

Moira Saker:
"After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "Wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing." (John 9:6-7)
The condition of spiritual blindness or darkness that has placed us in a position of begging and inertia for many years is transformed in an instant when our eyes are opened to the sent one. This happens when we become obedient to an instruction that does not make sense to a blind man (both physically and spiritually blind).

Audrey Adams:
Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.
Jesus erases the false notion of *sin* suggested by His disciples as the root cause of the man's blindness.
Instead demonstrating to them God's miraculous power to heal the man's condition both naturally verse 7 and then spirituality vs 38 "The man said "Lord I believe."
He's intentional is showing the works of God in His response of mercy and compassion-not judgment as was the initial response of his disciples and often we to are quick to judge.
But instead bringing light to the darkness; making the most of the time He had left on the earth; a true representation of who He was as God's son.
May we too adopt this posture of being a light to the world; redeeming the time while it is day.

Selwyn Young:

The clue is in the signs!

Jesus' signs were clues that pointed to who He was and what His purpose was. They additionally pointed to where He was from. The signs revealed or were meant to reveal who He was to the people. But these made Him a target and a problem to the leading teachers of the time.

Instead of pointing them to where He was from, and the one who sent Him to do the works, these signs made them question where He was from.

“The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.” (Read John 9:30-33)

Jesus' actions were a fulfilment of prophecy. As we can see from the verses in Isaiah below.

Isaiah 35: 5-6 says: “Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer and the mute tongue will shout for joy.”

When asked by John's disciples are sent to Jesus in Luke chapter 7:20-22, Jesus uses the scripture above to explain who He is.

Again, we see Jesus that Jesus showed them who He was in the scriptures, without overtly shouting it's me! The signs, the wonders, the miracles, spoke for themselves. They themselves were the fulfilment of prophecy, but only a legalistic! Stubborn and non-believing heart wouldn't see this.

“Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” (John 5:19 NIV)

But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” John 10:38(NIV)

Britnee Adams:

“Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.” (John 9:14 NASB1995)

The law of Moses meant you cannot work or labour on the day of Sabbath.

But Jesus goes against this rigid law and heals the man born blind anyways.

However, even though Jesus did this, the blind man did it too. Meeting Jesus halfway by going to the pool Siloam to wash his eyes.

- Do not think God is not at work on YOUR DAY OFF.

- Do not disobey the instructions of God on YOUR DAY OFF.

Now is not the time to relax. We mean business. **Heed to the call.**

Quinton Adams:

“We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” (John 9:29 NIV)

The Pharisees reached their ceiling pertaining to their knowledge of the Scriptures. It seems as if the **LAW OF MOSES** was their final search. In this narrative, they display a dullness and choose to investigate who was right and who was wrong **instead of tapping into a new dimension of Spirit Life.**

They fail to **SEE** Jesus's miraculous doings because they are blind and darkness limits their perception of the **CURRENT GRACE** among them. Their internal light is dull.

This suspicious behaviour is antagonistic to **FINDING THE TREASURES OF HEAVEN** which is located in being plugged into true, authentic apostolic WORD.

Britnee Adams:

“He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.” (John 9:11 NASB1995)

The man left blind, but returned with sight.

To leave Christ is to go blind. It welcomes darkness. It means navigating this life with no illumination.

When we return however, immediately our sight returns. This return however must be met with the washing off of our filth.

“Go to Siloam and wash” was a clear instruction. We will have to go with our blindness and rid ourselves of the darkness by washing ourselves and being born again in purity and wholeness.

All of which welcomes light! Return to that which is good! **Wash yourself in the blood!**

Jerusha Sydney:

“We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” (John 9:4-5 NASB).

In John 6:28, the crowd asks Jesus, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus responds in verse 29: “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

In both passages, the word "work" is translated from the Greek word ergon. From this, we can infer that "work the works of Him who sent Me" refers to belief, trust, and abiding in the Lord. This work is spiritual in nature and emphasizes faith in God, not merely physical actions. The "work" here signifies a relationship with God, characterized by belief and trust in His promises, rather than mere external deeds.

1 Thessalonians 5:5 says, “For you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness.”

Jesus, as the "I AM", is the pre-existent Christ and the Light of the world. Therefore, as believers of Christ, we are sons of light and sons of the day, meaning that we are to live in faith and trust in God as children of the light.

In contrast, the night symbolizes sin, spiritual darkness, and blindness. When it is "night," it represents a state of spiritual ignorance where faith and trust in God ceases to exist as people remain distracted and consumed by the deeds of darkness. Hence, no work (no faith and belief) can exist in the night because spiritual works—rooted in faith—cannot take place when one is spiritually blind or lost in sin.

This interpretation connects the "work" in John 9:4-5 and John 6:29 with the idea of spiritual belief and trust, aligning with the broader biblical symbolism of light and day representing spiritual alertness and discernment.

Fiona Beru:

“Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.” (John 9:41).

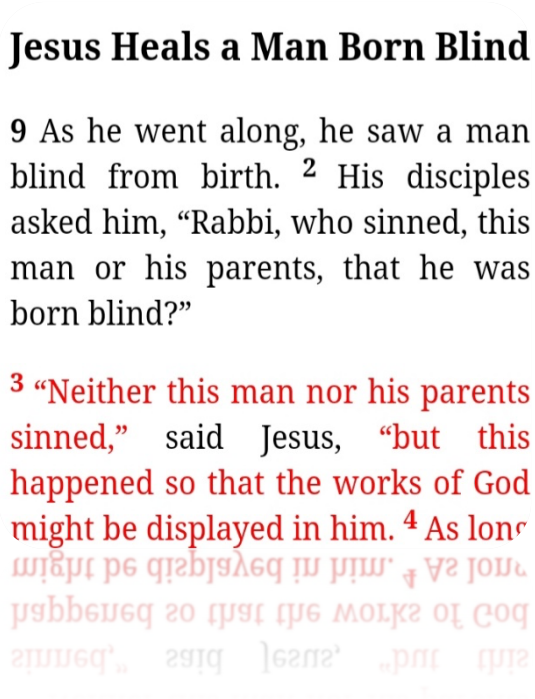
A blind person is excused for knocking into things, because of lack of vision, but a sight person or a person with vision has no excuse.

We are responsible for what we are shown. Once our eyes have been enlightened to a principle or to a word that has been released, we can no longer act or be ignorant and not obey that Word.

Our believe should alter our sight, and our sight should be redirected our disobedience to obedience.

I John 4:17b says: “… because as He is, so are we in this world. “

Jenny Pillay:



Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As lon

In this passage we see that Jesus healed the blind man. The man was blind not because of any sin he or parents committed but rather to showcase God's greatness and mercy through his healing.

Not all trials we go through are because of what we have done; sometimes God allows it just so it can be a testimony of Gods goodness.

Not everyone will believe when spoken about God's miracles but when they see the miracles this can turn their hearts towards God. May we see and know God's greatness through every season in our life. (See image for: John 9:1-3 NIV)

Shaun Beru:

"One thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25).

We must come to a certainty that we know our position in Christ as sons of God. Our sonship gives us confidence to function optimally knowing God will come through for us.

Two factors that the blind man had assurance of:

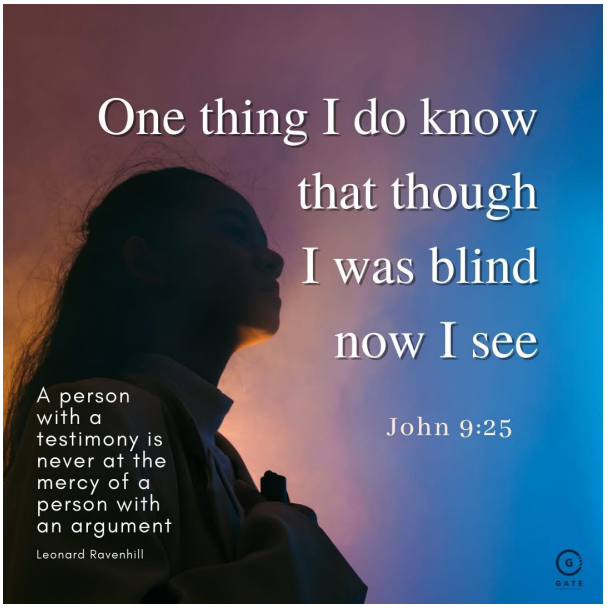
1. 1."I was blind" – He admitted his condition.
2. "Now I see." – He accepted the cure.

We need to always have a repented heart and accept what Christ has done on the cross for redemption for our sin.

Randolph Barnwell:

The blind man who received his sight from Jesus in John chapter 9, refused to be caught up in the theological debate over the origins of his miracle, what sinful conditions may have incited the blindness in the first place, blame on his parents or himself as the cause of the blindness, the appropriateness of its timing and the

occasion (Sabbath), the methodology by which the miracle took place ("go wash in the pool of Siloam"), and the authenticity of the person, Christ, who administered the miracle.



He didn't know much, but there was one thing he was certain of: "I was once blind, but now I can see." No matter how clever or theologically complex the arguments, they must yield to the undeniable evidence of God's work. You can debate all day, but your arguments are silenced by the incontestable fruit of God's action—by what He has done.

In the present season, May God do mighty works in your life.

May it silence any controversy or contention you may be facing.

I simply love these words. **"I DO NOT KNOW MUCH; BUT ONE THING I KNOW, I WAS ONCE BLIND, BUT NOW I CAN SEE!**

Carolyn Moonsamy:

In reading John 9:6 I was very curious as to why Jesus would use a mud-saliva mixture to perform the healing of the blind man and this made me think further about how this act is connected to the creation account where God formed Adam using the dust of the ground (see Genesis 2:7).

This connection indicated that Jesus' identity as a **Son of God IS ONE with God** the Father where the same power, creativity and authority are demonstrated. Jesus The Son is able to re-create, restore and renew just as God the Father.

Psalms 103:14 says: "For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust."

He is the potter and we are the clay! We are his workmanship.

This act was not only an opening of physical eyes but also as spiritual- May our spiritual eyes be opened more and more to the revelation of Christ. The One who was and is and is to come.

Rene Barnwell:

“His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” (John 9:20-22)

(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

The Pharisees/Jews interviewed the parents of the blind man who was now healed, asking them if he is their son and how could he now see.

The parents were afraid of admitting that Jesus healed him for fear of being cast away and thrown out of the synagogue.

So instead, they replied that their son was old enough to speak for himself.

This is unbelievable! Their son was blind since birth and could now see, yet they detached themselves from the miracle for fear of being rejected by people! They should have been jumping for joy and celebrating with their son.

May we never deny Christ and the stand we have taken to live by His godly principles, even though we risk being rejected by some.

The healed man was cast out, but Jesus found him (verse 35).

You may be rejected because of your righteous stand, but God Himself will find you and empower you as His son, and His marvellous work in your life will undoubtedly be regarded and noted by all.

Nolan Bartleson:

“While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5 NIV)

Fiona Beru:

JOHN 9

- Jesus’s response to the disciples’ question intrigues me because sometimes “it is what it is!” Life throws you a curve ball, but **how you deal with it and overcome the matter** or situation is the real deal. God wants to work in our lives so that we might be lights of the world.
- Go wash, in the pool of Siloam. **Go** - in our obedience is our breakthrough or healing.
- Wash – a process of cleansing one’s self

- Pastor Thamo Naidoo says: “People can argue with your doctrine, but they cannot argue with your testimony!” This man had a testimony that revealed a nature of Christ in him. We too have testimonies of the nature of God revealed to us whether it is the God of provision, or the healer. When we see God in the capacity, our eyes are open and we too can become like we see.
- Do you believe in the son of God? Each one of us needs to answer that question. Do we believe God for what He does or for who He is?

Jerusha Sydney:

“Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” (John 9:41 NASB)

Jesus speaks about the contrast between spiritual blindness and spiritual sight.

If the Pharisees were truly blind, either physically or spiritually, they would not be accountable for their sin, because they would not be aware of the truth. Spiritual blindness, in this case, could be seen as ignorance or a lack of awareness. If they didn't know better, they wouldn't be held accountable for rejecting God’s revelation.

However, the Pharisees claimed to have spiritual sight. They considered themselves the custodians of the law and believed they fully understood God’s will. But because they rejected Jesus, the very truth standing before them, their sin remained. Their spiritual pride and self-righteousness kept them in their sin.

This verse points to the danger of spiritual pride and self-deception. It's a cautionary message for all who think they have "arrived" spiritually, who believe they have a clear understanding of truth, but fail to embrace the fullness of what God reveals.

It’s possible to be regular church goers, who hear God’s Word and are recipients of grace and truth, yet remain spiritually blind.

The danger is in selective hearing—choosing to listen only to what aligns with our desires or comforts, rather than embracing the full counsel of God’s truth.

When we become complacent, or when we hear God’s Word without the intention to obey it, we are no different from those who claim to see but remain in darkness. The more we resist God’s correction or pick and choose which parts of His Word we follow, the more accountable we become. Such disobedience hardens the heart, causing us to miss the deeper, transformative work God wants to accomplish in us.

Our disposition should be: “Father, give me ears to hear what Your Spirit wants to disclose to me daily.” When we approach God with humility, ready to listen and obey, we position ourselves to be shaped by His will. Remaining pliable in His hands allows God to mould, refine, and use us for His purposes. It’s about surrendering our stubbornness and pride, not clinging to a fixed mindset that limits what God can do in us and through us.

May we always be aware of our need for continual transformation and not settle into a comfortable spiritual routine. True growth requires a constant yielding to God, a willingness to be moulded, and an openness to hear and obey His voice, no matter

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 9

- Sometimes suffering leads to putting God on display (Testimonies are born);
- Be light in the world;
- Lead others to believe- open their eyes!

Britnee Adams:

In “light” (pun intended) of the word shared on Sunday (The Light of Fathering), **John 9** has come to life for me. “While I am in the world, **I am the Light of the world**.”” (John 9:5 NASB1995)



- **God is LIGHT**. The ultimate source of LIFE said Ps. Thamo.
- His interface, **Jesus Christ was sent** to be that LIGHT to us.
- Jesus is committed to the Father!
- Jesus is obedient to the Fathers’ mandate.
- **Jesus is plugged in to the source of LIFE** therefore becoming our Emmanuel.

Carla Joshua:

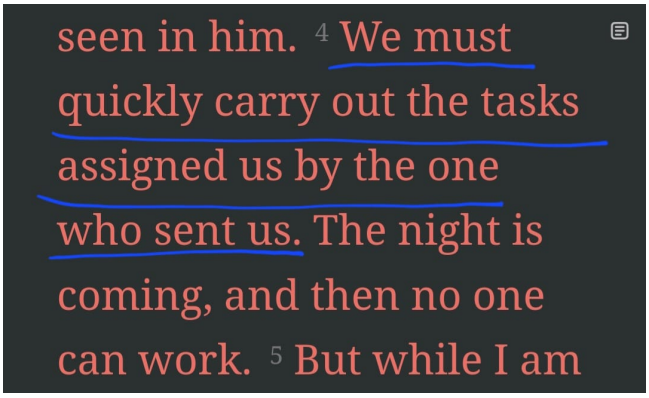
In **John 9:** Although we are born into a broken world and every man has sinned and fallen short, Jesus answers the natural assumption of the disciples in the question: “so

who sinned, the parents or the child?" The question itself exposes man's heart that's prone to judge. Jesus mercifully puts this to rest by saying "so that the works of God might be displayed in him." Injecting through His answer that even though the world is broken look at the mercy of God through Jesus.
Don't focus on that! focus on this! Mercy!
God will work all things together with a full dose of mercy for good.

Dean Govender:
In **John 9 & 10 (NET)** I see the nature of the Father here in bringing us back to **Sonship,** through the last Adam.
One of the ways the Lord Jesus does this is through deeds (acts).
"Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but he was born blind so that the acts of God may be revealed through what happens to him." (John 9:3)
"Upon seeing, we are drawn to the Father" (Matt 5:16). Drawing near to the Father aligns us to His will and we begin to understand the significance of fulfilling purpose.
We must perform the deeds of the one who sent me as long as it is daytime (John 9:4)

- Notice: Jesus says 'we must' not 'I must.'
- The Lord Jesus opens the way for us through His life and then through His death. 2 Realities I believe, one in the natural and another in the spirit (see more under John 10).

Anne Paul:



There is an expectation from the One who sent us.
There has to be a sense of urgency to do what is assigned.
Be specific, be quick, be precise (see John 9:4 in image).
An entire generation depends on us to finish what He has tasked us.

"God has all the time in the world, we don't!" (RB)

Julienne Bartleson:

Jesus, the Light & Sight

“Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the **works of God** might be displayed in him. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world. So he left and washed, and came back **seeing**.” (John 9:3,5,7)

Jesus said that this story is for the works of God to be displayed. This was more than him receiving his physical sight but rather for him to come to a place of **BELIEF in the LORDship of Jesus.**

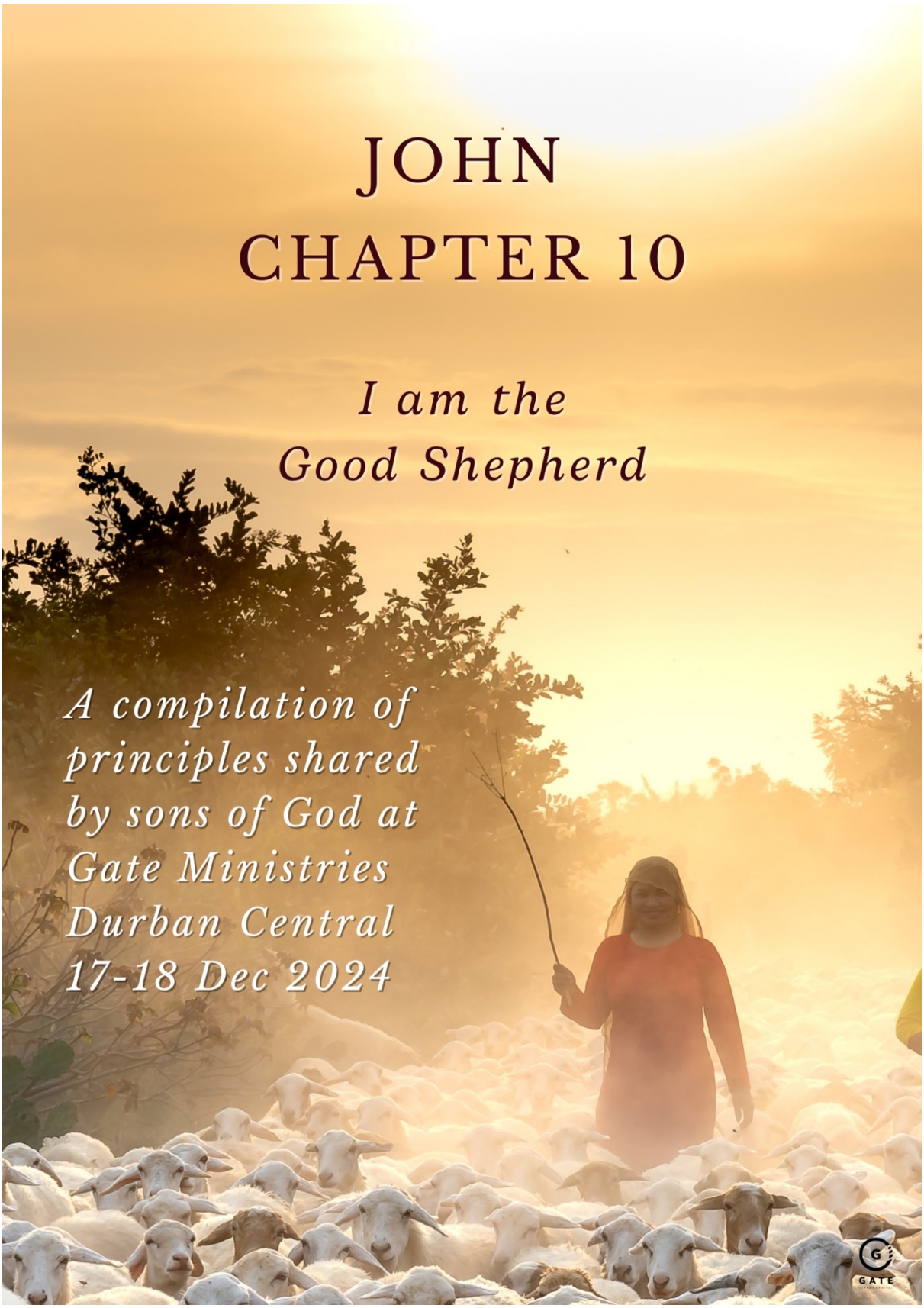
“**Yes, Lord, I believe!”** the man said. And he **worshiped** Jesus.” (John 9:38)

The Pharisees and Jews who witnessed this miracle could not come to a place of believing. Thus, they remained in their blindness/darkness.

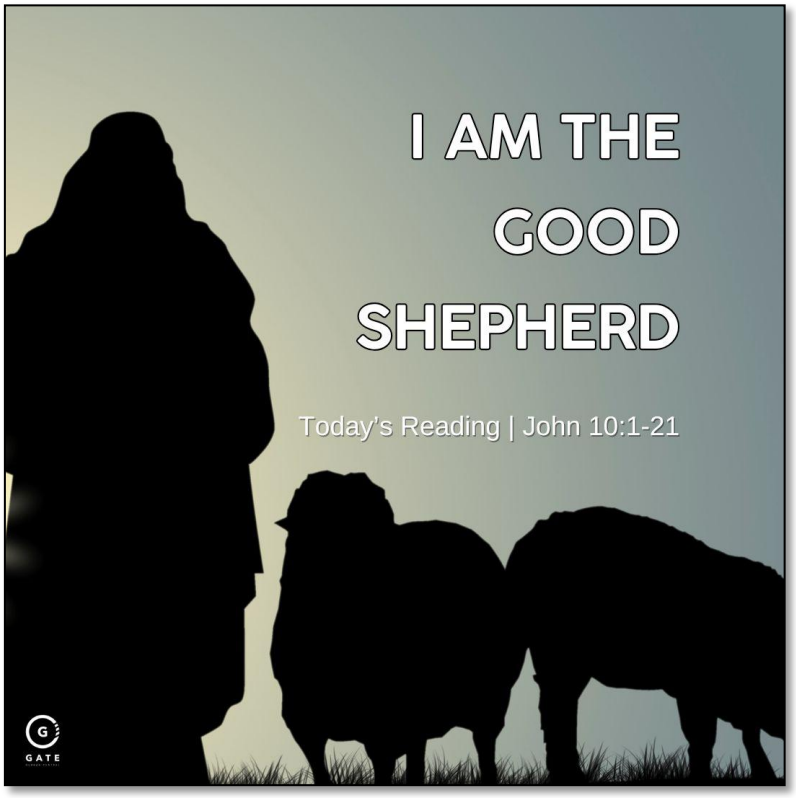
“This man's conviction and confession progressed from calling Jesus Prophet to then declaring Him as Lord and worshipping before Him.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

The result of Light entering in is belief in who HE IS. The more light, the greater our sight.

As we expose ourselves to God's word, may the power of this light illuminate areas where we are weak and bring us to a place of stronger faith/belief.


JOHN
CHAPTER 10
I am the
Good Shepherd
A compilation of
principles shared
by sons of God at
Gate Ministries
Durban Central
17-18 Dec 2024
GATE

John 10:1-21 | The Good Shepard



Rene Barnwell:

“But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To HIM the gatekeeper opens. The sheep HEAR HIS VOICE, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I AM THE DOOR** of the sheep.” (John 10:2-3 ,7 ESV)

In the fold, there are multiple sheep (you and I) whom the shepherd (spiritual fathers) leads in and out through the door (the Chief Shepherd, Christ).

The sheep recognise the shepherd’s voice and follow immediately.

The thief chooses to get into the sheepfold by climbing in another way, not through the door. The thief represents false/erroneous teachers who bypass Christ as the Chief Shepherd and the only Door through which they must enter.

Jesus is the accurate Way, the Truth and the Life- any other way is inaccurate (the way of the thief).

When a sheep knows the Shepherd’s voice, it will not follow a stranger (v5).

May we be keen listeners of accurate doctrine-of Christ the Word, our Chief Shepherd, taught consistently by our spiritual fathers/earthly shepherds, who faithfully study and teach God’s Word.

May our ears be attuned to the voice of our shepherd who enters the fold through the door (Christ), so that we instinctively not respond to a thief/stranger's voice.

Annie Reddy:

Sheep will only listen to the voice of its shepherd. The **sheep recognize the voice of the shepherd** because of the familiarity of their voice. They learn to trust the shepherd and will not listen to any other voice. We are the Lords' sheep and we are shepherded by spiritual fathers. Listening to spiritual fathers and being saturated in the word of God will allow us to silence the voice of thieves, i.e., false prophets.

Fiona Beru:

"And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." (John 10:4-5)

Whose voice are we listening to?

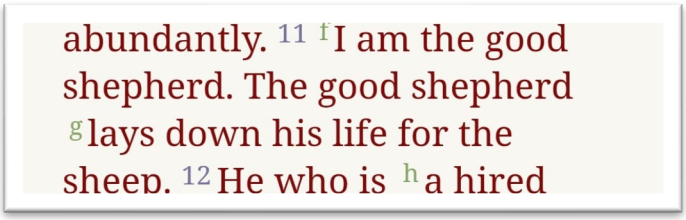
This question is very important because the voice that we are listening to, is the voice that is leading us.

In this portion of Scripture, Jesus tells us that the sheep will know their shepherd's voice and will follow obediently, but a stranger they will flee from.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd that we need to follow, however He has given us men and women that He has appointed to shepherd us here on earth, our Spiritual Father, who is the voice that God would use to lead us. We do not follow a man, but the God within the man, we are shepherded by the voice within the voice.

We need to be so careful to who we listen too as these strange voices can lead us astray.

Andre van Schalkwyk:


abundantly. 11 [f]I am the good
shepherd. The good shepherd
[g]lays down his life for the
sheep. 12 He who is [h]a hired

Following God, our Father, should stem from love, not just out of a desire for blessings or personal gain. This childlike faith, where we trust Him completely, acknowledges His wisdom and sovereignty over our lives. When we follow Him blindly,

it is not about ignorance but a conscious decision to rely on His perfect understanding and plans for us.

Jesus' role as the Good Shepherd also shows His personal care for each of us. He knows us by name, leads us with His voice, and lays down His life for us. In response, our obedience and sacrifice are acts of worship and love—an acknowledgment of who He is, not just what He gives.

This perspective shifts our faith from being transactional to being relational and transformational, reflecting our genuine love and surrender to God.

Dean Govender:

"And he calls his own sheep by name" (John 10:3a)

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; **I have called you by name**; you are Mine!" (Isaiah 43:1)

"**When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them**" (John 10:4)

"I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars." (Isaiah 45:2)

"**They know his voice**" (John 10:4)

"…but your eyes will behold your Teacher. Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left." (Isaiah 30:20b-21)

I see the Lord Jesus quoting Old Testament, to get through to and convey the Father's message to the Jews. Jews that knew the texts. This brought division amongst them as some of them understood what our Lord was saying - **Jesus constantly led whomever He was speaking to, to the Father"** (see John 10:18c)

Verses 1-5

The relationship between a sheep and a shepherd

Sheep cannot help themselves; they are totally dependent on and reliant on the shepherd. For protection. For guiding them into green pastures. They only recognise the voice of the shepherd. **So should we be all the above, to our good shepherd.**

Corayne Walters:

"But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice." (John 10:5 NIV)

We recognise the voice of our Heavenly FATHER spoken in and through the voice of our Shepherd. **And so, we follow them as they follow CHRIST.** We will never follow strangers with their strange doctrines.

Yvette Govender:

“And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” (John 10:4)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd; He is the Door our legitimate entrance.

He brings us out of sin-missing the mark into everlasting life. We find pasture (verse 9) - **places of abundance where the sheep find enough food to eat.**

“He goes before us” (Deuteronomy 31:8)

We follow him for we know his voice.

Errol Naicker:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.” (John 10:1-3 NASB/Strongs)

I submit to you that erroneous doctrine has been a thief and a robber which has been a major hindrance in the advancement of the church. We are been directed by our spiritual parents to get back to the word. (Doctrine: Sola Scriptura) & not be enticed by performance-based word.

Our Shepherd is directing us to the Head Shepherd & John is re-presenting, re-introducing Jesus Christ as the New Covenant which nullifies the old. If we revert to the old and if I can refer to this as the, “Mosaic law”, John is emphatically telling us that Jesus is the only door by which we can enter into the fold. Great Grace to you all.

Carla Joshua:

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

Jesus is a good shepherd; if the shepherd is manning the door and another comes in any other way except through the gate manned by Jesus- they are up to no good. We saw in chapter 9 how the Pharisees were not going through the door (Jesus). Any leader who comes with personal, political, religion, manipulation and competition **are**

fence jumpers so to speak. Leaders that come through the door which is Jesus are legitimate and will mirror the heart and purpose of Jesus when tending the sheep.
The sheep will be nourished well and be saved. The pasture will be found- this speaks of not wanting for anything, resulting in growth and increase.
The other side of this is being robbed and misused through deception.
We require a legitimate shepherd that comes through love, calling by God and this voice **the sheep will know and follow.** If the sheep know the shepherds voice it means that they have a personal intimate relationship. The sheep won't respond to a strange voice. The shepherd knows your experiences, he knows your weakness, he knows your strengths, he knows your purpose and knows how to give your life abundant.
A sheep actually only cares about eating well. The shepherd makes sure this sheep is well fed. Have you ever seen a sheep with a bag of money around its neck? I've never. All a sheep needs are to be well fed and led from place to place by their shepherd. Wow that's a thought to ponder.

Quinton Adams:
"The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." (John 10:3-4 NIV)
Our **obedience** to the **VOICE** of our Shepherd, leads us into greener pastures. That VOICE assures us of our safety and preservation. That VOICE is familiar to our ears and most of all familiar to our Spirit-man. **Any other voice, with a strange frequency causes us to be on high alert.**
Spiritual fathers are gatekeepers. Sheep follow. They don't need to be pushed, forced or coerced. **BE LED BY THE VOICE** of a genuine, pure apostolic voice!
Spiritual Fathering is none other than Spiritual Shepard-ing.... Sheep KNOW their Shepherd. I don't belong to a church; **I belong to a family with a GOOD SHEPHERD.**

Selwyn Young:
Sheep called by name.
"The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." (John 3:10 NIV).

The sheep are called by name. They are not called by any named but they are called **by the name SON.** The sheep are aware of their identity and when called respond to the name son.

In John 17:12 Jesus prayed: “While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me.”

That name" the name Jesus refers to is Son. God gave Him the name SON, and this is the same name we have as sheep.

The son is a sheep. Obedient to, listening to, and lead by the voice of the good shepherd.

“The firstborn over all creation.” (Colossians 1:15)

Among the millions of voices out there, there is just one voice we need to listen to and that is the voice of the good shepherd. Contrary to the popular world view, there is just one way to salvation and just one way to the Father.

That way is through Son.

Nolan Bartleson:

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” (John 10:11,14-15,17-18 NIV)

Thank you, Father, for laying down your life that we may have eternal life. You are the GOOD SHEPHERD; may we listen to your voice so that we may know you more. **"My sheep know my voice."**

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 10

- I am likened unto a sheep (pure, following wholeheartedly) lead by a shepherd (spiritual father and God the Father);
- I am also a shepherd (leading other to Christ and should live sacrificially)
- Hear, know, follow Christ and have eternal life
- Just as Jesus is one with God the Father. I am one with God the Father

Selwyn Young:

John 10

Jesus is the access point, the gate.

- The access point to life and good pasture.

Jesus is the voice.

- The voice that His sheep are led by.

Jesus is the Son of authority.

- He has authority to lay His life down and to take it up again.

John 10:22-42 | Jesus Asserts His Deity



Rene Barnwell:

"I and the Father are **ONE**. but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, **BELIEVE THE WORKS**, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (John 10:30, 38 ESV)

All of our works must reflect our **Oneness with the Father** and not contradict that Oneness.

Jesus' constant claim was that whatever He does reflects His Father.

He did nothing out of selfish ambition.

The Father is not obligated to endorse or anoint anything we do that He did not authorise and is not reflective of Him.

May we put away any trace of selfish ambition and allow our works to reflect our Oneness with Father, causing people to believe in Him.

Fiona Beru:

"I and My Father are one." (John 10:30)

The principles of oneness.

John 17:21 says: "… that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Oneness is more than just being united; it is where a single unit is seen and not the individuals.

So for example, in a marriage, the husband covers the wife, but Christ covers the husband, then neither the wife or the husband should be seen, but Christ that covers them both.

The Father must be seen in our lives.

Jerusha Sydney:

“The Jews then gathered around Him and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” (John 10:24 NASB)

When Jesus responds, “I and the Father are one,” the Jews want to stone Him for blasphemy. Their ironic response highlights the tension between the Jewish expectations of the Messiah and the true nature of Jesus' divine mission.

The Old Testament scriptures reveal the Messiah in two ways:

1. A powerful, all-conquering king who will defeat every enemy and restore Israel to its rightful place as God’s people, dwelling in security and prosperity.
2. A Messiah who will endure future sufferings, including details consistent with death by crucifixion.

It can be assumed that Jewish expectations of the Messiah during Jesus' time focused solely on the coming of a conquering king, and they overlooked the Old Testament scriptures that alluded to the sufferings the Messiah would endure.

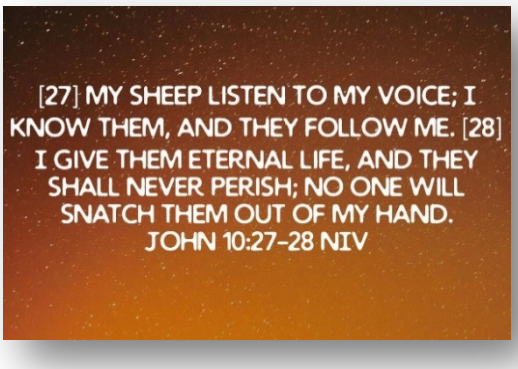
Jesus presented a radically different vision of the Messiah—a spiritual liberator who brought salvation not through military conquest, but through love, sacrifice, and the establishment of God's rule in people's hearts.

Here are some reasons why Jesus' actions contradicted Jewish expectations of the Messiah:

- Many Jews expected the Messiah to be a military leader who would lead a revolt against Roman occupation. Instead, Jesus preached peace and nonviolence, such as in the Sermon on the Mount, where He emphasized loving one's enemies **(Matthew 5:44).**

- When Jesus was offered political power, such as after feeding the 5,000, He withdrew from the crowd rather than taking up the role of a king **(John 6:15).**
- Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God, but He described it in spiritual rather than political terms. Instead of establishing an earthly kingdom through force, He emphasized inner transformation, repentance, and reconciliation with God **(Luke 17:21).**
- The expected Messiah was believed to be a figure of national glory who would elevate the status of the Jewish people, especially the elite. In contrast, Jesus associated with the poor, sinners, tax collectors, and Gentiles, often criticizing religious leaders for their hypocrisy **(Matthew 9:10-13, Luke 15:2).**
- Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey **(Matthew 21:5)** was a deliberate fulfilment of a prophecy from **Zechariah 9:9**, which portrayed the Messiah as a humble and peaceful figure, not a warrior riding on a horse. This contrasted with the common expectation of a king riding in on a war horse, symbolizing victory through force.
- The idea of a suffering Messiah was foreign to most Jewish expectations. Jesus repeatedly predicted His own suffering, death, and resurrection, which contradicted the expectation of a Messiah who would come in glory and power to defeat Israel's enemies **(Matthew 16:21).**

Emmarentia van Schalkwyk:



This scripture reminds us about God's faithfulness. He is not afraid to make any promises because He is a promise keeper. When we believe in His Name, we become partakers of all the promises in God's Word. My sheep listen to my voice - he opened our eyes of understanding to hear His voice and listen (this is a gift in itself), for when the Pharisees questioned Him about whether or not He is the Messiah,
He told them “You do not believe because you are not my sheep "

I know them-Jesus knows our very hearts and our weaknesses, but still has compassion on us, because, because Philippians 4:13 says: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

They follow me. The word follows- means to engage in as a calling or a way of life; to watch and to go where that person is going. By the gracious drawing of the Father, we lovingly and wholeheartedly follow Jesus because, in His presence is where we long to be. **Constantly seeking His face**.

Julienne Bartleson:

"…why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world." (John 10:36 NLT).

As we read the book of John, we see how the main persecution against Jesus was for his declaration and manifestation in being **the SON of God.**

However, despite all of this, Jesus had a firm, rooted understanding and conviction of:

1. **WHO He was.**
2. **WHAT His mandate was**

Identity and Function (Pst. R. Barnwell).

He had been **SET** apart and been **SENT** to reveal the fullness of the estate to which He was a joint heir /shareholder of (Sonship).

May we become more solidified through these current teachings on **WHO we are** and on **WHAT He has brought us into**. (Reveal the SON)

"But when He who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace was pleased to reveal His son in me..." (Galatians 1:15 NASB2020)

Yvette Govender:

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." (John 10:28-30)

As Believers We are Protected, Safe and Secure in the hands of The Good Shepherd and God Our Father. You will not experience any plucking or snatching out of His Hand for He is Powerful and Mighty.

Quinton Adams:

“If I do not the **works of my Father**, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, **believe the works**: that ye may know, **and believe, that the Father is in me**, and I in him.” (John 10:37-38 KJV)

Our **greatest proof** of our **sonship** is found in our replication of **FATHER’S** works. If they don't read the Bible, may they read us. Living epistles read by all.

Our sonship is a dead giveaway of **whom we are connected to.**

May we allow **the pages of the BOOK** to come alive. **Be made flesh**. In so doing, **they will BELIEVE and be drawn** to our representation.

Our behaviours and responses in this world, must point them to the Father. This is exactly what Jesus came to manifest in His humanity.

Audrey Adams:

“The sheep that are My own hear My voice and listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27 AMP)

This passage highlights a knowing and **recognition of the shepherd’s voice.**

But we can only truly respond in this way to hear the Good Shepherd when we are truly His. This comes from a personal and intimate relationship between us as the sheep and Him as our shepherd. **Intimacy with Him** gives us clarity to hear His voice. This then produces obedience to automatically follow Jesus, because in Faith we believe that by grace we have been saved. Resulting in our salvation, our preservation. Eternal Life! Let’s endeavour to get to know Him more each day.

Carla Joshua:

“Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.” (John 10:25)

Jesus told them who he was and the element of unbelief prevailed among them. He went further to do miraculous things; He testifies to His works that He operated in.

He should have been known by them by His words and his deeds.

His representation of His Father was flawless. He preaches what He practiced over and over. Jesus is the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd and the door. They didn’t believe because they were not His sheep, they rejected eternal. We perish every time we reject the word and witness of Jesus Christ.

There's more to life than the physical and the material. The eternal life that Jesus so graciously offered must be acknowledged and received by us.

Rene Barnwell:

"… but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, **believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father**." (John 10:38)

The Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy when He said that He is one with His Father, making Himself like God. They hated Him and wanted to stone Him.

Jesus replied that if they do not believe Him, believe the works that He does that will convince them that God is indeed in Him and vice versa.

May people see God at work in our lives and be convinced that He is indeed our Father. We therefore have an enormous responsibility to ensure we have a good testimony that won't taint God's name or reputation.

Carla Joshua:

John 10: **Generous, Generous Jesus!**

In the 10th verse Jesus speaks about the thief coming to steal but He comes to give life and life **abundantly**, copious, extreme, out of this world, beyond the usual or expected measure, excess, extraordinary in quality and quantity, overflowing, superfluous.

The **word abundantly used here is extravagant** in its essence speaking to how generous Jesus is.

Fiona Beru:

JOHN 10

- The first nature of Jesus that I pick up in this chapter is that we need to **be discerning.** We must not just be caught up by eloquent words or fancy things. We need to see the difference between those that lead us and those that are there just for personal gain.
- **Jesus is the Good Shepherd** and will lay His life down for us. Are we willing to lay down our lives for those we lead?
- **Do we know the voice of our shepherd?** Sheep know the voice of their shepherd. This is important as it will help us to walk and follow accurately.

- **Our actions speak louder than words.** People don't want to hear what we say, they want to see if we walk the talk.
- **I am the Son of God.** This phase cause Jesus a lot of problems, but His statement shows His true identity and that is why He could function in the manner that He did and He could fulfil His destiny. We too as sons of God, when we know our identity, we can function correctly.

Jerusha Sydney:

Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God." (John 10:32-33 NASB).

The Pharisees' response to Jesus is rooted in insecurity and pride, which often leads to jealousy and defensiveness when someone challenges their authority or influence. Jesus was speaking and acting with a divine authority that the Pharisees didn't have or understand. They were so entrenched in their own positions of power and religious rules that they couldn't accept the truth of who Jesus was, which caused them to react with hostility.

In current times, similar dynamics can occur. Sons of God who walk in God's authority and favour, demonstrating His power and character, might make others feel threatened or insecure, especially if those others have not experienced or recognized that same connection with God.

Sometimes, people may respond with criticism, judgment, or even rejection of those who represent something they are lacking or fear losing. However, it's important to remember that, just as Jesus did, children of God should remain humble, not allowing the insecurity or jealousy of others to dictate their response to others.

Walking in God's authority requires humility and the acknowledgment that everything comes from Him, not from our own strength or abilities. Responding to others in love, understanding, and grace, just as Jesus did, can help prevent such negative reactions from taking root.

Carla Joshua:

John 10: **Jesus the keeper of my soul**.

It’s one thing to be the door but Jesus always goes to every extent of His function in our lives because He also is the door keeper. If you know sheep, you’ll know that sheep are hard work, very impressionable, easily influenced and led easily by anyone resembling a shepherd.
Another insightful fact I discovered about sheep is that sheep will never drink running water, the water has to be still, “leads me besides still water” they are also prone to wondering off There so many more truths to support the wonder of Jesus Christ but one is that He is the keeper of our souls coming out in this text.

