

03/22/20 Sermon Notes

Part of Just Getting Started A series on the Gospel of John
March 22, 2020

Message: Mistaken Identity

Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the tenth week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

Three Important Questions

1. Who can you lean on when no one else is dependable?
2. Who can you lean on when the world is uncertain?
3. Who can you lean on when your life is turned upside down?

Don't go to the obvious answer without giving these questions deep thought.

Recap: Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee, but stopped in Samaria (where He had the encounter with the woman at the well, resulting in many Samaritans believing in Him). Today, Jesus is continuing His trip to Galilee, where He stops in Cana (where He turned water into wine at the wedding).

John 4:43-45 (NLT)

43 At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee.

44 He himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown.

45 Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.

Jesus was sharing that He didn't feel "at home" or "welcome" in his own hometown (Bethlehem/Judea). He was "from" Bethlehem because that's where he was born, but his family lived in Nazareth/Galilee. Jesus had left Judea because of the incident with baptism and the religious leaders causing problems. It was a case of mistaken identity.

- The leaders in Judea had NO CLUE who Jesus was

John 4:46-47 (NLT)

46 As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick.

47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

The man "heard" that Jesus was in Cana - 20 miles away (a day's travel away). The man walked 20 miles uphill, from the sea (Capernaum) to Cana. He was committed!

- Following Jesus is a LIFESTYLE, it's not an event or a service, it's TOTAL commitment

John 4:48 (NLT)

Jesus asked, "Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?"

Jesus wasn't just asking the man, He was asking "you people" (the crowd). Jesus was telling the man, your son needs healing, but you need saving! What will it take for you to believe in me?

John 4:49-53 (NLT)

49 The official pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies."

50 Then Jesus told him, "Go back home. Your son will live!" And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

51 While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well.

52 He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, "Yesterday afternoon at one o'clock his fever suddenly

disappeared!”

53 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.

Jesus healed the little boy, but that’s not the point. The point is the man and his entire household, including the boy, believed in Jesus!

- Healing on this side of heaven is ALWAYS temporary
- You don’t need to be HEALED, you need to be SAVED

A Similar Story

John 5 tells a similar story. It’s important to realize that many modern translations (including the NLT) leave out verse 4. Modern translators have more ancient records/manuscripts available than do some before, so they attempt to remain as true to the original manuscripts as possible. In leaving verses out, they’re left out because the translators believe they were never included to begin with. Over time, some translations added language to offer clarity. Modern translations remove this ‘added’ language.

John 5:1-3 (NLT)

1 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days.

2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches.

3 Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.

If you visit St. Anne’s church in Jerusalem, they’ll show you a deep excavation that has revealed the ancient Pool of Bethesda. It was believed when the water “bubbled” an angel was entering the water. The first person stepping into it would be healed.

John 5:5-13 (NLT)

5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

7 “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.”

8 Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath,

10 so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

11 But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

12 “Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.

13 The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd.

The man looked at Jesus with a mistaken identity! At this point, the man recognized Jesus as a healer... a great physician... but not the Messiah.

John 5:14-15 (NLT)

14 But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.”

15 Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Jesus healed the man, but Jesus’ work wasn’t done. Jesus wasn’t through with the man. He was just getting started (as our series reminds us!) Jesus was telling the man, you’ve been healed but you need to be saved!

One of these men “got it” and realized Jesus’ true identity, one did not. We often fall into that same RUT (ridiculous ungogly thought) and we have a mistaken identity of Jesus. He’s not just someone we go to when we need healing, or when we’re in crisis; He’s not the Walmart of meeting needs in my life.

- He’s my SAVIOR
- He should be my EVERYTHING

Jesus is telling us the same thing he told these guys:

1. Will you not believe in me unless I give you what you want

2. Stop sinning or something worse will happen to you

Recap

Go back to the three questions at the beginning... the answer is Jesus, but not this Jesus that you go to in the moment when things are falling apart or when you're hanging off the cliff and begging to be pulled back up.

The answer is Jesus, your Savior, your Messiah!
Don't have a mistaken identity of Jesus!