

# The Word Became Flesh

## *Don't Be Worried*

Fairview Missionary Church | Angola, IN

Scripture: John 14

Speaker: Joel Greenwood

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One of the things that I do to help keep myself motivated is set goals for myself. And one of my goals for this year, 2026, was to finish preaching a series that I started eight years ago, alright? Does anybody know what series I'm talking about? The Gospel of John, that's right. So we started eight years ago. Don't worry if you're new here or haven't been here for eight years. It's okay. It's not like a soap opera where you have to be in everyone for it to make sense, all right?

So we're going to jump back into this series, and we have been calling this series "The Word Became Flesh." Now, in order for us to finish this series, we have to go through one chapter a week for the next seven weeks, and I have to get through a whole chapter every week. Now, those of you that have been here for the last eight years know that that's very hard for me, but I am motivated to make it happen, all right? So we're going to go through these chapters fairly quickly, and I am determined to finish this, but in order to do that, my introductions need to be short.

So, for those of you that were not here, let me just give you a quick, very quick introduction to the book of John. Of course, John is written by John, but unfortunately, there's a lot of John's in the New Testament. So, what John are we talking about? We're talking about the brother of James, and together collectively, they were called the Sons of Thunder, all right? So, you get a little bit of information about maybe their character and their attitude, all right?

This gospel that he is writing is his perspective surrounding the life and death of a man named Jesus. John is writing specifically to Gentile believers. That would be people like you and I, not Jews or Jewish people, and so he is writing from our perspective to help us understand. Most scholars and theologians believe that John was written roughly between 50 and 85 AD, which would be roughly between 15 and 50 years after the crucifixion of Jesus.

And so, many eyewitnesses, of course, would have still been alive. As this letter was being transferred from church to church and being read, many would have been alive that witnessed the death, the crucifixion, and the resurrection of Jesus. Now, up to this point, John has shared through his own personal experience and analogies who he believes Jesus is. And so he uses a lot of these analogies, and so I just want to share some with you that he has already used in the Gospel of John.

He said that Jesus is the Word or the logos, meaning that He is the created world. Everything was created through Jesus. John has said that Jesus is the life, that life exists only because and through Him. John has told us Jesus is the light, meaning that He guides our steps. He is the light which stands in contrast to the darkness.

John has told us that Jesus is the Lamb of God, meaning that He is God's sacrifice for us. John has told us that Jesus is the Son of God. He has told us that Jesus is the Christ. And I'm not sure how many of you are aware of this, but Christ is not His last name, right? Jesus Christ. Christ is a title. John is saying Jesus is the Messiah. He's the one that we have been waiting for.

John tells us that Jesus is the King of Israel, proclaiming that He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. John also calls Jesus the Son of Man, which is actually the number one way that Jesus refers to Himself. He calls Himself the Son of Man, meaning that He is the final Adam and He is going to make everything right that the first Adam made wrong. John has told us that Jesus is the temple, God in the flesh.

John told us that Jesus is the bridegroom, meaning that we can have an intimate relationship with Him. John told us that Jesus is from above. He told us that Jesus is the living water. He is that which gives life. Jesus is the great I Am, which would have shocked many of the Jews when they heard that. John told us that Jesus is Yahweh, meaning that He is from the beginning, and John has told us that Jesus is the Savior of the world, meaning that He is the Redeemer who has come to make all things right.

It seems, as we continue to go through the Gospel of John, that John also wants us to answer the question, who do we believe Jesus is? Now, the last time we were in this book, we left off where Jesus was sitting with His disciples in an upper room as they were getting ready to celebrate the Passover.

Jesus at this point has washed their feet, and we know that as they were walking to this upper room, that the disciples were fighting amongst themselves who was the greatest, which is why Jesus washed their feet to show them what a leader did. He has warned them that one of their number is going to betray Him. Of course, we know that to be Judas. Jesus has made clear to His disciples that He is about to suffer. Multiple times He has shared with them that He is going to give His life, but they have not comprehended what He has said.