Dean Govender:

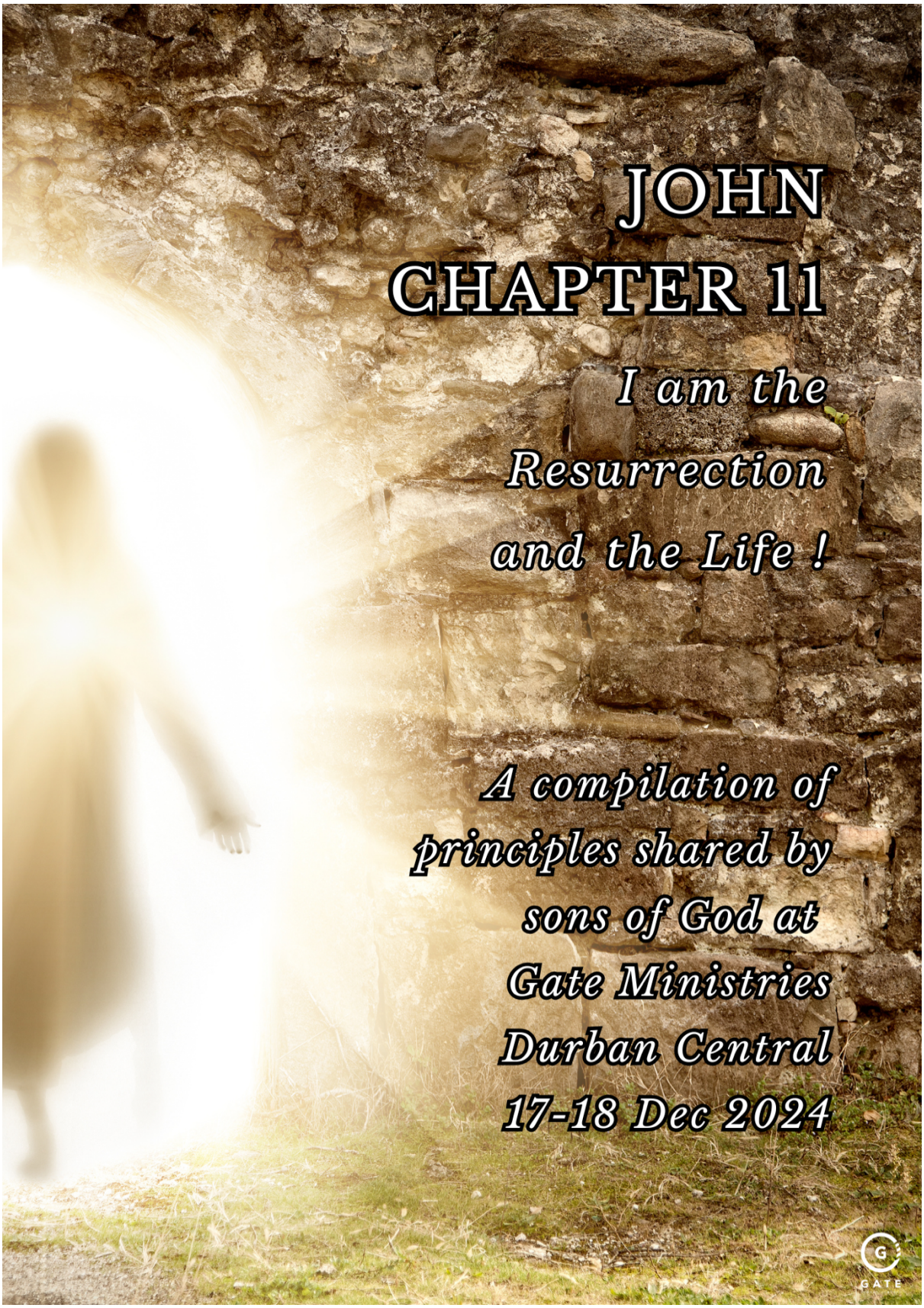
The doorkeeper opens the door for him (John 10:3)

We begin to recognise the voice of our Father as we strive to fulfil His will - as we draw nearer - A voice can speak a caution, an instruction, a ministry, a purpose - if you can’t hear the voice, destiny becomes unfulfilled, hence the importance placed on the sheep recognising the Shepherd’s voice and not being led astray by a stranger (enemy)

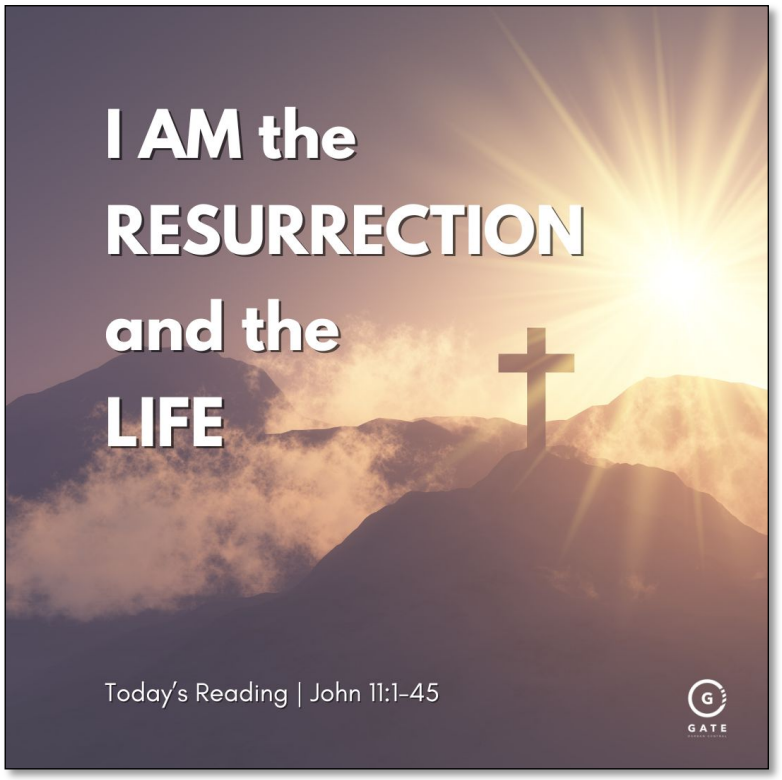
“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father” (John 10:14)

All the while, Jesus is under intense opposition by the Pharisees - like wise, our pursuit in returning to Sonship will also be challenged.

- We see the deeds;
- We draw near and understand our purpose;
- Jesus opens the door;
- We mature and are now able to hear His voice “this is the way, walk in it.”


JOHN
CHAPTER 11
I am the
Resurrection
and the Life !
A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God at
Gate Ministries
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John 11:1-45 | Death and Resurrection of Lazarus



Rene Barnwell:

"Jesus said, "TAKE AWAY THE STONE." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days. Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that **IF YOU BELIEVED YOU WOULD SEE THE GLORY OF GOD?"** (John 11:39-40 ESV)

After Jesus thanked His Father for hearing Him, He loudly and boldly commanded Lazarus to come forth, and resurrection power flowed through Lazarus' dead body and he came back to life.

What was the initial instruction from Jesus before He gave thanks and commanded Lazarus to come forth?

TAKE AWAY THE STONE...

Although Jesus is Omnipotent (all-powerful; unlimited power/authority; capable of doing anything without restriction), and therefore could have raised Lazarus immediately without having the stone removed first, He intentionally gave the instruction for the stone to be removed first.

What does the stone represent in our lives?

Anything which blocks/hinders the works of God from being performed in our lives e.g. unbelief, unforgiveness, sin, fear, pride, inaccurate alliances.

May we remove ‘the stone’ in our lives that may be a major hindrance to God performing His wonderful Word and works in our lives, and walk in resurrection power, partaking of His Divine nature.

Carla Joshua:
“So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.” (John 11:6)

Jesus stayed where He was for two more days after He hears that Lazarus is sick. So when He got the message it must have took some time to get the message to Him but Jesus has no urgency or worry. He didn’t get emotional or make immediate movement to get to where they were, it certainly didn’t shock or surprise Him.
Jesus was taken up with His devotion to the Father. We read that Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters so this was close to home for Him but take note of the approach that He takes, emotion for those close to Him verses His devotion to the will of His Father. He was allowing Lazarus to die which was set to glorify the Father. A greater glory for God that will impact the people, Jesus was so soaked in His Fathers will that He didn’t allow even the proximity of the problems to affect and inform His response. His response and approach to issues and situations were always governed by glorifying His Father.

“Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11:21)
Mary and Martha, both called Him late if we paraphrase what they said when He eventually came to them. They knew Him, Mary specifically poured oil on His feet and wiped with her hair. What an awesome demonstrative expression of worship.
Could it be that sometimes we say and do the right things to show our love or faith in God but when it comes to internal confidant assurance, we act contrary to the witness that we should have within. May we know Him and walk in that peace the surpasses all understanding as Jesus did.

Quinton Adams:
“Jesus wept. Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.” (John 11:35,38 KJV)

Crying for a situation has its place. But Jesus kicks into spirit-man posture, wipes His eyes, gathers Himself and **CRYING ARE REPLACED BY GROANING.** This dimension and change are a **SPIRITUAL MINDSET.**

Jesus involves **HIS FATHER IN THE MATTER** and the whole ballgame **CHANGES. Once FATHER** steps into that **DEAD arena** of our lives, **RESURRECTION** is inevitable.

ANY STONE WILL MOVE, ANY BLOCKAGE WILL BE DISSOLVED WHEN THE RESURRECTED CHRIST, IN YOU AND I STANDS UP.

Audrey Adams:

“So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him." (John 11:14-15)

Jesus replies "I am glad " even in the death of a dear friend.

He was certain of the outcome.

We see at the end of the events of this chapter that grief was comforted, life was restored, many more believed, and the necessary death of Jesus was set in motion.

All of these were reasons to be glad.

He needed them to believe in Him, being the Resurrection and the life.

So we learn that He often permits us to pass into dark situations, and deeper mysteries of pain, in order that we may prove more perfectly His wonder working power in us.

He will answer us but in faith we must seek Him.

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

Selwyn Young:

Life lived believing

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

Living by believing is an essential and indissoluble part of a Christian's life. We believe in God, we believing in His Son and we live by believing that all that is written is true.

It is not strange that Jesus says we should live by believing in Him to have life.

- Our lives depend on our belief.
- Our belief sustains our lives.
- And, our lives are characterised by our beliefs.
- We simply live by believing!

Not only is Jesus the resurrection, but He is the life as well.

"We cannot have life without Jesus. The Son is life. ... sustaining all things by his powerful word..." (Heb 1:3, NIV)

The Son is the resurrection. If the Son does not rise from the dead, there is no resurrection. The Son is... The firstborn from the dead... (see Rev 1:5)

The resurrection is not a time or event. **The resurrection is a person Christ Jesus.**

Dean Govender:

"Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." (John 11:21)

Sometimes, a thing has to DIE in order for it to be RESURRECTED.

The Lord Jesus could have healed Lazarus at any point, as He did the officials son (Jesus *said to him, "Go; your son lives - John 4:50) however, there was purpose in Lazarus dying (John 11:4)

Jesus considered him a friend; the text says He wept for Lazarus. Lazarus' family mourned him however, they could not see the greater revelation afoot, which was the Lord Jesus. (Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God? John 11:40)

In Biblical numerology, the number 3 denotes 'resurrection' but also 'completeness'. (Ecc. 4:12) When a thing is brought back to life, there is a completeness to it that was not there before.

That relationship had to die. Your finances had to die. You had to lose that job opportunity - all so that the Glory of God could be revealed in the resurrection.

Derrell Petersen:

"Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus *said to her, "Your brother will rise from the dead." Martha *said to Him, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the

life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:22-26 NASB2020)
When we walk in a way that allows Christ to live through us we embody the living word in our worlds, and there is where all things find their culmination, our natural bodies, embodying the spiritual Christ, in us speaking truth and eternal life becomes our daily portion. No dead things in or around us. We simply put things in their appropriate order. **Katartizo!** As Papa said we need to simply take God at His living word.

Dean Govender:
"Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days." (John 11:39)
The foul stench of said thing that you've been praying for, for weeks, months, years but have not experienced breakthrough.
Jesus *said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God? (John 11:40)
Lord Jesus' response was immediate - continue in faith, continue trusting and believing (notes based on prayer meeting by Randolph Barnwell).
"I knew that you always hear Me but..." (John 11:42)
"Whatever you ask of God, God will give you" (John 11:22) Just very encouraging - Lord Jesus is reminding us here that our Father is still omnipresent and omniscient. That He hears and sees all. He is also faithful to answer prayers.

Derrell Petersen:
A constant thought prevails in my mind while reading Thule book of John. Jesus came as the Messiah that they had been waiting for, the saviour from Roman oppression. However, His coming was for so much more than temporal reprieve from oppression. He consistently showed signs and wonders for their benefit, because in almost every verse He mentions "so that they may believe", but many still questioned in disbelief. Their problem was their mind being conditioned to the 'package' they assumed that He would come in.
Let us shut our natural eyes and see with the longing eyes of the spirit, to recognise the sent one/one's that meet us to configure us for function, so that we will not waist time in wonder or wander but get on with the work of the kingdom.

Fiona Beru:

“Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.” (John 11:1-45).

Gratitude can raise dead things in our lives. In this account of Lazarus, Jesus first thanks His Father for always hearing him. Jesus talking in past presence tense and uses the word heard. God always hears us when we talk to Him, and our gratitude to Him should be expressed not only for what He does, but for Who He is.

Thanksgiving releases the true nature of Christ in our lives, Gratitude helps us see the glory of God working in our lives.

Andre van Schalkwyk:

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26 NASB1995)

Jesus is not only the one who brings resurrection but is the source of both resurrection and eternal life.

Those who believe in Jesus will live spiritually (In our immortal bodies) even after physical death, and those who live and believe in Him have eternal life. **The question, do we believe this? Yes, we do.**

We as Sons have hope in Jesus, both in this life and beyond, as He triumphs over death.

Simla Govender:

Jesus has the ability to breathe life into every dead situation, even when it seems hopeless and impossible. All we have to do is believe.

He delayed His trip to Lazarus deliberately so that He could demonstrate that even death has no power over Him and because we are in Christ, it has no power over us either.

No situation is too dire for Him to change and turn around. Take comfort knowing He is more than able and willing.

Riley Reddy:

In John 11:9, Jesus is letting is people know that it is important to act whilst it is still day time or daylight.
In John 14:6 a very famous scripture: “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
Even though Jesus was 4 days “late" he already knew the outcome and he knew that he was on time... Remember that his way is god’s way not yours or mine.
Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Our father has the power to change death to life physically and spiritually
God showed his people something better than healing he brought life to a dead situation and Jesus clearly stated that his purpose was to reveal God's glory
May the Lord Jesus Christ bring life to every dead situation in our lives.

Shaun Beru:
“Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.” (John 11:40-41)
"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me."
The principle of gratitude is key to accessing the resurrection power of Christ in our lives. Giving thanks engages an aspect in God to hear our prayers and move on our behalf.
Jesus' command for Lazarus to come forth was first acknowledging his Father with thanksgiving for the result of what was about to take place. Thanksgiving initiates our requests in advance to come to pass.
Always have a heart of gratitude in every situation and circumstance.

Jerusha Sydney:
"But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." (John 11:10 NASB)
God's word is the light that guides us. Without His word living within us, we lack that light, and our faith becomes uncertain.

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26 NASB)

In verse 27, Martha responds to Jesus, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.”

Yet, just a few moments later, Martha faith falters again in verse 39 when she expresses doubt, saying, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days."

Like Martha our faith and obedience to God is tested daily. The only way to continue walking in the day, and not to stumble in our faith and obedience is to walk in the light of God's word.

Yvette Govender:

“It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, Mary was sitting in the house. Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, …when Jesus saw her weeping. Jesus wept” (John 11:2, 20, 32-33, 35)

In the account Martha was the first to meet with Jesus, thereafter Mary went to meet Jesus and lamented on the death of their brother.

Note the response of the Lord with Mary's meeting. Mary’s devotion towards Jesus and her Humility is highly regarded. Mary always Magnified the Lord

Her disposition of Humility and sadness made Jesus weep, groaning in his spirit and he was troubled. Jesus lifted up His eyes, gave thanks to The Father and cried out in a loud voice Lazarus come Forth

Like Mary We are never alone in any troubling situation and sadness we may find ourselves in, The Father sees All, hears All and Heals All to Resurrection Power

“But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You” (John 11:22)

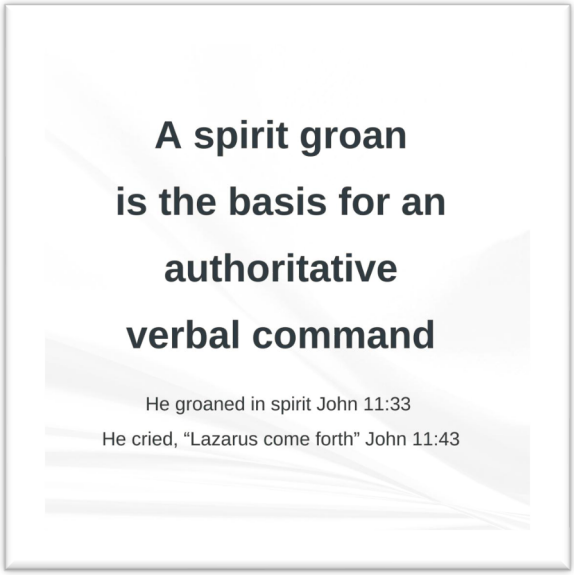
Randolph Barnwell:

The POWER of a GROAN in SPIRIT.

"Jesus GROANED in SPIRIT was troubled" - John 11:33

"Then Jesus, again GROANING in Himself” - John 11:38

"He CRIED ... “Lazarus, come forth!” - John 11:43



The word GROANED in Greek, means to 'charge with earnest admonition; to charge sternly'. He was angry with the evil spirit of death – an enemy of all sons of God and the last enemy to be subdued.

His authoritative command "Lazarus come forth" – breaking the power of death over him, was issued forth from a spirit filled with the power of LIFE and which administered a judgment on death already, before He spoke. Jesus in this instance already secured the victory over death before He spoke.

His uttered command expressed the already victorious position of His spirit over death. Our speech, commandments, and confessions must not be empty but must emerge from a spirit imbued with the truth of the Word or the will of the Lord. Thus, our speech is not just empty confessions but bold and powerful declarations and decrees.



May we groan within our spirits when we observe those issues within our lives that are out of alignment with the will of our Father. And may we, from the conviction of a Word-filled spirit, begin to authoritatively call for the realignment and redemption of these things.

I groan! I decree!

Andre van Schalkwyk:

"When He heard that Lazarus was sick, He (the Lord) stayed where He was two more days." (John 11:6)

- It can be difficult when there is a delay in the answers we had hoped for.
- let me remind you that a delay is not a denial.

- The Lord knew exactly what He was doing in Lazarus's situation.
- He knows what He is doing in your life and He will reveal Himself to you.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 11

- Glorify God in my suffering (illness);
- Walk in the light of the day (let the word illuminate my path;
- Believe! See the glory of God;
- Be thankful/express gratitude when God hears and answers prayer.

Fiona Beru:

JOHN 11

- Verse 4 signals that when we die to certain things in our lives, can the Lord be glorified. If we don't die to self, Christ cannot be glorified in our lives.
- Jesus said I am **the Resurrection and life**; nothing is impossible in God. Things that are dead can rise again.
- Christ, the Son of God was revealed to Martha because of her believing in Jesus.
- Twice Jesus groaned in the spirit by the lack of perspective and understanding the people had, but he did not moan. We too can be grieved by with our circumstances, other people and things, but we must not moan but groan in the spirit for God to intervene and to give us perspective and understanding and believe that God can raise up that which is dead.
- Father, I thank You. Gratitude raises things from the dead. Our gratitude will release all that which bounds us.

Carla Joshua:

John 11: Wise, Wise Jesus!

Jesus uses every opportunity in action and speaking to communicate the will, wisdom and revelation of His Father.

All truth is spoken, metaphors and analogies can be seen in everything and our wise God wants us to uncover. An example is when Jesus responds to the disciples'

concern about the trip to Judea- the disciples must have thought night and day has little to do with it because they were looking for Jesus. Night and day have everything to do with how you walk. If you walk in the light of Gods truth wisdom and council there's no danger and walking outside of Gods wisdom and council is a dangerous place to be in.

Anne Paul:

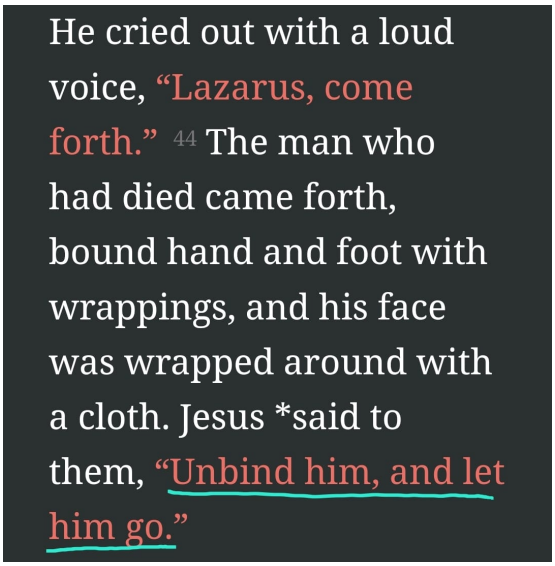
Lazarus was risen from the dead. He had to have a change of clothing.

A living man could not be seen in dead apparel.

When we come into sonship, we walk in life and have a new identity.

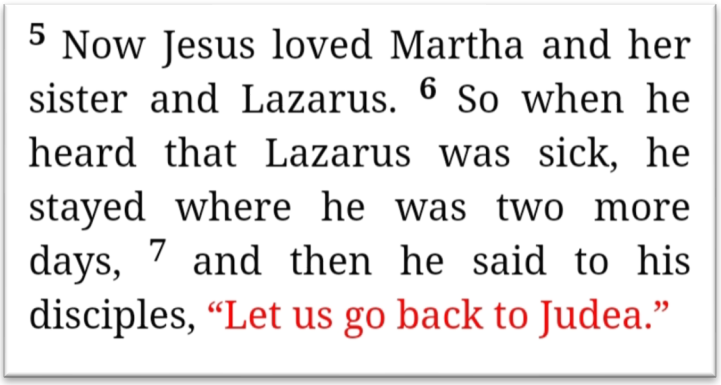
The grave clothes must be exchanged for a garment of praise.

Don't be bound by the tomb and everything it represents. (See Image: **John 11:44)**



Jenny Pillay:

John 11:5-6 reflects **the love and compassion** Jesus shared with Lazarus, Mary and Martha. He had a close and deep bond with this family.



The fact that Jesus took 2 days to get to Lazarus was to see the levels of faith and trust the sisters had for God and to show that God is in control of the situation and He will be Glorified.

May the love and compassion that Jesus has for us overflow unto others so that the character of our Father which is love and compassion becomes a reflection for others to see and in this process our Father is glorified.

Jerusha Sydney:

“But when Jesus heard this, He said, “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.” (John 11:4 NASB1995)

In times of struggle, whether through illness or unexpected trials, may we remember that we must allow the situation to unfold according to God’s will. The Lord will fight our battles, and the victory is ours through Him.

God will be glorified in the end. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him.

Nolan Bartleson:

“So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick. Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” (John 11:3,5,33,35-36 NIV)

Oh, the love of the Father.

Jesus was moved to tears at the loss of his friend Lazarus. He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled, showing us that he cares and understands. He is concerned about our entire well-being. Body, soul, and spirit. See how he loved him. Yes, Jesus loves me.

John 11:46-57 | Conspiracy to kill Jesus



Carla Joshua:

"… and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad." (John 11:52)

Jesus never did anything that He already wasn't operating as; His miracles were a working out of a place that He is the I AM occupied and operated in.

The above text could mean that He was not only going to die for the nation but for the children of God who are scattered abroad. This could also speak to the geographical distance that scattered them or it could be the generational time that separated them. There is an included sense is that it could also allude to the oneness in sons that must become a defined feature in the children of God, Jesus is One with the Father and He wants us to be one, one church, one house, one company, undivided by our religious and social differences, not wasted or squandered by moral or ethical failures.

This is the core manifestation that the earth waits for. The oneness with God and the oneness as sons just as Jesus is one.

Mirroring Jesus nature and character is an automatic gravitation to the rich inheritance that is ours through Christ the Lord. John said that Caiaphas prophesied, he unconsciously spoke a great word of what Jesus the Messiah would do.

We are distant in many respects but Jesus gathered us together by the blood paid in full, no owing outstanding.

Let us consciously prophesy over ourselves the world and the future of the children of God.

Jerusha Sydney:

In John 11 vs 47 onwards, the chief priests are shown to be very knowledgeable about the Scriptures and Jewish law, but their understanding was clouded by their political and religious motivations. To protect their own interests, they decided to kill Jesus, even though He was innocent. Their hearts were hardened by their schemes, and they failed to see the signs that Jesus was the Messiah.

Similarly, in the verses before, Martha acknowledges Jesus as the Christ, but when faced with the possibility that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead, her thoughts were limited by doubt and unbelief. She instead focused on the negative attention that will draw from the stench of a decomposing body.

It's important for us, as we study God's Word, not to just have head knowledge, but to let that understanding lead us to act in love and faith.

James 1:22-25 (NIV) reminds us:

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

As we enter this festive season, may our understanding of the Scriptures guide us to embrace each day with joy, showing love and forgiveness to everyone we meet, knowing that our Father will provide for us so we can represent Him well.

Dean Govender:

"He was intensely moved in spirit and greatly distressed…" (John 11:63 NET)

Many a time, we are unaware of realities present in the realm of the spirit - The Lord Jesus was 'intensely moved in the Spirit' as is God moved when He observes our pain or loss in the natural upon circumstances we are facing. He feels for us. We may not understand spiritual factors afoot however the Lord is so meticulous in what He does

I believe there was a waiting period here before Lazarus could have been raised from the dead - God’s timing and man’s timing are two different things.


JOHN
CHAPTER 12
A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God at
Gate Ministries
Durban Central
23-27 Dec 2024
GATE

John 12:1-11 | Mary Anoints Jesus



Randolph Barnwell:

The anointing of Jesus by Mary was significant on a number of levels:

1. There was intimacy of relationship. This Mary always sat at Jesus' feet listening to His Word. An offering rooted in intimate relationship releases a potent fragrance of impact. This offering emitted from one who loved God's Word.
2. She anointed Jesus with PERFUME - the perfume was NARD.
3. The perfume was PURE nard. There was no mixture or dilution. Hence - "spikenard". Its base was "oil" - hence suitable for an anointing. Herein also is symbolism of the Holy Spirit metaphoric of the anointing.
4. The perfume was worth 11 months' worth of wages - it cost her almost a year's salary. John makes extra special mention that it was not just "costly", but "VERY costly." 'Giving' that 'moves' Christ must cost us something. This goes beyond First Fruits, Tithes and Offerings. Never extract 'cost' from 'sacrifice'. If it does not cost you, it is not a sacrifice.
5. The perfume was potent - its fragrance filled the whole house. What a single person did permeated the whole House. Trust God that your expressions of

sacrificial giving will perfume and scent the house - such that others will be provoked to do the same.

The giving of the church at Philippi transcended the house and ascended to God as a “fragrant aroma” (Phil 4:15-19)

6. It weighed 1 pound which is 12oz (Roman standard) - 12 = the apostolic principle. Apostolic grace and authority characterised her giving.
7. It was not simply an offering - it was an anointing. Anointing is empowerment, preparation for service. Your giving can translate into preparing the “Body of Christ”, the Church for the execution of great assignments.
8. Jesus’ feet were anointed (not his head or hands). Feet indicate preparedness to share the gospel of peace. Feet also indicate the blessed state of the one who shares God’s Word and brings good news. Feet also allude to movement and momentum into purpose. Recall finance was placed at the feet of the apostles in Acts 4 and 5.
9. She wiped His feet with her hair. Hair = glory. Her glory is found in his feet - in his execution of Divine purpose. If you and I are to have any repute or grandeur, it must be the degree to which we facilitated Divine purpose.
10. Her hair would then contain the fragrance of that perfume/oil. What you give always characterises the level of glory attendant with your life. What your hands give to Christ’s feet will never leave your hair (glory) - Selah.
11. It was a response to Jesus’s raising of Lazarus from the dead. Deep Gratitude promoted Mary’s actions. God’s work in her family unleashed in her a desire to offer an extravagant offering. May God open our eyes to discern the extent of His grace and goodness in our families and may this spur us to lavish giving that registers in the Heavens.
12. She, along with other woman who would anoint Jesus, prepared him for his burial. A simple gesture from a generous and sincere heart has significance beyond the initial motivation that incited the act. Selah.

Rene Barnwell:

“So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.” (John 12:10-11 ESV)

We see here how Lazarus had become a target because of his alignment to Jesus and being a living testimony of the miraculous.

The resurrection of Lazarus is the evidence that authenticated the claim of Jesus that He was God’s son.

If satan is not successful at attacking/destroying you, he will seek to discredit the evidence/fruit/breakthrough which God has performed in your life.

May we never allow satan to devalue the significance and power of our miracle because very often the miracle /sign is a powerful validating tool God uses to confirm who we are or specific functions He has called us to.

Your point of victory could be your point of vulnerability, so be careful to remain/abide in the Word which will serve as your protection.

Annie Reddy:

John 11 ends with the Pharisees giving orders to anyone who knows where Jesus is to report it to them so that He could be seized.

John 12 begins with Jesus going to the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

Jesus knew He was welcome in their home, and He could trust them.

May the Lord find His place in our homes, a home where He is honoured.

Martha served, Lazarus reclined, and Mary anointed His feet and gave her offering to the Lord.

We need to embody all the things that these three people embody. We need to serve, recline, and give off our offering of worship to God.

The oil that Mary used was not only rare and expensive but was in its purest form, no contamination.

What we offer to the Lord in the form of our worship to Him must be in the purest form.

Let the fragrance of the Lord that lives in us bring a sweet aroma to every place that we enter.

Kirtana Reddy:

In John 12:4-6 Judas objects to Mary using perfume for washing feet, claiming the perfume could have been sold to help the poor because it was expensive. However, John reveals Judas' true intentions, he was a thief and had no concern for the poor, but rather for his own financial gain

Let this be a lesson to us, Sons of God, this serves as a warning against hypocrisy and self-righteousness in ministry. We must be careful not to disguise selfish reasons with religious language or actions. True Sons of God should have pure hearts, motivated by a love for God, His Word and fulfilling the purposes of Christ not by personal gain

"Jesus then responds to Judas by defending Mary's actions, saying, "leave her alone". It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." (John 12:7-8).

Jesus recognizes the significance of Mary's act in the context of His near death and burial.

This shows us that sometimes, our acts of service may not be fully understood by everyone around us or may seem extravagant, but we must trust that God knows the bigger picture and His timing is always perfect. Sons of God should be faithful in their obedience, even when others may not comprehend the purpose or significance of our actions.

Wesley Joseph:

"… for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him." (John 12:11 NIV)

Many came to believe and follow Jesus at the account of Lazarus' life.

We too have been and still are recipients of God's power and love being brought out of death into life. Being changed from glory to glory.

As people in our world also witness this process in our lives, come over to Him and believe in Him.

May our lives in Christ Jesus have a Lazarus affect in bringing many from death into eternal life.

Yvette Govender:

“Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair.” (John 12:3)

In this act of humility, devotion and love Mary sat at the feet of Jesus. Mary expresses her love by anointing Jesus’ feet. It brought Jesus great comfort and a soothing feeling knowing he was being prepared for the day of His burial.

Selwyn Young:

Poured out my sacrifice

“Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” (John 12:3 NIV)

There are a few things that stand out for me in this passage.

The first is proximity.

Jesus was close enough for Mary to wash His feet with the expensive nard.

Get close to the saviour. He should be reclining with us daily, that we may lavish our worship on Him. **You cannot worship from a distance**; you must get close.

The Lord should not be a stranger in your house but be so familiar that He reclines with you and your family.

Secondly, it was tradition or custom in those days to wash the feet of your guests as a sign of hospitality. Traditionally, this act was always carried out using water.

Mary chose to refrain from using water but rather an expensive perfume.

This perfume which was poured out on the saviours' feet, was her sacrifice and her act of worship.

She did not consider the price or how long it took to work for it. All she wanted to do was to honour Jesus with her gift.

She found value in Jesus rather than value in the perfume.

When we love Him so much and are so thankful for what He has done for us. We stop placing value in what it is we are giving, but rather ascribe greater value to Him. The gift is not greater than the recipient. The recipient is always greater when we are pouring out our gifts to the saviour.

When we do this our acts of giving, of sacrifice, of praise, will be a pleasant fragrance to all in the house.

Britnee Adams:

"… but Lazarus **was one of those reclining at the table** with Him." (John 12:2 NASB1995)

When dead things are brought to life, that resurrection power not only invites you to the table to break bread with God, but it welcomes REST.

- The use of the words "one of those" signals many were at rest at the table.

God's resurrection power may raise ONE MAN from the dead but the REST that comes with it is FOR ALL. **One Resurrection = Corporate Rest!**

Carla Joshua:

"Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." (John 12:3)

Mary was ever so spiritually inclined; she seemed to sore reflexively and engage Jesus. Spiritual things came easily for Mary, but it does not mean that Jesus loved Mary more.

God has a wonderful place for all who worship Him even those who are possibly less inclined to boldly jump in. There might be those in a worship context who take little longer to be cranked until the engine starts for lack of a better phrase.

There was no logical thinking involved in Mary's worship- using hair to dry Jesus' feet was absent of the sense of propriety that Jewish woman had in those days.

Her hair was kept up and maybe covered especially in the presence of other men. It might have been awkward to some in the room beside the too muchness of pouring a vial of expensive perfume on His feet.

This generosity looked crazy to the greedy dishonest heart namely Judas. Whatever the demonstration of worship it will never be deemed a waste in the eyes of Jesus. The demonstration of worship filled the room with an aroma, notice how an aroma can creep into and through the smallest cracks, in some cases an aroma is so pungent that is soaks into material and lingers for days. **Let her alone said Jesus.**

Quinton Adams:

"Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment." (John 12:3 KJV)

Mary took a lowly position. She went low to the feet.

She bowed herself to Royalty.

She stripped herself of her own Glory to emphasize the Glory of a Greater One.

1 Corinthians 11 v 15 declares: " A woman's hair is her glory," therefore, she broke all protocols to serve purpose and mandate.

Sons knows how **to SERVE, BOW, HUMBLE** and **HONOUR GRACE**.

Moira Saker:

“But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.” (John 12:4-8 NKJV)

Jesus responds to the question raised by Judas about Mary’s lavish expression of worship for Jesus.

Mary’s worship of Jesus was significant - it has been recorded forever for all men to learn from it.

She tapped into an eternal dimension in that moment (prepare Jesus body for burial) which caused her to see the cost of the perfume as insignificant in comparison to the great price that Jesus Christ would pay for the redemption of the whole world’s sins. She treasured that moment to be able to appreciate Jesus for what was yet to come, for what he was going to still do, for the greatest sacrifice in history- makes me say Thank You Mary for what you have done for our precious Saviour!

Mary’s costly worship exposed Judas’s heart of greed for money.

Jesus responded to Judas - He defended Mary as her worship was pleasing and profound to him.

May our lives be worship, may we not count the cost of our worship, may we see the precious value of Jesus in our every moment and treasure him for His great sacrifice that has given us life and hope.

Fiona Beru:

“Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.” (John 12:3)

The anointing of the feet of Jesus was in preparation for his death and burial. Spikenard was an oil that was used to burn incense in the temple. This fragrance has a strong distinctive aroma.

Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit. The house, the oikos in the Greek is more than a house, it is the members in the house. As the temples of the Holy Spirit, you and I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can permeate our surroundings with the fragrance of our Father.

Shaun Beru:

“Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.” (John 12:9)

There is a tendency for people to only want to see and be drawn in to what they can get from God.

This is a reminder that we must pursue and desire to know the person of Christ more and just His performance.

It was said of the people in the wilderness "that they knew the works of God, But Moses new God's ways.

The challenge and encouragement in this season is for us to want to know/pursue God more. (Philippians 3:10 "That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection...")

Dean Govender:

“Lazarus reclined at the table with Him.” (John 12:2a)

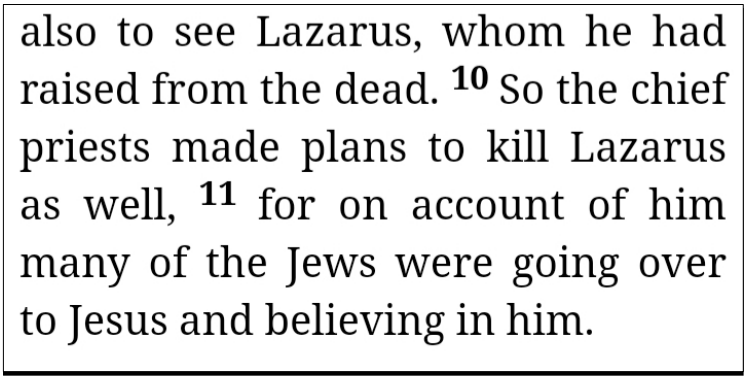
Lazarus in his resurrected form, at rest, next to the Lord Jesus - a closeness to God, a newfound state of rest upon a long-awaited prayer being answered.

“Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” (John 12:3)

A change in Mary's disposition- this was one of sincere gratitude and humility towards God for what He has done. (I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; see Job 42:5 NASB)

Mary was willing to anoint the feet of Jesus, incurring such great cost to herself on account of the gratitude she now had for finally seeing the 'face of God'.

Jenny Pillay:


also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

The testimony of Lazarus being raised from the dead increased the faith of many of the Jews into believing in Jesus because they had seen the miracle Jesus performed. Likewise, today many people want to see what our God can and has done in our lives- they want proof that our God has made a difference in our life, and we can only do this by reflecting Christ to them through our behaviour and character.

This must be our testimony to the greatness of our God; we cannot preach the bible to people but evidence of what the bible speaks about must be seen in our lives.

This must be our testimony for people to believe our Great God just like Lazarus' s resurrection increased the faith of many of the Jews into believing in Jesus.

See image: (John 12:10-11 NIV)

Derrell Petersen:

"Then Mary took about a pint[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." (John 12:3)

It was Jewish custom for a woman not to reveal her hair, this was reserved for her husband alone. Mary revealing her hair and wiping Jesus' feet shows her openness

(in the presence of many) and complete surrender of her person to His Lordship in humility. Like Mary, in our, at times extremely difficult submission; be vessels that fragrantly perfume and adjust the atmosphere for His presence and glory to be seen and experienced.

Anne Paul:

Our giving at the feet of Jesus (to Apostles) not only pleases the Father but gives momentum to the house. There is a fragrance which lacks in the house when we do no personal give of our best.

Individual sowing results in a corporate anointing and thieves do not comprehend it.

The chief priests would go to the extent of murder (killing Lazarus) to prevent Jews believing in and following Jesus.

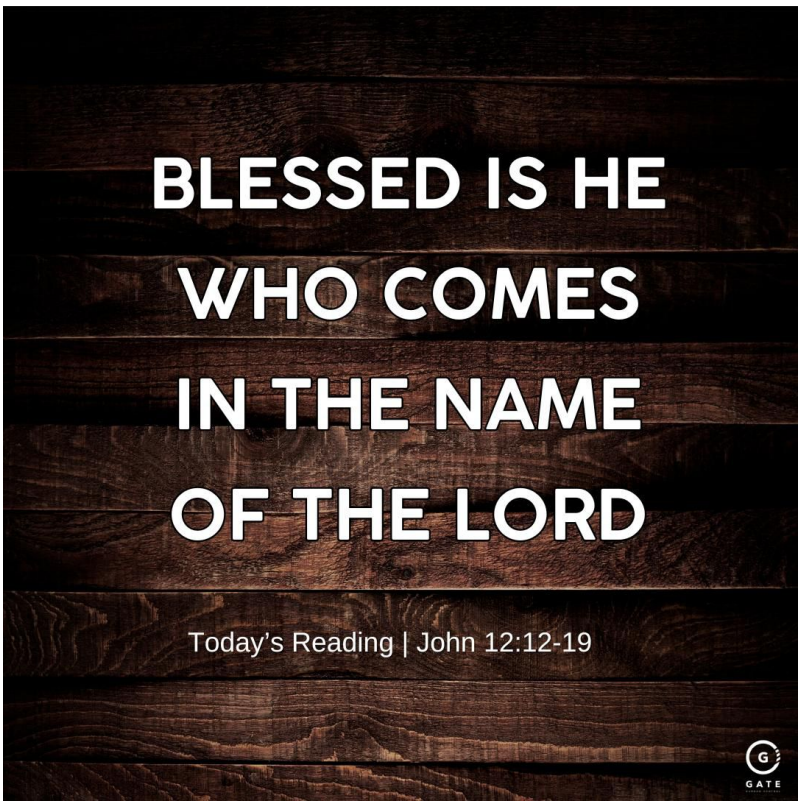
May we not abort purpose and not see the Person of the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Andre van Schalkwyk:

“Mary brought in a pint of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus’ feet, and then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.” (John 12:3 ICB)

Mary’s act of worship was pure, costly, and selfless. She offered Jesus her best, recognizing His worth and prioritizing Him over material possessions.

John 12:12-19 | Jesus Enters Jerusalem



Carolyn Moonsamy:

"The crowd gathered bearing witness/testifying of the works of Christ bringing others to the glory of His Light." (John 12:17)

Matthew 5:16 reminds us, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

The crowd did not gather to draw attention to themselves but rather to point others to Jesus. We read in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." We do this by demonstrating love, peace, and righteousness to others.

Quinton Adams:

"Do not be afraid, *Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." (John 12:15 NIV)

The colt was the method of transportation. The **principle of SON** is highlighted here.

The donkey is a type and shadow pointing to the **FATHER principle**.

Jesus comes riding into Jerusalem saying to those onlookers that the core reason for His arrival is to break open the **FATHER SON WINESKIN** for everyone to live by.

Zion, (us/church) do not be afraid to preach, live and express this message for in doing so, you are aligned with Heavens ultimate decree and announcement.

Carla Joshua:

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” (John 12:21b)

This is leading up to a pivotal time in the life of Jesus, a turning point, the end of Jesus’s public ministry. A wonderful thing for anyone to say is “We wish to see Jesus” sure this was before Jesus was glorified but often the curiosity of someone about Jesus turns into a deep revelation of Who He is and how He moves.

The romans were about to shame Jesus by hanging Him on the cross but this Calvary experience for those who **SEE** Jesus it was the glorification of Jesus. Losing your life is gaining your life but loving your life is losing your life.

Jesus says I am going to die and that is how God is going to work His greatest glory in Me (Jesus the Son of Man). Death is necessary for resurrection and life. If a seed doesn’t die, there’s little to no chance of it bearing fruit.

We reflect His Light when we live in obedient to His word.

Fiona Beru:

“… took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ The King of Israel!” (John 12:13)

Our perspective of the one that comes to us in the name of the Lord is important. “Our perception will determine our reception.” Pastor Thamo Naidoo.

Matthew 10:41 says: “He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”

Our eyes will be enlightened, our ears attuned and our hearts receptive when our attitude is one of receiving the one God has sent to speak to us.

Emmarentia van Schalkwyk:

In this passage, the people of Jerusalem prepared themselves to meet Jesus with songs of praise and exaltation because they heard about the resurrection of Lazarus.

> [13] They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” [14] Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: [15] “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”
> John 12:13-15 NIV

This miracle was unquestionable and could not be contested by any of the leaders. The people were filled with awe and adoration and convinced of Jesus's deity and called Him the King of Israel. They could not contain themselves. They were overjoyed because their long-awaited Messiah had come.

May our cups also run over with joy as our eyes of understanding are being opened to the Lordship of Jesus Christ as we read His Word. Let us meet Him with songs of praise and adoration, with gratefulness and hearts overflowing with joy. As we drink from His Word, which becomes within us living water overflowing, that becomes a fountain that others can drink from.

Corayne Walters:

"FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A **DONKEY'S COLT**." John 12:15 (NASB)

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, **Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”** Zechariah 9:9 (NASB)

Hundreds of years before JESUS walked the Earth, GOD gave us a picture of the FATHER and SON dynamic by using HIS animals.

In John 12:15 it says: “JESUS was ushered in on a donkey's colt.”

(GOD'S Word becoming flesh!)

A picture of the FATHER and SON dynamic that we now understand and embrace.

Anne Paul:

Few things which bring settlement to our hearts and spirits:

The prophecy (centuries before) spoke of a King endowed with salvation. HE brings with HIM everything that we require in this deficient life.

The people were looking for a political leader, one who would break them free. Instead, HE came to break them free from the chains which shackled their mentality. That's why He came as a lowly servant, indicating that Kingship is inherent (in here), within us.

May we be set free from the past, the present and the fears of the future by understanding that our King, our Saviour, has come to us, not as a babe in the manger but one of Royal descent.

We walk as sons of God, bringing justice because He is just. HE is the standard by which we live and move.

John 12:20-26 | Greeks Seek Jesus



Rene Barnwell:

“If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, **THE FATHER WILL HONOR HIM.”** (John 12:26)

To be honoured by the Father is the greatest honour anyone can receive!

This is a reminder that our faithfulness, devotion, heart of servitude and passionate pursuit of Christ does not go unnoticed by God...and His regard is all that matters.

Keep on serving, keep on following, keep on obeying and the Lord will honour you.

Julienne Bartleson:

“Now there were some Greeks (Gentiles) among those who were going up to worship at the feast; saying, “**Sir, we wish to see Jesus**.” (John 12:20-21 AMP)

The Greeks who were a group of intellectual, philosophical people. This is a poignant moment as they "**want to see Jesus'**.

