

Date: November 16th, 2009
Reading: John 1-3

What a description of Jesus that we find in the first chapter of John... the Word, God, all things made by him, life, light, true Light, begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, the begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, He who baptizes with the Holy Sprit and the Son of God! Wow what an introduction to our savior! We look at verse 12 and we rejoice at God's decision to bless us. If we read chapter one a few times we will be overflowing so when we bump into people we will spill over with God's message (imagery provided by Tommy Porch).

Happy reading.

David Williams

Date: November 17th, 2009

Reading: John 4-6

John relates the story of Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman and in the dialog Jesus tells her “if you knew the gift of God and who it is who says ‘Give me a drink’ you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.” Jesus also goes on to describe this water ..”but



whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” Later in chapter 6 he changes the allegory from water to His flesh saying to the multitudes “I am the living bread... anyone who eats this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh”

Jesus seems to be speaking of the same thing in both instances and would include the entire gospel, His word and his mercy through the sacrifice of Himself on the cross. Are we partakers of this water and this bread? Has it become a well of water springing up within us to eternal life? It should not even be possible to keep it to ourselves?

Happy reading

David Williams

Date: November 18th, 2009

Reading: John 7-9

Jesus was a very controversial person. He spoke in language that was hard for a man educated in the religion of His day to understand or accept. He broke their religious laws yet did miracles.



He spoke unlike any that were held up in religious circles as being important and he was not from any known religious school they were familiar with. We find those who were unencumbered with the religious teaching of the day had less trouble believing Jesus was teaching the truth than those who were wrestling with years of belief in laws made by man. The blind man had no problem seeing that Jesus was approved by the Father but the Pharisees could not because He broke the accepted teaching of the day and healed on the Sabbath. At the end of chapter 9 Jesus tells the blind man who had been put out of the Synagogue “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind.”

Let us put away all our religious prejudices and preconceived ideas and be willing to open our hearts and minds to what God has revealed in His Word. Then and only then will we truly see.

May God bless the readers.

David Williams

Date: November 19th, 2009
Reading: John 10-12

Jesus is in his last week before his crucifixion and continues telling His disciples He will die. In 10:11 He says “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep”. And in 10:17-18 He says “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”



Jesus keeps talking about His death and resurrection but also speaks about eternal life for his sheep who hear His voice. In the next chapter we find that Lazarus has died and the Jesus raises him from the dead proving He has authority from the Father to give physical life and thus proving that what He said about giving eternal life is true.

Chapter 12 starts with Mary anointing Jesus feet and Jesus says it is for His burial. John then describes Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a colt. Jesus says in verse 23 “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” He then speaks of a grain of wheat that dies in order to bear much fruit referring to His own death. Jesus then applies this concept to His disciples saying that anyone who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. Next Jesus prophesies of His coming crucifixion (“be lifted up”)

The close of chapter 12 discusses Jesus words, where they came from and the necessity to believe in Him and do the things He says. He sums it up in verse 50 “And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

So... Are we His sheep? Do we really hear His voice? Or do we love our lives in this world? Do we want this eternal life from the Father?

Jesus knew all along when, where and how He was going to die but loved us and the Father enough to bear the excruciating pain and death of crucifixion. How can we not be His sheep? How can we not hear His voice?

God bless the readers.

David Williams

Date: November 20th 2009

Reading: John 13-15

It is interesting to note that John is careful to point out the fact that Jesus knew he was God's Son and that all things had been given into His hands before He girded Himself with a towel and proceeded to do the job of a servant by washing His disciples' feet. Deity, the most powerful man on earth, worthy of all praise and honor but He even washed the feet of Judas knowing that he would betray Him! Jesus then instructed them to do the same for each other, not necessarily washing each other's feet but He wanted them (and us) to have a servant's attitude toward each other. Are we too important to do some menial task for one of our brethren? Jesus had a servant's attitude even to those who were not His friends. While we were yet sinners Jesus died for us! How much more should we show love to



others, even those who hate us. Jesus said that the world would know we are His disciples because of our love for one another.

In chapter 14 Jesus touches on this same subject again when He says "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." And later "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him". In chapter 15 John records Jesus conversation with his disciples, "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."

I get the idea that loving my brethren is core to being Jesus disciple. Jesus has given us the perfect example of love. We constantly need to ask ourselves if we are exhibiting love whenever we are dealing with anyone, but especially those of God's family.

May God bless the readers.