He has predicted that Peter is going to deny Him three times, and what was probably most concerning to the disciples, He has shared with them that He is going to leave and they cannot follow where He is going. So, thus far, it has been a terrible evening for the disciples, almost as if your spouse comes to you and says, "Honey, we need to talk." That's what Jesus has done, right? He has said, "Guys, we need to talk," and He has unloaded all of this on them.

And this is where we're going to pick up in John chapter 14:1. So if you have your Bibles, I encourage you to open up John chapter 14:1. Again, about two-thirds of the way through your Bible, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. If you get to Acts in Romans, you have gone too far, but of course it will be on the screen behind me as well. But let's pray and then we'll jump in. Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gospel of John and for the truth that it reveals to us.

I thank you that John decided to write down these experiences that He had and certainly his belief that Jesus is the Messiah. He is the Christ. He is the way, the truth, the life. And Father, it is my prayer that as we continue to go through this, that all of us would come to that same conclusion, that Jesus truly is the Word, and that we can put our faith and our trust in Him. And so we ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

John chapter 14: 1, Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe also in me." Now, it's nice that Jesus says that, right, after He's given them all of this bad news. He says, "Well, don't be troubled, it's okay," right? Isn't that wonderful that he would say that to us? And so, he can pick up on their sorrow. Of course, he knows what's going on inside of their minds, and he wants to offer them some comfort and some peace.

He wants to give them some information to help them, because I don't want to spoil it, but for those of you that have not read the whole story, Jesus' life is coming to an end. He doesn't have a lot of time left, and so he wants to make the most of his opportunities. And so here in John chapter 14, all the way to the end of the book, we have just these final moments of Jesus with His disciples. So, Jesus recognizes their sorrow.

He recognizes the suffering, and He wants to share with them what is going to happen, and He told them that He was going to leave. Now, this would have been a big shock for the disciples, as I mentioned earlier, probably the greatest shock because the disciples believed that the Christ or the Messiah that was going to come was going to restore the nation of Israel to world prominence. You guys know I've shared that with you many times.

This is what they were looking forward to, that a ruler was going to come, God was going to come, and he was going to restore the nation of Israel. And so now by Jesus saying he is leaving, they're beginning to understand, that means He's going to die. In their minds, they're not making sense. If you are actually the Messiah, why aren't you doing what we believe you are supposed to do? And of course, every time that Jesus left the disciples up to this point, they had failed miserably, and so they are thinking to themselves, "If you leave, we are going to fall apart."

"We need you." And so for the rest of the chapter, Jesus is going to give them and us seven reasons why they and we should keep trouble from our hearts. We all come today with some type of trouble, some turmoil, some anxiety, something that's not going the way that we thought it would go in life. Whether it's a relationship or whether it's some type of financial struggle, maybe it's some type of personal hurt or health issue that you are going through.

We all come today with some trial and Jesus, just as He gives to the disciples, is going to give to us seven reasons why we should keep trouble from our hearts and why we should hold on to hope. And here is the first one. Jesus is going to tell us that heaven will be there in our everlasting resting place. John chapter 14:2, Jesus says, "My Father's house has many rooms."

If that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare that place for you, know that I will come back, and I will take you to be with me, that you also may be where I am. You know the place where I am going, and I love this. I love that John includes all of these questions and comments because it makes you and I feel normal, right?

Thomas says to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" John is informing us that most of them had no clue what he was talking about. They were completely lost. What do you mean that you're going to prepare a place for us? We don't know where you are going. How can we know the way? And Jesus is trying to share with them, listen, the joy of heaven, the joy of this everlasting life that you're going to experience with me, it far outweighs anything temporarily that I could establish here with world power or dominion or comfort.

Jesus lets them know that He was leaving this place to prepare a place for them and for us, that this was all part of His sovereign plan. He was not going to stay here forever in the form of Jesus, but that this plan that is going to happen, He has total control over, and that you and I and they should have joy that comes from this idea of everlasting an eternal life when this world and body will be no more.