They come to Phillip, and he then goes to Andrew, and together, **they bring** them to **Jesus.**

May we be the **BRIDGE** builders and **CONNECT**ors who bring others to a place of **SEEING** (sight) Jesus.

“For that is what the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘**I have placed You as a light** for the Gentiles, so that You may bring [the message of eternal] salvation to the end of the earth.’” (Acts 13:47 AMP)

Randolph Barnwell:

“We have seen you, but really, we wish to see Jesus.”. This is my paraphrased request of certain Greeks to Phillip (John 12:21).

Our lives must be so Christ-like, that when people investigate us, it must incite within them a greater desire to have a personal and subjective encounter with the living Christ.

Before the world sees Christ, may they see Him in and through us. Our lives should be an invitation to the world**, “Come and see Jesus.”**

Wesley Joseph:

“They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” (John 12:21 NIV)

The Greeks wanted to see Jesus.

See in the Greek is - horaō; meaning - to stare at, behold, perceive, become acquainted with through experience, to discern clearly.

Jesus replied using the analogy of the seed among other things. Meaning He will be seen and revealed to those who recognize His death and resurrection and willingly commit their lives to follow this example. Those who hate the world, in them and desire His life, eternal life to be formed in them. Those who commit to serve this process the Father will honour too.

We will become more acquainted with Him through our experience of Him.

The experience is glorious, but it will cost us too.

'The kingdom is free but not cheep' (Apostle Thamo Naidoo)

Yvette Govender:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.” (John 12:24)

Jesus is the grain of wheat, alone, surrounded by people and not understood by many. By his death being the ultimate sacrifice much grain would be produced. As a living sacrifice, we must die to self for the benefit of all. **Become a Fruitful Bounty.**

Carolyn Moonsamy:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

Seeds must be buried deep into the soil before they can begin to sprout. The metaphor can be applied to our own lives as we endure hardship/suffering to grow and be fruitful in the spiritual realm.

James 1:2-4 says: “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

Let us all trust in God's refining and processing of us. His grace is sufficient, and His power enables us to be fruitful.

Carla Joshua:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

Human beings are born with an instinct for self-preservation however here it suggests something different. We were born to be seeds. The seed gives up its singular life which essentially means death but in this a fruitfulness is attained.

Protecting your life for yourself will cause you to lose your life but giving it up your life is really keeping your life; this has eternal ramifications. The message in today’s world is do whatever makes you happy to be satisfied but Gods way says do not do what makes you happy which reminds me of the song by Frank Sinatra- “I did it my way.”

This could not be more of a mistake as a son and far from the way of the Lord. The way to do it is Gods way. It goes against the grain of the flesh but that’s why it’s so powerful because an eternal virtue is soaked in surrender much like Jesus demonstrates throughout John.

James 4:7 says: “Submit yourself therefore to God.”

A blueprint for success in anything is in surrender to the will of God the Father through Jesus.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

It's not your life and you cannot do whatever you want with it, His given it to you for stewardship, you are a willing bond servant.
The flesh constantly dictates waiting for a response from the flesh …. I'm hungry, I'm tired, I'm sad, I'm disappointed, I'm jealous, I'm angry, I'm tired, I'm successful, I'm in control but whenever we faced with any of these, we have a course charted out in the word of God that can navigate our lives accurately if we are wholly submitted to Gods way.

Britnee Adams:
"And Jesus answered them, saying, "**The hour has come** for the Son of Man to be glorified." (John 12:23 NASB1995)

- -My heart is pounding reading this. I imagine Jesus sitting there knowing it's time to prepare for His death. Imagine Andrew and Phillip when Jesus answers them with this!
- -How many times **do we KNOW it's time to obey**, it's time to listen, it's time to simply die (to self)? And how many times do we fight it with human logic and argument or just plain down disobedience?

Throughout John, Jesus repeatedly says, "**my time has not come**/the hour has not come" and now we see the change.
He knew the hour was upon Him, so he **immediately starts to make a shift** in his disposition as he prepares.
When God speaks, we must shift. Without delay.
Oh, my Jesus, what a wonder you are!

Moira Saker:
"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. **My Father will honour the one** who serves me." (John 12:26)
The Father will honour anyone who serves him - this is the highest level of honour that we can receive.
Our passion and greatest desire must be to serve God. In this passage Jesus explains the true meaning of serving God. To be His servant, to die to self, to let go of your own plans, not my will but your will be done, to follow Christ and to walk with him.
To live, move and have our being in Him.

When we truly serve Him, he will be glorified through us, producing many sons and granting us eternal life.

Quinton Adams:

“Jesus replied, “**The hour has come** for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, **unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.** But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

Jesus spoke to them symbolically but referred to **His own Life as the SEED**.

He was to be buried to produce and bear fruit of **HIS OWN KIND**....called **SONS.**

We, in return, must **continue the cycle** of dying to self, denying ourselves, decrease and Him increase, to produce more **JESUS SEEDS in the earth**.

His burial was to initiate multiplication of **SONS** who will serve, honour, worship and give direction to the **FATHER'S THRONE.**

Selwyn Young:

Bringing forth much fruit

“Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

“Unless the Son comes into full obedience by His death, He himself cannot bring forth other Sons. He himself cannot be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom 8:29)

Jesus' death was an act of obedience to the Father. Which was intended to bring others into the family of God.

The seed cannot germinate until the conditions are just right. Jesus knew that the conditions for His obedience were just right, hence His words "my hour has come. “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." (John 12:23 NIV)

Additionally, we Sons must live a life that is dead to self and sin, but alive in Christ. Our seed of self must die, and we must be made alive in Christ.

We will only be able to bear much fruit until we found in the hidden in the Son.

Cloaked with Him.

"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3 NIV)

In our process of germination, we must be found in the ground(soil) of Christ, deep within Him, dead to self, in order for us to produce fruit of righteousness. Fruit that will draw more Sons to the Father.

Fathering principle:

As we mirror the Son, we become like Him. We practice obedience to the Father, die to self and are able to draw other Sons to the Father and even father other sons.

Jerusha Sydney:

“If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.” (John 12:26 NASB)

In John 12, there are several key themes and actions that demonstrate how we can serve Jesus:

- Mary of Bethany shows extravagant devotion to Jesus by anointing His feet with expensive perfume and wiping them with her hair (see John 12:3). This act demonstrates deep love, humility, and sacrifice.

Serving Jesus involves offering Him our best, not out of obligation but out of love. We serve Him by giving sacrificially, whether it’s time, resources, or our hearts, in recognition of His greatness.

- The chief priests plot to kill Lazarus because of the miracle Jesus performed in raising him from the dead. This highlights the tension between following Jesus and the world’s rejection of Him.

Serving Jesus requires loyalty, even when it brings opposition or difficulty.

It means standing firm in faith and not being afraid to identify with Him, even when the world resists or criticizes.

- Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy, and the crowds greet Him with "Hosanna!" However, they misunderstand His mission, expecting a political saviour instead of a spiritual one.

We serve Jesus by understanding His true mission and following Him for who He is, not merely for what we hope to receive from Him. True service is rooted in worship of the King who comes humbly, not a king who is seeking worldly power or glory.

- The Grain of Wheat: Jesus teaches that His death is necessary for the fulfilment of God’s plan. He calls those who wish to follow Him to die to themselves and serve by losing their lives for His sake.

Serving Jesus requires self-sacrifice. We must be willing to let go of our own agendas, desires, and comforts, and live for His purposes. Just as a grain of wheat must fall into the earth and dies to bear fruit, we must "die" to self to bear lasting fruit for God's kingdom.

Mark Pillay:
The Christmas Story is all about the God's eternal gift to mankind.
"The Father" loving the world and sending his only Son, to redeem all humanity from sin and restoring mankind back to vacated Sonship.
The Passover was a celebrated feast for Jewish people only we read...

"Now some Greeks among those who had gone up to worship at the feast. So these approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." (John 12:20-21)

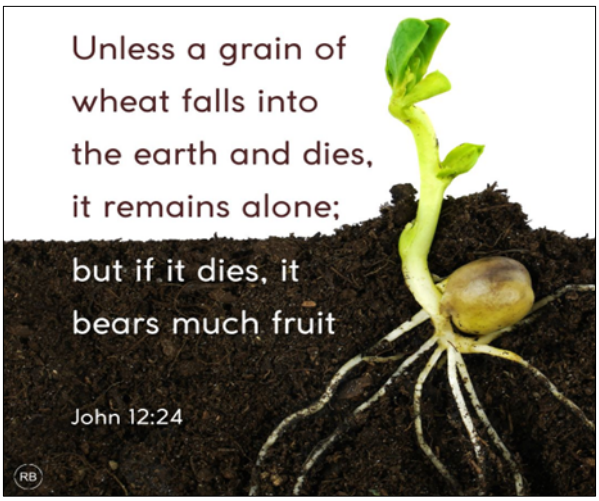
"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. Have other sheep that do not come from this sheepfold. I must bring them too, and they will listen to my voice, so that there will be one flock and one shepherd. * This is why the Father loves me – because I lay down my life, so that I may take it back again." (John 10:14-17)

At the first Passover celebrated in Egyptian slavery a spotless lamb died, and its blood spared the lives of the Hebrew nation.
Jesus responds to the Greeks request by speaking about his hour as come referring to his death as compared to a grain of wheat falling to the ground and bringing a mighty harvest "of Sons back to the Father."
Behold The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

I am the Bread of Life!

What gift can we give to our King?

Randolph Barnwell:



I have heard many over the years misquote John 12:24, the verse where Jesus spoke about a seed (His Life) falling into the ground and bearing much fruit, so that it does not abide alone.

Some say, “unless a seed falls TO the earth”, but the text says, “unless a seed falls INTO the earth”. The Greek word ‘eis’, translated “into’, denotes ‘motion into a thing’. There is movement into something with the idea of assimilation into the thing into which movement occurs.

A seed falling TO the ground is useless. The latent potential of harvest contained within the seed will be lost as the seed will die, not yielding its encoded level of productivity. A seed falling INTO earth implies it is buried - it disappears from sight. This implies compete death to self; to self-interest in favour of God’s purpose; death to self-centredness; death to self-promotion, etc. It represents humility - no desire to be seen externally, because you are buried within the heart In both instances above, the seed dies, but only the one that fell INTO the ground yields fruit. Many Christians today claim ‘death to self’ but few are yielding the associated fruitful harvest. Perhaps we need to check where and how we have ‘fallen’, i.e. have we fallen TO the ground, or INTO the ground. Is our claimed humility something we parade to be seen (ON the ground), or is not a genuine submission of obedience to God’s principles (INTO the ground)?

As we terminate 2024 and set our gaze toward 2025, may we symbolically “follow Jesus to His death”. Further, in the verses following Jesus said that we must do so, for this is how we serve Him. He then adds a great blessing: “If anyone serves Me (in this manner), my Father will honour him” (John 12:26).

Audrey Adams:

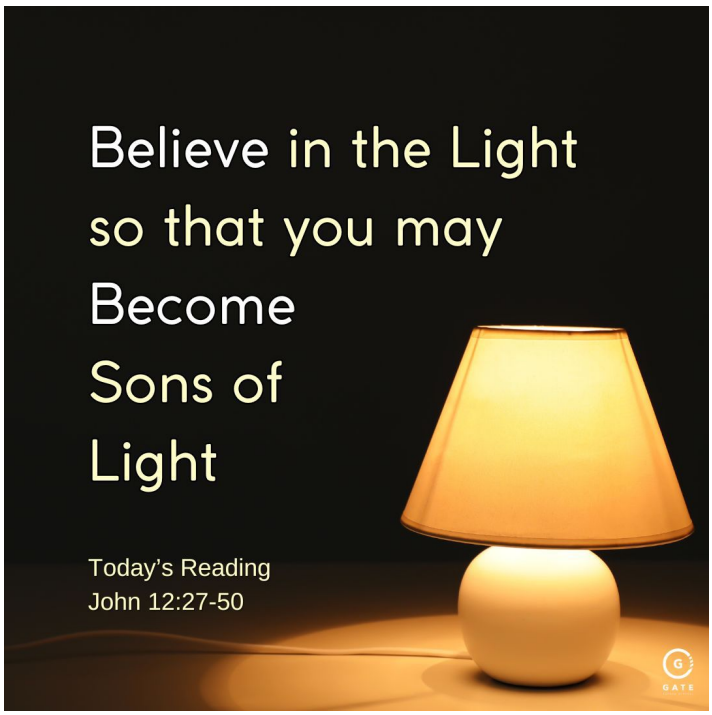
“Follow me, and serve me and Father will honour him.” (See John 12:26)

- Prioritize God's will above our desires;
- Having a deep love for the things of God results in the Father himself honouring us;

- Divine acknowledgement

He- God himself is our shield and very great reward (see Genesis 15:1)

John 12:27-50 | Jesus Foretells His Death



Randolph Barnwell:

You **BECOME** what you **BELIEVE**. You are a "SON OF" whatever your belief system is. Jesus said, "BELIEVE in the LIGHT, SO THAT you may BECOME SONS OF LIGHT.

Doctrine dictates decision; belief shapes behaviour; faith precedes and determines works. "Becoming" anything is a natural consequence of "believing" in it. A man 'is' what he 'thinks.'

We are not "sons of darkness" but "sons of light". Biblically, GOD and His WORD is LIGHT. We believe in the Light. We believe in God and His Word. Hence, we shine as SONS OF LIGHT!

It is said, "You are what you eat." This is true spiritually too. Your spiritual diet shapes your character. Remain true to the light of apostolic doctrine - become spiritually mature!

"BECOMING" is a result of "BELIEVING".

Rene Barnwell:

“Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.” (John 12:42-43 ESV)

We read in the previous verse 26 that whoever serves and follows Christ, the Father will honour (hold in high esteem, respect, glorify).

In verse 42 above, the people did not confess their belief in Jesus for FEAR of the Pharisees and expulsion from the synagogue. They preferred the approval and acceptance of man, which is temporary, more than the approval/glory/favour of Father, which is eternal.

When we drop our standards to please people just so we could be accepted and approved by them, we become hypocritical.

May we be unashamed to stand for what we believe in, despite negative responses from the crowd, and we will experience the approval, favour and ‘glory which comes from God’.

Fiona Beru:

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” (John 12:27-28)

Even though Jesus was troubled and felt the weight of what he was going to go through, yet He knew His purpose. His mindset was not on what He was going to endure but on glorifying the Father.

Our actions speak louder than our words, the Father can only be glorified through our lifestyle. Even though we go through difficult time, our focus should not be of self-preservation but how in these circumstances our Father can be glorified. It is a position of one who is mature and who know and trusts in God.

Shaun Beru:

Maximize your sonship in Christ.

“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. Who Has Believed Our Report?” (John 12:36)

The Greek word "pisteuō" is translated as "believe" in this verse, and it means to have faith or trust in Jesus as the Messiah. This is an open invitation to live in accordance with Jesus' teachings and principles.

Jesus emphasizes the importance of using the opportunities we have while we have them. We are encouraged to tap into the current graces Christ has afforded to us in this season.

Emmarentia van Schalkwyk:

“Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” (John 12:35-36, 46, 49-50 NIV)

Jesus is the Light of the world. Urging us to walk in the light, before darkness overtakes us. While we are alive, there is hoped to choose to walk in the Light which leads to eternal life.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. When we believe in Jesus, we become children of the Light and have a sure inheritance and know where we are going. Those who walk in the dark do not know where they are going.” (1 Peter 1:3-4 NIV)

Fiona Beru:

“Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.”” (John 12:35-36)

Jesus is talking about Himself being physically here on earth, but it is a warning to us even now. Our choices in life are very important. Jesus encourages us to walk in the light, in the revelation and knowledge of what He represents and to become sons of light. If we don’t walk in light, then darkness will overtake us. The choice is ours.

Anne Paul:

“Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” (John 12:36).

This Light is not for our own glory. Like we receive the Word, and become the Word, taking it into any environment we step in, so too we become the children of light.

Be bold and step into this world, confident and in the authority that we have an inherent light to lead people out of darkness (groping in ignorance) into the knowledge that He is the Light (revelation and knowledge of who God is).

Annie Reddy:

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.” (John 12:27)

In this life we live on earth, many times our soul will become troubled, we may also question God because we feel that what we are carrying is too heavy.

But just has Jesus, in the scripture above, quickly realigned Himself, we need to do the same.

Remember the purpose that we were created for and trust God that His will is perfect for us and the lives of those that we need to impact.

Nolan Bartleson:

“Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.” (John 12:44-45,49-50 NIV)

I love the relationship between God, the Father, and God, the son. Right through the readings, we see the deep love, complete honour, and diligent respect between the two been expressed.

Jesus always referred to and referenced his Father when confronted by the religious leaders of the day who were plotting to kill him and the one thing that incited them the most was Jesus declaring to them that he was the son of God. They called it blasphemy. The eventual reason for the crucifying him, he was the light that was going to be put out. He was trying to tell them he would soon be gone, viz. the world would be in darkness because they were about to kill him.

He came to his own who did not receive him as the son of God but to us who received him now have the right to be called sons of God. God is my FATHER I am his SON. (John 1:12)

They failed to see divinity in humanity and therefore crucified the son of God. The light of the world was put out and left to grope in darkness because they could not perceive that he was the Christ.

I love the words of Jesus.

Whoever believes in me does not believe in me ONLY, but in the one who sent me. Jesus always acknowledges the Father.

I do not speak on my own accord, but the Father who sent me.

So, whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.

Love the Father, son relationship.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

"While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them." (John 12:36)

As Jesus nears the hour of fulfilling His ultimate purpose, He draws the crowds to focus on their belief of Him by referring to Himself as the Light with urgency and then hid Himself from them.

We know from John 8:12 that HE IS THE EMBODIMENT OF LIGHT. In Him, truth is revealed, and darkness is dispelled.

Make a conscious decision today to be a Son of Light. He is inviting us in this moment of grace to walk in His Light. Don't miss it. The time for Christ to be revealed in you is now. Don't wait for the moment to pass. Purpose will be fulfilled either way, but we have a personal invitation to believe now.

Yvette Govender:

“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” (John 12:36)

LORD, I BELIEVE!

Carla Joshua:

““Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose, I came to this hour.” (John 12:27)

The death of Jesus is described as a covering and a veil in Isaiah 25 that is stretched over all nations, this death removed the reproach of His people. Death is the wages of sin as Paul told us.

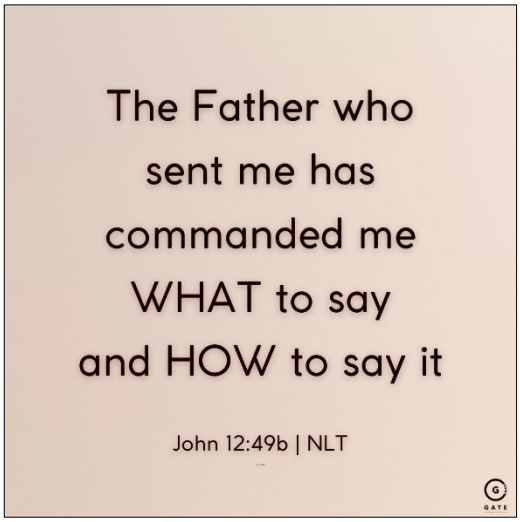
We couldn’t celebrate the manger if we didn’t have the sweet and powerful covering of death spoken of in this chapter. This death is not just a physical one, but this death eliminates the sinful nature that mankind was born with.

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse by becoming the curse. Jesus's souls were troubled because He knew the weight of this cup, but He didn't say save me from this hour, or let's do it another way so that I don't have to endure this. We naturally want to get out of trouble when we see it, but Jesus said no "for this purpose I have come" The embedded purpose of God through this death is the glory that the world needed to be saved. What a demonstration of love to the world.

"If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world." (John 12:47)

The Jesus nature is always love, this statement I do not judge those who don't hear my saying, Jesus knew His purpose was to save through this ultimate demonstration of love. His saving the world was by dying. God the Father is the Judge, the Holy Spirit convicts and Jesus like us came to love and save the world by dying to our flesh. This is also our role to die daily soaked in love. Walk in the light, believe in the light and become sons of the light.

Randolph Barnwell:



HOW we say a thing must not detract from WHAT we say. The tone of your speech must not diminish the truth thereof.

Jesus knew what to say and how to say it - His Father taught him both dimensions of speaking.

At times people may reject the veracity of our speaking because it is drowned out by the ferocity of our attitudes. The motive that launches your speaking determines the manner of your communication - this must not mess up your message.

Before we focus on the content of our speech, may we first rid the content of our hearts from any negativity that might nullify or lessen the impact of what we say. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Carla Joshua:

John 12: Willingness

Jesus gives us a genuine example, of being surrendered yet willing and freely giving up His life. Just like the seed mentioned which then is multiplied from the single existence and falling into the ground.

The **'into'** is where the willingness takes effect because it's possible for the seed to fall to the ground and not be germinated.

The 'into' happens when we surrender and embrace the dying process, then only will the seed which is your life manifest into an eternal virtue.

Men are naturally possessive of their lives, Jesus never resisted throughout the text we see a willingness to be used as instrument for His Fathers purposes.

Jaren Francis:

"**Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say**, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? **But for this purpose I came to this hour**." (John 12:27)

Oftentimes, we find ourselves feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or worried by the challenges we face. This happens when our thoughts are misaligned to the principles of God's word and are conformed to the thinking of this world which shapes our reasoning and perspective. When these thoughts take control, our souls overpower our spirits, leading us away from peace and divine wisdom.

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

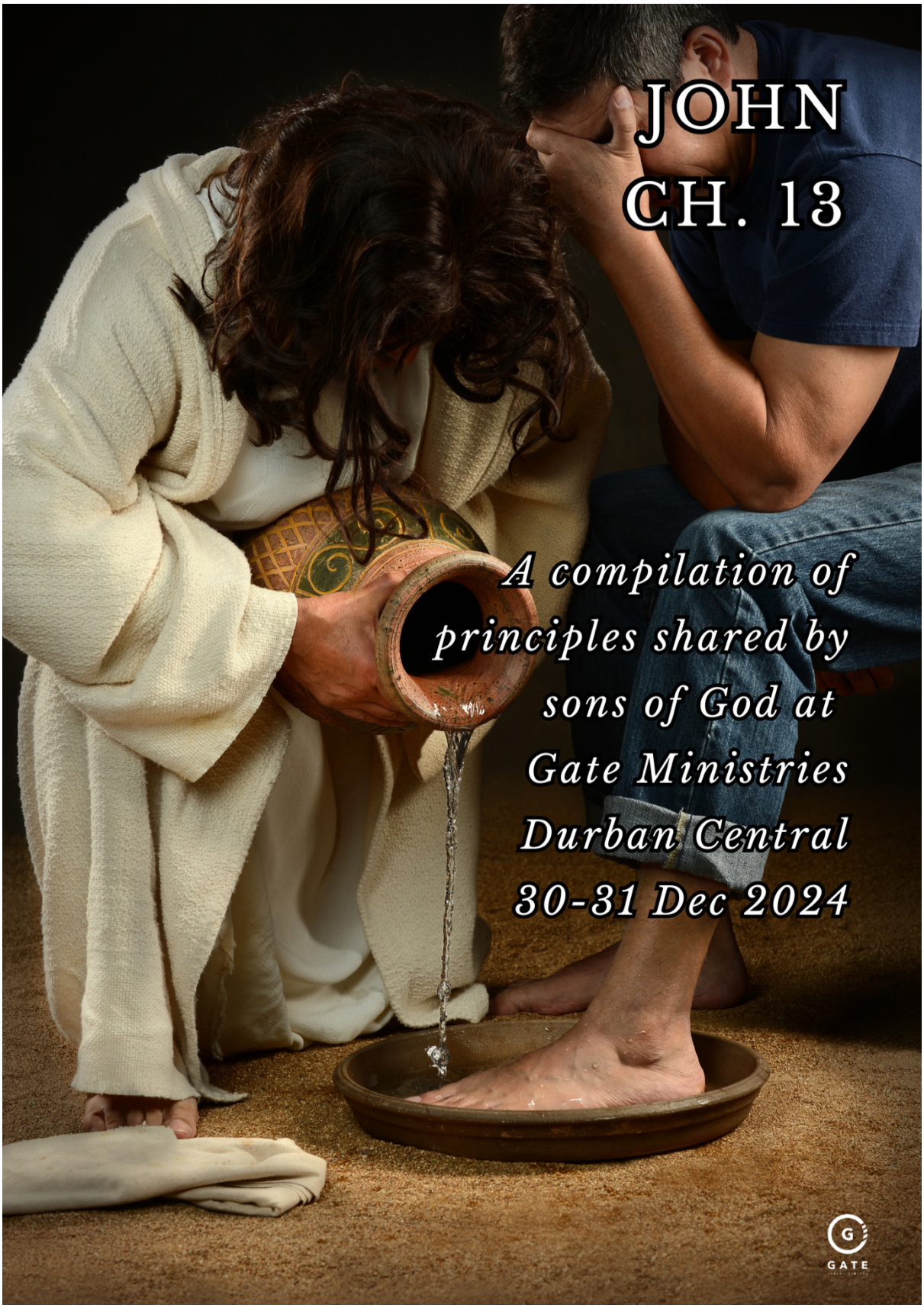
When we align our thoughts with God's purpose and remember the principles written in His Word, our spirit takes the lead over our soul. Instead of focusing on how a situation affects us, we should shift our perspective to how God can be glorified through it.

By praying and trusting that He is in control of all things, we receive His peace and grace—and in doing so, our lives become a reflection of His glory.

Fiona Beru:

John 12

- **Verse 27:** Even though Jesus' heart was troubled and naturally He thought he could not continue, yet He knew what His purpose was on the earth and He could fulfil the will of the Father above His own. We need to learn this, so that we too can fulfil the will of the Father in our lives, no matter how tough it might be.
- **Verse 32:** the lifting up of Christ (the exalting of Christ) in our day to day living, how we speak, how we do things, that showcase Christ and draws other people to Him.
- **Verse 35:** says that we must not let the darkness overtake us as we have the light. Illumination and understanding come from the Word and from when we hear the Word. We have the opportunity to grow and mature in Christ when we hear and read the Word, when things are explained to us more and more light (Illumination) comes to us and we start walking in the light
- **Verse 43 (NKJV):** "for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." We need to be careful for the reason we do things, is it for Praise of God or is it so that man can praise us even though it is inaccurate.
- **Verse 47:** Jesus did not come to judge the world but saved, however verse 48 tell us that His words that He has spoken will judge all of us. Our heart posture must not be one of arrogance, that we know everything and therefore judge others people's decisions or mistakes, but rather simply speak the truth (the Word) in love and let the Word do its work within others.


JOHN
CH. 13
A compilation of principles shared by sons of God at Gate Ministries Durban Central 30-31 Dec 2024
GATE

John 13:1-20 | Lord's Supper and Feet Washing



Rene Barnwell:

"Jesus, KNOWING that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and TAKING A TOWEL, TIED IT AROUND HIS WAIST." (John 13:3-4)

Jesus' identity as God's Son was firmly established. His Father affirmed Him publicly as His Beloved Son at His baptism. Jesus knew WHO He was, WHERE He CAME from (the Father) and WHERE He was GOING (the Father). Jesus was solid in his sonship identity.

Hence, it was absolutely no problem for Him to "lay aside his garments", something visible externally, and clothe Himself with garments (apron/towel) denoting servanthood and humility. Taking the same towel, He wiped His disciple's feet after washing them.

Jesus was not defined by this lowly-esteemed task. Thus, it was no problem to assume the lowest of roles and serve others. His identity was not rooted in his activity, but in His Father, and so anything His Father required Him to do, even the most menial of tasks, he could effortlessly do it.

May we do **ANYTHING** our Father calls us to do, even the most mundane and servile of tasks, because those things do not configure us, but only the knowledge of who we are in Christ as His sons.

Yvette Govender:

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God.” (John 13:3)

In life and in any situation, it is important to know and remember Truths imparted by the Father for a victorious forward momentum in Faith. Jesus knew this and so must we.

The Father had given all things into His hands (see John 3:35), therefore He was able to face the hour of His crucifixion not as a victim.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

After performing one of the greatest acts of humility and love to His disciples, Jesus says in John 13:17, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

Luke 11:22-25 says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

Listen and obey! To obey is to love!

- Here again, we cannot love God without loving His word.
- We love by obeying, and we obey to demonstrate love.
- There are great blessings attendant with our obedience.

Nolan Bartleson:

“Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.” (John 13:16,20 NIV)

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Fiona Beru:

“After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” (John 13:5)

Jesus knowingly washing the disciples’ feet, and when I say knowingly, I mean after the fact that:

- He knew Judas would betray Him
- He knew that Simon Peter would deny Him three times
- He knew that He would have to die for the sins of the world, yet He Himself was without sin.

Yet He humbled Himself, to set an example.

“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:15).

The position of washing another’s feet, is one of submission, one of humbling oneself to serve another.

Jesus treated them all equally from Judas right through to the one He loved John. This teaches us that we are to love and treat each person equally and have an attitude of serving others rather than being served.

Jerusha Sydney:

Jesus repeats **I AM** thrice in John 13:1-20.

"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am." (John 13:13 NASB)

Here, Jesus is affirming that He is indeed their Teacher and Lord. The phrase "I am" is a clear reference to His divinity, echoing God's self-revelation to Moses in Exodus 3:14, where God says, "I AM WHO I AM." This connection emphasizes that Jesus is not just a teacher or leader, but also the divine Son of God who holds ultimate authority.

"I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place, you may believe that I am" (John 13:19 NASB)

Here, the "I am" is used in a prophetic sense. Jesus is telling His disciples in advance about the events that are to unfold—specifically, His betrayal and death. The phrase "I am" emphasizes that His foreknowledge and prophecy are signs of His divine nature. Jesus is preparing His disciples to recognize His divine identity when these events occur, affirming that He is the "I AM" who is sovereign over all things, including future events.

Through these declarations, Jesus reveals His identity as the eternal "I AM" and invites us to recognize that this triune God desires to be displayed through our lives. May this truth empower us to face each day with confidence, knowing that the Great I AM equipping and guides us to fulfil His purposes and overcome our frailties, just as He helped Moses overcome his shortcomings to accomplish a monumental task.

Shaun Beru:

Develop a "foot-washing mindset!"

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)

As sons of God, we should focus on serving others, giving of or time and energy to help where we can.

As we serve others, we do it with humility. Jesus's act of washing the feet of his disciples is an example of humility and service for us to follow.

The encouragement is that we should pray for the grace to follow in Jesus's footsteps, and to see the needs of others as well as to respond with selfless love and humility.

Annie Reddy:

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God…Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” (John 13:3,5)

Jesus, knowing that Judas was going to betray Him, chose to wash his feet rather than act in a way of anger and judgment.

This humility shown by Jesus is the exact representation that the Father expects from us.

We need to forgive and act in love to those who persecute us. We are not here to judge the world but to save the world through our identity as sons.

Selwyn Young:



The Son makes you clean!

No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” (John 13:8).

The cleaning that makes us new, clean, redeemed only, and sanctified, comes from one source. If the Son does not clean us, we are not clean, neither do we have part of Him. Just as the word reminds us of “if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed” (see John 8:36 NIV)

Our sanctification can only come from one source and that is Jesus.

It cannot come from us being good people. Neither can it come from our righteous acts.

When the Son washes us, we are truly clean because of His righteous sacrifice.

When the Son washes us, we have part of Him. We can be found in Him.

When the Son washes us, we are share in His eternal inheritance with the Father.

May we not be resistant to the washing of the Son in our lives. He wants to remove the dirt and make us right, clean and sanctified for the Father.

Carla Joshua:

"… having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." (John 13:1b)

Jesus loved them to the limit. He loved them to the extreme. The love that will make you lay down your life- this love spoken of is one that led Him to die on the cross. There is no greater love than this!

"During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him," (John 13:2)

Judas wasn't made the villain character because Jesus needed all the parts filled; Jesus will work with the state of your heart. Judas's heart had an anomaly, and this made him vulnerable to the tactics of dishonesty and betrayal (as we recall he was very upset with Marys elaborate worship expression as she washed Jesus' feet).

"Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." (John 13:7)

Ironically Jesus said this when He gets to Peter because Peter asked possibly if Jesus meant to serve him, so what was Jesus trying to communicate with this demonstration of washing the disciples' feet.

A lesson in humility and grace, it takes humility to let someone serve you especially if you know you don't deserve it, it's not because you deserve it, it's because He loves you. A picture of cleansing - the world is a filthy world so we must be cleansed daily, God doesn't renege on His promise but walking in this world requires washing of the feet and a cleansing.

An example of servant hood - be ready and willing to render the humblest service (see Luke 22:25-27).

An example for the days ahead - if you know these things blessed are you who do them. Let this example go wherever you go and do this.

Quinton Adams:

“I am not referring to all of you**; I know those I have chosen**. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: ‘**He who shared my bread has turned against me**.” (John 13:18 NIV)

The worst thing I glean from this scripture is the **misrepresentation from a son**. Judas walked with Jesus, heard His teachings, saw the miracles, and were privy to see prophetic fulfilment play itself out in front of him. YET... **failed to value the BREAD** and the WINE sitting at the table.

Our biggest failure is not sin, but **the failure to accurately represent our GRACE** CARRIER according to **HIS WORD and HIS COUNCIL.**

We cannot journey with such profound grace as our template, and still drop the ball. It would be a travesty if after years and years of **HEARING**, we fail at **DOING.**

Selwyn Young:

“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.” (John 13:18 NIV)

Betrayal is one of the worst things a person can go through. But a betrayal by a close friend, confidant, a loved one... This is one of the greatest betrayals.

Jesus handled this betrayal with much grace and did not try to call Judas out even though He knew what is in his heart.

Jesus uses a reference from Psalm 41:9, because the betrayal came from a close friend, someone He loved someone He taught, walked with and trusted. Someone He

shared His bread with. The use of this scripture emphasises the depth of the betrayal Jesus was about the suffer.

May we have the grace that Jesus had, when faced with betrayal of any kind in our own lives.

Julienne Bartleson:

“And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to **betray** Him, Jesus, **knowing** that the **Father had handed all things over to Him**, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, *got up from supper…” (John 13:2-4 NASB2020)

There are three (3) things that captured me in reading this portion:

1. Judas is about to betray Jesus, and Jesus is fully aware of this.
2. Yet Jesus has this firm confidence of where He has come from (Father) ... and where He is going to.
3. So, he rises from the table to wash their feet.

The betrayal was a painful reality that Jesus had to deal with(lower), but His (higher) focus allowed Him to overcome and set Himself on the present purpose at hand which is washing the disciples’ feet.

M. Barnwell said: "forsake the lower by pursuing the higher"

May we, too, follow in like manner even in the painful and piercing moments of our lives. Let us keep our eyes on who HE is. We, too, come from Him, we are in Him, and He is in us. This is the strength we need to ARISE and pursue.

Mark Pillay:

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, got up from supper and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” (John 13:3-5)

Jesus had all things in His hand but his actions in this passage of scripture demonstrate His love for His disciples, showing that servanthood is motivated by love.

I remember seeing a poster which read as follows:

Quote: “Only attending church will help you mature in Christ but by being actively involved in church will further help you accomplish your purpose”

The Lord redefines leadership as servanthood, emphasizing that true leaders serve others.

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Carla Joshua:

John 13: Humility- The act of washing the disciples’ feet showcases humility in Jesus because Jesus understood Who and What He was but this demonstration brought it to life. He showed them something they must do, giving up the higher place, to render the humblest service. The one greater is the one who serves. Knowing these things is not enough but he who does them is blessed.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 13

- Love man but have no sentimental attachments- my purpose is to fulfil the eternal (spiritual) *this isn't an easy one but we need to have a mindset like Jesus (know where you come from and where you are going)
- Practice humility before God and man
- Remain pure and cleansed
- LOVE!

Dean Govender:

“… he got up from the meal, removed his outer clothes, took a towel and tied it around himself.” (John 13:4 NET)

“If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” (John 13:20 NET)

The Lord Jesus teaches a lesson here on humility and preparing the way for others.

He removed his outer clothes - significant of us removing our ‘stature.’
“If I do not wash you” - washing of the feet represents a cleansing and preparation for forward momentum and movement into purpose - we must reduce ourselves, sacrificially, to make way for and prepare others that they may enter into their purposes.
The word ‘share’ in the Greek - μείρομαι meiromai also means section or allotment.
Jesus stresses that part of our inheritance comes from serving others and preparing the way for others. We MUST do this.

Emmarentia van Schalkwyk:
“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:13-15 NIV)
Here, our Lord Jesus Christ washed the disciples' feet, demonstrating a new level of humbleness and also a deeper level of relationship. A closeness emphasizing the importance of serving one another in humility, devotion, and love. Breaking personal boundaries of what we would call 'my private space'.
At the same time Jesus broke their mindsets of what they know a Teacher to be. This was different. It was personal. Jesus set a practical example and gave an instruction that we should do the same for one another.
It is important for us to strive to reach this level of commitment to one another. That's why the scripture says clearly in Hebrews 4:15 " that we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin".
Paul also writes in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Follow me as I follow Christ." - It's different...it blows your mind.

Jerusha Sydney:
“During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him.” (John 13:2 (NASB)

- John 13:2 serves as a stark warning about how dangerous it can be to allow negative or disobedient thoughts to take root in our hearts. Judas's betrayal

didn't begin with his actions; it began with a thought that the enemy planted in his heart. This is a reminder that the battlefield often starts in our minds.

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ…” (2 Corinthians 10:5 NASB)

- 2 Corinthians 10:5 provides the antidote: we are called to actively take every thought captive, not just passively resist the enemy's influence. This active vigilance is crucial in keeping our hearts and minds aligned with Christ’s will. By taking our thoughts captive and submitting them to His obedience, we prevent them from leading us astray, just as we guard against betrayal, ensuring we remain faithful to Christ.

This practice of guarding our thoughts isn't just about avoiding harmful thoughts; it's about filling our minds with God's truth so that our thoughts naturally reflect His heart and will. It's a continual effort to think and live-in alignment with His Word, which ultimately strengthens our walk with Him.

John 13:21-38 | Jesus Predicts His Betrayal



Fiona Beru:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Pastor Thamo Naidoo said this, “If anyone finds something wrong with us, is that we must be known as a people that love too much!”

Our love for others portrays Christ love for us. As He loves us, we must love one another.

Anne Paul:

If there was anyone who didn't deserve his feet washed, it was Judas Iscariot.

Yet Jesus, stripping himself of his external garment, put on a servant towel and stooped to wash 24 feet.

The water (Word) prepared each disciple and gave them momentum to pursue the purpose they were called to.

Despite this sombre display of love and humility, Satan got the better of Judas.

May we walk with washed feet, always observant of the ones who bring good news as well as being the bearers of good news.

Randolph Barnwell:



The thought of betraying Jesus, which Judas **ENTER**tained, soon gave satan legal access to **ENTER** him.

John 13:2- "... the devil having now PUT INTO THE HEART of Judas ... to betray him"

John 13:27- "After the morsel, Satan then ENTERED into him.

Learn to QUICKLY arrest thoughts that are contrary to the nature and will of God, before satan drives you helplessly and slavishly to blatant sin. Guard your heart and your mind.

Judas' weakness of greed and covetousness caused him to betray Jesus. We each have our own unique vulnerable parts - areas of weakness that we are most prone to fall in. Our weaknesses, if left unchecked, can expose us to satanic attacks.

We must guard and strengthen our areas of weakness to block the enemy's attempts to cause us to fall. May God reveal your weak areas and enable you to fortify yourself.

- Judas' inability to overcome covetousness and greed opened the door to the sin of betrayal of Jesus.
- Peter's internal insecurity and undealt fear caused him to deny Jesus three times.

- Peter's residual fear caused him to act hypocritically in Galatia when he disassociated himself from Gentiles for fear of Jews.
- Cain's lack of high esteem and understanding of the value of his brother, Abel, led to the murder of his brother

Comparatively less significant sins, weaknesses, faults, and errors we do not overcome, however seemingly innocuous, will always make us susceptible to greater and more serious ones. Be serious about overcoming that abiding character deficiency or inclination to some sin, so that you close the door to being potentially destroyed by being swallowed by much more serious infractions.

Little foxes spoil the vine.

Jerusha Sydney:

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35 NASB).

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 succinctly defines love and guides us in demonstrating it to one another. Love is patient, kind, and humble. It is not jealous, boastful, or proud. Love does not dishonour others, is not self-seeking, and is not easily angered. It forgives, rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

God's love (agape love) is unconditional, sacrificial, and perfect.

John 3:16, states: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

This is the ultimate expression of love, where God’s love for humanity is demonstrated by the sacrificial giving of His Son for the salvation of others. Love is central to God's nature. As sons of God, we are called to love others as God has loved us all.

Annie Reddy:

Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot - every time Judas is mentioned in the bible, it was followed by "son of Simon Iscariot."

Judas was never established in his identity as the son of God.

May we always be referred to as the sons of God and not the sons of the world.

“There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.” (John 13:23)

John chose to recline on the bosom of Jesus suggesting his relationship of rest and intimacy in the Lord.

Peter, on the other hand, was more concerned with who was going to betray Jesus.

We need to learn to focus on what's important and that's resting in the Lord and building an intimate relationship with Him by consuming ourselves with the Word.

Don't be concerned with things that are out of our control.

In these last hours of 2024, let us make a commitment to establish our identity as sons.

Build an intimate relationship with the Lord and live a principled life that doesn't deny Him.

Wesley Joseph:

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13:35 NLT)

The word proves in the text above means: Come to know, to realize or understand. To demonstrate the truth or existence of something.

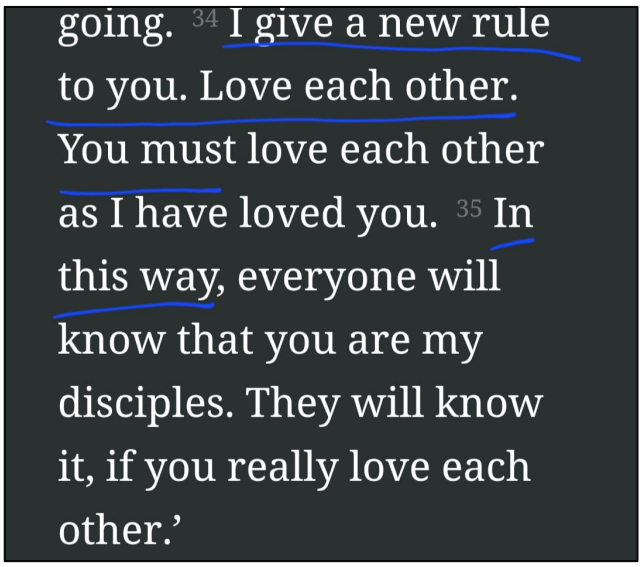
Our love and oneness we exhibit in family, God will use to show people and systems of the world that we belong to Him. The world is all about independence and self-reliance, whereas in family there is a strong desire to be connected to each other, for there is an understanding that we rely on and need each other, we know that God is revealed in greater way through the whole. So, we learn how to submit one to another.

Family is God’s design, its eternal in its construct and nature. That is why it must be built by God, and when fully formed it can carry the capacity and potential to put God on display in a greater way and bring fulfilment to His plans and purposes on the earth.

We individually play a unique role, but the family unit is greater, and our view should always be drawn to that reality. Our individual process is important but must be viewed and tied into the family's purpose.

May Gods love become perfected in us and towards each other so we can more powerfully demonstrate His way, truth and life to those in the world. So, they too may come to know Him and share in His wonderful grace and love.

Anne Paul:


going. 34 I give a new rule
to you. Love each other.
You must love each other
as I have loved you. 35 In
this way, everyone will
know that you are my
disciples. They will know
it, if you really love each
other.'

Many people followed Jesus for bread and fish, miracles of provision and healing, even the raising of Lazarus.

This new commandment in verse 34 is the discipleship test.

When the food runs out and miracles cease, will we still accurately represent Jesus and God the Father?

Let love remain.

