

DAWLEY
BAPTIST
CHURCH

LEARNNS
LIVES
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LISTENS

REDISCOVERING
JESUS

JOHN

GOSPEL

PART 2

ONLINE AND IN PERSON
SPRING 2023

EVERY SUNDAY 10:30AM
EVERY THURSDAY 7:30PM

Rediscovering Jesus

A Journey through John's Gospel Part 2

Introduction

As we get deeper into the the message which John wants to share with us, we see Jesus becoming an increasingly controversial figure whose presence provokes responses of joy and hatred in equal measure. One thing is certain. Anyone who met the real Jesus was never left unaffected or indifferent to him and his message. Over the centuries it appears that the picture of Jesus as a radical political subversive has been diminished by church and media alike. But we are not listening to the voice of a hot-head: We are listening to the voice of the creator of the universe!

In this New Year the voice of the radical revolutionary Jesus needs to be heard in our difficult and dangerous world. Are you brave enough to hear Him? believe in Him? and pick up your cross and follow Him? Hold onto your hats as we spend some time rediscovering the real Jesus.

Ian January 2023

WEEK 1

A Pilgrim People John 7: 1-9

Key Verse John 7: 4

No-one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret



The Feast of Tabernacles was a Jewish celebration to remind the people that at one time they had lived in the wilderness, utterly relying on God for everything each day. As they travelled God provided for all their needs before they finally arrived in the Promised Land.

At the beginning of the year spend a moment to honestly reflect on what you will be putting your faith and trust in to get you through the coming months. How do you feel about the covenant promise you make today?

WEEK 2

Is he the Messiah? John 7: 10-24

Key Verse John 7: 24

*Stop judging by mere appearances,
and make a right judgement*



We all like to make judgements. Those who listened to Jesus seemed to come to very different conclusions and made all kinds of judgements and assumptions which formed their belief. Their belief directly affected their thinking, and their thoughts affected their actions and their actions affected their eternal destiny.

When and how do we judge? How can we be sure our judgement is right?

What attitudes do I need to change to make right judgement?

WEEK 3

Is He the Messiah? John 7:25-31

Key Verse John 7: 28

I am not here on my own

At this stage in the gospel it looks like half the world is hostile to Jesus and the other half rather confused by who he was and his message. To accomplish anything without some support and encouragement is virtually impossible. Every successful athlete, artist or professional has a team behind them.

Here we learn that Jesus is able to operate because of his mandate from God.

How do you think Jesus knows his identity role and purpose?

How, as his disciple, do you know yours?

WEEK 4

Confusion continues

John 7: 32-52

Key Verse John 7: 36

What does he mean?



The bold claims and decisive authority of Jesus threw the establishment into confusion and argument.

What stopped the leaders from understanding and acting in accordance with what Jesus taught and did?

What stops you from acting in accordance with what Jesus taught and did?

WEEK 5

Caught in the Act

John 8: 1-11

Key Verse John 8: 11

Then neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin



The religious establishment were looking for some excuse to discredit Jesus. Using this woman to test him seemed a perfect way for them to trap him.

What attitudes or behaviours most arouse your feelings of indignation? Why?

The Pharisees used the woman to make their point. Jesus cared about the woman and demonstrated compassion. Are principles ever more important than people?

What or who can God not forgive?
What or who can you not forgive?

WEEK 6

I am the Light of the World

John 8: 12-20

Key Verse John 8: 14

I know where I come from and where I am going.



Jesus has a strong sense of his identity and purpose.

How sure are you of his identity and purpose in your life?

Think of something significant which is going on in your life at the moment. Who are you trusting the judgement of in your decisions?

Use the scale below.

myself 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Jesus

What would it take for you to do to get nearer to complete reliance on Jesus?

How could that happen? What is your prayer?

WEEK 7

I am not of this world

John 8: 21-30

Key Verse John 8: 24

I told you that you would die in your sins: if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be.



In this passage Jesus robustly refutes the idea that all paths lead to God or that nice people go to heaven.

Belief, faith and obedience in following Jesus is the only path to get through death to eternity.

Is this good news?

What is your response to this passage today?