And Jesus says the Father's house is everlasting. We don't just stay in it for a certain limited number of days or months or years, but we will stay in it for perpetuity. It shouldn't be ignored that the belief of Jesus' Second Coming is an excellent preservation against a troubled heart. When you're having a difficult day, it is great to remember, you know what, Jesus is going to come back and rescue me from this place.

We are going to have a new body, a new life, enter a place where there is no more pain, no more suffering, no more tears, and Jesus has gone ahead of us to prepare that place for us. Jesus promised that He was coming back to get them and to get us. He also tells them that they should find comfort in the fact that they already know that Jesus is the way. This is the second way that we should find comfort and peace in the assurance that we know Jesus is the way.

Look at what he says here in verse 6. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. For if you really know me, then you will know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him. Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Again, don't you love this? Philip is not getting it. Just as you and I would not get it, it doesn't make sense.

It's hard to understand. What do you mean if we've seen you, we have seen the Father, and so Jesus answers him, "Don't you know me, Philip? "Even after I have been among you for such a long time, "anyone who has seen

me has seen the Father." How can you say, "Show us the Father, don't you believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me? The words that 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. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. We're starting to get into some theology here that we as theologians and church people are trying to understand the Trinity, right? It's difficult to understand, and so Jesus is trying to explain this, and even as I read these words, I sometimes have to read them over and over again to say, "Okay, what is He saying?" Right?

This is hard to make sense of. It's hard to understand, but Jesus is basically saying, "I and the Father are one." And in a little bit, we're going to be introduced to the Spirit that He's going to talk about. And so here we have this beautiful trinity and we're trying to make sense of it. What we now understand is that as fallen men and women who have sinned against a holy and righteous God, we can only come before God as a judge.

But through Jesus as a mediator, you and I can now come to God as a Father. That's a big difference going before Him as a judge or going before Him as your Father. Now, how unimaginable it must have been for the disciples to hear that seeing the face of Jesus, they've actually seen the face of God, because these disciples would have known their Old Testament Scriptures very well.

And so we think back to when Moses goes up on Mount Sinai and he receives the Ten Commandments from God, and the Scriptures say that when he came back down from the mountain, guess what happened? Because He had been within the presence of God, His face began to shine. You guys remember this? His face was actually glowing, and the Israelites were so afraid of what that meant and what it was that Moses had to put a veil over his face to cover it as he was with the people. They were terrified.

And so these disciples are thinking, "Okay, Jesus, you're telling us that you're the Father, your God. How have we looked upon the face of God for three years?" And nothing has happened. So they're trying to make sense of this. The disciples were afraid for Jesus to leave, regardless of whether He was the Father or not the Father, because up to this point, Jesus had been their support. He had been their provider, their protector. Probably the best word that we have is He has been their shepherd.

And they recognize that they have been the sheep or the flock and that they don't have any idea what to do without their shepherd, and Jesus has been their source of joy. And so Jesus is going to encourage them with a third thing as He is going to tell them that they will be clothed in power as He begins to share what is going to happen. Here we are in verse 12.

Jesus says, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father." He says to His disciples, "Listen, all of the miracles and all the amazing things that you have seen happen over the last three, three and a half years, you are going to do greater things when I am gone than when I was with you. And I will do whatever you ask in my name," Jesus says, "so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

You may ask for anything in my name, and I will do it." As I read this, sometimes I struggle because I think to myself, "Okay, Jesus said we're going to do greater things." And I don't know about you, but I always long to see more miracles. Am I the only one that would love to see more miracles? I would love to see God do more miracles, and I think, "Okay, God, Jesus told us that we would do greater things." But then I think back to the New Testament and what happened immediately after Jesus left.