Julienne Bartleson:

"**Little children**, I am still with you a little longer. I am giving you a new commandment that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also **love one another."** (John 13:33-34 NASB2020)

"So anyone who becomes as **humble as this little child** is the **greatest** in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 18:4 NLT).

Jesus addresses the disciples as **"little children"** this could be an expression of his affection towards them. It is also an indication of a position that they need to imbibe to follow through with the new commandment that He is giving them of loving one another. This is the posture of **humility**, as Matt 18:4 speaks too.

Love can never be truly expressed without a humbling of ourselves. This is never easy, it's a daily battle! Jesus did not say it's a new wish for us, but it's a commandment, which means no matter how hard it is, we must strive to walk in this (see Phill 2:3).

Carolyn Moonsamy:

“I marvel at Jesus' obedience in having foreknowledge of His journey to the cross but not panicking or protesting, rather He focuses on preparing others to remain and continue their purpose in obedience to the commandment of love.” (John 13:31-35)

Jesus the Son and God the Father are glorified in ONENESS

“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

May we be so fixed on purpose that nothing and nobody can derail us from fulfilling purpose or cause us to be untoward others. Let every action even when we may be anticipating turmoil point and lead others to the love of God.

Here purpose is fulfilled, and we carry the name Father as Son in the earth.

Audrey Adams:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

The mark of true discipleship is to love one another as He loved us.

To love without conditions, love honestly, candidly and accepting toward each other.

As Jesus demonstrated this selfless and sacrificial love by dying for us. He to calls us to this standard of love to love one another.

In verse 34 "As I have loved you”. Let this love be displayed in our lives as a distinguished mark of a son of God.

Moira Saker:

“As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.” (John 13:27 NIV)

How can it be possible that Satan could enter Judas when he was one of the disciples who was following Jesus, he was in the presence of Jesus, receiving the bread from Jesus which is symbolic of Jesus’s body- the word.

We see here that Judas’s weakness - his love for money, left an open door for Satan to enter him which led to his own destruction - he hanged himself.

We learn from this that as sons of God it is important to overcome our weaknesses to ensure that we leave no room for Satan to enter in as he is always looking for an opportunity to abort God’s plan for our lives.

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8 NIV)

Carla Joshua:

“When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.” (John 13:21)

Jesus was not exempt from the gravity and the weight of the load of going through and feeling everything that went on around Him. He was troubled and moved that Judas will betray Him, but I don’t think it was only to do with the impact on Him but also because no brother wants to see his brother fall.

Jesus is acquainted with our suffering; He knows the impact of our afflictions. Jesus knows when we are not cleansed as He said in verse 10 about Judas earlier. He says that Judas sin was not forgiven because Judas was not in a repentant state yet.

Matthew 26:24 says: “The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born- “surely this would grieve Jesus’s heart because He loves us.

“After the morsel, Satan then entered him. Therefore Jesus *said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” (John 13:27)

This is a terrible statement, and it makes us think that satan was in control but no satan is not in control, Judas gave him a door.

John gives us many indications that Judas's heart was not right. Judas knew that his heart was full of wicked intention, yet he took the morsel of bread, after the morsel satan entered him! After this take note how glory is mentioned 5 times, it's true that something else negative happened but Jesus focuses of what was to come that will bring glory to God.

Heb 12:2 says: "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,"

Jesus was focused on the joy that was set before Him by the cross. Not the difficulty of the cross and all the complications that arise on His way there but the joy.

Quinton Adams:

"Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? **I will lay down my life for** you. Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? **Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"**

Peter had the purest intentions. His heart was in the right place. His desire was right. His allegiance was sure.... BUT

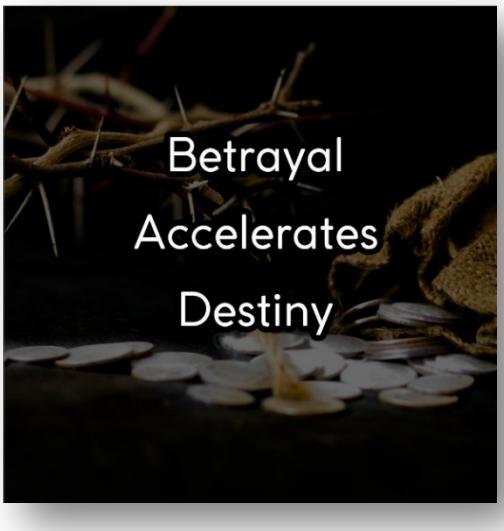
It's the practical outworking of those words, that just did not match. We must **align** our words our thoughts and our *deeds. **Deep displays of SONSHIP are more powerful when it's SEEN** and not just heard of.

Randolph Barnwell:

Judas, the betrayer of Jesus, was a non-negotiable, essentially vital and necessary part of Jesus' destiny. Judas catapulted Jesus with increased acceleration toward accomplishing the Father's will attendant with His life, viz. his death on the cross.

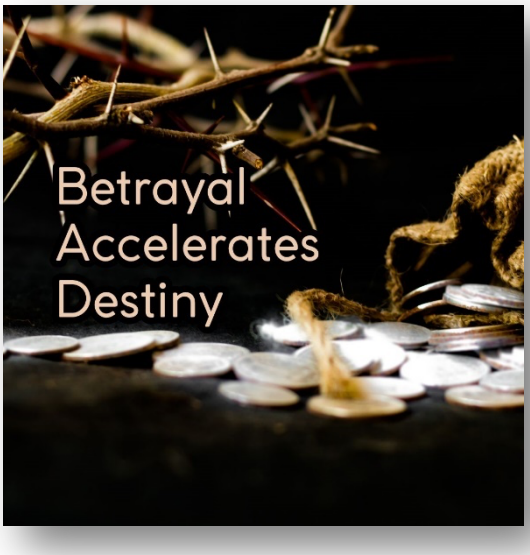
Understand the critical role that the betrayers whom God has permitted into your life, play. Forgive them; do not fight them; do not become bitter against them. In fact,

encourage them with these words like Jesus did Judas - "What you do, do quickly" – (John 13:27)



Your betrayer will fast track your personal destiny in God. What they intend for your destruction, God will turn it around for your construction. Usually, your betrayer thinks they are impeding the rate of fulfilment of your personal calling, but the truth is that they are providing free fuel to you to speed up the momentum at which the Divine will for your life comes to pass. What was meant for evil God will use it for your good.

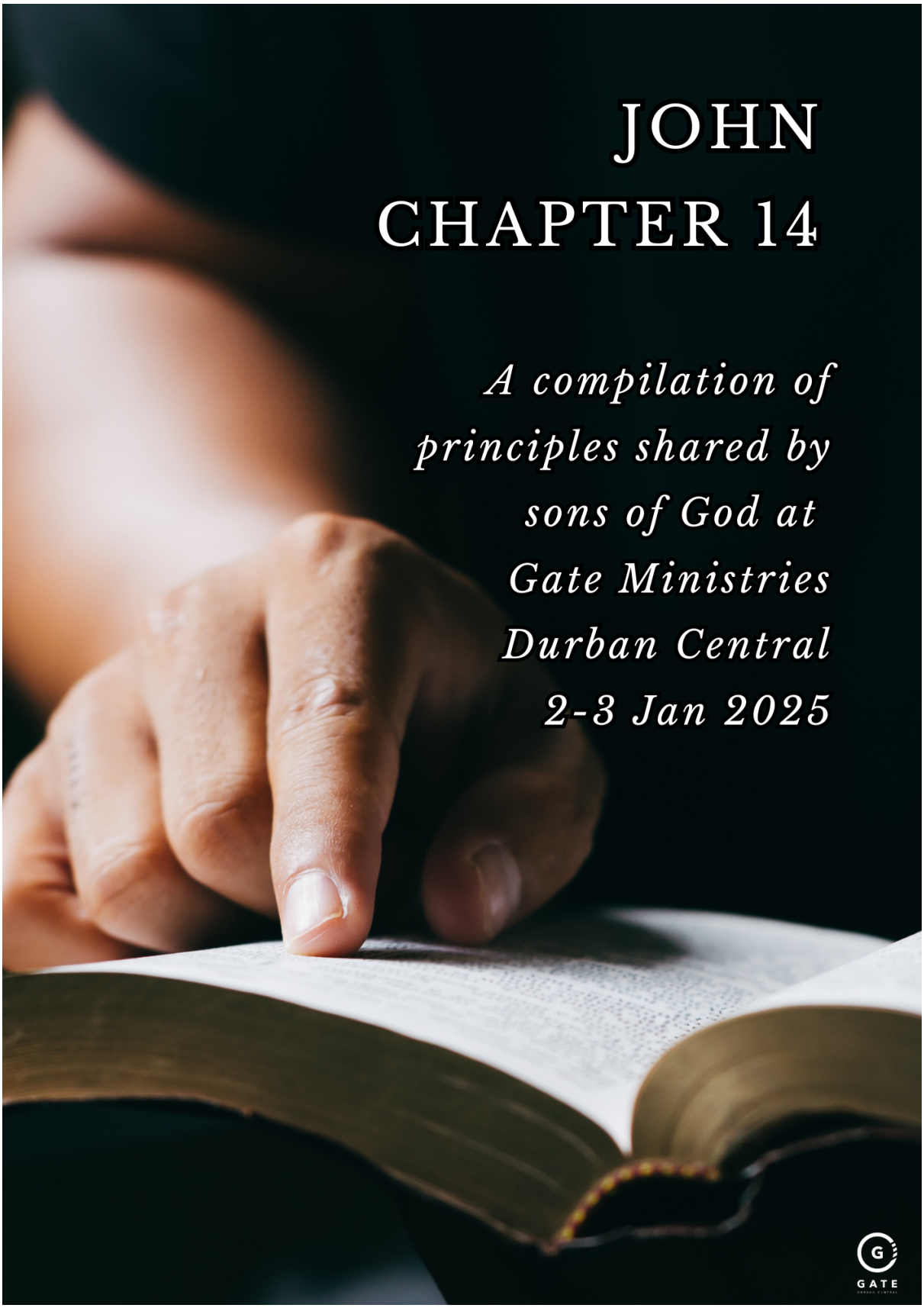
Forgive your betrayer. Do not be bitter, angry and unforgiving towards them. Love them sincerely. Bless them. Pray for them. Think good toward them. THEN ... see what God does! Betrayal is not a roadblock to destiny; it is the fast-track to destiny. “What was satanically designed for your deconstruction, God can rework it for your construction” (Thamo Naidoo).



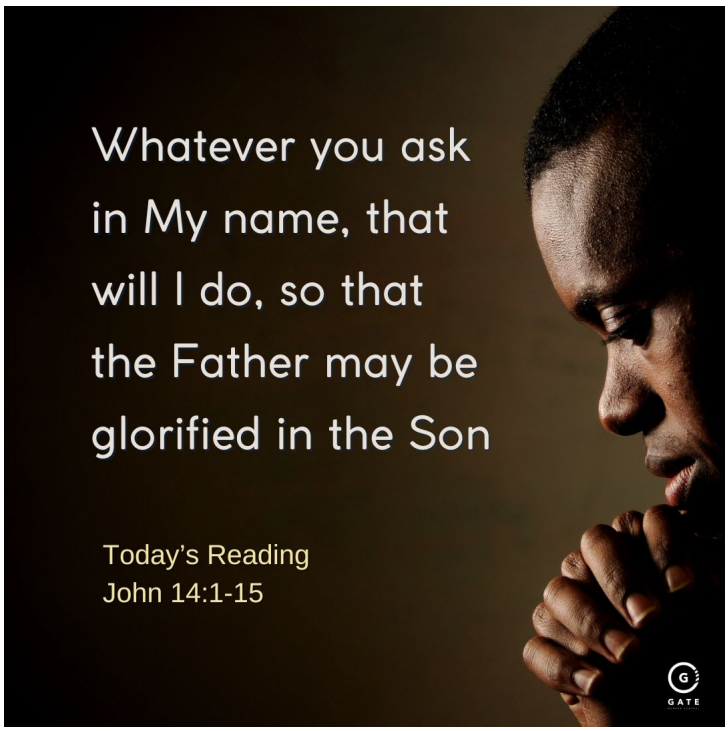
Your bitter-less and loving disposition towards your betrayer is key. Joseph’s betrayal by his brothers was designed for their salvation. God might be setting you up not just to fulfil your personal destiny, but also to be a source and avenue of deliverance to others, including those that have betrayed you.

Fiona Beru:
JOHN 13

- **Verse 1:** Jesus knew His hour or time had come, we need to learn to be sensitive and obedient to the timing and moving of the Spirit. **We must not get stuck in sentimentalism** or a comfort zone that we do not know or cannot moving in the things or will of God.
- He loved them until the end, **our response to all should be love**, even when we know that some people don't love us.
- Jesus washing his disciples' feet show us that we need to be humble enough to serve others and not think it beneath us. When we wash the feet of others, we are assisting and motivating others to walk in the things of God.
- **Verse 34:** says we have a new commandment to love one another as God loves us. We need to love one another more, that means more than just tolerating each other, but by humbling ourselves, we esteem others more highly than ourselves.
- That is what **verse 38** shows me; if we were in Peter's position, how would we have reacted?
- "We all have the opportunity to do good and glorify God, however the opposite of glory is shame, and has a negative effect of how Jesus is seen in our lives." Paraphrasing Pastor Thamo Naidoo.


JOHN
CHAPTER 14
A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God at
Gate Ministries
Durban Central
2-3 Jan 2025
GATE

John 14:1-15 | One with Father



Rene Barnwell:

"Whatever you ask **IN MY NAME**, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything **IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT**." (John 14:13-14)

What a wonderful guarantee/assurance/promise to sons of God! God WILL DO whatever we ask! But **what is the key** for God to do what we ask?

🗝Our requests must be IN HIS NAME...NAME meaning NATURE/CHARACTER.

If we ask anything that is in keeping with Christ's nature and character i.e. in keeping with His righteousness, integrity, love, purity, the will of Father etc., then He will answer.

May whatever we desire from the Lord be in keeping with His perfect will and nature, and we will experience the fulfilment of that which we ask for.

Yvette Govender:

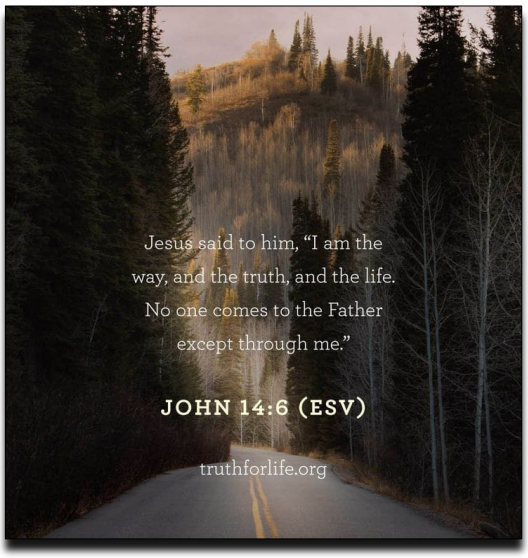
"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." (John 14:1)

Jesus speaks words of comfort and calm to the disciples who were troubled on Jesus leaving them.

As son's of the most High God the Lord commands us for Our heart not to be troubled when in times of trouble. Our trust confidence and belief are in The Lord.

A troubled heart would keep you trapped in that circumstance.

Annie Reddy:



"The way, the truth, and the life" are one of the 7 "I am" statements that Jesus made.

The word 'and' is used to show the significance and equal ranking of each of these words - the way, truth, and life.

The way is the route or road that we need to follow. The truth is His word, and the life is the nature of Jesus Christ that we need to internalize.

Julienne Bartleson:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you **believe in God**, **believe also** in Me." (John 14:1 NKJV)

Jesus speaks and emphasizes the word **"believe"** in this chapter:

- vs 10 'do you not **believe**…'
- vs 11 '**Believe** Me that I Am…'
- vs 11 '**Believe** because of…'
- vs 12 'he who **believes**…'

Trouble is the Greek word 'taresso' and it means to shake, to trouble, to disquiet, to unsettle, to perplex, to cause anxiety, or even to cause feelings of grief.

Jesus gives the antidote to trouble when He says, "believe."

Belief in who HE is and in what He has accomplished on the cross (where He was going to). **May trouble** that we face externally or internally be **swallowed up by our belief** in Him the way, truth, and life.

Anne Paul:

The betrayal of Jesus brought anxiety and dis-settlement to His disciples, but it is their belief in Jesus, being sent of the Father that roots and establishes them in their faith.

Judas betrayed, Thomas doubted, Peter denied, yet in all their frailties, they are established as the mansions Jesus speaks of in John 14:2.

All the disciples (except for Judas Iscariot) are responsible for the birth of the church, a many-roomed mansion, bring many sons to the Father. They imbibed Jesus as the Way, Truth and Life and were referred to the 'people of the way.

We too, called by God, schooled under the teaching of our Spiritual parents, must draw others to the Father's house and create many rooms. The rooms must contain the glory of God.

It's time to build the House of God for the Way, Truth and Life to be made flesh.

Start with the first brick!

Fiona Beru:

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

Our access to the Father is sonship. Jesus is the pattern example and representation.

Shaun Beru:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.” (John 14:1)

Jesus **affirms two emotions** we constantly face, viz., anxiety and doubt.

Trust in God is the antidote for anxiety, and faith in Him is the cure for doubt. When we have trust and faith, we are under the control of the voice of God. It is God's truth that directs us rather than the difficulty we are facing.

Don't allow the troubles of this world, and doubt to settle in your heart.

Britnee Adams:

"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:14-15 NASB1995)

REVERE THE NAME <—> REVERE THE WORD!

Carla Joshua:

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15)

The commandments are clear thorough this entire section- it is incredible and filled with so much for us to cling to.

There is much that we can be troubled about in this life but the thing that really impacts the state of trouble is a **lack of faith**, so bring it back to God and His word. In John 13:33 Jesus says: "where I am going you cannot come;" - it could be a troubling thought but think of it like an engagement period or courtship- a designated time where the couple cannot yet be together, but the promise is made and it's a matter of time. For some, without confidence in the promise or covenant this can be a worrying time.

Listening attentively and spiritually to Jesus's words gives you a peace. If I can paraphrase what Jesus says here in chapter 14 it is a continuation of the previous dialogue. Staying with the loaded incredible promise helps you hear this; you cannot come now but, in the meantime, love one another so all can experience your discipleship and don't be troubled (I have covenanted Myself (Jesus) to you). I go to prepare (have you ever been to a context that was prepared specifically for you, a fancy dinner with name cards a hotel room with chocolates and fresh linens and towels- it can be elaborate and so special - it's wonderful and can make you feel so important and loved but imagine that from God) a place for you, **I WILL come** again.

He will come again as we imbibe God nature through Jesus - in the scriptures time and time again there are examples of His coming again as He reverts to His Fathers way in all that He does.

He purchased us with a down payment of His life, and He will come again, how can you make such a substantial down payment or betrothal and not return for your goods - this is where hope takes its place and works towards a purified company who is fulfilled in righteousness because I am the way the truth and the **(THE LIFE-THE WAY-JESUS).**

Firstborn Sonship is a critical and valuable illumination for us to imbibe this and "whoever has seen Me has seen the Father" (Heb 1:3) "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature," (absolute-100%). So, if you ask me anything in my name, I will do it (asking in His name must be consistent with His purposes and principle indeed eye hasn't seen, and ear hasn't heard and human heart has not imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him. There's that word prepared again. For those who love Him, love His word, emulate His nature and character and walk in love.

Quinton Adams:

"Don't you believe **that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority**. Rather, **it is the Father,** living in me, who is doing his work." (John 14:10 NIV)

Our accurate speaking is **evidence of FATHER living in** us and speaking through us. There is a clear open channel of commination due to our **SONSHIP and our CONNECTEDNESS.**

My words and my utterances have its origin in the realm of **SPIRIT, because FATHER is SPIRIT.** Shallow, dull discussions and vacuous words, must be decerned and erased. **Our words must BUILD, EDIFY, CORRECT INSTRUCT** and carry the backing of our eternal **Heavenly Father.**

May our SPEAKING and our DOING reflect the abiding presence **FATHER GOD.**

Nolan Bartleson:

“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.” (John 14:10 NIV)

Jesus spoke and carried out the will of the Father. He always acknowledged the Father and gave honour to the Father for the miracles he performed. Jesus would say the disciples, “I and the Father are one. I can do nothing without my Father.”

Britnee Adams:

Reading the latter end of John 14:12 which reads: “**and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.**” reminds me of the infamous: “…but I laboured even more than all of them, **yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”** (1 Corinthians 15:10 NASB1995)

Our labour and the works of our hands **rides on the grace of God** within us.

But guess what? That grace was because there was **a Son| Saviour| Messiah who first did the ultimate work** and that work was on that cross for you and I.

Jesus in John 12:14 was readying himself to “**go to the Father**,” which in this instance wasn’t to go to heaven, but to die on the cross for our sins.

- Our greater works is a product (for lack of a better word) of **The Son of God who first did the GREATEST WORK.**

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME IT IS!

Selwyn Young:

A way to the Father.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 NIV)

Every journey needs a route, direction and a way to get there. Jesus has been with His disciples and was pointing them towards the Father all the time.

Now finally He states it plainly. If you want to be in the Father as He is in the Father, you must come through Him.

The Way:

The direction, the gateway, the access point to the Father. There is no other way besides through the Son.

- The true pattern of a Son.
- The way that a Son should live.

"The Son of God who came to live as a Son of man to show Son's of men how to live as Son's of God" (Pastor Randolph Barnwell).

The Truth:

As spoken through the prophets.

The true Son of God, who has come from the Father. The truth about salvation from God and salvation through God.

- The true Son of God, born to die.
- Prophesied about throughout the ages.
- The true long-awaited Messiah.

The Life:

The giver of eternal life through God the Father. The one who gives His life that others may have life. The one who was there from the beginning when life was created. “The one through whom all life has come.” (Col 1:15)

Yvette Govender:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.” (John 14:1)

A heart that is troubled is filled with fear and anxiety. Jesus commands us not to have a troubled heart in the midst of the unknown but to Believe in Him and you will have Peace.

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27)

Philippians 4:6-7 says: “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Lord I believe!

Cindy Pillay:



Loving God and keeping His commandments should be a **DESIRE** not a **CHORE.**

“The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him” (1 John 2:4-5).

Dean Govender:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms (John 14:1-2)

- **‘House’** speaks of many things but in this case, our Lord Jesus is speaking of the Father’s heart.
- **‘Rooms’** (NIV) or **‘dwelling places’** (NASB) speak of compartments or departments of great importance/significance. i.e. the upper room.

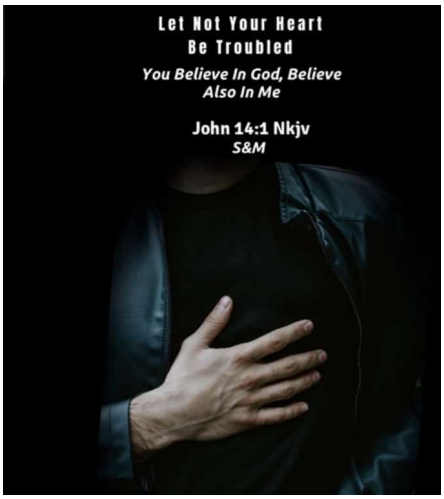
The Lord Jesus speaks to us directly here about how we all have a significant portion within our Father’s heart, alongside Him. He leads with “Do not let your hearts be troubled” as a gentle reminder because we cannot trust our own hearts and emotions especially during times of strife.

- He urges us to believe in Him and His words as these provide us a roadmap directly to the heart of the Father (John 14:4) but also,
- These words He speaks are directly from our Father (John 14:10p)

- Our thoughts may be fleeting but we can trust in the Father's word for he watches over it and is faithful to perform the things He says. (Jer. 1:12)

What does it mean to be within the heart of the Father entail? Living out our purpose here on earth but more so, knowing what that purpose is. Living in His perfect will **and being UNSHAKEN by life's troubles (**do not let your heart be troubled).

Raylene Eksteen:



As we enter 2025, let us not allow our hearts to be troubled by what we hear, see, or perceive.

Let our faith in knowing and believing in who our father is give us peace and strength. I heard a saying today "In the end it will all be ok and if it's not ok, it's not the end."

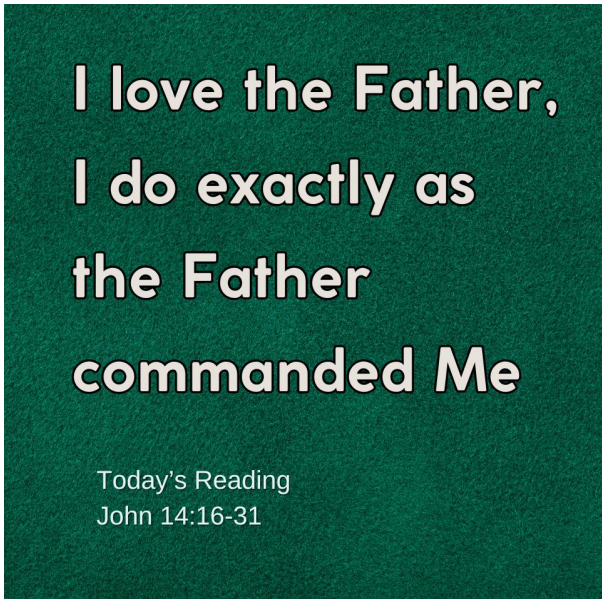
Selwyn Young:

John 14: Jesus is a reflection of the Father.

Jesus represents the Father: "…the words I speak I do not speak on my own authority." (John 14:10)

Jesus is connected to the Father. "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." (Also, in verse 10).

John 14:16-31 | Role of the Father



Nkululeko Freedom:

“Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.” (John 14:21)

If we love God's Word and obey it, our relationship with God deepens. Our Knowledge and Understanding becomes deep too. Revelation becomes a daily bread.

Annie Reddy:

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (John 14:27)

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:7)

The Greek word for **'give'** is **'didōmi'**, which means to give forth from oneself.

Peace can only be found in Jesus. When we embody who He is, then we experience this peace that the world cannot give us. Everything that the world has to offer is temporal. All things from the Father are eternal.

Rene Barnwell



“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. HE HAS NO CLAIM ON ME,” (John 14:30 ESV)

Jesus stated that the devil had no claim on Him/ no hold over Him/ nothing in Him/ no power over Him. This was so because He had no trace of carnality/worldly lusts in Him. Satan can only control those who wilfully sin and indulge in things that pertain to his evil nature.

May we ensure that we have nothing in us that would keep us in bondage and give the enemy authority over us, but instead be full of God’s Word, His Spirit and His power that would neutralise any satanic agenda.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

“Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.” (John 14:23-24)

When we have a consistent/ongoing relationship with God and we are intimate with Him through prayer and obedience the promise we have from Jesus is that we will have the presence of the Holy Spirit and a revelation of the Father. What an awesome God!

Selwyn Young:

John 14: Jesus is a reflection of the Father.

Jesus represents the Father: "…the words I speak I do not speak on my own authority." (John 14:10). Jesus is connected to the Father. "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." (Also, in verse 10).

Randolph Barnwell:



"**The HOLY SPIRIT is** primarily given to **AFFIRM, ESTABLISH, MATURE** us in our **SONSHIP** position and disposition towards God, so that we do not think and behave like **ORPHANS**." **Matthew Barnwell**

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **HELPER**, that He may be with you forever; that is **the SPIRIT OF TRUTH,** whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but **YOU KNOW HIM** because HE abides WITH you and will be IN you. **I will NOT LEAVE you as ORPHANS**; I will come to you.” (John 14:16-18 NASB)

Church, we are not ORPHANS in the spirit. We have a HEAVENLY FATHER. You are God’s SON. HE is your FATHER. His Spirit of Adoption in you cries out ‘ABBA FATHER’. May the revelation of God as FATHER be amplified through the working and power of the HOLY SPIRIT in us.

Orphans have a survivalist mentality and behaviour. Where orphans just **SURVIVE, sons THRIVE,** because they know:

(1) **WHO** they are (SONS of God) and
(2) **WHOSE** they are (Sons OF GOD)!

Anne Paul:

To be a son is to know who you are and whose you are. No time for hang-ups, identity crisis, living in the shadows, inferiority complex, middle child syndrome.

We live as ones who know who our Father is, there is purpose and function attached to everything we do. 'Greater things than these' we will accomplish. We have the Truth and the spirit of Truth, a double portion.

Aidan Moodley:

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of Truth.” (John 14:16-17)

- The Holy Spirit is ultimately a spirit of truth.
- Truth is a power that can turn tyrannies on their head, yet many fear to use it.
- After all, truth can be a sharp blade that can hurt others, even ourselves.

Yet God gave us a spirit of truth. Does that not mean we must face the truth, speak the truth, and become the truth.

Ask yourself what truth you have failed to face and let the Holy Spirit guide you in overcoming it.

Fiona Beru:

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:21)

Manifest or disclosure, like other version say, is hinged on having and keeping the commandment or word of God. When we love the Word, we will be loved by the Father and the Son.

It is easier to disclose or tell someone something, when u know they love you. You will never disclose things to a stranger.

Carla Joshua:

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

This passage is loaded for us**, He will give you another Helper**, Jesus asks the Father! This affirms the truth that no one comes to the Father except through the Son. **He is with us forever!** The Holy Spirit is not limited by time and space, He will be with you always.

Parakletos - Comforter, Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby, Defence Attorney, Character Witness, Mediator, Spokesman, One Who Bears Witness.

He is the Spirit of truth, that confirmation and witness that you get that instantly affirms or rejects what you as a son hear or see. It's wonderful when you hear something that does not line up with Gods divine order and within you get an instant flag go up in your spirit that cautions you. That's the Holy Spirits' doing. **The world cannot receive Him**, the world is too fixated on what they can tune into with the 5 senses, so they cannot see Him and don't know Him because they believe any lie making its rounds. When the heart is closed, the Holy Spirit cannot testify to the truth in you.

1 John 1:8 says: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

You know Him, Jesus was saying this the disciples who haven't had half of the teachings that we have been exposed to, but they knew Him. It's the Spirit in us that guides all we do. So many times, we find ourselves wanting to say something and instantly there's a glitch within that makes you hush your mouth because you know it's not the right thing to think or say. That's the Holy Spirit helping, is that not wonderful because we learn slowly but surely to listen to the promptings. Keeping you from doing anything that is contrary to the word. **HE will be with you and IN you**. In is so much better then with. **He is always with you** but most importantly, He is in you. You have understanding and connecting of the dots when He is in you via His word.

Philippians 2:13 says: "for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

It is a satisfying knowing when you witness a work in the circumstances of your life that bring about His good pleasure.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 14

- Believe!
- Know Jesus=Know the Father;

- The Father dwells and works in me (I speak in His authority);
- The Holy Spirit is my helper;
- Have and keep the commandments=to Love Him;
- Impart peace!

Rita Naidoo:

Love is more than just lovely words.

It is commitment and conduct.

If we love Jesus, then we must be obedient and strive to be an exact representation of Him.



Quinton Adams:

“But the **Advocate**, the Holy Spirit, whom **the Father will send** in my name, will **teach you** all things and will **remind** you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26 NIV)

- **THE ADVOCATE:**

Having a **top advocate** in your corner is very beneficial. This advocate will help, defend, guide and steer you into certain victory. He is wise, all knowing and connected to higher power. You will not lose when the advocate is near you, in you, or beside you. He will speak for you. Stand as a buffer on your behalf. He will teach you right from wrong. He always knows a way out. He knows the detail of the story. He knows best. His accuracy is undeniable. His wisdom is from the Heavens. **His on your side.**

Nolan Bartleson:

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.” (John 14:25-27 NIV)

Thank you, Father, for the person of the Holy Spirit that you have sent to us when you ascended to teach us all things and remind us of the teachings of the son.

Thank you, Father God, for this advocate!

Randolph Barnwell:

The clear intent of God is giving us the Holy Spirit, is to not leave us **FATHERLESS** or comfortless orphans.



John 14:18 (NASB) says: I will not leave you as ORPHANS; I will come to you.

KJV: I will not leave you COMFORTLESS: I will come to you.

The Greek word for orphan or comfortless is ‘orphanos’, meaning bereaved of parents; fatherless (James 1:27); the root word means someone ‘dark and obscure (wandering) ‘.

An orphan, in the natural, is one without parents. Biblically an orphan is one without a father. James 1:27 defines this condition as ‘fatherless’.

Typically, an orphan is without confidence, assurance, comfort and usually has a survivalist and poverty mentality. They have no inheritance in a father, because they have no father. We, sons of God have a Heavenly Father, and so should not think nor behave like orphans. The Holy Spirit comforts us by giving us a revelation of our FATHER, and all that the FATHER has given the Jesus, the Son, which is also ours to possess.

In context of John chapter 14, John 14:18 implies the Holy Spirit breaks the mindset and culture of sons of God living like orphans by disclosing to making available to them everything the Father has given to the Son. What belongs Jesus, belongs to us as sons of God. This is part of inheritance in Christ. How do we attain this? This is accessed by obeying God’s Word, as is explained the verses which follow (John 14:21,23)

Obedience to God's words invites both Father and son to make their 'Abode' (Mansion) in us. In this process the Holy Spirit, not only reveals both Father and Son to us, but also makes available the vast treasure of our inheritance in the Lord. Obedience is the process through the sanctification by the Spirit takes place, and this positions you for breakthrough, rulership and dominion in this life.

The sanctifying work of the Spirit in you, via your obedience to God's Word, prepares your life to be to receptacle of the persons of Father and Son, with all that they intend for you to have as your inheritance.

Do not have a limited perception of the sanctifying work of the Spirit in you. It is meant to prepare you to rule in this life. But you must first rule your body, before you rule in life. The first order of management of anything or realm, is self-management.

You are not an orphan. You have a Heavenly Father! Obey His Word. Allow the Spirit to sanctify you. **Access your inheritance!**

Fiona Beru:

John 14:15-31:

- Our love for God is reflected in the love we have for His Word.
- Because He lives, I live. My existence is because of Christ, so I cannot live unto myself, but to please Him.
- Christ is revealed or disclosed to those that love Him. He is revealed through His Word to us. Like I said, that is how we love Christ.
- "God's home is in us, Heaven is His Throne" Pastor Randolph said this, God nature displayed here unconditional love, is like the saying "Home is where the heart is!"
- Peace is who Christ is, and so in all circumstances we can have the peace of God that surpasses all understanding

Carla Joshua:

John 14: Multi-breasted one- but far more beyond being omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, Jesus contains everything while being the dwelling place. Who is able to

house me and rest of the world and not one is neglected, each one nourished, guided, protected and loved simultaneously?

Corayne Walters:

“JESUS gives Philip a personal invitation**, "follow Me.”** Philip finds Nathaniel, tells him about JESUS. Nathaniel doubts, Philip encourages him **to "come and see.””** (John 1:43-48).

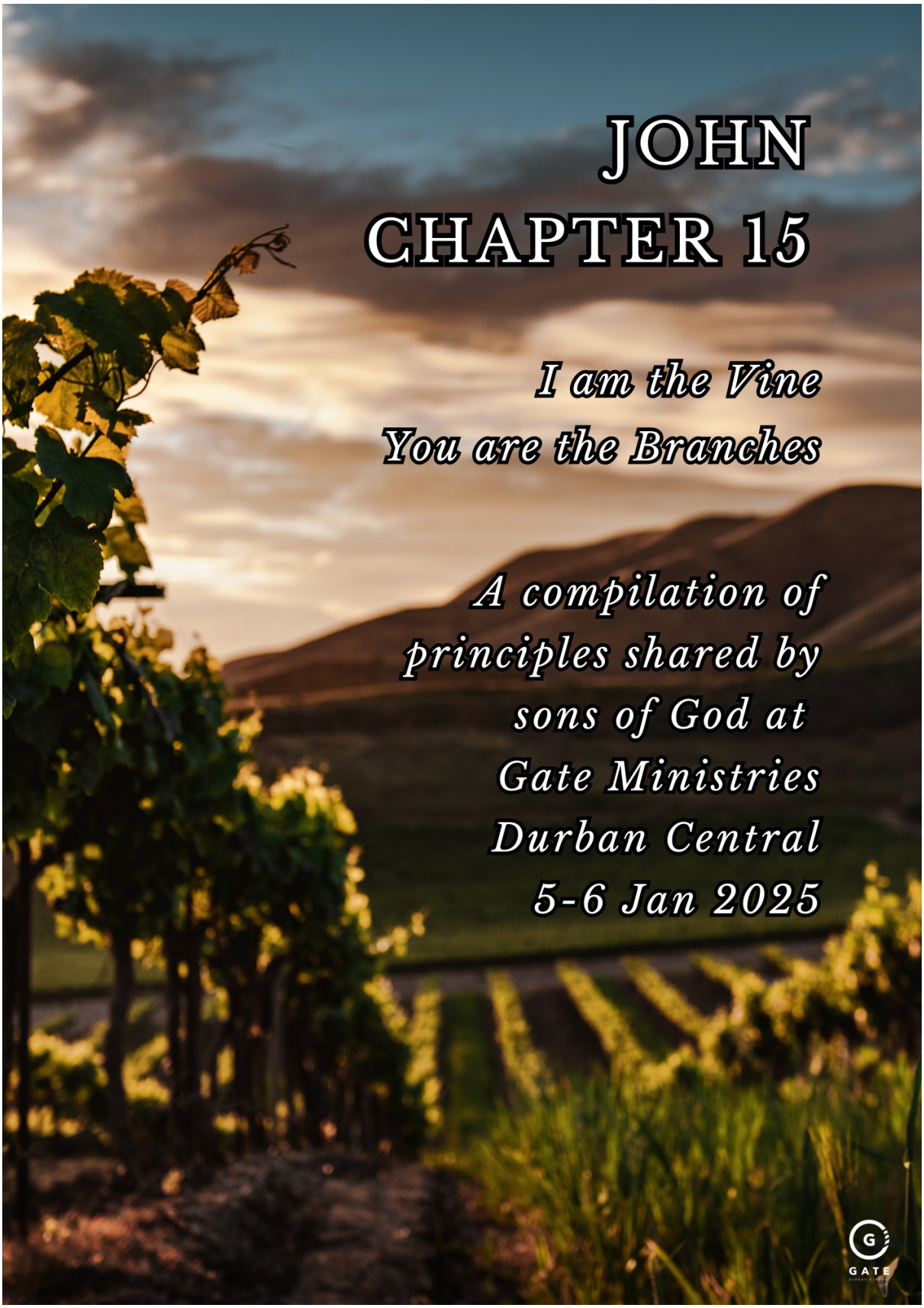
"Philip said to Him, LORD show us the Father, and it is enough for us." (John 14:8 (NASB [I can almost feel JESUS' exasperation in HIS response])"

“JESUS said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; how can you say, "Show us the Father?” (John 14:9 NASB)

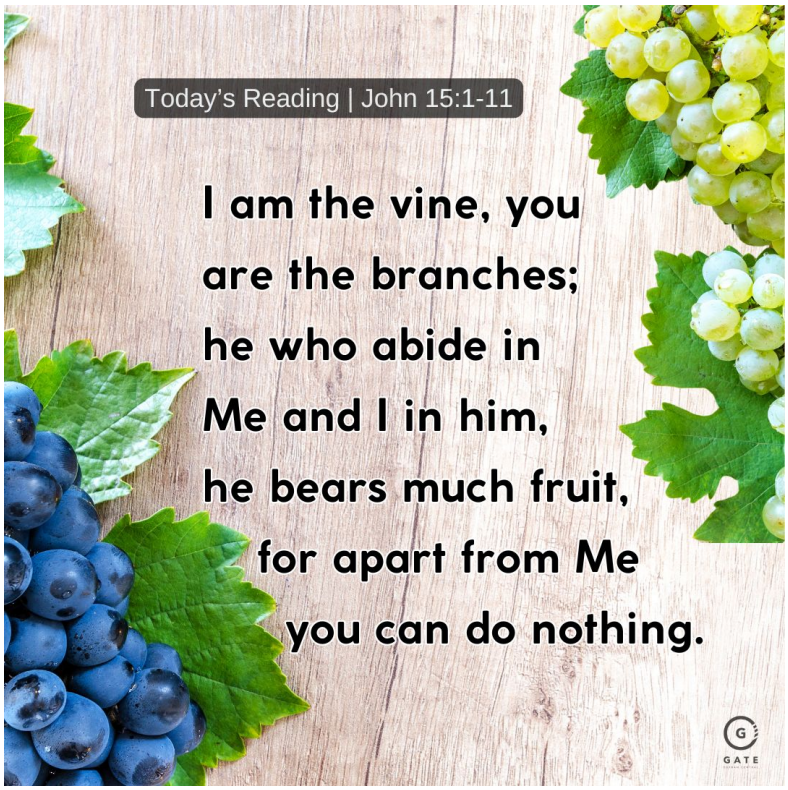
In John 1:46 remember, Philip asked Nathaniel to **"come and see".** Yet Philip appears to be in the dark, blind to Who JESUS is.

Philip did not know JESUS as FATHER.

May we remain in the Light of GOD'S WORD for HOLY SPIRIT to illuminate all facets of CHRIST JESUS, especially highlighting to us the FATHER that He is.


JOHN
CHAPTER 15
I am the Vine
You are the Branches
A compilation of
principles shared by
sons of God at
Gate Ministries
Durban Central
5-6 Jan 2025
GATE

John 15:1-11 | Jesus the Vine



Rene Barnwell:

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, **ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH, AND IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU**. By this my **FATHER IS GLORIFIED, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT** and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:7-8 ESV)

As I mentioned on New Year's Day, 2025 and beyond is going to be a HIGHLY FAVOURED year to the son of God who **ABIDES IN AND LIVES BY THE WORD** in EVERY area of their lives.

Verse 7 above is like an open cheque book- where we have unlimited and unrestricted access to resources, both spiritual and natural-when we prioritise God's Word above every other thing.

The aim is not to attain things, but to realise the importance of making God's Word the centre of our lives, around which everything else will evolve and fall into place- in keeping with the Father's will for our lives.

In verse 8, God is glorified when we bear much fruit as a result of abiding in and living according to His Word/His Divine principles.

May we abide in Father and in His Word, bearing much fruit, bringing glory to Him as we walk in Divine favour...then only can we ASK WHATEVER.

Priscilla Nadesen:

“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, but He prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will be more fruitful.” (John 15:2)

GOD PRUNES GOOD THINGS TOO.

We need to remain in Christ, for us to bear much fruit. Without him we can do nothing (see John 15:5).

ABIDE IN CHRIST!

Jerusha Sydney:

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." (John 15:8 NASB)

However, John 13:34-35 clarifies that we are recognized as Christ’s disciples through our love for one another. This love is the fruit that glorifies God.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35 NASB)

This act of love is not just an emotional response, but a deliberate choice to serve one another, as **emphasized in John 13:14-15 which reads:** "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."

John 12:24 (NASB) provides insight into the nature of true fruitfulness: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

The key to bearing much fruit is to die to ourselves daily, surrendering our lives in service to others. This willingness to serve, even at the expense of our comfort and convenience, is the evidence of being a true child of God, bearing much fruit. It is through this selfless love and service that we demonstrate to the world that we are His disciples.

Shaun Beru:

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2)

We are reminded here that everything we say and do will bear fruit. God's pruning brings us to both growth and to produce more fruit

Pruning is a vital part of growth in our sonship. It is a painful process that God uses to help us grow in our relationship with him.
The key is to submit and allow God through His word to do His pruning work in us.
God knows what needs to be removed and pruned in our lives. This process is only for our good and for the glory of God to be displayed, that will produce much fruit in our lives.

Cindy Pillay:
We need to be connected, abiding in our Father and bear good fruit as in Galatians 5:22-23 which reads: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Keegan Reddy:
From John 15:1-8 we need to remain constantly connected to Christ. As a branch needs to be connected to the main part of the plant in order to live, we need to be connected to the Lord. We need to stay connected and abiding in our Father.