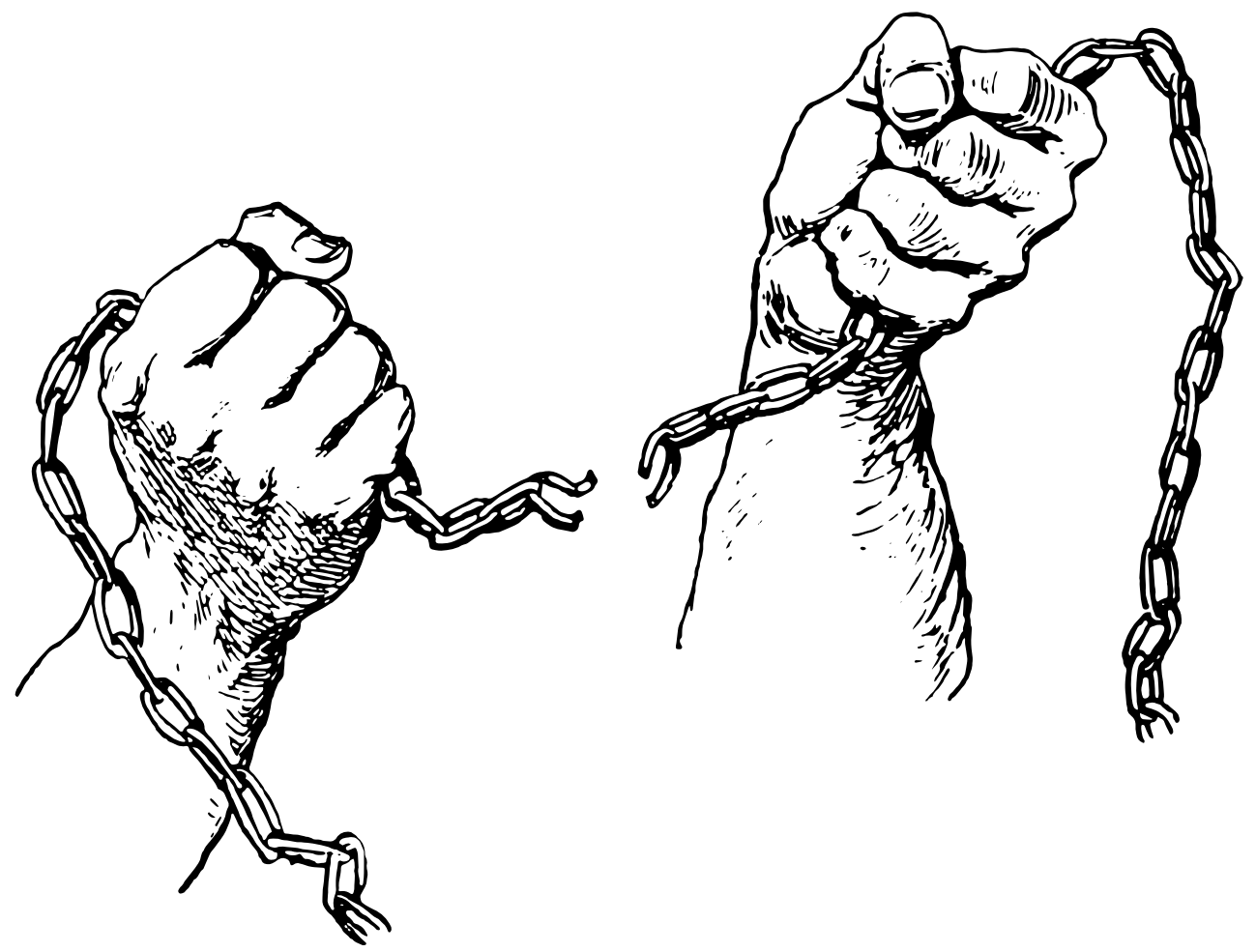
WEEK 8

Freedom or Slavery

John 8: 31-47

Key Verse John 8: 32

Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.



Jesus defines his disciples as those who hold to his teachings. This may mean that there may well be people who badge themselves as Christian who clearly are not following the teachings of Jesus. Similarly I suspect there are many people who would not call themselves Christian that Jesus would recognise as following his teachings.

