

PASTOR'S SERMON NOTES · PULPIT COPY

In The Beginning Was Jesus

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 01 · September 13, 2026

Scripture:

John 1:1–5

MOTIVATION (WHY YOU NEED THIS)

Everyone here likely has an opinion about who Jesus is.

- “He was a good teacher”
- “He was a good man with a lot of bad followers”
- “He becomes what and who you need Him to be”

These opinions keep Jesus controllable and adaptable from a human perspective. It’s almost as if we enjoy a Jesus who is “created in our image.”

But here’s the problem. **A Jesus built in your image dies the same day you do. A Jesus you create can never be bigger than you are.**

An opinion about Jesus is easy to have. It’s a lot harder to stand on when life is hard.

Last Sunday, I gave you one assignment: open to John 1:1–5 and ask God, “Who do You say You are?” I sent you to Him because I knew what we would find. John does not leave that question open.

Remember who is talking: the last disciple alive – John, the only man left who could say, “I was there.” He told us plainly why he wrote: that you may believe, and by believing have life in his name (20:31). Not information. Life.

Matthew begins with a genealogy. Mark a baptism. Luke an investigation. **John begins in eternity.**

So set your opinions down. Let’s find out if there’s something here you can stand on.

INFORMATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW)**Who is Jesus according to John?****He is ETERNAL – He was before you (v.1a)**

John 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word...

- **In the beginning** – when creation and human history began, Jesus already existed
- **Was the Word** – God’s Living Message: nobody knows what you’re thinking until you say it. Jesus is God, said out loud. God in Action: God spoke, and the world was. Jesus is that voice, in person.

Think About It: You did not discover Him. He was before you; therefore, your opinion of Him is younger than He is.

He is GOD – He is above you (vv.1b–2)

John 1:1–2 (ESV) ...and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

- **With God (face to face)** – He was not lonely. He did not make you because something was missing.
- **Was God (not godlike, not a lesser copy)** – whatever God is, He is.

Think About It: He doesn't change to fit you. He is above you. A Jesus you created cannot forgive or give life because you made Him.

He is CREATOR – He made you (v.3)

John 1:3 (ESV) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

- **All things were made through Him** – nothing made, including you, without Him.

Think About It: He made you. His claim on your life is older than your opinion.

He is LIGHT AND LIFE – He is the way out of the darkness (vv.4–5)

John 1:4–5 (ESV) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- **Life is in Him, not just from Him** – He holds it. You cannot get it anywhere else.
- **The light reveals and exposes** – sin keeps us in darkness, and we cannot find the way out alone.

Think About It: John doesn't say the light shined. He says it shines. Whatever you walked in here carrying, the light is in it right now, and the dark has already tried to put it out.

APPLICATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO DO)

John hasn't asked you for anything yet. He has only shown you who Jesus is. But four things are already true, and they were true before you walked in this morning.

- He was before you
- He is above you
- He made you
- He is the light in whatever you carried in here

None of that waited on your permission. Some have known about Jesus a long time, but knowledge alone doesn't give life. Life isn't in the facts about Him. Life is in Him. Some of you aren't sure who He is. This is the safest place you will ever bring that.

Here's what you need to do this week...

- **Put away the Jesus you've built** (He can't forgive you. He won't outlive you.)
- **Come to the One who was here first** (Not to a decision about Him, but to Him)
- **Bring the dark things with you** (Jesus is the only One who has overcome them)

The light of Jesus is still shining and has never gone out. Come stand in Him. For in Him, there is life and light.