Jenny Pillay:
Branches cannot be fruitful by itself it needs to be connected to a source in order to receive its important nutrients thereby allowing it to be fruitful (see John 15:5 NIV).

> 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

The NKJV says abide in Christ and the Greek word for abide is to stay, remain where u have been placed- this therefore, applies to us if we remain connected to Christ. We gain access to all of who Christ is and to live a life that is pleasing to God. When we are connected to Christ, we are connected to a life-giving source that will help us to live an abundant life according to His will for each one of us. So may we remain connected and thrive rather than be disconnected and live a life of no purpose.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2)

The process of pruning involves dead branches to be removed so that new growth can take place and fruit can bare. When I think about the spiritual application, I picture God literally removing those things from our lives that cause distraction and/or lead us to sin. This process can be painful but it leads to our spiritual maturity and growth. Focus on the purpose and not the process which is to bear fruit... Galatians 5:22-23 to be fruitful is be like Christ, the pattern Son.

Carla Joshua:

Jesus uses the imagery of agriculture to make His point. We have read many stories of Israel’s failure to produce fruit but here Jesus tells us that He is the true vine and we are the branches.

“Yet I planted you a choice vine, A completely faithful seed. How then have you turned yourself before Me Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?” (Jeremiah 2:21).

We previously witnessed in the word that Israel failed to bear fruit but we have been introduced to the true vine and if we are the branches staying connected is critical for us as branches to bear fruit. Our ability to grow and bear fruit comes from Him so there’s a relationship here. We receive or draw our life from Him (the vine) and we give our life (ability to grow fruit in Him) which is His fruit. That is a beautiful agricultural picture. All we need to do is stay connected and the fruit is inevitable.

“You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.” (Matt 17:16-17)



Stay connected! He prunes that so that it may bear more fruit. A tree that bears fruit must be pruned, unless you abide in the vine. A freshly pruned tree by the vine dresser (Father) doesn’t look good (see image of a pruned tree).

The pruning is a sign that fruit was produced and may we be patient in the pruning process, the word constantly intrudes on our natural fleshly inclinations. This is the cleansing and pruning aspect when we abide or stay in the vine. You cannot be severed from the vine and

bear fruit. Apart from Him (Jesus) I can do nothing! The I AM THE TRUE VINE has been given to us:

- "I am the bread of life." John 6
- "I am the light of the world." John 8
- "I am the door of the sheep." John 10
- "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11
- "I am the good shepherd." John 10
- "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14
- "I am the true vine." John 15

Moira Saker:

“I am the Vine; you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.” (John 15:5-8 MSG)

The ultimate purpose of our walk with God is that through our lives He may be glorified and that others may come to know him.

When we have an intimate relationship with the Father which has become so naturally part of our lives - it’s a permanent feature - we walk and talk with Him - we live by His words; then the Father will be revealed to us and through us by the fruit that we produce.

Our fruit bearing brings glory to the Father as when others see it, they will know that this can only be the Lord’s divine doing and this will become a sign for them to be drawn to know the Father.

Quinton Adams:

“**I have told you** this so that **my joy** may be in you and that your joy **may be complete.”** (John 15:11 NIV).

John is encouraging us to **stay plugged** in to Grace. Outside of grace we might have glimpses of happiness and success.

Connected to Grace we will surely experience another dimension of life. **J O Y unspeakable and full of Glory.**

Joy is better than just happiness. Joy brings strength. Joy brings contentment and fullness of life. **How do I attract JOY to my life?**

- Keep the **Word!**
- Keep the **commandments!**
- Remain in **love!**
- **Love** each other!
- Tap into **sonship!**
- Appreciate **FATHER!**

The **VINE** is a symbol of **FATHERING**, (not the Winelands of Tuscany).

Connect to your **SPIRITUAL FATHER** with a true and undivided heart. Therein lies the capacity for fruitfulness, increase and expansion.

Audrey Adams:

The word 'abide' or 'abides' appears 10 times in this verse of scripture.

Signifying to us that we as the branches must remain connected in prayer, in the word, and to our source of Life; the Vine, so that we can bear much fruit.

Britnee Adams:

"…**Every branch that bears fruit He prunes**, that it may bear **more fruit**." (John 15:2a NKJV)

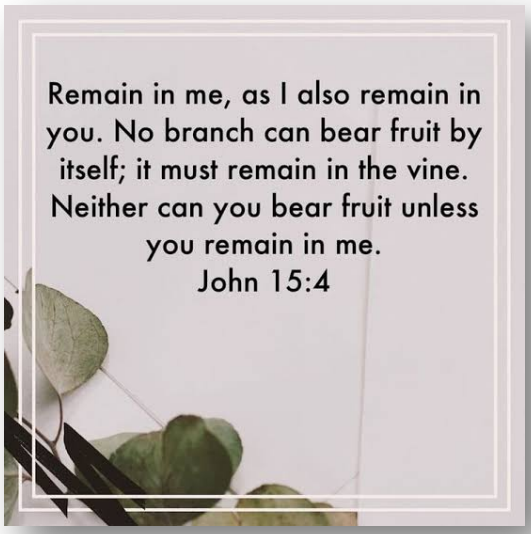
To prune is to cut away branches, twigs, or roots from a plant, bush, or tree **to improve its shape or growth.** Pruning will come with the cutting away of habits, people, roots of bitterness and any other resemblances that stains our **SONSHIP.**

It will not be easy. Cleansing is not an easy process. However, it is necessary. The word is our cleanser and helps us navigate the pruning process. "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." (John 15:3 NKJV) **Let's welcome being: - CLEANSED- WASHED - SANCTIFIED- HOLY GHOST FILLED!**

Selwyn Young:

There is no fruitfulness without connection to Christ. There is a certain type of righteousness that is produced when we are connected to Christ. This is much more

than doing good works and being a nice person. This is a righteousness that comes from a strong true connection to the vine of life himself Jesus. In fact, just in verses 1:15, Jesus says this about 7 times.



We are continually encouraged to "remain in Him" because “In Him" is the source of all life, because in Him we live move and have our being. (Acts17:28) because in Him all things hold together (Col 1:17) because in Him we were created (Col 1:16).

We cannot do anything apart from Him that is why we must always remain in Him.

Remaining in the source of life further produces life and makes us fruitful.

In addition to us remaining in Him. His word must remain in us. Jesus said to the Pharisees, "my word has no place in you." (John 8:37)

We must make space for His word within us, because this is the word of life (Phil 2:16). It is what sustains us in the dry, hard lonely times.

Nkululeko Freedom:

“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.” (John 15:9)

These are the words Jesus spoke to his disciples, teaching them to **abide or dwell** in his Love. It is written to them but also for us to learn. The same Love the Father has for the Son, is the same love the Son has for each and every one of us.

In others words, the Love Jesus has for us is a Reflection of love the Father has for him. It's like a mirror reflecting the Father's love towards us. Jesus is an image of the invisible God.

We are living in a broken Society. Remember that we are not always learning about love for the sake of learning but as we learn we are being transformed, so that we become like him in this world.

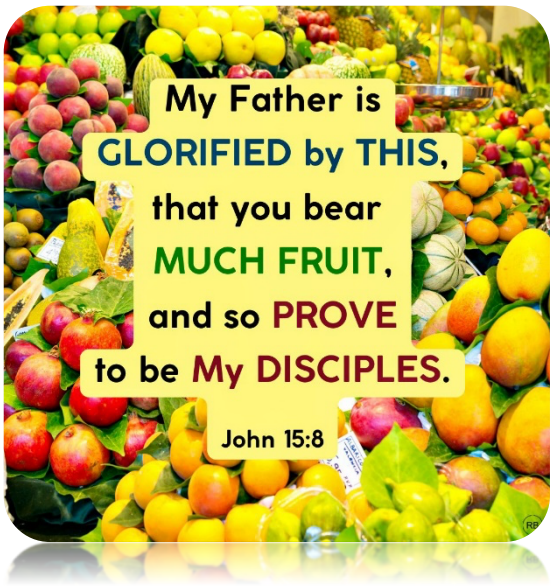
Becoming the visible Image of what is invisible. God's love has a transformative power to change our lives and relationships. Our marriages, churches, society, friendships, colleagues and families. **Let's Dwell.**

Randolph Barnwell:

In John 15, there is a three phased progression from ...

1) **'FRUIT'** - v.2
2) **'MORE' FRUIT** - v.2
3) **'MUCH' FRUIT** - v.8

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears **FRUIT**, He prunes it so that it may bear **MORE FRUIT"** (John 15:2)
"My Father is **GLORIFIED** by THIS, that you bear **MUCH FRUIT**, and so **PROVE** to be **My DISCIPLES."** (John 15:8)



'MUCH' Fruit does **two things:**
(a) It Glorifies God
(b) It validates you as a disciple of Christ
May you bear MUCH FRUIT in both your CHARACTER (Who you are) and FUNCTION (your DOING of God's will) in 2025.
'Fruit' refers to clear external evidence of inward processes at work. Fruit provides a signal of success. May you have GOOD SUCCESS, that glorifies God and validates you as God's son in eyes of many. **Be fruitful!**
To get more fruit in your life, GOD PRUNES you through suffering (see John 15:2). Today I am reminded of something William Hinn said some years ago: “God prunes you not because there is something wrong with you - He prunes you because there is something good going on within you.”

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 15

- Be cleansed by the word
- Be pruned and bear fruit by abiding in Christ
- I am able to ask for anything and it will be done (prerequisite- Abide in Him and ask in His name!)

Britnee Adams:

John 15! What a read!

- **Jesus the True Vine** (John 15:1)

The true source of our strength, nourishing us and establishing us as fruit bearing branches.

- **Jesus the Gardener** (John 15:2b)

Why a gardener? Well, He prunes you- a true gardener knows exactly what parts of the plant to cut away, which roots to pull out etc. Jesus prunes us to bear fruit.



- **Jesus the Shelter** (John 15:7)

Christ provides us with shelter by offering us covering through His word. Let's pay our rent well by believing in Him- let's abide (Image @iansimkins on Instagram).

- **Jesus the "Fulfiller"** (John 15:11)

Notice how our joy is made full when Christ's' joy is first in us. Let the joy of the Lord be your strength.

Carla Joshua:

John 15: True Vine- Jesus seated at the right hand is the true vine. Jesus is committed by example to give life. The picture of a farmer watching, pruning, watering and warding off thieves and other threats. We must bear fruit through the connection to the vine, a harvest is not possible without a good farmer.

"Yet I planted you a choice vine, A completely faithful seed. How then have you turned yourself before Me Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?" (Jeremiah 2:21)

Selwyn Young:

John 15: Jesus is about connection. Jesus is connected to us and connected to the Father. Jesus is obedient to the Father's commands (see verse 10).

John 15:12-27 | Relationships to Each Other and the World

Today's Reading | John 15:12-27

**You did not choose Me
but I chose you, and appointed
you that you would go and bear
fruit, and that your fruit would
remain, so that whatever you
ask of the Father in My name
He may give to you.**



Rene Barnwell:

"But when **the HELPER comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father, the **SPIRIT OF TRUTH,** who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." (John 15:26)

We all need help as we journey through life, we cannot do it alone.

How absolutely amazing that Jesus promised to send us a personal Helper, the Holy Spirit, who proceeds **FROM THE FATHER Himself!**

He will empower us to navigate through life and give us understanding of deep spiritual truths, as He is called the Spirit of Truth.

He is also called our comforter and Teacher (John 14:26).

So even in our sad and painful moments, we will experience His nearness, His comfort and His assurance that all will be well.

May we allow the Holy Spirit, our Helper, to not only empower us with God's grace and bear witness of Christ's work of salvation, but allow Him to do an internal work in convicting us of sin, leading us into all paths of truth.

Annie Reddy:

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.” (John 15:19)

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

Many believers in Christ have accustomed themselves to the things of this world.

To be chosen by Jesus is a great honour and privilege.

“But you are **A CHOSEN RACE**, A royal **PRIESTHOOD**, **A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE** FOR God’s **OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;” (1 Peter 2:9)

We should not lose sight of our sonship identity.

Dean Govender:

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” (John 15:16)

The verse above beautifully explains the reason for Sons of God to go through the process of pruning, which can be uncomfortable, prolonged and painful.

God chooses and **calls** us to this process, so that the fruit we bear would **remain** and not just be ‘seasonal’ as in nature. Whatever we ask in prayer, the Father will grant us as we are known to Him by our **fruit.**

“So then, you will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:20)

‘You can deny the man, but you cannot deny his fruit’

Just as the Father knows me by my fruit - I will recognise my future wife by her fruit, my future business partners by their fruits. New friends and ‘destiny helpers’ by their fruits.

Carla Joshua:

“No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

This verse is the pinnacle of what Jesus is trying to communicate to us, imagine the disciples hearing I now call you friend. In chapter 8:31 Jesus uses the word disciple to describe those who abide but now you are identified as a friend if you follow the command.

There's a progression as we abide and follow His commands as are all the things made known from the relationship that He has with His father. This is the focus here that we must see- He speaks of His relationship with His Father that is essentially a love relationship. **It centres around obedience but obedience centres around love.**

Have you ever tried to protect your child from a thing and find yourself saying instinctively "hey don't go that way!", it leaves your lips as a command but in that command is love and from that obedience is protection for the child who is about step into a thorn bush that could hurt them.

Underneath all that is "I love you", the bottom line of our obedience to God is our love for God which is exactly the same as His commandment. The whole idea of the most important commandment of love is obedience.

The love of obedience or the obedience of love.

"You are My friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:14)

We didn't choose Him, He chose us.

Cindy Pillay:

"You are My friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:14)

We are His friends if we are obedient to His commands – walk in His ways – follow His lead. **Friend of God!**

Quinton Adams:

"Greater love has no one than this: to **lay down one's life** for one's **friends. You are my friends** if you **do what I command**." (John 15:13-14 NIV)

Jesus combines **His friendship** with **obedience.** His friendship is guaranteed once our correct and accurate behaviours kick in.

Laying down His life has its origin in **obedience to the FATHER**. This obedience recruits Heavens attention and activates friendship status. As we continue in Christ, our friendship matures to a deep sonship.

The **cost of this friendship** is plain and simple, **DO and OBEY** that which we saw in Him. He laid down His life, we must lay down our lives if we want to keep it.

"Friendship with the world, is enmity with God" - We cannot straddle between two positions.

Yvette Govender:
“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you- that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” (John 15:16)
It is a great blessing, affirmation and privilege to be chosen by God.
Rooted in this fact and blessed with fruit bearing ability- Go and bear fruit that we are appointed for, bringing Glory to The Father.

Nkululeko Freedom:
“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain **in me**, and **I in them**, will produce much fruit. For apart from me **you can do nothing**.” (John 15:5)
We are only able to produce good fruit if we remain **in Christ.** There are no even good works we that can produce outside of Christ on our own.
It's Us in Him and Him in Us.
Everything we do outside of him is literally equated to nothing. **It's just human efforts.**
It's the same style Paul uses when he writes in books like the book of Ephesians he uses (In Him) a lot because really outside of him nothing is being produced even our **CHOSEN-NESS is** i**n Him** and not something from ourselves.
“Even before he made the world, **God loved us and chose us in Christ** to be holy and without fault in his eyes.” (Ephesians 1:4)

Julienne Bartleson:
“You did not choose Me **but I chose you**, and **appointed you** that you would go and **bear fruit**, and that your **fruit would remain**, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” (John 15:16 NASB2020)
“…just as **He chose** us in Him. In love He predestined us to **adoption as sons and daughters**...” (Ephesians 1:4-5 NASB2020)

- He has **chosen** us!
- He has **appointed** us!

The words used above describe the pursuit and purpose of the Father to us, and in the same manner, we have to respond and be **intentional** of our calling before Him, i.e., our Sonship.

When God called Jeremiah or Moses and many others, their first response was, Lord, I cannot, sometimes we may also feel overwhelmed as to how can I be all God wants me to be. BUT, in choosing us and appointing us, He has also given us the tools, which are His Word and His Holy Spirit, which aid us in our assignment. **Let us be intentional to bear FRUIT!**

Jerusha Sydney:

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you." (John 15:16 NASB)

The command to "go and bear fruit" in John 15:16 differs from the earlier verses that speak of bearing much fruit. Here, we are specifically instructed to go and bear fruit, closely connected to Jesus' commission in Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB):

"**Go therefore** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Both passages emphasize the word **GO** —calling us to actively live out the Word of God and to reveal Christ's nature to a lost world.

When Jesus speaks of "fruit remaining," He underscores the importance of making disciples who remain steadfast in their commitment to Christ. "Go and bear much fruit" involves making disciples, while "fruit that remains" refers to the enduring salvation of those who continue in their faith in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:13 (NASB) reminds us that "each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work." Our efforts in spreading the gospel and making disciples will be tested, revealing whether they were truly fruitful and aligned with God's purposes.

The harvest is ripe, but labourers are few. Matthew 9:37-38 calls us to pray for more workers in the field, emphasizing the urgency of reaching those who are ready to hear the message of salvation.

May we heed the call to Go and be the light to our families, neighbours, co-workers, and everyone we encounter. This can be challenging, especially when we are called to demonstrate love to those who may not reciprocate it. However, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, empowers us to align our thoughts and actions with those of Christ. With His guidance, we can overcome these challenges and fulfil the mission Jesus has entrusted to us.

Anne Paul:

Fruit that is produced must remain. Remaining Fruit is Fruit in season, not decaying or premature. This quality is only produced in the environment and commandment of love for God and for each other. (Jn 15:16-17)

Dean Govender:

“No one has greater love than this—that one lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends” (John 15:13-14 NET)

A pre-eminent thought here - Jesus washing the disciples’ feet but also, the Lord Jesus teaching that sacrificial love is what we should strive for.

A LOVE where one thinks little of himself and serves God’s people sacrificially - As Christ died for the church. As a husband must love his wife. This nature of God challenges me because I know I can do better in this regard - to love and serve sacrificially.

JOHN
CHAPTER 16

The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth

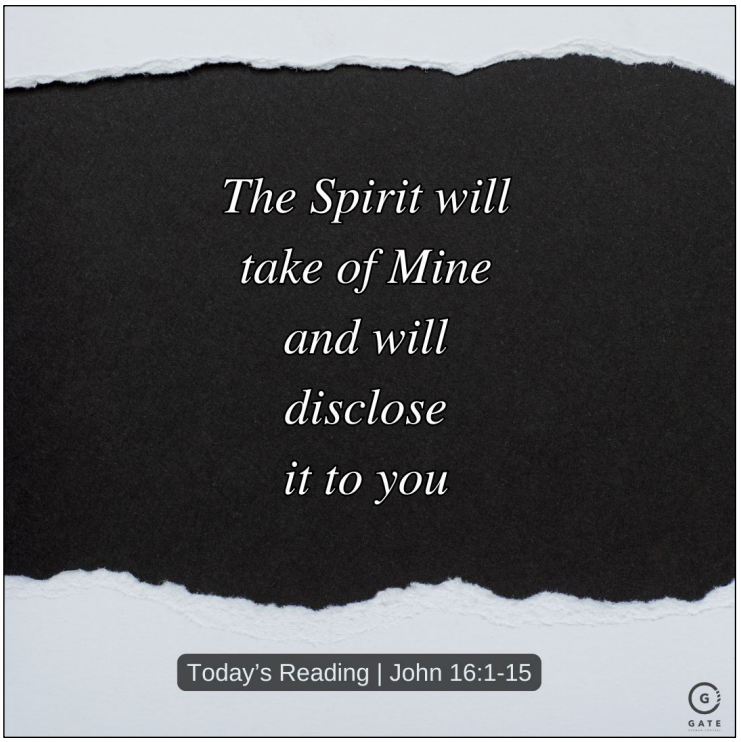
A compilation of principles shared by sons of God at Gate Ministries DC



7-8 Jan 2025

GATE

John 16:1-15 | The Holy Spirit



Rene Barnwell:

"I have said all these things to you to **KEEP YOU FROM FALLING AWAY**." (John 16:1 ESV)

God gives us instructions/principles in His Word, that if we abide by them, we will not fall away. Other versions of the Bible phrase it like this: 'to keep us from stumbling/ from sinning/ from being offended/from abandoning the faith.'

Part of Jesus' teachings in this context was warning them of the persecutions they will suffer in a world that does not know the Father or His ways, but at the same time assuring them that He will send the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who will be there to assist them even in their suffering.

May we greatly appreciate and accord high esteem to the Holy Spirit, our Helper and Teacher, who will empower us to diligently obey the instructions of the Lord which will prevent us from falling.

Derrell Petersen:

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to

you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:13-14 NASB2020)
By us spending time in the Word and Prayer and being obedient to our fathers in the Lord, edifies us and brings glory to the God Head. When Jesus walked the earth, they had the Word with them. What a sobering thought to know that He loves and cares for us so much that when He left the earth, HE sent the Holy Spirit to guide us. But we have work to do in **maintaining open communication between the heavens and the earth.**

Anne Paul:
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are seamless. They work as One, flawless, immaculate. There are no mixed messages when the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit speak. Therefore, any situation that requires clarity and precision, who better than the Triune God to lead and guide. **Do not entertain clamour, calamity and confusion. This is not God!**

Julienne Bartleson:
"All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will **disclose** it to you" (John 16:15)
The Holy Spirit is able to disclose to us what is to come vs13 and to disclose to us that which is in the Father and also in the Son.
The Holy Spirit is able to unveil, uncover, reveal to us the things which no eye has seen, nor ear heard nor mind has conceived (see 1 Cor 2:9).
He is able to **show us** who the Father is and everything that is within Him, which is for us. He is a spirit of **truth!** It is this truth that the Spirit leads us into that sets us **FREE** from our imprisonment. **May our daily cry be for the Holy Spirit to help us, to disclose to us who the Father is.**

Quinton Adams:
"Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, he **shall guide you** into all the truth: for **he shall not speak from himself**; but what **things soever he shall hear**, these shall he speak: and he **shall declare unto you** the things that are to come." (John 16:13 ASV)

The Holy Spirit in the Godhead are the most important person any **son of God needs**. Sons listen to His speaking and only, utter that which **HE SPEAKS**. Our walk with God, cannot be without **HIS TRUTH** as our compass. **Truth must ooze** from our lips and burn in our hearts. **Truth is such a vital commodity** in this present age. The SPIRIT OF TRUTH joins us and connects us to be **accurate replicas** of our FATHER. Return to your rightful place **SPIRIT OF TRUTH**. Return and sit in our hearts STILL SMALL VOICE of God....we are fully dependent on **YOUR VOICE** in our hearing. Without you, we might miss the mark, be off course, lack the truth.
The SPIRIT OF TRUTH is for our daily living in this world. **HE helps** us to showcase the FATHER to those in our sphere (not for dramatic affect and manifestations on Sundays only).

Audrey Adams:
“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.” (John 16:7)
We need to take hold of the significance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Cultivate a deeper and intimate relationship with Him.
It was profitable to us for Jesus to die for this purpose; so that He the Helper, the one who comes alongside us and guides us into all truth can come.
In **verse 13** - Jesus is that truth. In **verse 14** - He also glorifies the Christ.
Stay connected with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives life (see John 6:63).

Selwyn Young:
“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” (John 16:13 NIV)
“The Spirit only speaks what He hears. Jesus said "For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.” (John 12:49 NIV)
The key is to speak only what we hear. What we hear is from the Spirit of the living God within us. There is a line that is going on and we tap into that line by the Spirit. The Father speaks to the Son, the Son speaks to the Spirit and the Spirit speaks to us Sons of God.

Very often it is tempting to speak from a wisdom we have acquired over I hears of sojourning rough this life, but Paul offers us this warning through the Spirit of God, " For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness" (1 Cor 3:19)

There are many voices out on the world as Quinton Adams, reminded us in an invocation about voices. May God keep us tuned in to the Holy Spirit. May we hear His voice, the Spirit of truth, through the noise of this life.

Carla Joshua:

"**These things** I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling." (John 16:1 NASB1995)

These things; His words printed in the Book for guidance are to help us not to waiver, fall away, or get tripped up.

We have so many truths that communicate in God's word. For instance, the foundation doctrines specifically Baptism into Fire that we previously went through. This is for our benefit if we HEAR what is spoken it will keep us from going through the 'woe is me' attitude when we are afflicted.

When something happens in the life of a son, we have been given a blueprint that teaches us what God intention is. Always concerning anything we face, know this, know His objective, know His attitude towards it, know your response and know what it means to accomplish it in your life. Know Him, be in constant communion with the Holy Spirit who will reveal what is to come so you will be ready.

"And He, **when He comes**, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;" (John 16:8 NASB19950)

The Holy Spirit comes to convict or sentence the world for sin, false righteousness and judge those who have not repented. This is not the convict that applies to sons, that still voice that is the prompting of the Holy Spirit which guides sons through everyday life and walking a righteous walk.

When the Spirit comes, He will:

- Guide believers into all truth;
- Not speak of His own authority;
- Speak whatever He hears;
- Declare to you the things that are to come;
- Glorify Jesus by declaring what belongs to Him.

The Holy Spirit wants to talk about Jesus. Listen to the Holy Spirit and also don't do anything that will drive the Holy Spirit away.

Dean Govender:

"It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you" (John 16:7)

It is to our advantage that we have gone through these trials and sufferings, for the fruit we now bear will remain…

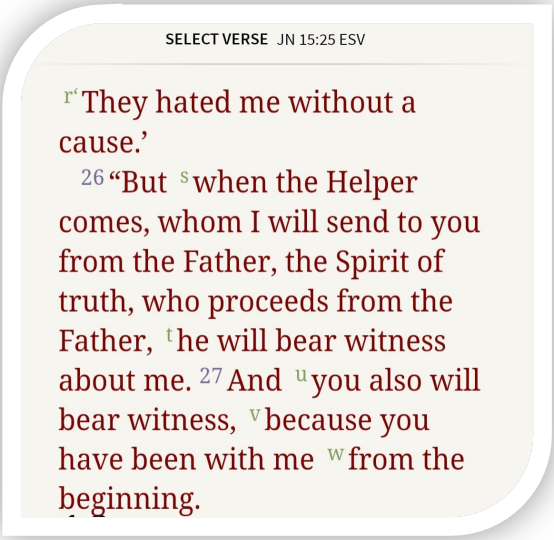
"… will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8)

You will be known by your fruit and will know them by their fruit.

Andre van Schalkwyk:

By inviting Him into our daily walk, we open ourselves to divine guidance, conviction, and peace that surpasses understanding. He leads us to deeper intimacy with Christ and empowers us to live in obedience and boldness.

May we remain sensitive to His leading, yielding to His work in our lives so that we reflect Christ's love and truth to everyone around us.



Jerusha Sydney:

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." (John 16:7,13 NASB)

Jesus tells us that His departure is actually for our advantage. He explains that if He doesn't go, the Helper, the Holy Spirit, cannot come. But if He goes, He will send the Spirit to guide and teach us. When the Spirit of Truth arrives, He will lead us into all truth. The Spirit speaks only what He hears from the Father and reveals to us what is to come, ensuring that we are never left in the dark.

This passage highlights the incredible empowerment we receive as children of God. The Holy Spirit serves as our Helper, Teacher, and Convector, guiding us to live righteous lives and keeping us aligned with God's will. Through the Spirit, we are constantly reminded of God's truth and are equipped to live in a way that honours Him.

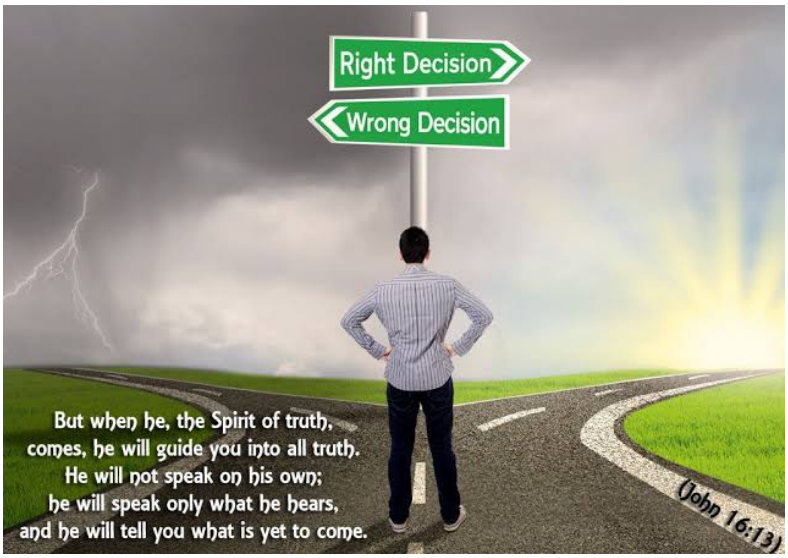
Fiona Beru:

“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.” (John 16:1)

Christ has given us a **blueprint** to follow- **His Word.** Everything that we need to know is contained within His Logos. Our jobs as sons are to decode and live by them. **Proverbs 25:2** says: "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”

God does not want us to stumble and fall, we just need to take the time and make the effort to want. When we study His Word, our eyes are enlightened so that we do not get easier entrapped by the enemy.

Cindy Pillay:



The Holy Spirit does not work independently but depends on God to hear what He has to say. The spirit will **speak, guide** and **declare.** The Greek word for “guide” is “hodegeo,” which means to lead or show the way.

The, Holy Spirit’s guidance is continuous and personal, ensuring that we are not left to navigate our spiritual journey alone. **Don’t be a lone ranger – Learn to depend on the holy spirit for guidance.**

John 16:16-33 | Jesus predicts His Death and Resurrection



Rene Barnwell:

“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again, a little while, and you will see me.” (John 16:16)

A spiritual application of **‘in a little while you will see me again’** is as follows: How **do we see** Him again and **how does He come** to us?

The answer is in John 14:23: ‘Jesus answered him, “**IF ANYONE LOVES ME**, he will **KEEP MY WORD,** and my Father will love him, **and WE WILL COME TO HIM** and make our home with him.’

Loving God and loving His Word to the point of obedience to it, is when the Spirit makes known the Father and the Son to us. Thus, the Father and Son coming to us is through the process of our personal obedience.

May we delight in loving and obeying God’s Word, thereby creating a dwelling place for Him to come and abide.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

There are **2 positions** and **outcomes** highlighted in this verse:

- **IN HIM = PEACE**
- **IN THE WORLD = TRIBULATION**

Jesus is speaking to the peace which transcends when we remain IN HIM and abide IN HIM as His followers and in submission to His Lordship. In previous chapter 14, we have the promise of the Holy Spirit who is our helper and guide to our soul and bodies when we are submitted to Him. He ensures we overcome the world (flesh) we must be submitted to the God head, Father, Son and Spirit in order to live lives absent of tribulation.

Annie Reddy:

“A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again, a little while, and you will see Me.” (John 16:16)

When our children are still young and are saddened by the absence of our presence, we often say, "I'll see you in a short while or I'll be back just now."

Jesus is emphasizing **"a little while” because** just has a parent will want their child to know that they will be back, Jesus wants us to know that He will not leave us.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (**John 14:18**)

That short while that Jesus is absent was when He was on the cross. He was fulfilling purpose, He had us on His mind. He had to go through this process to make way for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who remains with us. The Helper, Intercessor, and Comforter.

Fiona Beru:

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Our faith and Hope must be in Christ, even though we might go through difficult situations. In Christ we have the assurance and peace that we can overcome, because He overcame the world.

- “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (John 4:4)
- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)
- “… and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

Shaun Beru:

MAKE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN TO GOD!

“Until now, you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” (John 16:24)

Jesus Christ Has Overcome the World.

John encourages the believers to sincerely seek God's will and then we will experience the joy of our faith. The Greek word for "joy" in John 16:24, ‘chara’, expresses an emotion **of "sorrow-turned-into-joy".** God is a God of a 'turn-around'. He wants to turn our mourning into dancing (Psalm 39:5).

Asking be by the Will of God in Jesus' Name will bring fullness of Joy.

Quinton Adams:

“Though **I have been speaking figuratively,** a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language **but will tell you plainly** about my Father.” (John 16:25 NIV)

The Bible is the most beautiful piece of literature. Jesus spoke to his disciples in types and shadows. This was to assist them in their understanding.

Now, after His death, burial and resurrection, He speaks to us in clear and certain terms using a vessel called **spiritual father**. As sons, we hear God from this mouthpiece. The Holy Spirit brings understanding of God's speaking. We live in a dispensation where hearing accurately and understanding principles accurately is easier and more audible.

Father is the ladder between two realms. He goes up and down to bring Heaven’s mindset to our spirits. We have access to eternal matters.

The veil has been torn. We can come freely to hear for ourselves.

Carla Joshua:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.” (John 16:20 NASB1995)

A sense of utter joy as I read the text- a revelation of the process and the purpose of God that aids our understanding of what will take place within the sons of God.

It is an expected end. This is the ultimate good ending, the perfect love story, a rag to riches story. I’ll say again the perfect ending that we can cling to.

There's pain, weeping and lamenting- the unbeliever rejoices at this seeming death. This applies here to Jesus and the cross but is a shape or form of the process of the son. There will be a resurrection, a new baby, a new day. The room with the screams of a mother in labour is a room nobody wants to be in but when the baby is pushed out have you ever heard the words said after "aah that wasn't so bad" when the mother sees the baby. Tis indeed a love story with a challenging worthwhile process.
Jesus understood it.

Anne Paul:
"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." (John 16:21)
The revelation of who God is found in the measure of our love for Him! Our love for each other is dependent on our trust and knowledge of a person. The love we possess for our Father God must extend beyond what He does to who He is.
He is God and He will disclose Himself to us when we fully and doggedly trust, love, obey and search for Him through the scriptures!

Reshma Boodhai:
"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again, a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." (John 16:16)
This is so profound. There are times in our lives where we feel we cannot see or hear God. We feel his absence and cannot understand why God is doing nothing but it's because he is interceding with the father on our behalf. Later, we do see His merciful and gracious hand upon our lives in our circumstances and situations. Even in our moments of not feeling or seeing the Lord, he is silently there.

Dean Govender:
"Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy." (John 16:20)
Lamenting over your suffering, grieving for all that you've lost, while the world (that is evil) rejoices in the things of the flesh - **but joy** will be your portion

“Whenever a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world” (John 16:21)

If one was to bring a baby into the world, there would be great pain associated to the birthing process - a baby or child represents a ‘promise’ or ‘new beginning’. Jesus says that the joy of this ‘new beginning’ will exceed your expectations so much so that you will not remember the process you’ve had to endure. **This is a promise.**

“Therefore, you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will **rejoice,** and no one will take your joy away from you.” (John 16:22)

When Jesus returns to deliver the promise/ answer to your prayers, you will rejoice. Yes. He will do it; He has the authority to do so (see John 16:15)

Jerusha Sydney:

“His disciples *said, “Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?” (John 16:29-31 NASB)

Though the disciples had witnessed Jesus' power and miracles daily, it still took them time to fully believe. Similarly, we may hear about God's love, His power, and His desire to bless us, yet when facing life's storms, we sometimes separate our head knowledge from applying that trust to build faith. We can be quick to forget that our Father is the God of the supernatural and is our strength.

Paul is a great example of unwavering faith. He faced trial upon trial, yet his trust in God only grew. In the same way, we must not lose our joy or skip in our step, even though we live in this world but are not of it. True joy comes from knowing that our Father is all-powerful and faithful.

Let us put on the full armour of God daily, to prepare for the battles we face, standing strong in faith. This armour helps us overcome the doubts and negativity that may creep into our minds. May we always trust that God is with us, strengthening us to face challenges with unwavering faith.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 16

- Live in the spirit of truth. Allow only the Holy Spirit to be my guide.

- Opposition will come but remain steadfast in faith
- Believe that God has a plan and trust in it.
- Jesus speaks both with figures of speech and plainly *KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO SPEAK

Carla Joshua:

John 16: He cares- Jesus cares that we will feel like outcasts. He cares that sorrow fills our hearts, He cares enough to send you a guide and a comforter, He cares enough to give you full disclosure, He cares enough to be present and oversee the everything, He cares enough to make you aware of the process through giving you truths in His ancient words. He cares enough to tell you not to be troubled and rejoice because you will see Him again.

Don't lose your joy says the Lord just say my name when you have a request and you'll get it, whatever you ask just use My Name- I'll vouch for you.

Randolph Barnwell:

Some guidance in the first part of today's reading:

The term **"a little while"** predominates **John 16:16-22**. Jesus elsewhere also used this term (e.g., John 7:33; 14:18-24). In a **"a little while"** they will **not see** him; then in "**a little while**, they **see him** again"

Think deeply on **three** levels:

(a) What do you think is the **literal understanding** of this, i.e., how can you apply this in terms of what John originally designed it to mean?

(b) If "in a little while" they (and hence, we too) will see him again, for he said numerous times, **"I will come to you"** (John 14:3,8, 28), in what ways, other than his physical return one day, does Jesus **"come to us"** (Clue is in John 14:21-23)?

This is important – but I want you to **discover it for yourself.**

Point (b) above is vital for you to decode.

(c) Obviously Jesus would die soon, and they will "see him no more", but "in a little while", viz., a few days after his resurrection, they will "see him again". His death represents his **greatest degree of suffering**. During suffering certain things are not seen but will be seen again afterwards. The Holy Spirit, whom he just taught about in

this chapter, would raise him from the dead and would be sent to “represent him” and the Father.

So, we have ….

(i) his suffering (death);

(ii) his burial (obscurity – off the scene of time) – “in a little while you will not see me”);

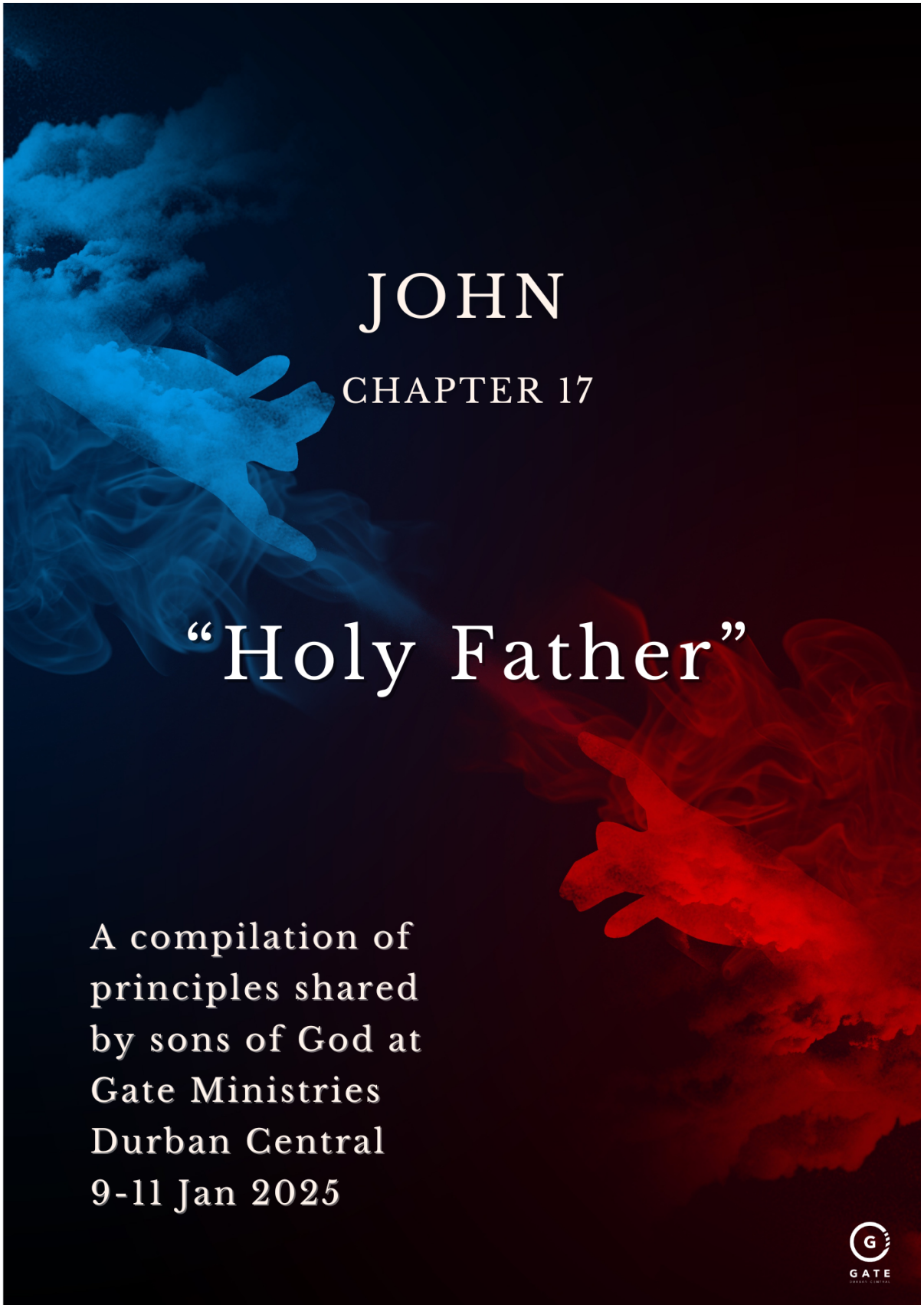
(iii) his resurrection – “in a little while you will see me”

In reference to point (c) here, **apply this to your own suffering and trial.** What principles can you draw out and apply to your life? **How is your own “a little while” looking like?**

How do you relate this to **PRAYER and OVERCOMING THE WORLD** that Jesus references as this section concludes? (Part of this exercise is to force us to think of John’s Gospel not in sections, but holistically).

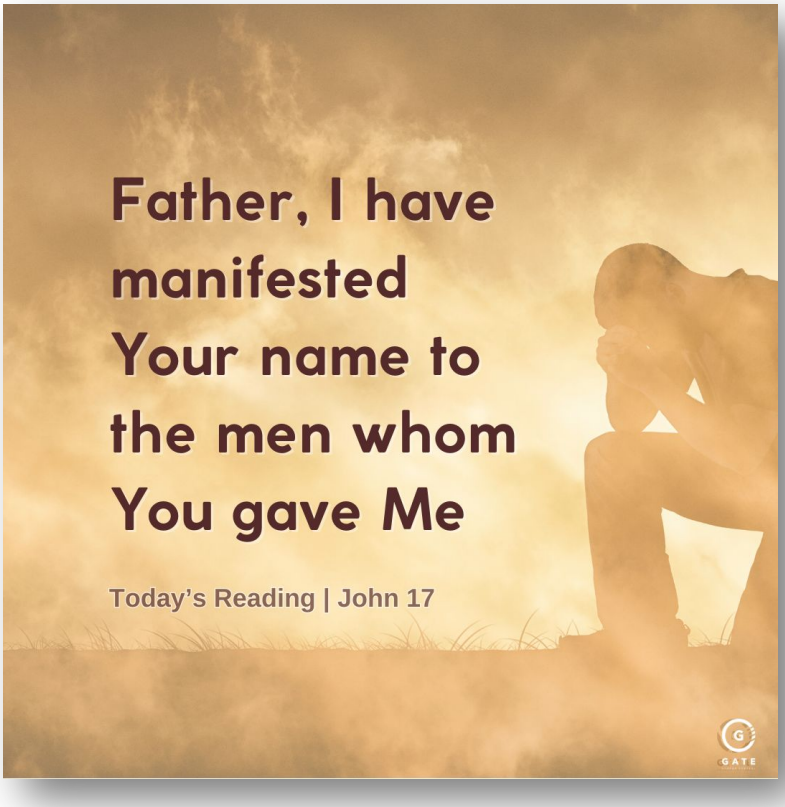
Your **‘little while’** might seem like a ‘**long while’** - don’t give up saints:

“IN A LITTLE WHILE!”