50 days later, at the day of Pentecost, which we'll talk about here in a little bit, Jesus is going to inform them about that, they receive the Spirit and the church begins to explode beyond anybody's wildest imagination. So how do they do greater things than when Jesus was there? Well, of course, we have the stories of Jesus touching people and people are healed, but you do realize in the New Testament, as we follow the lives of Peter and Paul

that we read that when even the shadow of Paul would touch somebody, they would be healed. That's better, isn't it?

That when Peter, when he would touch a handkerchief, and someone would take that handkerchief to someone else, they would be healed. Those are greater things that would have happened. And think about the church and how it was growing, greater things happening. I do not believe that the disciples could comprehend that there would possibly be a time where there would be one billion people on earth that believe in Jesus. The growth of the church and the movement that has happened because of what Jesus has done, and that they would get to start that movement.

And so this movement was going to continue through the disciples. And of course, Jesus offers them another comfort, number four, the promise of the coming of another comforter, this Holy Spirit. Look at this in verse 15. "If you love me, keep my commands, and I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you, and He will be with you forever. Somebody else is coming that is going to take my place," Jesus is saying. "Who is this advocate?

It is the Spirit of truth." Here we have the Trinity all coming together, Father, Son, and the Spirit. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. Jesus will talk more about this advocate or Spirit again further in John, but He tells them the Spirit is going to guide you, He's going to lead you, He's going to instruct you. Just as I have done up to this point, Jesus is saying, the Spirit will continue in that.

I think that the disciples would have been a lot more excited if they understood what this new experience was going to be. The connection between God and man was going to go up another level. I don't know if you've recognized this before as you read through the Scriptures, but in the Old Testament you have God the Father. He's the main player in the story. And of course, man can have a relationship with God, but it's only through a mediator. And so you had to have priests and people that would mediate between you and God, but of course he's still a loving God.

And then we move into the New Testament and we get to the gospels and we have the birth of Jesus, the second part of the Trinity. And now with Jesus, as God is in the flesh, there is this ability for others to have a more intimate relationship with Him, but only a small number of people. But that relationship between God and man takes another step, but now here we enter into the final level of our relationship and intimacy with a holy and loving God.

Now God is going to send His Spirit the third part of the Trinity so that you and I and anybody else who would confess Jesus as Lord and Savior gets to house the Holy Spirit inside them. Do you guys understand this? We no longer need a mediator between us and God. We can have a relationship with us and He will guide us and He will lead us and He will walk with us.

Jesus is saying, "Listen, yes, I am going to depart from you, but it's not going to be as bad as you think because it's not total or final because I'm sending somebody else." And so Jesus also offers us comfort by telling us that He is going to continue to fellowship with them through this Spirit. This is where I think, as we read this, I just want you to understand that when I read this section of Scripture, people will often come to me and say, "Pastor, why doesn't God just make it clear who He is to everybody?

Why doesn't He just tell us the way it is?" I think there are times in Scripture when Jesus tries to explain to us as humans what is actually happening and it just doesn't make any sense. This would be one of those sections. Look at this. "I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me, because I live, you also will live.

On that day, you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you." How many times do you got to read that, right? I mean, he's trying to make sense of this. Like, yes, Jesus and the Father are one and the

Spirit is one with us, so here's the idea of the Trinity, and actually the Spirit's living inside of you, and so we're all going to be one. And you're thinking, "What? What do you mean? How are we all going to be one?" That's what Jesus is saying.

"For whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." Then Judas, and John makes sure to let us know, not Judas Iscariot, but the other Judas said, "But Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" And Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching, and so my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own. They belong to the Father who sent me." He's saying, "Listen, I'm not leaving you alone. You belong to the Father. He has sent me. I'm leaving you somebody else, this comforter. I have left you with instructions. You know what you need to do. Continue to do that and things will become more clear.

He goes on in verse 25, "All this I have spoken while still with you, but the advocate, the Holy Spirit, this comforter, whom the Father will send in My name will teach you all things and will remind you of everything that I have said to you." The life of a believer, of somebody who confesses Jesus as their Lord and Savior is bound in the life of Jesus. As long as He lives, we live.