In what areas are you still a 'slave to sin'?

What one area can you allow the Holy Spirit to work on this week to transform an attitude or action that will bring you more freedom and peace?

WEEK 9

Before Abraham I AM

John 8: 48-59

Key Verse John 8: 49

I honour my Father, but you dishonour me



The Jews may have been Abraham's descendants, but they were certainly not acting as his children. Children can be recognised by reflecting the values and actions of their parents. As adopted children we should be growing ever more like Jesus, as he in turn perfectly represents the character of his heavenly father.

Whose character do people tell you that you reflect?

The Jews could not get their heads around the enormity of who Jesus was claiming he was. Can you?

In what areas are you developing Christlikeness?

In what areas are you struggling?

Who do you have support from/ accountability to in your Christian journey?

WEEK 10

Jesus heals a blind man

John 9: 1-12

Key Verse John 9: 11

He told me to go.....so I went



The gospels regularly show Jesus using healing of physical blindness to shed light on the deeper disability of spiritual blindness. Over many weeks now we have seen how those who claimed to lead the people in their understanding of God are revealed as having the least insight into his true nature.

Do you, deliberately or unwittingly, ever equate physical or mental disability with sinfulness? Is it ever justified?

Does the fact that Jesus backs up his teaching with a miracle like this strengthen your faith? Can it give you more confidence to share your faith with others?

What opportunity may you have to share this week?

What gets in your way of obeying Jesus like the blind man did?

WEEK 11

I can see! Why can't you?

John 9: 13-41

Key Verse John 9: 25

One thing I do know, I was blind but now I see!



It is good to know that Jesus is ok with doubt. Jesus went and looked for the man he had healed who was obviously confused as to who had healed him. The religious leaders tried to persuade him that demonic powers had healed him. That certainly was not how he felt, still Jesus sought him out to provide reassurance.

How do you deal with doubt?

What reassurance are you able to give those around you who doubt God's existence or his love or his power?

Who do you seek out to support you when life is unclear?

WEEK 12

I am the Gate

John 10: 1-10

Key Verse John 10:10

*I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full*



Most people instantly recognise the voices of those most important and influential in their lives. Do you recognise the voice of Jesus? How?

Have you had the experience of allowing someone to steal something of your soul?

How can you discern between the false voice of the thief and the true voice of Christ?

WEEK 13

The Good Shepherd

John 10: 11 - 21

Key Verse John 10:14

I lay down my life for the sheep



Is there anyone that would you lay down your life for?

Have you had the experience of allowing someone to steal something of your soul?

How do you discern between the false voice of the thief and the true voice of Christ? Who can you share that wisdom with?

WEEK 14

I am the Son of God

John 10: 22 - 42

Key Verse John 10:28

No-one can snatch them out of my hand

Just read these verses and let the reality of Jesus words strengthen and nourish your soul.



Knowing almighty God has got your back like this, reflect on where your anxieties come from, and allow God to gently speak his truth into your life.

WEEK 15

I am in control

John 11: 1 - 16

Key Verse John 11:3

This sickness will not end in death



This is the prelude to Jesus greatest miracle, and at the same time it almost certainly signs his own death warrant.

How does this episode show the power of God?

If God is able to act like this, then why do we not see miracles like this more often? Has God lost his power or his willingness to heal?

How do we answer someone who has these questions?

Recommended reading

God on Mute Pete Greig

Prayer Phillip Yancey

WEEK 16

I am the resurrection

John 11:17-44

Key Verse John 11: 25

Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die



Is there anyone that would you lay down your life for?

Have you had the experience of allowing someone to steal something of your soul?

How do you discern between the false voice of the thief and the true voice of Christ? Who can you share that wisdom with?

WEEK 17

Expediency

John 11: 45 - 57

Key Verse John 11:50

It is better for you to let one man die for the people, rather than having the whole nation destroyed



This passage highlights how evil can get a hold when terrible actions are justified by weak and frightened leadership.

The actions of Jesus are in such sharp contrast to those in the positions of power.

Make a note of the contrasts and think about how you can keep your integrity when faced with a tricky situation.