JOHN
CHAPTER 17
“Holy Father”
A compilation of
principles shared
by sons of God at
Gate Ministries
Durban Central
9-11 Jan 2025
GATE

John 17 | Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

A 3-day focus | DAY 1



Rene Barnwell:

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, THE HOUR HAS COME; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you," (John 17:1)

Jesus faced the moment He had come to Earth for- to suffer and die a horrible death for our sin, sickness and deliverance, so that we could be reconciled back to the Father. In it all, God would be glorified.

While He did so willingly, naturally He was in anguish, knowing the depth of suffering He would have to endure. Love motivated Him and grace empowered Him to the finish.

We too, will face times in our lives when 'the hour has come'. This will be the hour when we will experience suffering, pain, humiliation, betrayal, deception, sickness, loss etc.

May we likewise summons our strength and be willing to endure that agonising 'hour', knowing that God's grace will uphold and sustain us through it all, as we willingly obey despite the severe challenges.

In it all, the Father will glorify us and He will be glorified through our lives, and many will be saved.

Annie Reddy:

“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,” (John 17:1)

Jesus' words weren’t Father let me die that I may glorify You, He said, "Father glorify you Son."

- The word glorify (doxazō) means to honour.

When we suffer, we must count it an honour, because the goodness of the Father must be manifested in us, as sons.

The world will only know the power of God when faithful sons are able to overcome any suffering.

Selwyn Young:

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:3 NIV)

To know you and Jesus Christ who has sent. Jesus's uses the word ‘Ginosko’ which means among other things; experiential knowledge of, knowledge by sensory perception (Strong’s lexicon).

Jesus’ prayer was that we should know the Father but not just know of the Father but to **KNOW THE FATHER.** That we should experience the Father. That we should have a progressive relationship with the Father. One that sees us getting to know Him daily. One that is moving and developing every day. Just like Is word is inexhaustible, so is He.

As we journey with Father and Son, we get to know them more and more. And become like them more and more.

Know of someone is not like knowing someone. Knowing someone means you know their person, their character, wo they truly are.

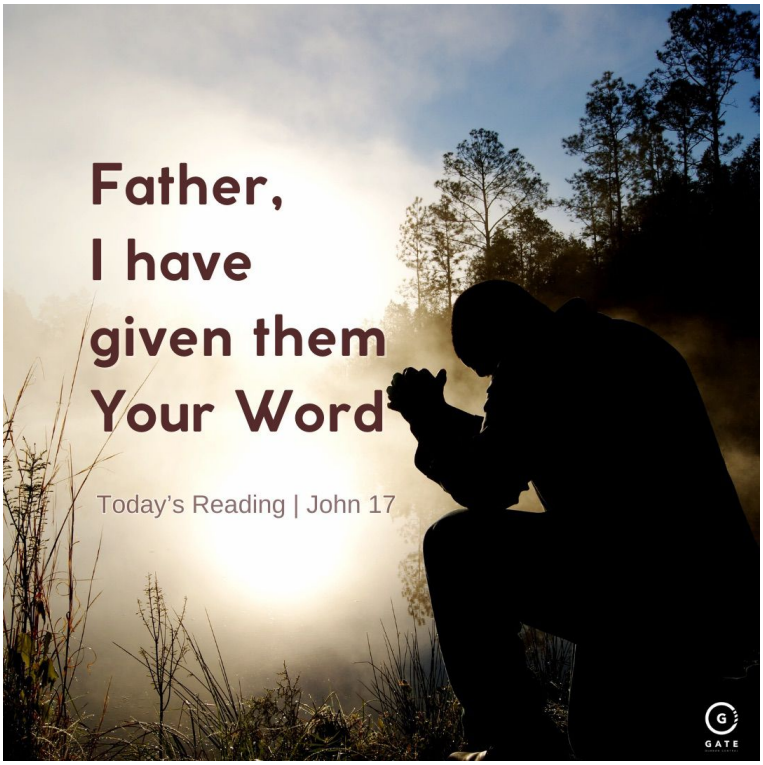
This is what Jesus wants for us. That we may have an intimate and lasting relationship with Him and the Father. Just as He knows the Father intimately and is known by the Father intimately.

"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you"(John 17:21).
We are called to experience the Father and the Son by being one with Father as Son. There must be unity in us. And we must be unified with the word of God.

Carla Joshua:
“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,” (John 17:1 NASB1995)
Jesus is praying; **God the Son praying to God the Father** and we get to listen in. In reverence approach this with fear and trembling.
Jesus glorified the Father and manifested His name, attributes and character. Jesus revealed (it is a revelation) and explained the Father in all He did and spoke. This is not a glory that the world thinks it knows. Glorifying the Father transcends anything that you can do to make a name for yourself, it reveals His name in all that you do.
Father keep them(us) in Your name (person, attributes, character), the name (person, attributes, character) which You have given Me that they (us) may be one as We are one. We are included in this wonderful prayer. Jesus is One with the Father. **When we are kept in His Name, we become one with Him like They are One.**
“… even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.” (John 17:2 NASB1995)
Authority, I did take this word out of context much, yes, we have authority but it has been misconstrued that a faith movement of saying in Jesus’ name is the quick fix. Repeating declarations over oneself or family members without an authentic inward dying to the flesh and changed behaviour cannot recruit the authority Jesus speaks about here, obedience and supplication is the authority.

John 17 | Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

A 3-day focus | DAY 2



Rene Barnwell:

"**THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21 ESV)

Jesus' plea/prayer to the Father is that we as His sons be ONE with each other and ONE with Himself and Father, just as He and the Father are ONE.

As we showcase God's nature and character in the way we love and treat each other and in our intimacy with the Father and Son, the world will be attracted to Christ and this gospel message that we proclaim.

In a world that is divided, superficial and lacking in authenticity, there is a longing for genuine love, acceptance and intimacy.

May our strong covenantal bonds of love and unity showcase the Father's love for us and His desire to have a personal, intimate relationship with us, and draw many people into a divine relationship with Him.

Cindy Pillay:

In **John 17:1-5** Jesus acknowledges His hour has come. Acknowledging God's timing and plan coming to pass.

May we also align our prayers with God's will to be done in our life.

Jerusha Sydney:

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3 NASB)

Eternal life refers to both the quality and duration of life.

Eternal life refers to life that lasts forever, without end. It is a life that continues beyond physical death and into eternity.

Beyond duration, eternal life also denotes a deep, meaningful relationship with God. It is characterized by knowing God intimately, experiencing His love, and living in communion with Him. This type of life is not just endless existence, but a fulfilled, purposeful existence rooted in God's presence.

Eternal life begins when a person comes to know God the Father and Jesus Christ, and it continues both in this life and into eternity.

Carla Joshua:

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3 NASB1995)

Knowing God is an eternal life, eternal life is knowing God. That is intimacy, it’s not an intellectual, education that involves the detail of being well learned or knowing a subject. Knowing God is an interaction that involves fellowship, living together, consulting on every happening or detail, intimacy, something you share with no one else like in a marriage, it’s through the Holy Spirit. It’s a partnership and a listening to, respect for. That we may know Him.

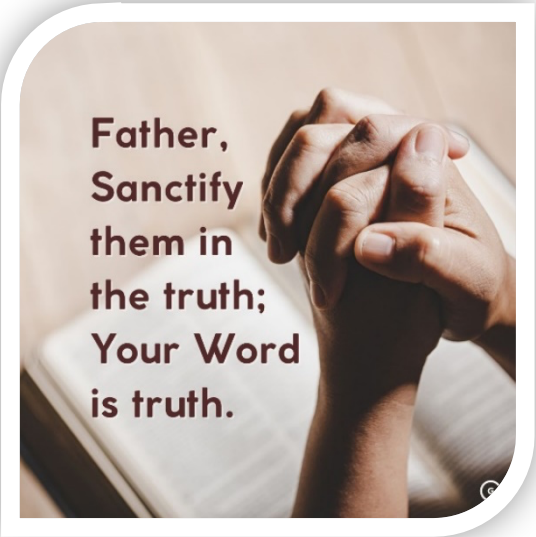
Selwyn Young:

And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. (John 17:5 NIV)

Jesus the pre-existent Son had a glory with the Father. Which were learned about in John 1 "The word was with God and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Jesus often spoke about returning to the Father. But we can forget that place He left to come down to earth was a glorious place. A place with the Father. With the Father, in the Father, one with the Father.
The gory of being united with the Father. The glory of being one with the Father.
It becomes very difficult being way from home for an extended period of time, especially when you are away from the ones you love.
Jesus had been away from the one He loves and wanted to return and united with Him. This is His glory, do the will of the Father and be united to the Father again.
"But, Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." (2 Corinthians 10:17 NIV)

Nkululeko Freedom:



There is this cleanliness and freshness we experience when we constantly read God's word. It's a literal cleansing agent.

Carla Joshua:
John 17: One with the Father- wholeness, unity, identicalness, harmonious.
"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." (Colossians 2:9). Common nature, unity of purpose, dwelling together, interconnectedness, a transcendence of boundaries or dividers, indistinguishability are just a few words/ways to describe Jesus who is one with the Father and He wants God to keep us in His name, nature, character and attributes which embody oneness!

Carolyn Moonsamy:
John 17- Make the Father's name known. Cause others to believe

- Have intimate time with the Father (prayer)
- Bring glory to God in everything I do
- Pray for others

Selwyn Young:

John 17: Jesus is our intercessor. Jesus is our mediator. Jesus prays for us on our behalf. Just like the spirit does.

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans." (Romans 8:26 NIV)

Jesus prays in line with the Fathers will. It is the Father's will that all are saved. According to 1 Timothy 2:3-4, "This is good and pleases God our savior who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Jesus our intercessor stands on earth and intercedes I, to later go to the Father and intercede at His right hand for us (see Romans 8:34).

Randolph Barnwell:

The word **FATHER** occurs at least **96** times in John's Gospel.

Jesus was **FATHER-FIXATED.** His Father was His world!

In John 17, in His short prayer, he used the term **FATHER 5** times to address God.

I challenge all of you to do two things:

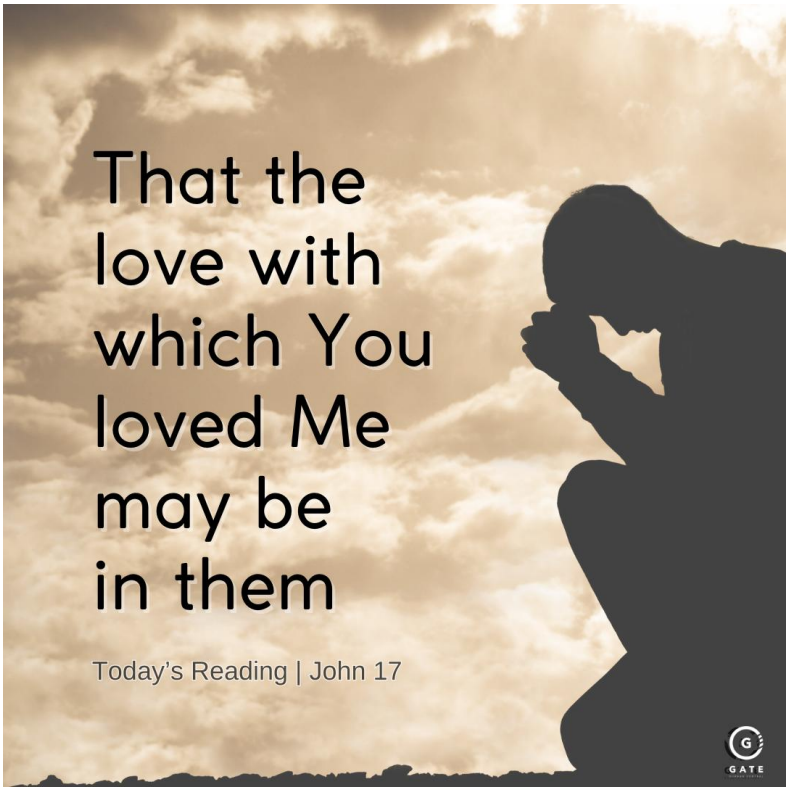
(a) Analyse each case where he did this, viz., 17:5,11, 21, 24, 25.

Note the context and content of his prayer request in each case. What can you learn from this? Meditate on the texts - let Spirit "Open the Scriptures", "Open your eyes"; and "Open your mind to understand the Scriptures."

(b) In 17:11 and 25 Jesus used two specific adjectives to describe his Father, viz., Holy and Righteous. He could have used any descriptors but he chose these. What are your thoughts here?

John 17 | Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

A 3-day focus | DAY 3



Rene Barnwell:

"While I was with them, **I KEPT THEM IN YOUR NAME**, which you have given me. I **HAVE GUARDED THEM**, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled." (John 17:12 ESV)

How awesome that we are **KEPT** (protected, preserved, immunised) in **HIS NAME** (His nature/character/ His love/ power/mercy/ His Word/accurate doctrine).

We will be forever **GUARDED** when we abide in His Name and exhibit His nature and attributes in all that we do...our protection is in our obedience to His Word. God's Word preserves...we will not be lost.

Judas was not 'kept in His Name' because he stepped out of the nature of Christ...greed, betrayal, lies, hypocrisy is not in keeping with the nature/ character of Christ- it mars the image of Christ in us.

As a result, he became lost and broke the guard over him when he violated the principles, he was taught by Jesus himself.

May we be kept in His Name and experience the protective guard of the Lord as we take heed to His teachings and abide in His Name.

Carla Joshua:

“Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” (John 17:5 NASB1995)

Another reference to glory, here Jesus speaks about the glory that They shared before the world began, this affirms that they are One in more ways than one, one person and one spirit.

“I am the LORD, that is my name, my glory I give to no other.” (Isaiah 42:8)

This is God speaking here and then Jesus boldly prays, give Me the glory that We had before the world began therefore it plants the root of oneness deeper into the heart of the church. John scribes so many powerful pictures of truth in this reading.

Selwyn Young:

Everything that is mine is yours!

Jesus always points back to the Father. Always notifying us that everything the He has is the Father's. Everything He has comes from the Father.

In John 17:4 the work He has is the work that the Father has given Him to do.

He is always about his Father's business. "And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” (Luke 2:49)

In John17:6 is about the ones that God had given Him. Even though Jesus knew that these were His disciples, ultimately, they belong to God, just as He belongs to God.

Verse 7- “Everything you have given comes from you...”

Verse 8- “… the Words Jesus spoke were the words from the Father.”

Speaking only what the Father had commanded Him to do. Acknowledging that the Father is supreme in all wisdom.

Verse 10- “All I have is yours, all I have is Yours.”

As we have learned that Jesus was Father fixated. Jesus though being the most powerful person of His time on Earth, realised that He is nothing without the Father.

That He has nothing without the Father.

That all his power, wisdom, authority and dominion came from the Father.

May we always know that every good and perfect gift we have in our lives, any power, any dominion, any spiritual wisdom comes from the Father.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning" (James 1:17 AMP).
May we always point others in our words and actions to the great God that we serve. Just like the firstborn Son, **may we emulate Him fully.**

Annie Reddy:
“But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world **so that they may have My joy made full in themselves**.” (John 17:13)
The joy that Jesus wants us to have been not the temporary joy that the world may give us. Below was extracted from a site called Goodreads:
The Greek word chara (Χαρά) means ‘Joy’ or ‘Gladness’. The word chara is derived from the Greek word ‘Charis’, which means ‘Grace’. This suggests that joy is a divine gift, not a human emotion that comes and goes. **May we come to experience the fullness of this joy that Jesus wants us to have.**

Fiona Beru:
“… And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” (John 17:19)
Christ is our example, like Pastor Randolph says and I am paraphrasing: “The Son of God became a son of man to show the sons of man how to live like sons of God”.
Jesus sanctified Himself for our sakes, so that we can see the example and replicate it. Even throughout John 17 we see how His relationship to the Father is a pattern for us to follow.
“… that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (John 17:21)

Jerusha Sydney:
In this chapter of John 17, Jesus acknowledges that He will no longer be physically present in the world, but His disciples remain here.
He prays to the Father, asking Him to protect them by keeping them in His name. This name represents God's essence, His nature, and His authority. Jesus' desire is for the disciples to remain in this name, staying grounded in God's character and walking in

His ways, so that they can fulfil God's purposes and avoid being swayed or misled by the enemy.

Remaining in the name of the Father means embodying God's nature—walking in His love, holiness, and obedience to His Word. This is how believers remain pure and faithful, reflecting God's will in the world.

When we live in this way, it leads to oneness among believers, as we embrace one another in God's love. Our oneness, as Jesus desires in verses 21 and 22, becomes a powerful testimony to the world, showing them the truth of Jesus' mission and the reality of God's love.

In verse 24, Jesus takes this call for oneness even further. He expresses His desire that His followers be with Him, where He is, so they can behold His glory—the same glory He had with the Father before the foundation of the world.

This is a profound invitation to share in the divine glory and the intimate relationship between the Father and the Son.

These verses call believers to a high and awe-inspiring calling: to share in the divine nature, authority, and glory of Jesus. We are invited to walk in His love and authority, to reflect His glory in the world, and to live in such a way that others see God's truth and are drawn to believe in Him. This is the great calling of every believer: to be one with Christ, to live in His name, and to ultimately reveal His glory to the world.

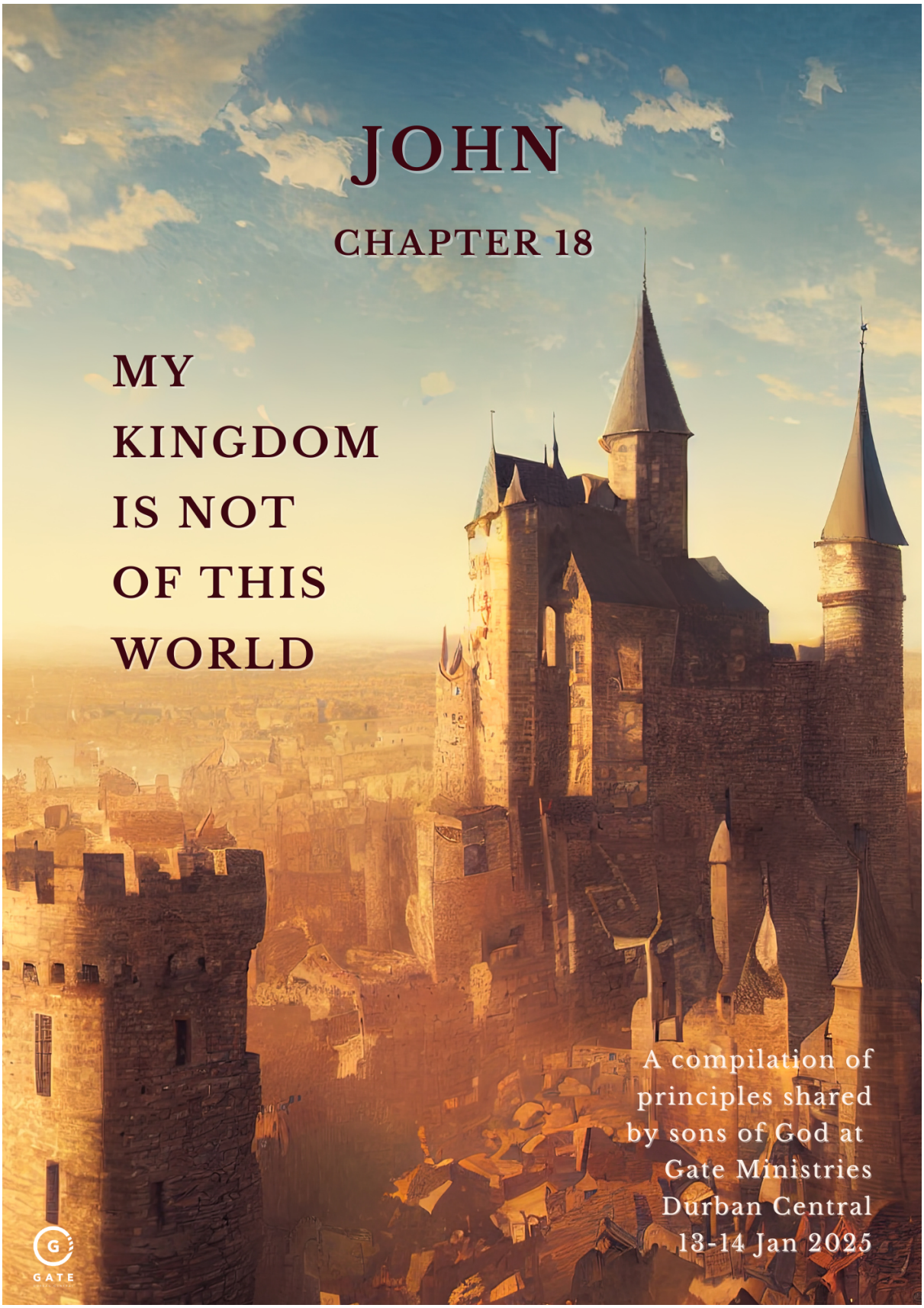
Carolyn Moonsamy:

"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do." (John 17:4)

Jesus fulfilled the work he was sent to do. His purpose of bringing glory to the Father was done in flesh by completing the Ministry of the word to man (He was the Word made flesh). Later, He would be glorified Himself through His burial and resurrection.

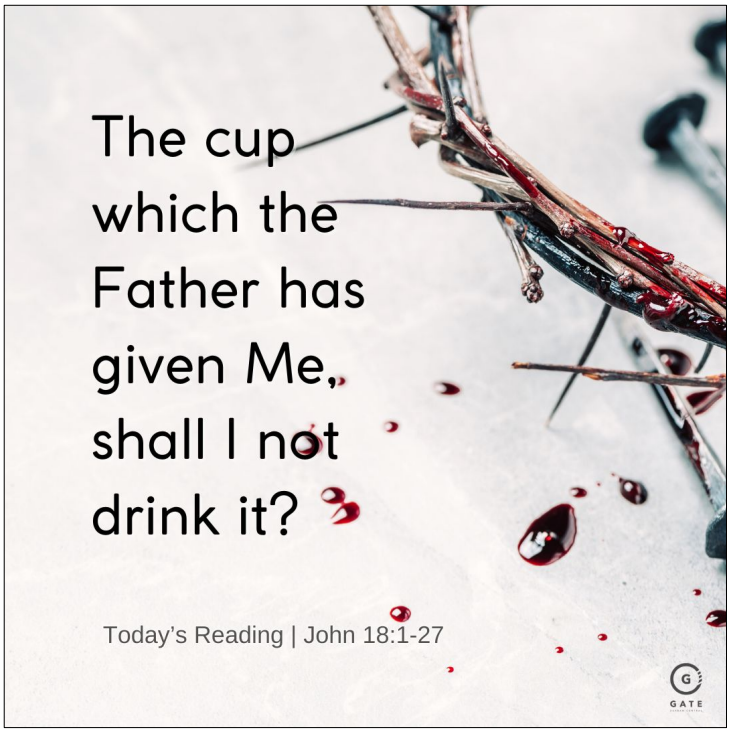
"… that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one" (John 17:21-22)

We were each sent to the earth and given a purpose as Sons of God. Just like Him. We are to live lives that bring glory to the Father by living lives that lead and cause others to believe in the God head.


JOHN
CHAPTER 18
MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD
A compilation of principles shared by sons of God at Gate Ministries Durban Central 13-14 Jan 2025
GATE

John 18:1-27

Jesus Betrayed, Appears Before the Priests, Denied by Peter



Randolph Barnwell:

Some hectic drama is about to go down in John 18 onwards.

In verse 1 Jesus crosses the Kidron Valley (similar to Jacob crossing the Jabbok). **This is significant. What do you understand from this?**

To help, here below is some Information on the Kieron Valley from my dictionaries and a website posted by Fiona Beru on our Westville House Church group:

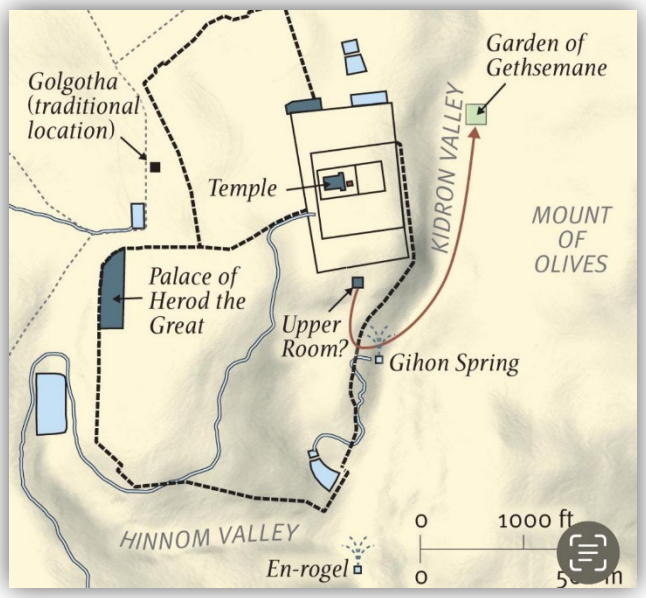
Etymology of the name Kidron

The name Kidron comes from the verb' קדר' ('qadar'), meaning to be dark, dirty or gloomy:

Kidron meaning

For a meaning of the name Kidron, NOBSE Study Bible Name List reads Dark, Turbid. Jones' Dictionary of Old Testament Proper Names reads Very Black, Full of Darkness.

The name Kidron in the Bible



Kidron (in some translations known as Cedron) is the name of a brook near Jerusalem and there seems to be something ominous about this brook. David crossed it on his flight from Absalom, and after crossing it he went up the Mount of the Olives weeping (2 Samuel 15:23).

A thousand years later, Jesus crosses the Kidron (spelled Κεδρων; this is the only time that this brook is mentioned in the New Testament) and immediately after this, he is betrayed by Judas and enters the cycle that results in his crucifixion at Golgotha (JOHN 18:1).



The Kidron is mentioned as the border of the allotted range of Shimei, the one who cursed David. When he crosses the Kidron, Solomon has him executed (1 Kings 2:36-46).

Jeremiah also uses the Kidron as a border, namely the outermost reach of what will be holy to the Lord (Jeremiah 31:40). The Kidron is also the scene of one of the most thorough cleansings of religious Israel, when all the unjust altars and images were rounded up and destroyed (1 Kings 15:13 first, and then 2 Kings 23:4).

https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Kidron.html

Rene Barnwell:

“Now Judas, who betrayed him, **ALSO KNEW THE PLACE**, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.” (John 18:2-3)

How sad...**Judas 'knew the place'**...that same place where he enjoyed quiet moments and intimate conversations with Jesus and the rest of the disciples, where he received profound teachings/warnings/corrections, where he ate and had fellowship with the King of Kings...at that same place he chose to carry out the act of betrayal.

Why Judas? Because you gave satan a foothold by lusting after money and entertaining ungodly thoughts (John 13:2), without even trying to arrest these evil thoughts...so satan entered you (John 13:27).

For Judas, the place of intimacy became his place for betrayal.

May we, after having received the Word of God and having experienced the power of His Presence, not be forgetful hearers and turn like double agents do, but arrest any ungodly thoughts and choose to be faithful, loyal, honourable, and effectually carry out the will and purposes of the Lord where He placed you.

Fiona Beru:

"When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered." (John 18:1)

Kidron in the Hebrew means full of darkness, turbid, dark. (https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Kidron.html)

Jesus had to pass over this Brook, and is associated with sorrow, judgment, and death: There are certain things that we have to pass through or over in our lives that move us to the next phase of our lives. How we cross is important, what we learn and how we assimilate during that crossing will set us up for what we need to face.

In Genesis 32:22 Jacob had to cross over the Jabbok before he met Esau.

David crossed the Jordan in 2 Sam 19 when he returns to his kingdom after death of Absalom.

Don't be afraid to cross over whatever obstacles might be in our way, remember we are not dwelling or staying there, it is a place of transition, even though it might be a difficult.

Jerusha Sydney:

In John 18, Peter's conflicting reactions highlight how we can relate to him in our own spiritual journey. At times, we may be full of zeal to serve and obey the Lord, much like Peter when he drew his sword to protect Jesus. Yet, as time passes and

challenges arise, our courage and commitment can falter, just as Peter later denied knowing Jesus out of fear. His actions reflect the complex nature of his character, showing how we, too, can experience inconsistencies in our faith. Like Peter, we may be deeply devoted at one moment and then struggle with fear or doubt the next, illustrating the ups and downs of spiritual growth.

In John 18:10-11 when the soldiers come to arrest Jesus, Peter's instinct is to defend Him, even violently. This reaction is likely driven by his deep loyalty and love for Jesus. Peter might have been trying to protect Jesus, possibly thinking that by fighting, he could prevent the arrest or defend against what seemed like an injustice. However, Jesus immediately tells him to put away the sword, implying that violence isn't the way forward. This moment shows that while Peter wanted to protect Jesus, he misunderstood the nature of Jesus' mission and the path He was taking.

In Acts 2, after Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit, he gains boldness and overcomes his fear to fulfil God's will. Similarly, we must abide in God's word, as the Holy Spirit, will teach us how we can strengthen our walk with God. We are called to respond in obedience; to hear and to do as we are requested by the Word. Our desire to seek our Father and His word in all earnestness, will help steady our spiritual walk allowing us to grow as mature Sons of God.

Jenny Pillay:

Jesus knew it was the Fathers will for Him to drink from the cup of suffering. This act of submission shows us the love and obedience Jesus had for the Father.

> 11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Through the trials and sufferings of life, which we will surely go through, may we remain in the will of the Father and not look to world for solutions. It is the grace of God in the word that will keep us buoyant in the spirit and let us rest in the storm knowing whatever we face- Gods will for our lives will prevail.

Carla Joshua:

"Then the slave-girl who kept the door *said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He *said, "I am not." (John 18:17)

In this first denial here with Peter he was outside, coming in and the servant girl commented almost in way that suggests that **she wasn't sure** given the phrasing. Here Peter had the opportunity to repent even after he answered wrong.

This suggests the phases of sin in our lives, first we think we shouldn't but we do! However, this gives us a chance to immediately start to arrest the propensity to sin quickly and not let it grow from a small fox into something much more destructive. Because Peter was at the door and not inside when it happens the first time, we can relate the that wrong thoughts that invade our minds outside of the teachings of the word. Stop those thoughts with a resolve and remind yourself of what is written.

"Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said." (John 18:21 NASB1995)

This statement caused one of the officers to strike Jesus but Jesus wasn't being a smart Alex with this answer. Jesus gave this answer because it was true, he never taught in secret, he taught openly in the temple courts. Jesus is challenging them to get witnesses because that was the judicial way of doing things, they obviously weren't interested in the right way but moreover when Jesus said… "Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?" (John 18:23)

HE wasn't talking about what he said to Annes but He was talking about the truths that He had taught; I think if they did a thorough investigation of what Jesus did and taught, they would actually be transformed.

They would see that Jesus did not speak wrongly but He spoke all truth.

Britnee Adams:

"Judas, **His betrayer**, knew this place, because Jesus and his disciples went there often." (John 18:2 MSG)

- "Judas, **his betrayer**…" says the MSG bible.

I find it so intriguing that **Jesus knew His betrayer in John 13** already; and yet it is only now **in John 18 that we see the betrayal come to pass**.

I think of how Jesus knew this but still allowed Judas to walk with him.

Sometimes Gods' will be going to demand **that we sit at the table** he prepares for us even in the **midst of our enemies** (see Psalm 23:5).
The doing of God's will be sweeter when those who wish upon your downfall have a front row seat.
And not in a negative way. After all, Jesus dies on the cross even for Judas' sins.
It's in a way that demands confidence in the FATHER. **Jesus' concerns didn't lie with his betrayer but they lied with HIS FATHER.**
Jesus knew his betrayer in John 13 so that in John 18 his heart was already prepared for the will of the Father.
Don't fixate on your betrayers. Let them have at it. **Fixate on FATHER.** HE is always at work- FOR OUR GOOD.

Selwyn Young:
A tale of two I am's
Jesus when He found out that the soldiers were looking for Him, responded by saying "I am he" (SEE John 18:5,6 & 8).
In contrast we see Peter who when questioned about being a disciple of Jesus answered " I am not."
Both answered three times one I am He, and the other I am not.
Jesus was sure and ready for doing the will of the Father. "Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him..." (John 18:4)
Jesus was not governed by fear but rather an acceptance of the Father's will and plan.
Conversely Peter was governed by fear. The fear of being treated the way His teacher was being treated or worse. May we always be ready to answer people who may ask the question, "are you a Christian?" "Are you saved? " **I am.**

Julienne Bartleson:
"They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus said, **"I am He."** And Judas, who was betraying Him, was also standing with them. Jesus answered, "I told you that **I am He**; so if you want Me, let these men go on their way." (John 18:5,8 AMP)
Even in the day of knowing His time had come for the most painful experience to befall him, even in the moment of facing His betrayers, even in seeing the fear of His disciples surrounding Him yet HE stands firm in who HE Is .... **I AM HE!**

He is with the disciples, BUT this moment is for Him (personal). So, He rises up in such boldness and confidence of who HE is and **declares I AM He!**
The darkness of this moment did not take away from the light of who HE is. The pain of this moment did not take away from who HE is.
What a standard for us to live by! In the valley of pain, suffering, affliction, betrayal may our stand and confession remain rooted in who we are IN HIM.
God is my Father and I AM His SON.

Anne Paul:
Jesus is betrayed by Judas with a kiss, and that after washing his feet.
Judas leads the way. The soldiers, high priests and Pharisees follow. Even with their torches and lanterns, they do not identify the Light of the World.
Judas' one chance of leading someone to the Way, Truth and Life is not or kingdom purpose but for 30 pieces of silver.

Annie Reddy:
“Then the slave-girl who kept the door *said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He*said, “I am not.” Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it, and said, “I am not.” Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.” (John 18:17,25,27).
Peter here is like the sower who planted his seed on rocky ground. His fear and anxiety caused him to make the wrong decision.
“The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.” (Matthew 13:20-21)
But not all was lost for Peter, he loved the Lord and repented of his sin, he was forgiven and he became a bold and confident leader, as found in John 21:15-17.
In John 17:16 says: “Peter stood at the door, he didn't enter until the other disciple spoke to the door keeper and brought him in.”
It will sometimes cause us fear and take us out from our comfort zone to do the things that the Lord wants us to do.

But we go in the power of the Holy Spirit, don't stand at the door, we have to enter with confidence and faith.

Raylene Eksteen:

"So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and *said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He *said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. (John 18:4-6)

In the versus above we come to understand that if Jesus knew everything what was going to happen and if at the mention of His name those who came to arrest him fell to the ground, he certainly had the opportunity to escape the situation. The mere fact that they drew back and fell to the ground highlights that Jesus did not surrender because He was overpowered or weak, instead He was willing, deliberate and intentional by stating he who was and not running away as an act of obedience to the will of the Father.

They did not take Jesus' life; He chose to lay down his life. Jesus just spoke and they fell to the ground yet they came equipped with weapons. Jesus was not afraid or intimidated that's because God's truth stands firm and nothing can stand against it.

Yvette Govender:

"They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He * And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, "*I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground." (John 18:5-6)

The truth and declaration of who we are causes enemies to withdraw and fall, those that seeks us out and raises up against us. Like Jesus we must always maintain our disposition of confidence calm and being in control.

Rene Barnwell:

"Then Simon Peter, having a sword, **DREW IT AND STRUCK** the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear..." (John 18:10a)

Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in a bid to defend Jesus and prevent him from being arrested.

Peter's actions were IMPULSIVE and RASH, not taking into account the bigger picture- Jesus' death was part of God's plan to redeem mankind.

How many times have we reacted impulsively in a particular situation, without consideration of the consequences, because we didn't perceive the greater picture?
May we, when faced with threats because of choosing to do the right thing, not resist but surrender wholeheartedly to God's will ...not fighting the flesh but perceiving the accomplishment of Divine purpose.

Annie Reddy:
"When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground."" (John 18:6)
This fall, mentioned in the verse above, was an abrupt and sudden fall. Like a force that pushed them to the ground.
What was meant to cause fear in us will be the very thing that falls to the ground.
When Jesus said, "I am He," he came in the power of the Father, without fear.
Face your fears, with the full confidence of knowing who your Father is.

Carla Joshua:
John 18: Truth - Every word He spoke and everything Jesus did was truth. He answered with truth every question posed to Him but also Jesus asked "Whom do you seek?"
Extracting the truth out of the ones seeking Him, causing you to be naked and exposed if you seek Him. Whether you seek Him for the wrong or right reason, Jesus will show Himself to whomever seeks Him.
He is truth and He shows us all truth. Even if you don't like the answer as the officer that struck Jesus or when Peter revealed his true heart in denying Jesus.
Jesus is truth and reveals truth to anyone who searches for Him.

John 18:28-40 | Jesus Appears Before Pilate



Rene Barnwell:

"...So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews? They cried out again, **not** this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber." (John 18:39b,40)

How sad is it that when the world has to make a decision, truth is not considered at all (Jesus personified Truth). In the worldly system, the crowd matters.

They rather chose a known robber/thief to be released, who they could later end up being a victim of.

Sin robs us, the truth and knowledge thereof set us free.

The contention today is always Christ versus the Crowd.

May we not bend principles of Christ for fear of the popular perceptions of the crowd.

Be a Christ pleaser not a Crowd puppet.

Elaine Clements:

"Pilate asked Jesus, what is Truth? And when he had said that, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all…" (John 18:38).

I perceive after when Pilate looked at Jesus, he saw Truth Personified and that was his answer. He is our Peace, our King of kings and our Lord of Lords.

Anne Paul:

Barabbas means “son of the father”. He, the son of the father, went free, while Jesus, the Son of the Father, was condemned (Excerpt from the link below). We are not Catholic but an Apostolic people!

https://www.catholic365.com/article/6465/the-significance-of-the-name-barabbas.html

Given a choice, the Jews chose a freedom fighter, a murderer, one governed by lawlessness instead of the One who taught obedience, forgiveness, righteousness, and love.

The Kingdom if God is inherent (in here), within us.

I wonder if Barabbas knew that on the day of his release, he was allowed a second chance to do better?

Barabbas wanted to fix the garden (political system). Jesus came to fix the man.

“Fix the man, and the garden will be fixed” (Thamo Naidoo)

Selwyn Young:

No charge just a sentence

“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you. “Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected.” (John 18:30-31 NIV)

The Jews were unable to present a reason for the arrest of Jesus before Pilate, when they had been asked" what charges do you bring against this man?

It is astounding that they are unable to bring a charge against Jesus but are able to pronounce a sentence for Him.

Their own words provide the intent of their hearts..." we have no right to execute anyone." it is evident that they had decided Jesus’ fate but realised they could not carry out themselves.

According to them, His (Jesus') punishment had already been set.

Pilate's words stand out so boldly: "take Him and judge Him by your own Law."

They could not judge the law giver by the law. But their action would help to usher in a new covenant and law of love.

Fiona Beru:

“Then they all cried again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.” (John 18:40)

We all make choice in life, daily we choose what to wear, what to do. Our choice affects our lives and of those around us.



We know that God’s ultimate destiny for Jesus was to die for us, so that we can have life and life in abundance. His choice to do this, has liberated and enhanced our choices in life.

Jesus could have chosen to defend Himself, or to free Himself, but His choice to remain silent and go through this difficult process was because He loves us so much.

By choosing Barabbas, the Jews thought that that would be the end of Jesus. Little did they know, that they choice set Christ on fulfilling His mission for all mankind.

As we go through our day let us remember that our chooses have consequences, so let’s choose right.

Jerusha Sydney:

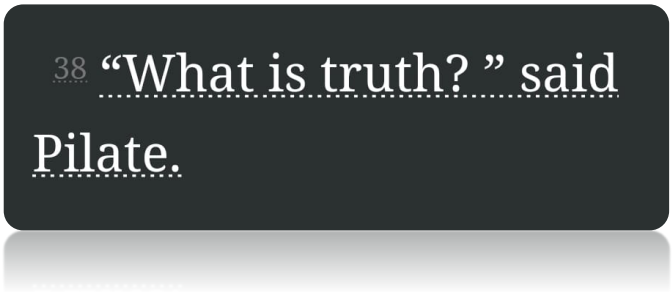
In John 18, Jesus reveals His divine authority, affirming His identity as the "I AM" three times, even in the face of arrest. Despite His immense power as the Great I AM, He chooses to obey the Father's will rather than use that power to resist.

John 18:6 – When Jesus declared, “**I AM HE**,” the soldiers, overwhelmed by the power of His presence, could not withstand His authority. They drew back and fell to the ground. This moment powerfully demonstrates that Jesus carried a profound presence, radiating the power of the Lord. Even though He had the ability to overpower these soldiers and escape, He chose not to, submitting to the will of His Father for the purpose of fulfilling His mission on Earth.

In John 18:36, Jesus makes it clear that His kingdom is not of this world. He is distinguishing between earthly kingdoms and the divine, spiritual nature of His kingdom. According to Jesus, if His kingdom were a worldly kingdom, His followers would have fought to prevent His arrest. However, He emphasizes that His kingdom is from another realm—specifically, it is a heavenly kingdom that transcends earthly power and structure.

This suggests that God's kingdom is not located in any geographical or political sense on Earth, but rather it exists in the spiritual realm and is characterized by God's rule over the hearts and lives of believers. It is not confined to the physical world or its systems, but is a present and future reality for those who follow Christ.

Anne Paul:



Pilate's question to the Person of Truth but there's no answer.

No one outside of the kingdom will perceive Truth even if it stood right in front of them.

Carla Joshua:

“Then they *led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.” (John 18:28 NASB1995)

The irony of this scene- the religious leaders want to remain ceremonially acceptable to God but are delivering Jesus to the romans to be killed.

Paraphrasing: “We want to be acceptable to God so we can’t go into your house but we got this Man here and we want you to kill him. So, who is He? Oh, His God”

Help us Father not to walk and talk as Christians but the inward part of us is delivering Jesus to Pilate repeatedly with iniquity of the heart.

“So Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law.” The Jews said to him, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death,” (John 18:31 NASB1995)

The word will always be fulfilled, if He said it will be done. The Jews couldn’t kill Jesus themselves because the law didn’t permit it so the Romans had to do it, if a Roman

put a non-Roman to death it would be a crucifixion. When Jesus speaks, it will come to pass.

“Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate *said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and *said to them, “I find no guilt in Him.” (John 18:37-38)

He came to bear witness to the truth- give testimony like in front of a court, is that not what Jesus did by embodying the truth? but Pilate asks what is the truth, we can be so blind as humans, Pilate was looking at the truth but he couldn’t see Him. Today if you make a truth statement in most contexts you could face harsh repercussions. The world is overcome by the bondage of lies. May be see the truth and be set free. The text below shows how lost the world can be without the Truth- Jesus is the truth.

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)

Audrey Adams:

“So Pilate said to Him, “Then You are a King?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a King. This is why I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth who is a friend of the truth and belongs to the truth hears and listens carefully to My voice.” (John 18:37 AMP)

For this purpose, Jesus was born.

The word became flesh- dwelt among us. Self-disclosure of God the Father in His son. He is the truth (see John 14:6). Jesus defined His kingly mission by gifting us with salvation.