David Williams

Date: November 21st 2009

Reading: John 16-18

In chapter 16 Jesus predicts His death and resurrection. "A little while, and you will no longer behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me." And then later in the chapter He says "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy."

The whole of chapter 17 is a prayer. Notice the moving and powerful words prayed by our Lord for His 12 apostles and those who would believe through their word. Jesus prays for unity and ends the prayer with these words: "and I have made Thy name known to them, and will make it known; that the love wherewith Thou didst love Me may be in them, and I in them." Wow, do I have that kind of love in me?

Chapter 18 discusses Jesus betrayal by Judas, His arrest and trials, Peter's denials and Pilate's capitulation to the Jewish leaders in sentencing Jesus to death. At the end of the chapter, after Pilate has declared that he finds no guilt in Him, Pilate asks who should be released, as the custom was at the time of the Passover, Barabbas or Jesus. The crowd asks for Barabbas and insists that Jesus be crucified.

Barabbas was an insurrectionist and murderer. He was in prison, likely awaiting execution. His name, Bar-abbas, means "son of the father."

Jesus was a great teacher of a holy life. He lived what He taught. He was a prisoner because the Jews were bringing false charges against Him. Jesus was truly the Son of the Father.

Barabbas was guilty; Jesus was innocent. Barabbas should have acted like a son of God; Jesus always acted as the Son of God He was. Barabbas was a son of God in name only; Jesus was the Son of God both literally and in His every word and action. Barabbas bucked the authority of God. Jesus submitted.

And the Jews demanded Barabbas be released. They demanded Pilate execute Jesus instead! They traded evil for good and good for evil.



Can you imagine what went through Barabbas' mind as he walked free and saw Jesus being stripped for a scourging? I wonder if he realized he was now free because this good Man was taking his place? In a very literal way Jesus took the place of Barabbas. The angel stopped Abraham's hand from killing his son Isaac. Abraham turned around and there was a ram caught in the bushes - a sacrifice provided by the Lord in place of his son, Isaac! Jesus was the sacrifice provided in place of Barabbas.

Am I not a son of the Father, too (**Acts 17:28-29**)? Did Jesus not die in MY place? **Isaiah 53:8** - *"He was cut off from the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due."* He took my place. I wonder...as God provided salvation for me, as I was released from the chains of sin which so tightly had bound me, did I see Jesus stepping into my place to take my punishment? That's what He did - PRAISE HIS NAME!

I pray that I will not take Jesus for granted.

My God bless the readers.

David Williams

Date: November 23, 2009

Reading: John 19-21

We know him as “doubting Thomas.” That description stems from Thomas’ unwillingness to believe the other disciples when they claimed to have seen the Lord...alive. Thomas’ responded, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe” (20:25).

The eyewitness testimony of the other apostles was indirect evidence. They claimed to have seen the Lord, but that evidence was insufficient for Thomas. For whatever reason, Thomas was unwilling to put confidence in the testimony of the other apostles. He wanted “direct” evidence; he wanted to experience with his own senses (sight and touch) the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus before he would accept it as fact.

Thomas may have seemed stubborn and slow to believe, but we shouldn’t be too hard on Thomas. The other disciples were not any different. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and she reported the appearance to the disciples, but they did not believe her (Mark 16:9-11). Jesus appeared to two disciples, Cleopas and his companion, who were walking to Emmaus and they reported the appearance to the disciples, but they did not believe the eyewitness testimony of these two either (Mark 16:12-13).

Jesus finally appeared to the apostles (except Thomas) and showed them His hands and His side and apparently they believed when confronted with the direct evidence of the body of Jesus. Nevertheless, they were no more willing to believe in the resurrection than Thomas; it just happened that Thomas was not present when Jesus provided direct evidence the first time.

When he finally was satisfied that the Man before him was, in fact, the crucified Jesus, Thomas proclaimed him to be “My Lord and my God!”

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

“Blessed are those...” – Jesus was talking about us! I didn’t go to the tomb and see the linen cloths used to bury Jesus lying there (20:6-8). No angels have spoken directly with me to assure me that Jesus was indeed raised (Luke 24:3-6). I have not been able to put MY finger into the print of the nails or MY hand into His side! Yet I believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.

I accept the testimony of others. I believe in the resurrection of Jesus because of the testimony of the gospel writers. I believe in the veracity of their testimony. In short, I am willing to do the very thing that those same apostles were unwilling to do – listen to and accept the eyewitness testimony of others.

And Jesus said I am blessed!

Happy reading,
Allen