This divine life of communion with God, if the head and the root live, then the members of that body and the branches live as well. Jesus is saying, "I will return, I will live within you through the Spirit." Jesus now wants to offer them something else. He wants to offer them His peace. Verse 27, He says, "My peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." As we think about the life of Jesus as he nears the end, Jesus commits his soul to the Father when He's on the cross. He commits his body to Joseph of Arimathea, who would come and take it down from the cross and wrap it and prepare it for burial. His clothes would fall to the soldiers who cast lots. His mother, he left to the care of who? You guys know? John.

He leaves his mother to the care of John. And so what would he leave for His disciples? He's given everything else away. Jesus says, "I am giving you my peace. I am giving you my peace." And this peace is of such a nature that the smiles of the world cannot give it, nor the frowns of the world take it away. This peace that he gives is beyond the circumstances over which you don't have control.

And so finally, Jesus wants to affirm to them and to us that He is in complete control. Look at this, verses 28 through 31. "You heard me say that I am going away and I am coming back to you. If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens. Why? Why is he telling them all this? So that when it does happen, you will believe.

I will not say much more to you for the prince of this world is coming, and He has no hold over me, but He comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now, let us leave. Jesus wants to inform His disciples and us that everything that is going to happen is not an accident, it's not something that was going to happen by chance, and it's not something that was going to take Him by surprise.

Jesus never woke up and said, "Huh, I didn't see that coming," right? He knows what's going to happen. He is in control. And so He wants to share with His disciples. He wants to share with us His followers that He is the one that is in charge of everything that is happening. And so we need to be reminded, and you need to be reminded that even in the end of John, when Jesus is going to give His life on the cross, this was not Jesus losing, this was Him winning.

His death was the victory over sin. I'm not sure how long it would take for His disciples to figure that out, but you can understand why they were confused, and why they were hurt, and why they were anxious. And so, as you sit

here this morning, what are you anxious about? What are you confused about? What is wearing you down? Are you thinking about the future too much? Are you fearful of what is happening? Are you looking at the news stations and wondering what is going to happen?

Maybe you and I just need to be reminded that God's in control. He's in control of everything that is taking place. If you know Jesus today, He wants to give you these seven encouragements, these things that will help you make it through the trials and the turmoil and the pain and the suffering. He wants to remind you and me of our eternal home in heaven. He wants to remind us that we can be confident in the fact that Jesus is the way, that we can have assurance of our salvation.

We don't need to wonder what's going to happen. We can be reminded that we are clothed in power, that if we have confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior, that we have received that comforter, and so because of that, Jesus is going to continue to fellowship with us through the power of His Spirit. We also know that Jesus offers us His peace that is beyond anything that this world can offer.

Scripture says it is a peace that surpasses understanding and that you and I can be reminded that Jesus is in complete control. It's as if Jesus wants to tell us all today, "Don't allow the enemy to steal your joy." Now, please don't mishear me and somehow believe that as we go through life, we're not going to have moments of sadness, we're not going to have moments of grief, we're not going to have moments of sorrow.

All of those things are normal and natural and true. But we all should be reminded of what the psalmist says in Psalm chapter 30 verse 5 that weeping, sorrow may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. We all know the end of the story, and Jesus wants to remind us of that so that we can make it through those difficult days.

We can make it through those tribulations and trials that we experience, that we would keep our eyes on Him so that He would receive the praise. Let me close in prayer. Heavenly Father, you know what everybody is experiencing in this moment. How they came to church this morning, whatever pain or hurt they have.

Again, it might be a relational struggle, a health issue, a financial issue, the unknown of the future. Maybe it's just turning on the news and wondering what in the world is happening today. May we be reminded that you are in control, that You have promised us Your Spirit that would live within us to help guide us and direct us and lead us, that You have given us a peace that can surpass understanding.

Father, may You receive the praise from our lives. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.