If we are His, we too in every circumstance should authentically and with integrity display the truth as sons of God- **hear and listen to His voice.**

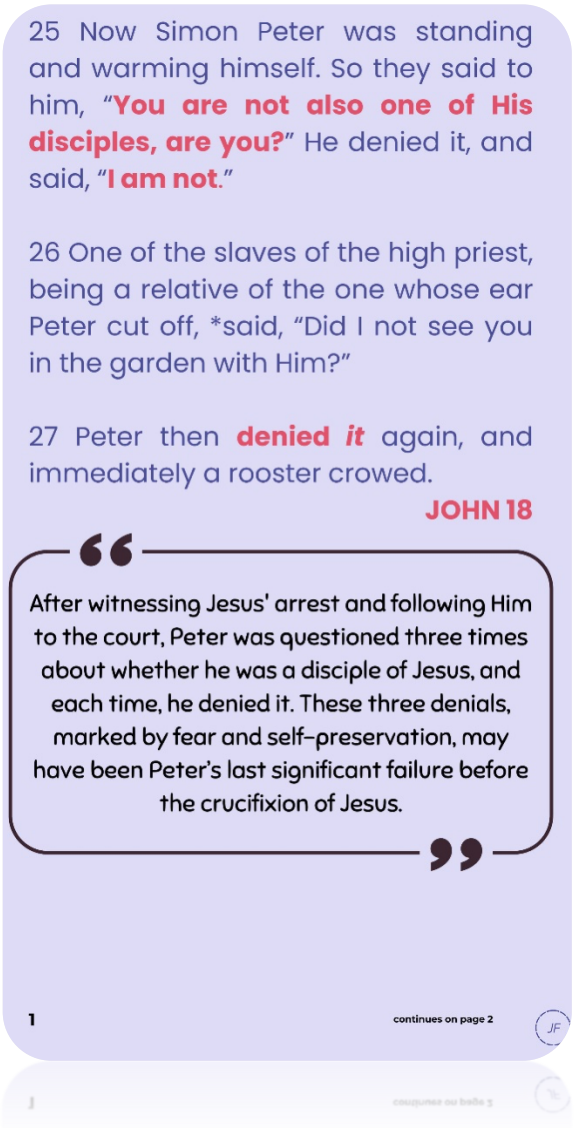
Carolyn Moonsamy:

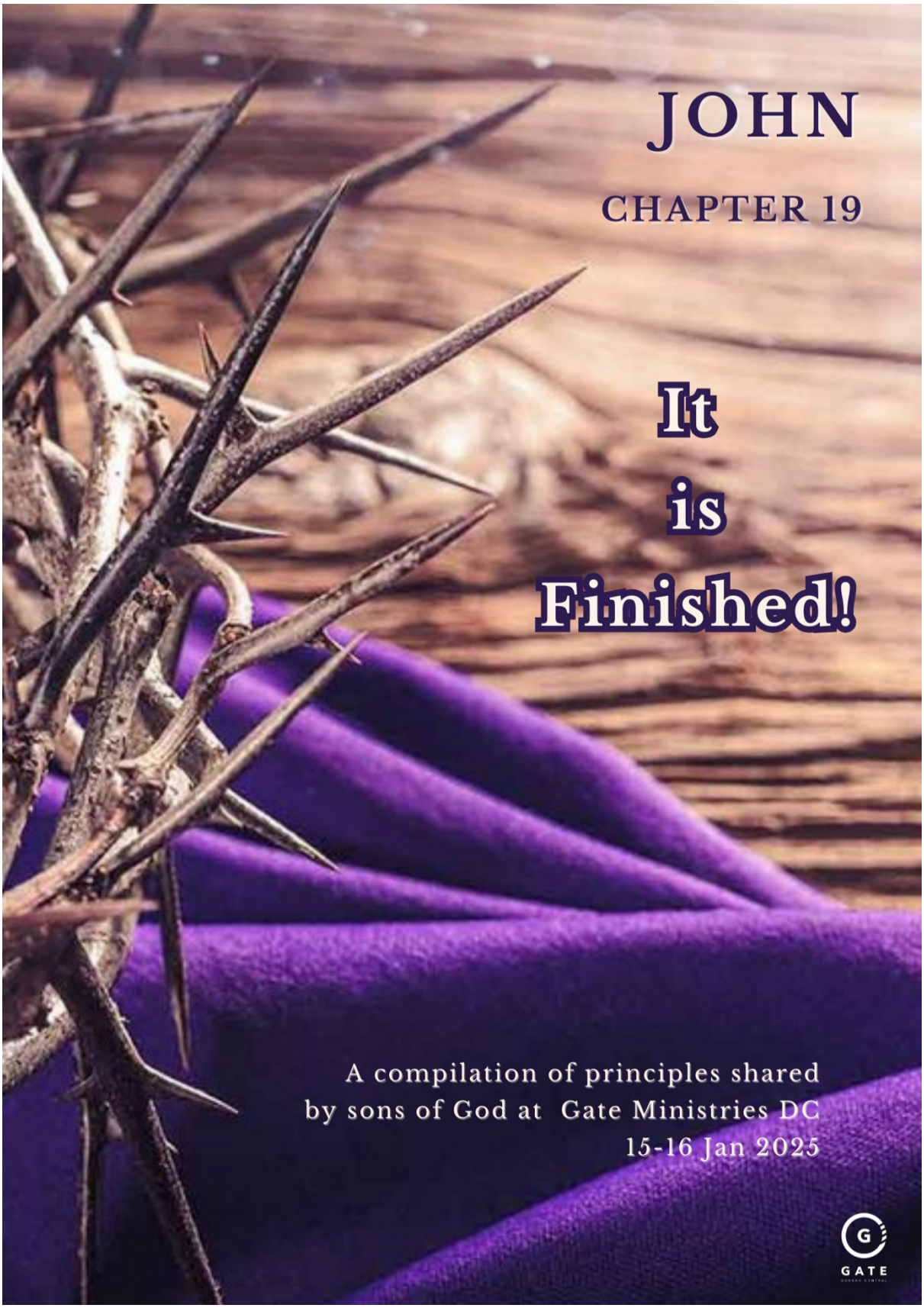
John 18

- Stand firm in my identity, even when faced with death (obedience unto death!)

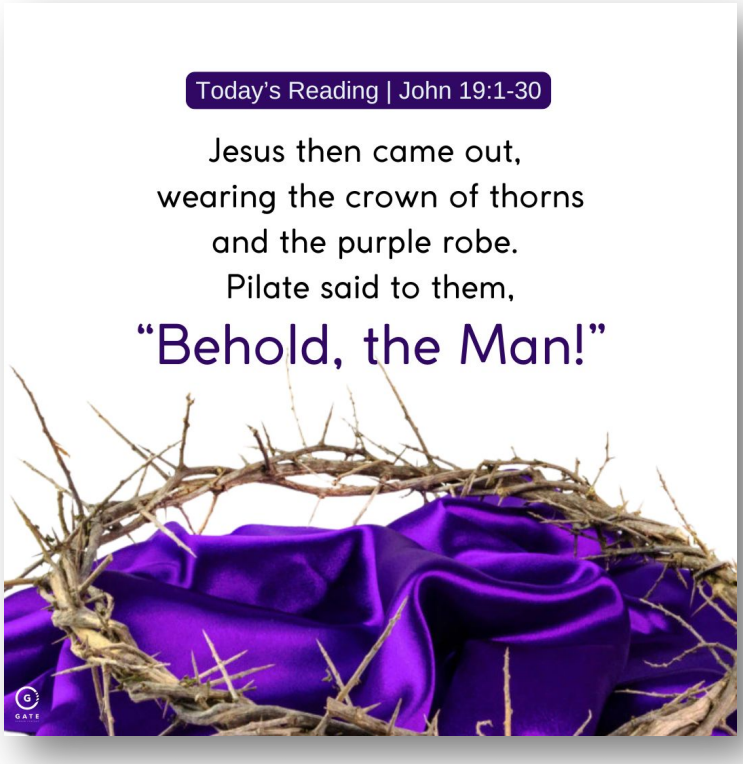
- Every encounter with others is an opportunity to spread the word (let my life be ministry unto God)
- I am not of this world (I am of the Kingdom functioning in the Earth)

Jaren Francis:




JOHN
CHAPTER 19
It
is
Finished!
A compilation of principles shared
by sons of God at Gate Ministries DC
15-16 Jan 2025
GATE

John 19:1-30 | The Crown of Thorns, The Crucifixion



Rene Barnwell:

"From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar. So he delivered him over to them to be crucified." (John 19:12,16)

It can be assumed that Pilate realised Jesus was indeed the Son of God , King of the Jews, because not only did he find no fault in Him (v4 and v6), but in verse 12, he sought to release Him.

However, the crowd convinced Pilate that Caesar would no longer consider him a friend if he released him. So Pilate handed him over to them to crucify Him.

This is another example of being a crowd pleaser/crowd puppet rather than emphatically standing firm on what you believe to be true.

May we not give in to the popular crowd/opinion for fear of being rejected, but stand tall and firm, choosing the position of truth. Be a pleaser of God than a puppet of the crowd.

Anne Paul:

“” Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:26-27)

It was as if the church was birthed at that moment when the mother of Jesus was received into John's home, (the first house church).

Fiona Beru:

“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.” (John 19:30)

In those simple yet profound words “It is finished!” Jesus accomplished His purpose here in earth. His mandate was fulfilled and because of His obedience, we have the opportunity to reconnect with our Heavenly Father.

We too need to be a “finishing” people, we need to finished what we start, no matter how difficult it might be. The cross was not “a walk in the park” for Jesus, He suffered physically, mentally, and even spiritually when His own Father disconnected from Him, not because of what He did, but because of what mankind has done and continues to do.

Our mandate is to fulfil today will of the Father, and completeness it. Let us too, have a mentality to finish strong.

Jerusha Sydney:

“When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son! Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour, the disciple took her into his own household.” (John 19:26-27 NASB)

This passage serves as a poignant reminder of Jesus' ultimate mission to fulfil the will of God the Father and to lay down His life for humanity. When He addresses His mother as "woman," it signifies that her role as His mother, the one who gave birth and nurtured Him, has reached its fulfilment. Jesus entrusts her care to the disciple, signalling the temporary nature of all human relationships. Just as Mary was a steward of Jesus’ life, we too are called to steward the lives of those we hold dear, whether parents, spouses, or children. Our time with them is limited, and when God calls them home, we must accept His will, shifting our focus to the purpose He has set before us.

This detachment is a difficult lesson to learn, but it is essential. Mary had to learn this, as should we. All relationships, no matter how close, are temporary. Our highest calling is to obey the Father's will, to surrender our own understanding, and trust in His wisdom, for He knows all things.

Annie Reddy:

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." (John 19:26-27)

In these last few moments of Jesus' life, He assures us, by these words to John, that we are not orphans.

Mary would take the role of a spiritual father to John, and John would need to acknowledge himself as a son to a spiritual father.

Under the leadership of spiritual fathers, we can continue the work of our heavenly Father and fulfil His purposes.

Wesley Joseph:

"Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." (John 19:11 NLT)

The trails and sufferings of sons of God who are walking in the Fathers righteousness are ordered by Him.

"The steps of a [good and righteous] man is directed and established by the Lord, And He delights in his way [and blesses his path" (Psalm 37:23 AMP)

The Point and objective of the suffering is to reveal God's glory in and through the son. So, the son knows how to go through it willingly and with the right posture towards God in and through the trail. His trust is in knowing that the Father will bring Him through, and many can be saved as they witness and believe in God as they see the son being raised supernaturally out of that dead situation.

We see in this public display of Jesus suffering and the way He handle Himself and focused on the Father and placed His trust in Him. Is an example we must follow as sons of God. When we go through a public trail and suffering which God can allow others to witness for the sake of revealing His glory through the situation. We must go through it with grace as this will minister greatly to those witnessing.

There are also sufferings and trails that are done in private which is for our personal development in Christ.

"… though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." (Heb 5:8 NKJV)
These are to bring us into more alignment to Him and His way. These too we must go through with the right posture as we focus on the objective of becoming more like Him. Being purified and sanctified until we come to the place where the enemy and the world can find no fault in us, nothing to bring against us to God.
"Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." (John 19:4 NKJV)
Whether private or public may we go through our sufferings and trails well, we have no idea the impact it can have for others.

Dean Govender:
A powerful man perplexed. Pilate, being in a position of power, could have released Jesus at any point in time.
He did not find any guilt in Jesus (see John 19:4b) and only imprisoned and punished Him out of fear that the Jews would mob and cause an uproar.
Verses 8 and 9 tell me that Pilate had been perplexed about his decision. He feared the outcome just as Peter did however, Peter had walked with our Lord for 3years - Jesus' reply was "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above" as all wisdom cometh from above, from the Father.
Jesus' statement led me to James 1:5-8 which says:
But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, **being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**
This is just a reminder to me and perhaps us to seek the Wisdom from above, from God, as we begin 2025. Do not doubt as Pilate did. Do not fear as Peter did, do not become unstable in your questioning of God's ways.

Despite Pilates decision, God uses all things for our good especially when you have been called according to His purpose - the death of our saviour was the ultimate example of this (see Romans 8:28).

The crown of thorns

"The Lord Jesus, scourged, given a crown of thorns and a purple robe." (John 19:2)

This scourging was done using a 'Flagrum' which was a whip with 3 or more leather straps connected to it. Known to draw flesh with each swing - the pain our saviour went through must have been excruciating.

The purple robe and crown of thorns symbolised royalty and kingship, placed on Him as a mockery as they did not believe Him to be the Son of God.

3 things done towards Him, before His crucifixion. 'completeness' in Christ displaying to us, what perfect humility and abiding by the perfect Will of the Father looks like. This is a lesson to me - of humility and acceptance, under trial.

- "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you." (James 4:10)
- "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier." (John 19:23)

Beware of the world and its systems, not only will it try to destroy the Son of God but also, clothe itself in your righteousness. Identify itself by your light.

Selwyn Young:

Here is your king!

"It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews" (John 19:14 NIV)

The people were presented with their King, but all they saw is someone deserving punishment.

All they saw was a person of scorn. All they saw was an obstacle to their temple and perhaps the reason it will be taken away (see John 11:48).

The people were blinded by rage and their selfish desires, by their hearts filled with jealousy.

Two thoughts around this.

- When our hearts are filled with the wrong things, they can be blinded.

- We will not be able to see the grace in a person who is there to help build us.

Secondly, as sons of God we are constantly presenting the king to them. We are constantly presenting salvation to them.
But people hearts, are filled with the cares of this world. People with a heart that only wants to satisfy the flesh.
We are a generation crying out here is your king!
We are saying daily He is your king Christ Jesus who is able to save your soul.
Who is able to give your life purpose?
Who is able to give direction and fulfilment to your life?
Here is your King! May we always be a here is your king people.

Carla Joshua:
"And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him;" (John 19:2 NASB1995)
Everything that was done to Jesus even though it's was done specifically in a mocking way was symbolic of an element of revelation that will help to decipher the divine path mapped out for us by Jesus:

- **Crown** (honour, authority, victory function, office, responsibility, dignity power and dominance to lead no matter what)
- **Thorns** (pain hardship, sorrow, challenges, difficulty, distress, irritation)
- **Purple robe** (royalty, rarity, authority)

The Son of God paid the price to the point blood and death with sterling royalty.
We too must walk through the valleys having the perspective that Jesus had. He never staggered for a second through the journey. Faultless perfect Jesus.
"So Pilate *said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" (John 19:10 NASB1995)
The authorities created among mankind have been given by God to bring lawful order. Pilate was told the only reason why he walking in that authority is because it was allowed by God. Some things in leadership will not be fun and good to do, being able to see the big picture sometimes escapes our understanding but know that God is good. There's no ifs butts or maybes about the sovereign goodness of God, He is good because He sees and He knows. And when we know as God knows we will thank Him for the speed bumps (so to speak). The things that are allowed in your life are allowed

by God and **He IS A GOOD GOD.** That's Jesus' perspective. perspective is critical. The need must be governed always by the call, leaders understand this. This had to take place even though Pilate felt He had the authority to release Jesus.

"When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He *said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (John 19:26 NASB1995)

We might wonder why Jesus, when He spoke addresses His mother as woman, it was appropriate because He was dying as the Son of God not the son of Mary and doing it for her and all of mankind. He then says John behold your mother. Imagine dying on a cross and still fulfilling your responsibility as the eldest and telling your brother "See mummy there", "go to her aid", "she needs help", making sure His mother's well taken care of. Jesus speaks to us.

Audrey Adams:

"After he took the wine, Jesus said, "It's done... complete." Bowing his head, he offered up his spirit." (John 19:30)

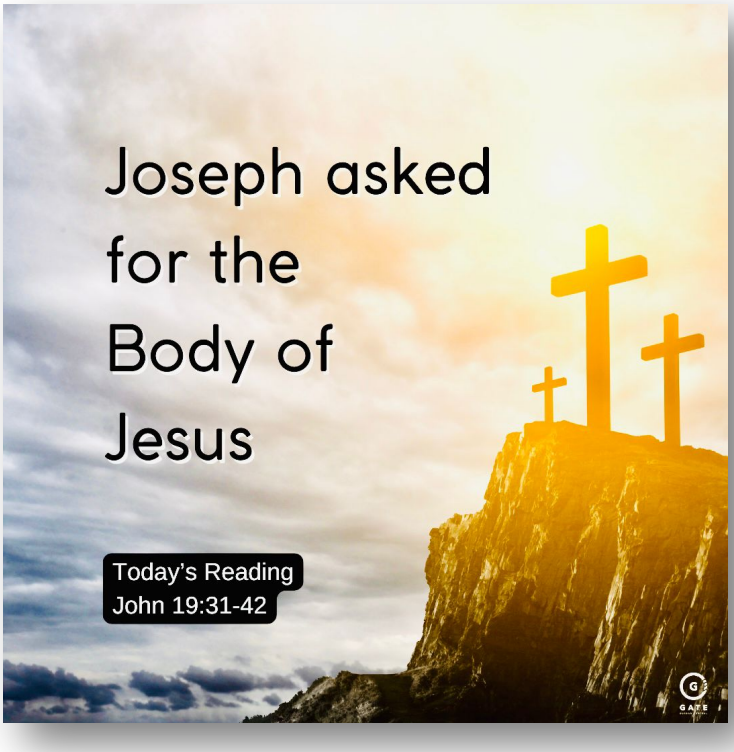
Jesus showing, He was in control gave up his spirit only when the work His Father sent him to accomplish was completed. A shout of victory!

Powerful demonstration of His love for us and obedience to His father in fulfilment of bridging the gap between sinful man and God.

Oh, how He loves you and me. It's not our good works or anything that we can boast of but that He laid down his life for us.

Thank you, Father, for redemption: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

John 19:31-42 | Care of Jesus' Body



Rene Barnwell:

"After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus...Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night..." (John 19:38a-39a).

How interesting that Joseph and Nicodemus, two secret believers who were Jewish leaders, were previously afraid to publicly make known their allegiance to Jesus...but now they courageously ask for the body of Jesus to prepare it for burial.

No mention is made of the other disciples, who were faithful followers, assisting them- they seem to have scattered.

May we always have the courage to do the right thing, especially when it comes to publicly standing for Christ, His Word and His ways unashamedly.

Julienne Bartleson:

"It was the day of **preparation**, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was **Passover** week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then, their bodies could be taken down." (John 19:31 NLT)

There are so many significant things that are transpiring in this time that signify the power of the CROSS:

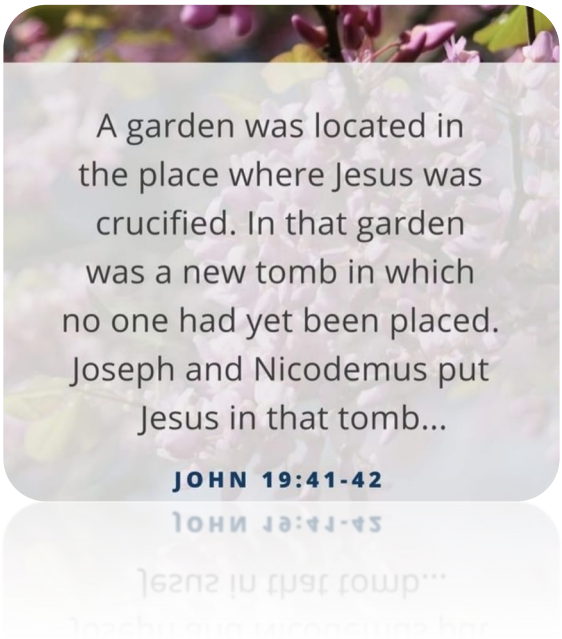
Preparation was being made by the Jews for the **Passover** to be celebrated.

The Passover lamb was crucified, and He would redeem us from Slavery to Sonship, from death to life, from bondage to freedom.

It was also **the Sabbath,** which speaks to REST. In His death, He has brought us into REST by His finished work on the cross.

In John 1, we see John seeing Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And now, in John 19, we see the great sacrifice He has made to redeem us. **Filled with gratitude for the Lamb of God!**

Raylene Eksteen:



The garden and the new tomb stand out to me as they were in the place where the crucifixion took place.

- There was already a place prepared, and it was new.

Gardens speak to life, beauty, fruitfulness, and purpose being fulfilled. This is the faithfulness of our Father to fulfil every word He has spoken concerning our lives.

It's a reminder that we should remain in hope, even in our time of trial, that we can expect the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in every dead situation. It's confirmation that God has gone before us and prepared everything we would need to get through the situation that we are facing.

Fiona Beru:

“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.” (John 19:34)

John records this specific detail because there were people that didn’t believe that Jesus came to earth as a human with flesh and blood. But this recording goes so much deeper, by the blood that was cleansing power reminds us of His sacrificial death so

that our sins and the penalty of death has been washed away. **The water represents the Word** that washes us white as snow.

Pastor Thamo Naidoo also told us, and I am paraphrasing “The flowing of the blood and water symbolized when Jesus gave “birth” to you and I and all those that would receive salvation.” NOW We are “born again” not of flesh and blood, but of the spirit.

“Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:5-6)

Anne Paul:



Nicodemus, who is introduced in Jesus' earliest ministry in John 3, accompanies Joseph of Arimathea because he grasped the salvation principles in John 3:16.

He brings the spices to preserve the physical body of Jesus.

The tomb is located in a garden (places of death and life). Salvation came at a painful price. May we have a new-found appreciation for the price that Jesus paid.

Broken legs signify incapacitation, stagnancy and no momentum. One with broken legs cannot outrun horses.

Even in death, the purposes of the Father were not thwarted.

'How lovely on the mountains -even Golgotha- are the feet of Him who brings Good News.'

Carla Joshua:

“Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.” (John 19:31 NASB1995)

This Sabbath celebration spoken about is a similar picture for us because we are sheltering, like the Jews back in Egypt under the blood of the Lamb. Remember the Passover commemorated the release from bondage and slavery. This at Calvary is the ultimate Passover witnessed. The painting of blood on the lintels of the door of the

houses of the Jews, sheltering under the blood of the Lamb. There's a release from the bondage to sin for those who behold Him.

John 1 - John says behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Critical to the Passover week was that there was to be no leaven to be found in their houses which is a picture of sin. This is a powerful and true for the church today, we are to put away sin in our lives as we celebrate and no longer living like the old man of sin.

"… but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs." (John 19:33)

In Exodus 12 was written that no bones will be broken, fulfilling the scripture but another picture or shape for us to see Is that because Jesus gave Himself up, by not resisting death. He claimed through this the fulfilment of the word in total surrender. They didn't take His life; He gave His life. Submitting Himself to the process absolutely.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 19

- Endure suffering without retaliation (painful)
- Practice humility in the face of accusation (Jesus remains silent when He was falsely accused)
- Trust in God's eternal plan
- Remain obedient and filled with faith unto death

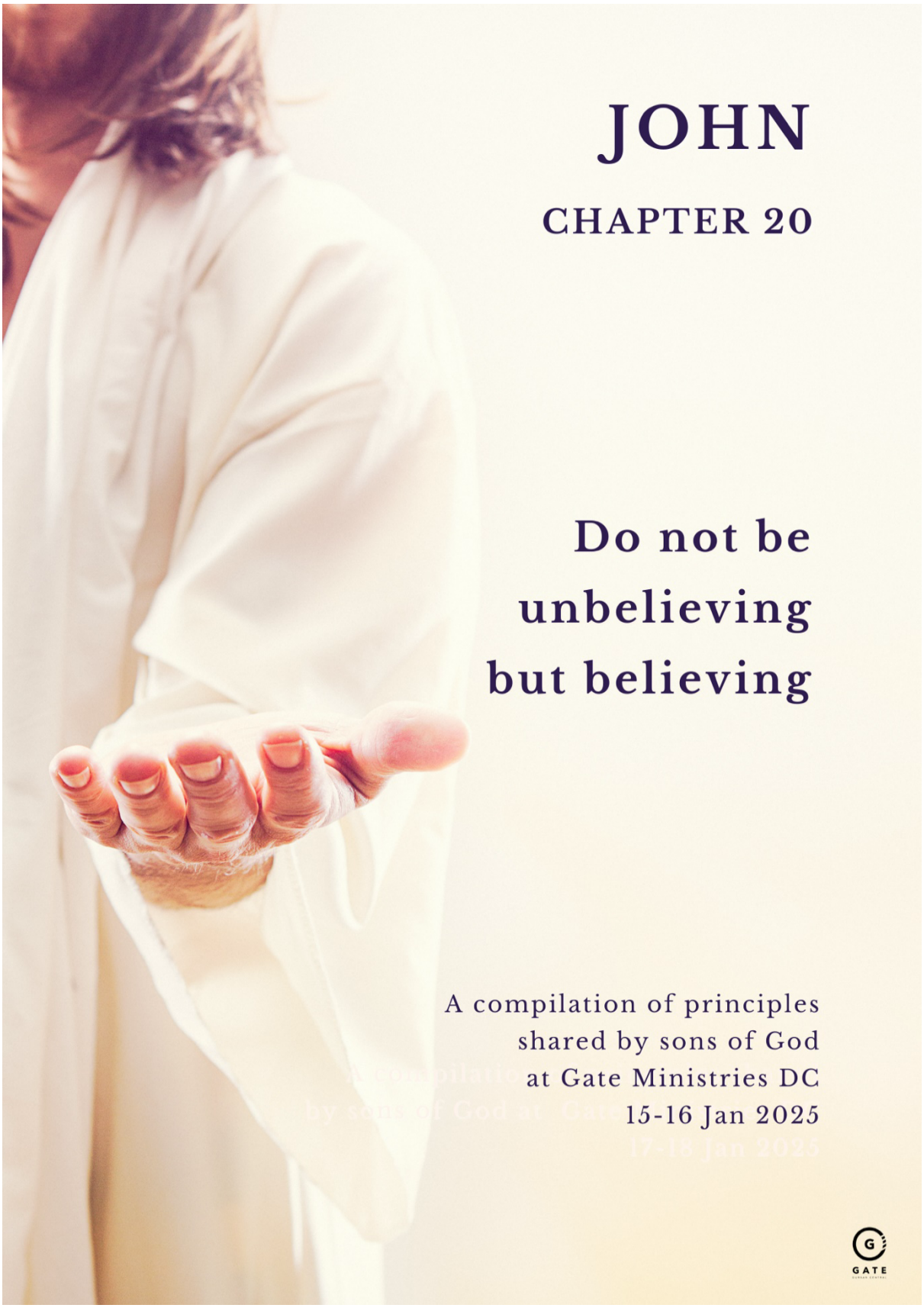
Carla Joshua:

John 19: Power, Strength and Meekness: For the will and purposes of God to be prevail a submitted obedient posture is the gold.

Jesus had power (He is the Mighty One, the Messiah, the Son of God) to resist but He didn't.

Jesus was strength under control of the will to honour His Father. Wholly submitted to the agenda of the One who sent Him.

His life was not taken it was giving to every degree so that the word may be fulfilled.



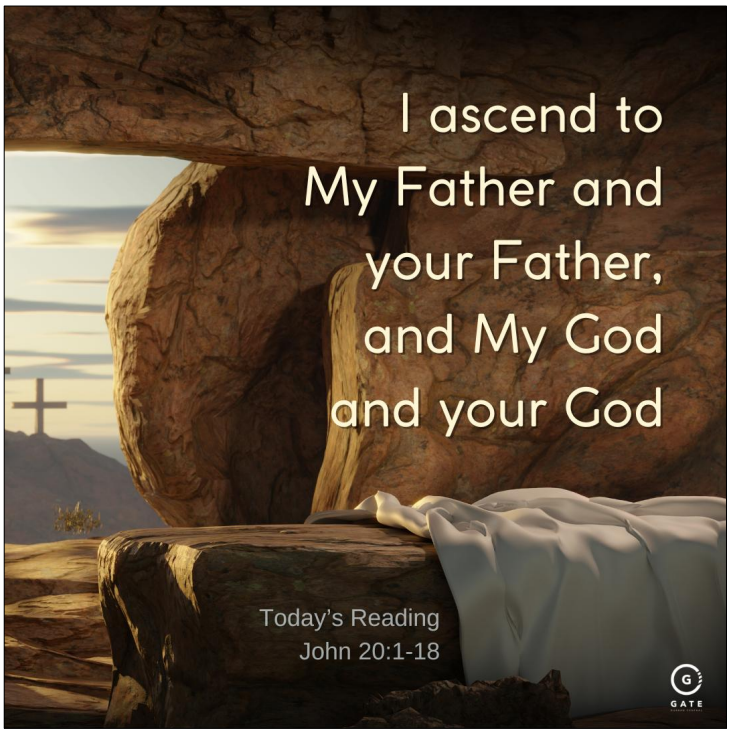
JOHN

CHAPTER 20

Do not be unbelieving but believing

A compilation of principles
shared by sons of God
at Gate Ministries DC
15-16 Jan 2025

John 20:1-18 | The Empty Tomb



Rene Barnwell:

"Jesus said to her, "**DO NOT CLING TO ME**, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (John 20:17)

Up until this point, Mary had a relationship with Jesus in the sphere of the natural, while He was in His physical form. Now, in verses 2,13 and 15, after His burial, she is focussed on establishing where His body is, even saying she will take Him away.

But Jesus wanted her to transition from the natural to the spiritual realm; to activate her prophetic sight and see things through the eyes of the Spirit- the resurrected Christ was standing before her and she did not perceive it.

Hence, He said to her: 'Do not cling to Me' (the natural dimension of Him), because He had not ascended to His Father yet. Once He ascended to the Father, He would send the Holy Spirit- the Teacher, Comforter, Helper- to enable her to maintain a close relationship with Him in the spiritual realm, and cling to Him through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many of us appraise things with our natural eye, things that are visible and tangible. This can disadvantage us from prophetic /spiritual sight of the grand purpose and will of God behind what appears to be.
May Father open our spiritual eyes so rightly discern and appraise every situation, and see beyond the natural into His eternal will for our lives.

Carolyn Moonsamy:
Mary was devastated when she saw that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb. Her judgement or discernment of who Jesus really was, was clouded by her grief and emotion, she was not able to recognize Christ **UNTIL HE CALLED HER BY NAME**.
The principle here is that God knows our identity. When we come into the realization that He knows who we are, we can rest because **OUR IDENTITY IS IN HIM.** It is then that revelation takes places (He reveals Himself when we are intimate with Him and respond to His call).
Let us all listen as He calls us by name: **SON OF GOD**- This is our identity.
"To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." (John 10:3)

Rene Barnwell:
"…I AM ASCENDING TO MY FATHER AND YOUR FATHER, to MY GOD AND YOUR GOD.'" (John 20:17b ESV)
Jesus referred to His Father as 'MY Father and YOUR Father, MY God and YOUR God'- indicating that we too can enjoy a Divine relationship with Father while still living in our natural bodies on Earth.
We can cry ABBA FATHER because we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons (refer to Rom 8:15).
In verse 17, Jesus said He is ASCENDING to His Father, our Father, and we too must do likewise- ASCEND to our Father.
Ascension is depictive of: going higher and deeper in intimacy with Christ/ elevation/spiritual growth to new levels/glorifying God by showcasing His glory through our acts of obedience.
What facilitates ascension?
The answer is found in Psalm 24:3-4 which says: "Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has CLEAN HANDS and a

PURE HEART, who DOES NOT LIFT UP HIS SOUL TO WHAT IS FALSE and DOES NOT SWEAR DECEITFULLY."

May we, even whilst we are still on this Earth, ascend to our Father just like Jesus did, our lives being characterised by integrity-clean hands, a pure heart, subscribing to truth and not that which is false, and not swearing deceitfully/bearing false witness/misrepresentation against anyone.

Carla Joshua:

"When she had said this, she turned around and *saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus." (John 20:14 NASB1995)

This is a vital moment that Mary first witnesses by encountering Jesus in spiritual form. Mary wept at the tomb, a natural reaction when you face something unexpected and sad. She anticipated separation as a result of the death of Jesus (we notice given her disposition). She didn't recognise that He the Spirit was present and on further inquiry she questioned where is He then? I'll take Him away she says, or paraphrased, I'll serve Him, I'll do what He needs done.

Seeking, desiring the Lord and serving Him is a critical part of the process.

Jesus also demonstrates another dynamic by the question, why are you weeping woman, who are you seeking? He cares, His involved, He is acquainted with our situation and He wants us to know that He is the object of your affection.

Further we notice that when Jesus says "**Mary!"** she connects with the resurrection. We are always taken aback when someone knows our name- Jesus called her by name, Mary gets revelation and she now says Teacher! Witnessing He is here. She took the message, many didn't receive, that He will return through the Holy Spirit and must be taken at His word via the Spirit. Mary carried the message of Jesus as was instructed by Him. Let our lives and experience with Jesus make an announcement for His glory.

Selwyn Young:

The disciple becomes a brother

"Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (John 20:17 NIV).

When Jesus had done his Father's work. His disciples were elevated to a new level. They had been moved to brothers. Jesus no longer said my Father, but our Father. Jesus by these words had made known that the new way had been open, and by His death, all who believe in Him are now sons of God.
He is the firstborn over all creation (see Colossians 1:15).
Just like His disciples, as we follow and walk with Him and because of His resurrection, we are now brothers.
The resurrected Jesus ushered in Adoption! Praise God!

Britnee Adams:
"The two were running together; and the **other disciple ran ahead faster** than Peter **and came to the tomb first**; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; ***but he did not go in."** (John 20:4-5 NASB1995)
We have heard this scripture time and time again and have also heard the exhortations about the disciple not going in.
However, after coming this far in the reading of John, journeying with this book- the revelation of the disciple not going in hits different.
What took me back was that **HE CAME TO THE TOMB FIRST but DID NOT GO IN.**
This has firstly challenged me, not to take for granted the privilege of being a FIRSTborn SON. Secondly, it has challenged me to not just carry the status of firstborn sonship but to go beyond that **and ENTER THE INNER COURTS** of God's word, ways and Spirit.
Don't get to the tomb first and not go in!

Julienne Bartleson:
"Dear woman, **why are you crying**?" **the angels asked** her. "Because they **have taken away my Lord**," she replied, "and **I don't know where** they have put him. She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "**Dear woman, why are you crying**?" Jesus asked her. "**Who are you looking for?**" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." (John 20:13-15 NLT)
The angels asked Mary why are you crying? Jesus asked Mary why are you crying ?
Mary was overcome with emotion at the thought of where is He? where have they taken Him; the overwhelming thought of loss overcame her in this moment.

Jesus asks her what are you looking for? The answer she was weeping/crying for was actually now standing in front of her but the Bible she did not recognize Him.
I believe Jesus comes to us today and asks Julienne why are you crying?
As we heard this morning Jesus was ascending- There was a higher dimension to which He was going to and bringing us into.
Our current situation may cause us to cry, BUT we must SEE that although the answer may not be in the place, we think it is, Jesus was not in the tomb, yet we must SEE that He has prepared something even better for us! The covenant that Jesus fulfilled through His death, resurrection and ascension has brought us into that which speaks of BETTER (Hebrews 8:6).

Raylene Eksteen:
"… and he stooped to look in, and *saw the linen wrappings lying there; however he did not go in. So Simon Peter also *came, following him, and he entered the tomb; and he *looked at the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings but folded up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb also entered then, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes. But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; and she *saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they *said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She *said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him." (John 20:5-13)
As a reader of the above versus you see that in all the commotion and confusion of the situation there were signs that God was in control.
From, the folded face cloth (indicating an intentional action for order and not an accident or violent action by which the body of Jesus could have been taken) to the two angels in the tomb (angelic presence signifying God's peace, power and authority and confirming that not only was God at work, He was in control).
Jesus body was not taken, He had risen from the dead and was preparing for His ascension. However, when I place myself in Marys shoes and I imagine the emotions she was going through…grief, fear, anxiety, uncertainty and despair, I can see how one can miss the evidence of Gods power and protection. Sometimes our emotional

attachment to a situation can affect or impact our ability to see, perceive and experience what is really going on in a situation or to connect to where God is and wants us to be versus where we last saw/experienced Him.
I'm reminded of Ps Randolph's teaching on the prosperity of the soul. If the state of our spirit (How we hear God's voice and engage heaven) is poor, our soul (mind, will and emotions which we use to engage the world through our senses) will rule. Mary didn't initially recognise Jesus and this could have been because she didn't expect to see Him because the last time, she saw Him he was dead, she couldn't see clearly because she was crying, or because her emotional state could have clouded her perception of what was really happening, but when Mary heard Jesus call her by her name, she knew who He was by the hearing of his voice. It is said of blind people that their sense of hearing is heightened. Even when Mary couldn't see Jesus physically for whatever reason, when she heard His voice, she knew who He was also signifying the intimacy of their relationship.

Romans 10:17 says: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
If we are to heighten/refine our sense of hearing and bring our soul under the subjection of our spirit we have to be locked into the word of God in order to recognise His voice. We strengthen our spirit and develop intimacy with God the Father through the reading of His word.

Debbie Bartleson:
Reading John chapter 20 my attention has been drawn to the fact that Jesus was so committed to the Father's plan for humanity. Jesus did not deter.
HE LIVED WITH PURPOSE to fulfil the plans. And He did because before he died, he said "it is finished." He said my father your father, which encourages me to be purposeful and faithful to all the Father says. This only happens when we have the same relationship that Jesus had with his Father.
Another thought was in the tomb where the linen covering Jesus wore was laying one side, but the handkerchief was neatly folded and placed at the head of tomb.
There must have been some significance with the burial linen being one side. My interpretation is that Jesus conquered death, so the clothes were of no importance any

longer. The handkerchief however, I decided to do research on it, this was the insert I will share:

The folded handkerchief has to do with a daily dynamic between the master and the servant – and every Jewish boy knew this dynamic well. The servant, as he prepared the dining table for his master, ought to be sure to do so in exactly the manner desired by his master. After the table was prepared, the servant would wait outside the master's sight until he finished the meal. The servant would never dare touch the table before the master was finished. When he was finished, the master would rise, wipe his fingers, his mouth and beard, tie his handkerchief, and throw it on the table. **The abolished handkerchief meant "I'm done."**



Now, if the master stood up and left the handkerchief folded beside the plate, the servant would not dare to touch the table yet, **for that folded handkerchief meant to say, "I will come back!"**

"I am coming back!" What a hope Jesus is coming back!

This an insert from Prayer Central.

Jerusha Sydney:

"But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she *saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they *said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She *said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." When she had said this, she turned around and *saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus."" (John 20:11-14 NASB)

These verses from John 20 offers a powerful reminder of how our emotions and earthly concerns can cloud our spiritual vision. Mary, deeply immersed in grief and confusion, failed to recognize the miracle standing before her—Jesus, alive. Similarly, we can become so preoccupied with the challenges and distractions of life that we overlook the ways God is actively working in our lives.

The Holy Spirit, as our guide, helps us see beyond the immediate struggles and opens our eyes to God's miraculous interventions. By grounding ourselves in God's word and

relying on the Spirit, we can better perceive the blessings, answers to prayer, and divine guidance unfolding around us.
Like Mary, we may miss the blessings of God if we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by earthly concerns. Therefore, it is essential that we actively seek to discern God's presence, favour, and miracles in our lives. Repentance and an openness to the Holy Spirit's work in us can help us cultivate spiritual awareness and deepen our relationship with the Father.
Let us be intentional in seeking God's presence and acknowledging His constant work in our lives, just as He did the greatest miracle through the resurrection of Jesus. May we learn to see the miraculous in the everyday moments.

Debbie Bartleson:
The one disciple stooped into the tomb but Simon Peter walked straight into tomb. He embraced revelation with no doubt and believed as to what took place, you cannot be on the fence.

Yolanda Young:
John 20: Peace be with you! Stop and be at peace. When we are at peace with situations we face, we see and hear God our Father.
"He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." (John 21:6 NIV)
Reorientation is imperative. Going through the daily routine of life can cause us to just live putting us in survival mode.
When we 'cast our net on the right side' we see Love. True Love. Our Father loves us and wants to Bless us. His act of service through Christ Jesus has shown this love.
Reorientate Your Focus #Cast your net on the other side!

Carla Joshua:
John 20- Mary was is in a state of grief finding out that Jesus was no longer in the tomb but that didn't stop Jesus from revealing Himself to her.
He still with no uncertainty was able draw out worship in the sense that she called Him teacher. Therefore, she still in that moment obediently received and saw Jesus her teacher.

Jesus always reveals Himself to us and what we see in Him, is directly related to what we need Him to be.

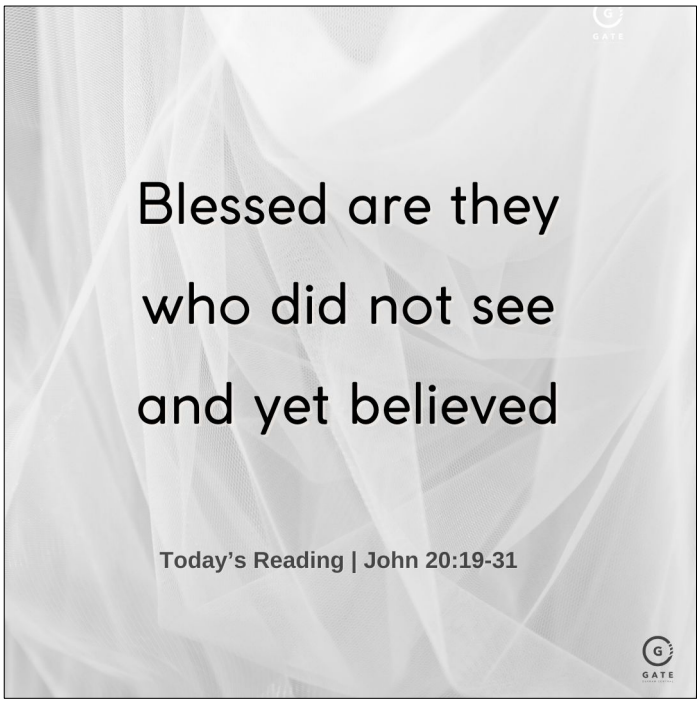
Selwyn Young:

John 20- Jesus is peace giver. He is our peace.

“For he himself is our peace…" (see Ephesians 2:14)

In a time of tumult, Jesus enters and offers peace. Calming the fear and stilling anxious hearts. He still does that today.

John 20:19-31 | Jesus Among His Disciples



Rene Barnwell:

"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "PEACE BE WITH YOU." (John 20:19)

Can you imagine the fear in the room?

Jesus, their Shepherd, had just being brutally crucified, and now the disciples, His sheep, are huddled together in a locked room for fear of subsequent persecution, torture and even death, as was foretold by Jesus that they would suffer persecution (see Matthew 10).

Then Jesus suddenly appears in the room...what an assuring Presence of the Person of Peace...He declares peace to them all. At that point they knew that all would be well, they were not alone. They were glad (verse 20).

In verse 22, Jesus breathes on them and tells them to receive the Holy Spirit, perceiving their need for strength, help, comfort and boldness.

May we, in our hour of fear, despair, anxiety and hopelessness, know the power of His Presence which brings peace, strength, hope and comfort. We may have locked the door of our hearts to protect ourselves from hurt, but allow Christ in and experience His assuring peace and power which His Presence brings.

Dean Govender:

Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." (John 20:29 NASB)

We see in the prior verses that Thomas did not believe that the other disciples had seen Jesus and he required proof of our Lords existence - proof in the form of Jesus' wounds from the crucifixion.

After Jesus had asked him to reach in and feel the wounds (John 20:27) Thomas believed.

Verse 29 explains that when we as disciples, identify and partake in the sufferings of Christ - we are forced to believe. 'Our storms cause us to believe' in Christ, in what He has done, in the nature of the Father.

Blessed are those who believe without having to experience suffering or trial.

Carla Joshua:

"So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace be with you."" (John 20:19 NASB1995)

On the same day of resurrection, the disciples were together. The text says they were in fear of the Jews, possibly that their lives might in danger but this didn't deter them from gathering in the upper room.

It's a normal response to run and hide in the wake of trouble but Jesus had instructed them continue to gather even after He had left. Notice how even the thought the door is locked Jesus came and stood in their midst. He need led speak peace over them because they were probably startled by His appearance.

There are circumstances in life that are similar where we might need a locked door but be careful to never lock Jesus out of the heart, He is everywhere but it's possible to for Jesus to not have access to our hearts.

In this meeting Jesus didn't come to give them a new idea or philosophy He came to give them Himself, He knew all they needed and we need is Jesus.

Jesus gave them assurance by showing them His hands and His side.

He gave them peace by speaking the words "Peace be with you as the Father has sent me."

He gave them a mission saying as “My Father has sent Me I send you.” He gave them the Holy Spirit by breathing on them. He gave them the authority to speak or pronounce forgiveness.
Will we be a doubting Thomas if we hear about Him? Are there conditions that must be met before you believe? Will God get your praise and honour after you get the job/ husband/house/promotion or desire fulfilled?
Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed!

Selwyn Young:
My Peace
Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:19, 21 NIV)
Peace is a precious commodity in this life where there are so many troubles.
Peace cannot be bought or sold. Many people go through their whole lives striving, living and dying to have peace.
Jesus provides a peace to us, which says steady your heart even in the midst of the storm. A peace which transcends understanding.
In turbulent situations, while others run around screaming the sky is falling, we hold on to the peace that we were given by our savior Christ Jesus.
He has reminded us that in this world we will have trouble but we should take heart because “He has overcome the world,” (see John 16:33).

Yvette Govender:
“Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)
“For we live by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Fiona Beru:
“… but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31
The Logos (Bible) was written so that we can have a historical account that Christ (the logos) came to earth. So that we might believe both through the Rhema word spoken and demonstrated, we can have life in Him

Emmarentia van Schalkwyk:

“Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29 NIV)

Earlier on in this chapter, Jesus appeared to the rest of the disciples. They instantly believed and didn't doubt. Thomas on the other hand, wanted proof. Knowing our hearts and thoughts, Jesus graciously appeared to them again and showed him the proof he wanted.

Thomas forgot all the miracles he witnessed while walking with Jesus. The disciples had no reason to lie because they were all in the same boat. Here Jesus promises that those who 'just believe' will be blessed. May we also 'just believe' no matter what we going through or waiting on. God is faithful, and His timing is always perfect.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

John 20

- Impart peace- Jesus does this 3 times in the chapter. Receive His Peace.
- Practice forgiveness
- Rely on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
- Have a mindset to serve others
- Death is not the end- resurrection power!

Carla Joshua:

John 20- Prince of Peace: Jesus is peace in every situation that brings an unrest. He knows that the many things happening is bound to make us feel unstable but He also wants us to know that yes there are things being shaken but don’t worry, know that I have broken down every wall. It is well with your soul.

JOHN

CHAPTER 21

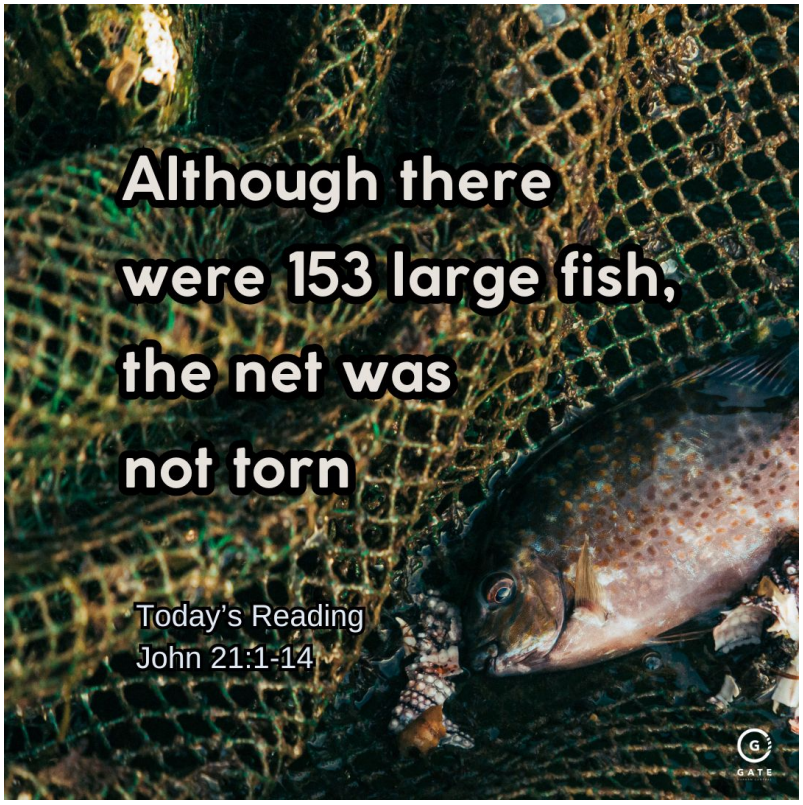
Do you love me



A compilation
of principles
shared by
sons of God
at Gate Ministries DC
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GATE

John 21:1-14 | Jesus Appears in Galilee; God Provides



Selwyn Young:

It is the Lord: “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,” Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.” (John 21:7,12 NIV).

“My sheep know my voice” (see John 10:27). The disciple must know the voice of their father. In addition to knowing the voice of their father they should know his deeds.

The disciples did not ask the Lord Jesus if it were Him because they know his modus operandi. They were in step with the way their master did things. They were in tune with His voice.

Similarly, we should know the voice of our father. Our father in the house but more profoundly the voice of our heavenly Father.

We must hear the voice of our heavenly father in the voice of our earthly fatherly oversight. Tuned in, plugged in and on the same frequency as He is.

Even when we hear a voice telling us to do something our response will be, it is the Lord, because we know His voice, His nature and His character.

Britnee Adams:

"…So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in **because of the great number of fish**… So when they got out on the land, they saw **a *charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread.**" (John 21:6,9 NASB1995)

When you have a **"It is the Lord!"** moment (see John 21:7), you do not only have the provision of the Father but you also have the:

1. Preparation of a table and;
2. An invitation to dine with the Father.

Found at the feet of Jesus' blessings is not only the PROVISION of that which you needed (e.g., the disciples having a great amount of fish) BUT there is also a table that is PREPARED for you (e.g., charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread) and more so an INVITATION for you to sit in the presence of the Lord and not only feast on his goodness, but feast on his everlasting WORD (besides the fish, there was also bread).

This is also a reminder to us that when God's provision is displayed in our lives, let us **be quick to run back to Him**, sit with Him, dine with Him and get back to eating of His truth (the word).

Provision is an invitation to run back to the Father! The source of our strength.

Carla Joshua:

"And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish." (John 21:6 NASB1995)

This is Jesus' third appearance to the disciples specifically after He was raised from the dead. John wants to capture this like a studied painter does- every feature and characteristic of Jesus to see all truth and life that He embodied.

The disciples were busy fishing when Jesus appeared and instructed them to cast nets on the right side, it's easier to direct somethings that's already moving showing the we must about the lords busy here on earth. Actively waiting for the Lord to return and be occupied. When Jesus gave the instruction to cast on the right side was not a new

technique to use or the top of the range net but the winning formula is obedience. Jesus also asks do you have any fish because the admission that you cannot do it on your own changes' things. The difference between success and failure is not the width of the boat, it's knowing that without Him you can do nothing and obedience to His instructions.
John figured this out back when they went in the tomb and He within himself had a witness that Jesus had risen; much the same here John knows it's only the Lord that can do this saying" It is the Lord."
Let there be a witness that Jesus is orchestrating all things in our lives as we willingly, obediently and in faith give Him jurisdiction in all our affairs.

Dean Govender:
"Simon Peter *said to them, "I am going fishing." They *said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish." (John 21:3,7-8)
Peter had gone fishing but failed to catch anything. When he heard it was the Lord Jesus, he put on his garments and jumped off the boat, abandoning the net full of fish as he 'ran to Jesus' (swam).
We are Peter and our garments represent our righteousness- After having walked closely with the Lord Jesus for 3 years, Peter removed his garments and could not catch any fish - likewise, after all our teachings and doctrine, we become 'forgetful hearers' and go into the world/workspace, trying to function as a Son of God but fail in having things work out well - no fish
Upon seeing Jesus, Simon Peter left his catch and swam towards Him - this is indicative of us running to Jesus after failing at something. Note here: the catch was left behind for the 'effectual doers' to haul in.
Powerful lesson here.

Bradley Harlim:
Christ told the disciples in their early stages that he will make them "fishers of men."

In their final moments together seen in John 21...Christ finds them back in the boat fishing. The place where they were fishing was not yielding much fish.
However, Christ tells them to cast their nets on the other side and what occurs is an enormous yield.
I do believe that this was a sign toward what God was wanting/expecting of these Jewish disciples to do next. A symbol/metaphor perhaps.
They had been "Fishing/Working" amongst mostly Jews. But now Christ knew that he would be sending them out into the Gentile nations (casting on the other side).
There is a common symbolism at play in scripture where we see The Gentiles being displayed as animals... The Woman referred to as a Dog and ultimately Peter having the Vision of the White Sheet coming down from heaven with all manner of animals.
Further to this Whenever Christ encountered a non-Jew the result was that the scenario ended with Christ expressing great joy/marvel at The Great Faith that was displayed by non-Jews.
The Samaritan woman at the well... The Centurion who was willing to accept the Healing by authority of Christ's word from where he was.
The woman who would even take the Crumbs.
Looking at the above and remembering the rejection of Christ by Israel and its leaders. Christ had been consistently showing his disciples that ultimately the Gospel is going to be moved to outside of just Israel and the Jews.
The closing scenes where Christ is almost reinstating Peter is so encouraging.
Peter was obviously devastated because of his denial of Christ.
However, Christ, was able to lovingly recalibrate him back to his post. Praise God.

Fiona Beru:
“Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.” (John 21:3,6)
Some of disciples decided that they were going to return to their former vocation, but they did so inaccurately. When they tried in their human endeavours to do produce something that was not of the Lord’s will, they laboured all night but were unfruitful.

Jesus comes along and instructs them to cast their met on the right side of the boat, two question pop up in my mind:

1. Didn't they try both sides during the night?
2. What made them try again?

I think that they had tried both sides of the boat that night, but when Jesus addressed them as "Children" and gave them the instructions, I think that they heard a "Father" talking and they obeyed immediately.
We need to learn to listen to the voice of our Father, so that when we are instructed to do something we obey reflexively otherwise we will not fulfil our purpose here in the earth. The disciples were called to be "fishers of men" not of fish, but even in their error, a Father gives direction and if obeyed a multitude of blessings (fish) was given. Let us me obedient to the voice and call of our Father so that we too can be fruitful.

Annie Reddy:
"He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish." (John 21:6)
The right side of the boat, in nautical terms, is called the starboard, it's the side of the boat that sailors steer from.
By casting their nets on the right side, the disciples let the Lord lead.
Being obedient to the Father and His word allows Him to steer the way. When challenges come our way, we know the Lord will be our guide.

Anne Paul:
After the death and ascension of Jesus, Peter reverts to his fishing profession. The danger of not being guided is the ability to take others on a backward journey.
"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." (John 21:3).
Some may find it more difficult to get back on track and we could lead an entire generation astray when we do not conform to the direction of God. May we always be conscious of the leading of our spiritual parents and not revert to our old ways.

Corayne Walters:

"But when the day was now breaking, JESUS stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know it was JESUS. So JESUS said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No."" (John 21:4-5 NASB).

In Verse 3:

Peter appears disillusioned and depressed. This attitude infected the others with him. They became spiritually dense, preventing them from knowing and seeing JESUS was within sight of them.

Verse 5:

JESUS addresses them as **children**. Highlighting their faithlessness and immaturity. They chose to sulk and behave like children.

Deluding themselves, as children do, that they were self-sufficient, self-reliant. **They forgot JESUS.**

Verse 6:

We see the love and grace of the LORD'S caring, restorative heart for HIS chosen ones. To every Son of GOD:

Walking away from our Heavenly FATHER, even in our thoughts, when things don't go our way, causes spiritual blindness and an orphan spirit to come along, doing its best to deceive and rob us of our identity in CHRIST.

Let us never forget the **precious blood of JESUS!**

Nkululeko Freedom:

"Simon Peter said, "**I'm going fishing**." We'll come, too," they all said. So they went out in the boat, **but they caught nothing all night**. At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "**No**," they replied."" (John 21:3-5)

Jesus once told his disciples that apart from him, **they can do nothing** (see John 15:5).

Here is Simon Peter and other disciples again attempting fishing again apart from Christ. Zero results were produced. May we resolve not to draw back and surrender.

Yvette Govender:

“This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.” (John 21:14).
In this way he showed himself in John's account after his resurrection. Jesus appeared in their midst:

1. When they we fearful- The Lord made them Glad
2. When Thomas was in doubt and unbelieving- The Lord gave His Blessings to those who have not seen and yet Believed
3. Victory over provision when the disciples went fishing.

Not only did they experience the miraculous catch at Jesus's direction, the charcoal fire, with fish on it and bread was already prepared. Peace be with you.

Raylene Eksteen:
There are a few points that stood out to me when reading chapter 21 of the book of John. Similarly, to Ps Randolph’s points shared, when I consider Simon Peter's disposition and behaviour, and the response of those around him, I'm cautioned to be mindful and aware of my sphere of influence even in my time of despair.
I was also drawn to the fact that the disciples had cast their nets on one side and caught no fish until Jesus told them to cast on the right side. I considered the size of this boat and that in the natural sense if there were fish on the right side, they should have caught even some fish in their initial cast. Could it actually have been that there were no fish until Jesus spoke (supernatural/miraculous) because He has power and authority of the natural elements. Their obedience to His instruction resulted in a miraculous breakthrough.

Jesus noted their intention (to catch fish) and guided/instructed them to their breakthrough. Their obedience to His instruction even after trying with no result was key to their breakthrough though. They didn't question Jesus, discuss among themselves or reason why it would or would not work, they just did as Jesus had told them. We can receive guidance and instruction through the word of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to overcome, defeat and experience breakthrough in our circumstances. They key to this is our obedience.

Finally, when they got to the shore Jesus had prepared breakfast. He knew they were out there the whole night and prepared breakfast to attend to their physical needs before giving them instructions on their purpose. In our journey of encouraging others during times of despair let us not overlook how we can assist practically as well as spiritually.

Selwyn Young:

John 21: Jesus is a provider.

Jesus said to them, " Cast 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."

Jesus is aware of what we are searching for, what we need of, and what our desires are.

Two things stand out for me here:

- **First is positioning:** being where the Lord wants you to be means you more susceptible to the blessing and provision, He has for you.
- **Secondly, it's hearing** His voice and obeying His instruction.

Sometimes, we hear His voice on a matter but choose not to obey it. And that leads to a negative outcome.

But if we like the disciples, hear God's voice on an issue and obey it, it leads to reward, provision, blessing and growth.

"Today if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts..." Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) also Psalm 95:7-8.

It's the voice that we harken to. It's the voice that leads us. His sheep listen to His voice (see John 10:27).

The disciples were told many things before the Lord left them. They were given instructions on what to do, but they found themselves in a position that was out of His will and plan.

Let us always find ourselves where He wants us to be.

Kate Muthunsamy:

“When Jesus told the disciples to cast their nets on the "other side of the boat" (John 21:6)

Jesus was instructing them to try a **different approach** to what they were doing all night in their own capacity- and to trust in **His guidance.**

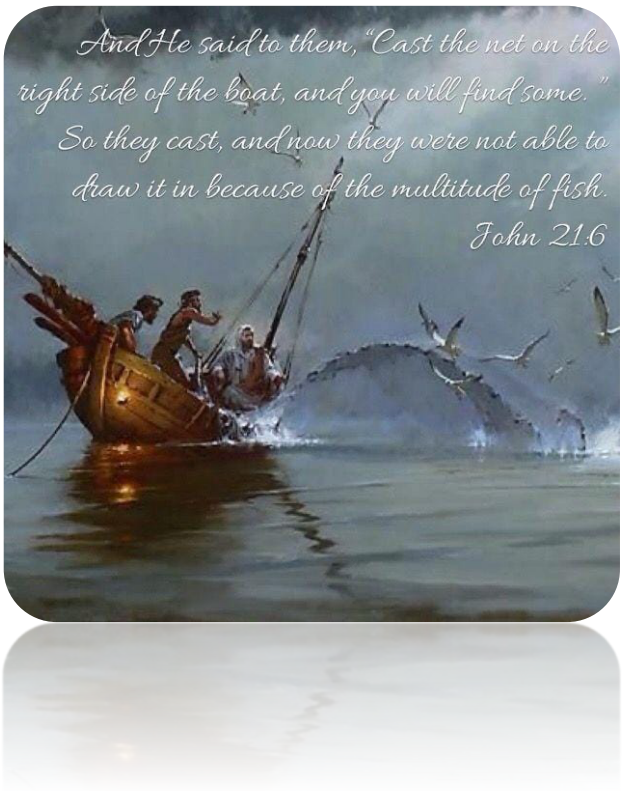
"… other side of the boat" can be seen as a metaphor for:

- A new perspective or approach
- Trusting in God's guidance and provision
- Being open to new opportunities and experiences
- Stepping out of comfort zones and into faith

By obeying Jesus' instruction to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, the disciples were able to experience a miraculous catch and learn a valuable lesson about trusting in Jesus' guidance and provision.

May we as Sons lean not on our own understanding and ways of doing things... but rather **listen and do** (effective doers) and we will reap great reward... too much -yet it won't break our nets!

In John 21:6 says: "He said, **"Throw your net on the right side of the boat"** Peter James and John were **fishermen by profession** (see Matthew 4:18).



To be a "professional" in fishing you must know tides, **times and seasons**... they toiled all night... they worked in their own capacity and professionalism and caught nothing.... as it was the "wrong side."

Sometimes, even in our own professionalism- **JESUS HAS OTHER PLANS FOR US** resulting in "a Miraculous catch"

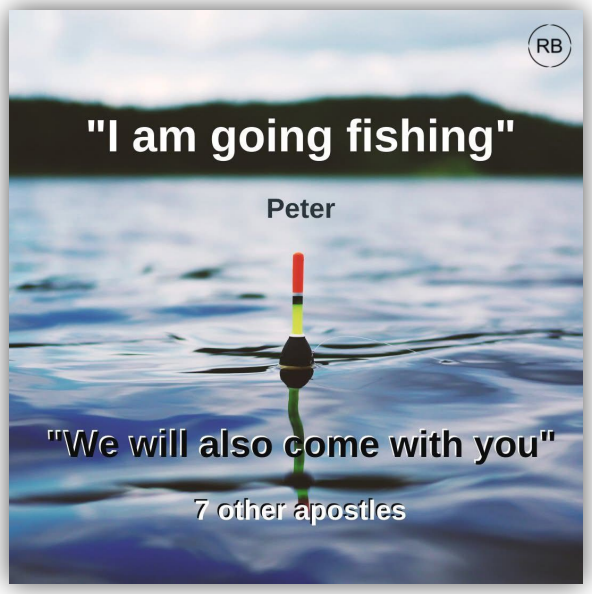
Jesus' instruction to throw the net on the right side of the boat requires the disciples to trust and obey Him, even when it **doesn't make sense.**

The huge catch of fish represents God's abundance and provision. Jesus is showing the disciples that **He can provide for their needs and bless their efforts when they follow Him.** He is Able to restore lost

time, they worked all night catching nothing yet, after **IMMEDIATELY obeying**, they caught so much-IMMEDIATELY.

May we **obey reflexively** and reap the **immediate provision** of our Father.

Randolph Barnwell:



After the resurrection of Jesus, Peter makes an economic decision to return to fishing, his old tried and tested avenue of earning income, to the neglect of his apostolic call.

“Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will also come with you.” They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.” (John 21:3).

Peter is an influential figure. What he does, the rest do. But here, he is engaging is an inaccurate activity of reverting back to the wrong preoccupation, viz. fishing for fish, when he was called as an apostle to be a fisher of men.

He goes back what Jesus originally called him out from. Sadly, seven other apostles follow him in his error.

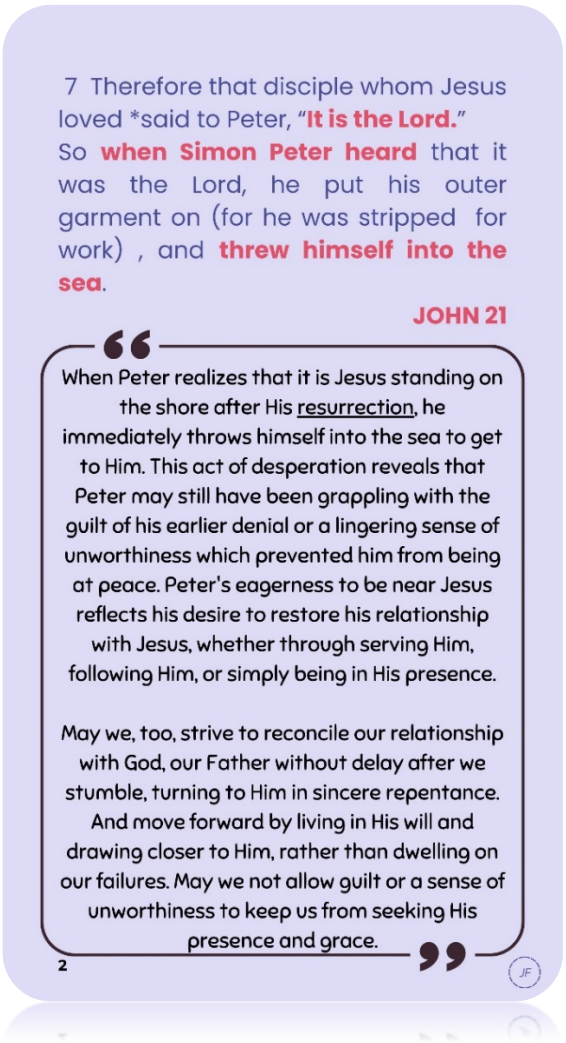
He and the others catch no fish that day - they are totally unproductive because they are not engaging in the activity for which they were truly called.

Peter desired to return to fishing - seven other apostles followed suit. Do not follow someone, who because of disappointment or despair, reverts back to some activity or viewpoint which is irrelevant and thus inaccurate in reference to God’s present demand on their lives.

You will, together with them be sucked into a void of labour and toil that is unproductive, having no bearing on divine purpose or eternity.

Stay focussed on your call and assignment no matter what the cost.

Jaren Francis:



Anne Paul:

For centuries, people have wondered why the Bible records that 153 fish were caught by the disciples after Jesus told them to throw their nets on the opposite side of the boat in John 21:4-12.

As I have mentioned before, EVERYTHING in the Bible is there for a reason. People would have figured out the mystery long ago if they had bothered to learn Hebrew.

In Hebrew, every letter has a number attached to it.

The Hebrews used their alphabet as a numbering system. The numbers attached to the letters in a Hebrew word could be added together to give a numerical total.

The number 153 is the numerical total for Hebrew words **"Ani Elohim"--I AM G-D**.

When Jesus caused the disciples to catch exactly 153 fish, He was declaring to them that not only was He the Son of G-d, but that He was God Himself.

Excerpt https://versebyverseministry.org/bible-answers/153-fishes-i-am-g-d

Randolph Barnwell

In Scripture, progressive growth in development in sonship is indicated by five different Greek words. ‘Huios’ denotes the fifth one, maturity. Nepios, signifying infancy is the first. After neios is paidon, alluding to a little child. Between paidon and huios, we have teknon and neanikos. Against this background, read ….

John 21:4-6: But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. So Jesus said to them, “Children (paidon), you do not have any fish, do you?” They answered Him, “No.” And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right- hand side of the boat and you will find a catch.” So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

Jesus, after the resurrection, at His third appearing to His disciples who went fishing, called them ‘paidon’, perhaps alluding to the fact that they reverted to a wrong preoccupation (fishing) for …

(1) failure to understand how the will of God was playing itself out,

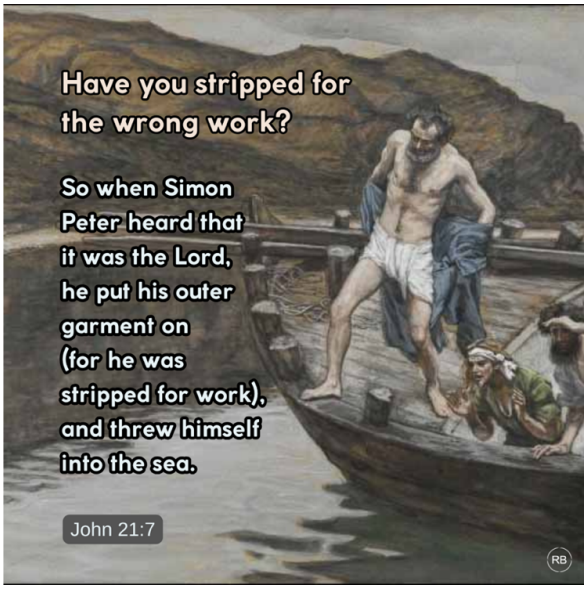
(2) failure to comprehend ‘how’ and ‘where’ Christ is to be recognised, revealed and understood in

the current disclosure of Himself to the earth,

(3) failure to discern the dealings of God with them in that season of their lives – and hence they, in discouragement, went back to a former engagement – but one in which they could not manifest any fruit (no fish), until they reconnected with the risen Christ.

At times the paidon son might not fully understand a specific season of his life, how God is dealing with him in that season, especially in reference to God’s purposes for him and how this should play itself out.

More so, it might seem as if the Lord has abandoned the son, for the son is somewhat unaccustomed to the new revelation of Christ that is wanting to break through to his mind in this time. Failure to fully understand these things may cause discouragement in the son; there is a sense of futility in regard to the time he has given himself to God’s ways and will, and deems that all this has amounted to nothing (for the disciples it was three years). He may abandon his calling in God and the vigour with which he pursues it, although he is still in relationship with God. He might pursue a previous preoccupation or ‘lesser’ engagement (as in ‘fishing’) with little or no fruit of divine favour on it (they caught no fish).



I love the way the Lord deals with His disciples who displayed these tendencies. There is no harsh rebuke. Instead, He issues a command to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. They hear a familiar voice they knew for three years. They catch a massive haul of 153 fish, which in Jewish gematria signifies mega sonship – or mature sonship; this was symbolic of the standard of sonship to which they had been called – 'huios'.

John recognises that such results borne to obedience to such a voice could only be the work of the Lord Jesus Himself. Peter then re-mantles himself – placing his garment back on which he had taken off to fish.

This is symbolic of re-commitment to his role as an apostle of Christ. Peter is then challenged to feed the lambs and sheep as an expression of his love for Christ and hears again the familiar command, "Follow me".

Rem-mantle yourself and get back to doing God's will feverously.

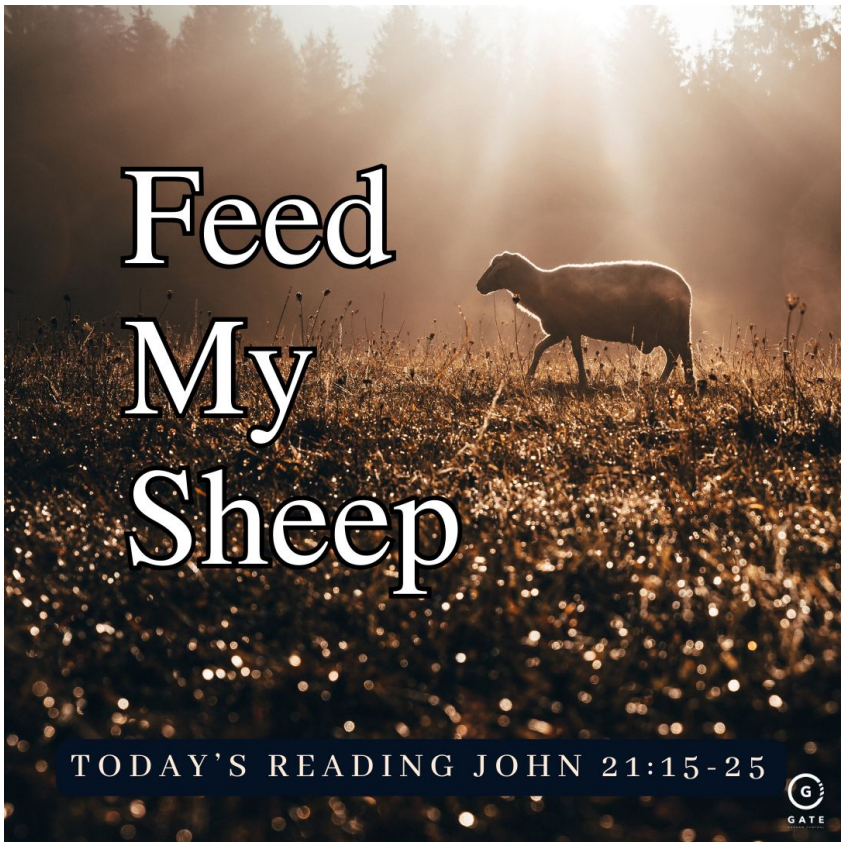
At times God may respond with great provision in order to teach the paidon son who is called to significant levels of commitment to God's purposes (as Peter was) that He will take care of him and that he need not revert to dependence on his own way to provide for his own need.

This great divine provision accomplishes much more than this. It signifies to the son the great love and mercy of our Father and thus evokes a response within the son to undistractedly and wholeheartedly pursue God's will at any cost (this is evidenced in John 21 where Jesus unveils to Peter the type of death he would die and Peter's willingness still to follow the Lord despite this).

May God give you a sign of an abundant provision to confirm your call to re-commit to activity that is central to your calling and destiny in Christ.

#strippedforwork #re-mantle

John 21:15-25 | The Love Motivation



Rene Barnwell:

"When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remains until I come, **WHAT IS THAT TO YOU? YOU FOLLOW ME!**" (John 21:21-22 ESV)

After Jesus, in earlier verses, asked Peter 3 times if he loved him, he instructs him 3 times to 'feed my lambs; tend my sheep; feed my sheep'…Peter was redeemed and reinstated to his call after his 3 denials.

Jesus then indicated to Peter the manner in which he would die, after which Peter enquired how John would die (verse 21 above). If I paraphrase verse 22 in my own words, Jesus is saying: That is not your business how John is going to die, you focus on following me and executing the mandate I have given you.

Many times, we focus on the call/assignment/mandate of another, which dilutes the attention we should give to our own unique assignment. We become side-tracked and veer off the path uniquely carved out for us.

May we wholeheartedly obey the Lord's will for OUR lives, and like Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem (see Luke 9:51), may we set our face toward the goal and accomplish all that He has purposed for us.

Dean Govender:

In verses 15 – 17:

Having finished breakfast, The Lord Jesus asks Simon Peter 3 times if He loves Him. He proceeds to instruct Peter 3 times, "tend to the lambs, shepherd my sheep and tend my sheep."

Finishing breakfast represents the process that Simon Peter had to go through, likewise, a process that we as Sons of God must endure.

This was preparation for the commission that Peter had just received from the Lord Jesus. "Go out and make disciples" - After we've been tried and tested, and come out as pure Gold (Job 23:10-11) we too will be ready to go out into the world, likened more and more into the image of Christ and now able to fulfil destiny through the fruit that remains (John 15:16).

3 as we know, represents completeness, hence the question was posed 3 times. Not only do these questions represent completeness in Peter's process but also, the Lord Jesus wanted Simon Peter to come to the revelation of what was being asked of him- similarly, what is being asked of us.

Kate Muthunsamy:

- Jesus asked Peter 3 times if he "LOVED" Him...
- Peter denied Jesus 3 times.... (see John18:15)

Jesus gave Peter the instruction to "feed my sheep" showing Peter's restoration as a leader among the disciples, trust and faith that Jesus had in Him- despite Peter's failure and denial in Him

Love forgave, Love forgot, Love showed mercy, Love restored and gave Peter a new "identity & mission" from "fisherman" to "shepherd"

Jesus didn't give the instruction to the other disciples because Peter had been specifically chosen by Jesus to be a leader among them (Matthew 16:17-19).

Carla Joshua:

“So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He *said to him, “Tend My lambs.”” (John 21:15)

Peter denied Jesus 3 times publicly and Jesus gives Peter an opportunity 3 times to be restored. “**Do you love Me?”** which equals the amount to times Peter denied Jesus.

When you act in disobedience you are demonstrating that you love something else more than Jesus- note that Jesus calls him Simon, son of John. Remember Jesus had given Simon another name but here Jesus uses his old name because the old nature must be addressed and called out.

Jesus asks Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these (the things that go with your former life, nets, boats, fish). Loving God is witnessed when we love God and walk away from the things of this world. “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.” (Eph 6:24)

May our love transcend the priorities of this life!

This chapter gives a clear picture of the restoration of Peter, the love of Jesus, the character of Jesus after His death, the present-ness of Jesus, how Jesus continued to serve even making breakfast for the disciples, loving and teaching after His death, how Jesus’ actions are compelled by love for His Father.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.”” (John 21:18)

In the future when you older you’ll be dragged to situations that will crucify you, know that when that time comes, do not deny God but glorify God. A second take for Peter. This is good news. A committed life has an extreme requirement. Note how when this chapter opened the two names that were on the top of the list were Peter the denier and Thomas the doubter, see how the disciple that Jesus loved and reclined on Jesus, according to the worlds estimate should have taken the leading role. Gods redemptive restorative reinstating grace is felt.

“So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?”” (John 21:21)

Jesus says just follow me, don’t worry about others, “what is that to you?” Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Jesus wants our hearts to be right before

He can trust you the responsibility of His purpose. Situations in life tend do and an inventory of the state of the heart in preparation for the will and purposes of God.
Jesus spoke extensively about His sheep in chapter 10 and now His handing His sheep over to Peter. Allow the Lord to purge the beauty of the life that God has for you is worth the circumcision of your heart.
“Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?”” (John 21:20)
John in his writing here and even when that narrative doesn’t paint John as the main actor in the story, he still is governed by presenting the truth that glorifies Jesus. John’s pen brings every detail in that Jesus did for His Fathers glory.
Remember when John brought to light that he outran Peter at the tomb also he often referred to himself as the one that Jesus loved making sure we don’t forget that the loved disciple. John didn’t let this (the writer and the favourite, not taking advantage of his position) omit us seeing that the rain and sun of Gods just love falls on all even those who are not perfect.
Also, we can see that no fleshly ambition overtook John, what was John’s motive? understanding why you doing something will inform the response. Lord let righteousness be fulfilled through all that we do.

Britnee Adams:
In John 21:15-17 Jesus asks Peter **3 times** “Do you love me?” The same number of times Peter initially denied Jesus (see John 18).
While Peter was restored and Christ still deemed him worthy of his purpose in Him- the restoration was only needed because initially Peter denied Jesus.
Just like how the blessing of the fish only happened because the disciples went fishing when they actually shouldn’t have.
The picture I’m painting is to remind us, especially myself that we sometimes force the hand of God because of our denial of Him. God in his mercy and faithfulness restores us.
But as the mature SON, we need to do better. I thought about **how I could possibly be denying Christ without outrightly saying it?**

- My disobedience.
- My failure to steward the word, my relationships, my environments.

- Simply put, being a forgetful hearer and not an effectual doer (James 1:25).

Denying Christ is not only displayed by saying the words. It is sometimes also in our actions and the little fires we fail to put out.

Fiona Beru:

This portion of John highlights how Peter was restored and given responsibility. Three times Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?”

And after Peter answered, Jesus would respond the first time, in John 21:15 with: “Feed My Lambs”. The second time in John 21:16 with: “Tend My sheep.” And the third time with: “Feed My Sheep.”

To feed is to nurture and care for, to make sure what is consumed would help the growth and development. To tend is to look after to the best of your ability.

We know the importance when something is repeated, Jesus was emphasizing the responsibility of leadership to Peter and the other disciples.

We need to pray for, encourage and assist our leaders (spiritual fathers) as the responsibility they have to lead and guide us is huge. As they Feed and tend to us, let us respond be obedient and start maturing in the ways of the Lord.

Annie Reddy:

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”” (John 21:15-17)

"Simon, son of John." We cannot do the work of our heavenly Father without first being under the leadership of spiritual fathers.

Peter had to be a son first before he could tend and feed the sheep of the Lord.

For as many times as Peter denied Jesus, Jesus confirms Peters' love for Him.

Jesus knew that Peter loved Him, but Peter needed this reminder after His denial so He could continue leading the Lord’s people without feeling unworthy.

Many times, in life, we feel unworthy and unable to be what the Lord called us to be. We shouldn't be discouraged by this. The Lord forgives and cleanses us.

Carla Joshua:

John 21: Grace to start over! You did it your way, you made your own plan, you returned to the thing that God brought you out of, it's ok because Jesus shall, with a witness of complete obedience will bring an abundance that you won't be able to contain. He is Jesus who will let you start over even if you get it wrong the first time.

Dean Govender:

Peter's Restoration (John 21:15-19 NET)

This dialogue between the Lord Jesus and Peter is symbolic of how God puts us through a series of tests and trials in order to form us into the Son's we were meant to become - likened into the image of Christ, fulfilling ministry, purpose and destiny.

'Questions equate to tests.'

Verse 15 begins with Jesus asking Peter "Do you love me more than these do?" - Jesus begins to test Peter, does he love His purpose more than the fish they had caught? (The provision that comes from the Lord)

Thereafter Jesus proceeds to ask Peter two more times if He loves Him and to fulfil purpose in the form of "Feed my lambs; shepherd my sheep; feed my sheep" - these are symbolic of the testing period God puts us through during our season of preparation.

I love the last verse 19, "Jesus told Peter, Follow me" - now that you've been tested,

1. Die to yourself, your desires and fulfil the Will of the Father as you 'follow me'
2. 'Follow me' into death by crucifixion.

Jerusha Sydney:

Peter's failures and mistakes played a crucial role in shaping him into a more effective leader and servant of God. It's important to see that his missteps were not just failures; they were opportunities for growth, transformation, and ultimately restoration.

Each time Peter faltered, whether by denying Jesus, doubting, or even failing to stand firm in his convictions, it revealed areas in his character and faith that needed refining.

But rather than being discarded or condemned for his mistakes, God used those very experiences to teach him profound lessons.

For instance:

The Denial of Jesus: Peter's denial and subsequent repentance became the foundation of his deep understanding of grace and forgiveness. After Jesus restored him in John 21, Peter's later ministry was marked by a powerful humility and compassion for others, knowing how it felt to fail and be restored.

The Rebuke of Satan (Matthew 16:23): When Peter tried to stop Jesus from fulfilling His mission, Jesus rebuked him sharply. This moment likely deepened Peter's understanding of the necessity of God's plan, teaching him to submit to God's will no matter how difficult or confusing it seemed.

Walking on Water: His moment of doubt and sinking in the water was a powerful lesson in trust and faith. It showed Peter that walking in faith requires full trust in Jesus, without letting fear or doubt take over. This lesson would stay with him and be evident in his later boldness in preaching.

The Disagreement with Paul: When Peter withdrew from the Gentiles out of fear of others' opinions, it was a moment of personal failure. However, Paul's rebuke led to a deeper understanding of the gospel's inclusivity, and Peter learned to stand firm in the truth, regardless of societal pressures.

- Ultimately, Peter's story is one of redemption. God used each failure to mould Peter into the man who would boldly lead the early church, preach the gospel, and even face martyrdom for his faith. God saw beyond Peter's imperfections, using them as part of His greater plan to equip and strengthen him for the ministry ahead.

So, in that sense, every failure was indeed a learning curve, and each failure prepared Peter for a greater purpose. It's a powerful reminder that God can use our mistakes, shortcomings, and weaknesses for His glory if we are open to learning from them and allowing Him to restore us.

Carolyn Moonsamy:

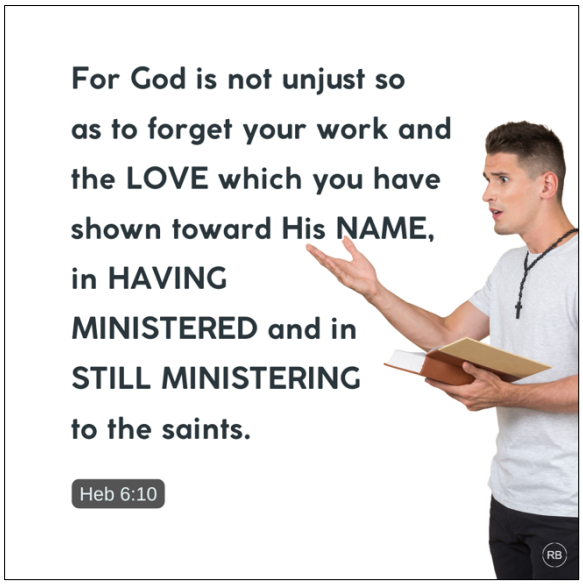
John 21 leaves me with this: Serve; Love; Obey; Believe; Forgive; Attract!

Randolph Barnwell

Our love for God is evidenced by how we obey His Word. Another measure of our love for God is indicated by our attitude of love towards His Body, the church. Jesus said to Peter "**If you LOVE Me, then FEED my lambs/sheep**". This applies more specifically to spiritual leaders, but equally as well to everyone.

Peter's love for Jesus was measured by how he feed the saints. What is your disposition towards your brothers and sisters in the house? Your desire should be to build them up not as something you engage in periodically - but consistently. These sentiments are contained in the following passage:

Heb 6:10 : For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the LOVE which you have shown toward His NAME, in HAVING MINISTERED and in STILL MINISTERING to the saints.



Note:

1. Your 'work' or labour is evidence of your 'love'.

2. Your love for 'His name' is seen in your attitude towards the 'saints'

3. Your love for his name is your love for His nature, character, and purpose.

4. Your love for Him is tangibly known by how you 'minister to the saints'

5. Your ministry and building up of the saints must be a CONSISTENT thing - it must be lifestyle - it is what you do: Note the imperative in the latter part of the verse: "MINISTERED (past tense) and STILL MINISTERING (present-continuous tense).

Minister to saints and declare your love His name!

Paul said, “I am going to Jerusalem, SERVING the SAINTS” (Rom 15:25).

True apostles and believers alike are not self-serving; they serve the saints.

Genuine apostles and sons of God serve and distribute the grace of Christ to the saints through the release of sound doctrine. They lead by how they feed truth to the saints. They do not fleece God's sheep; they feed God's sheep.

They exist solely for the benefit and betterment of the saints of God in Christ. Their constant thoughts revolve around the maturation of the Church into the fullness of the stature of Christ. To this end, they labour tirelessly, selflessly and sacrificially.



If you are privileged to be SERVED by an authentic apostle, are exposed to their sound doctrine corroborated by their exemplary Christ-like character and lifestyle, count yourself blessed.

Be grateful to God and to them for their labour of love and servitude.

In reciprocation, SERVE others likewise. Feed God's Lambs and Sheep!

SONSHIP RELOADED



'Sonship Reloaded' is a brand new teaching series by Pastor Thamo Naidoo, which at the time of this writing, is a currently unfolding series. This series prompted our reading and study of John's Gospel. Tracking the nature of Jesus Christ as the prototypical Son of God to be emulated by all other sons of God (you and I), Pastor Thamo seeks to unearth the character of sonship and the associated embedded capacity, which seeks expression effortless through our humanity. You are greatly encouraged to track this unfolding series via this link: https://bit.ly/4aweAbf

FIRSTBORN SONSHIP



'Firstborn Sonship' is a teaching series by Pastor Randolph Barnwell, also currently unfolding. It spotlights the doctrine and application of the identity, potential and responsibilities of sons of God, who biblically described as "firstborn sons" in Christ. The formation of sons toward maturity in Christ is critical for effective functionality in the efficient representation of God and accomplishment of His purposes in the earth. You may track this series via link: https://bit.ly/4auN4uU

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