



# The Park Church: Corporate Bible Study

BIBLE JOURNEY: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN/ SIGNS, FAITH & CONVERSATIONS

REV. KEITH CLARK

# Reflection: Looking Back Moving Forward

- ▶ **The Gospel of John is centered around “Life and Kingdom”**
  - It presents an unqualified statement of the divinity of Christ
    - In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God
  - John invites us to become more intimate with the Son of God
- ▶ **Signs, Faith & Conversations:**
  - Progressive signs pointing to something
  - The “I AM” Statements of Jesus that reveal his oneness with the Father
  - Either you believe and follow or oppose and turn away



**For Studio P ONLY:**

# Getting Started Introduction video

LESSON 2

IN | SIGNS, FAITH & CONVERSATIONS [BONUS]

# The First Sign

The first sign starts with a request from Jesus' mother.

Note his initial response:

- Why do you involve me?
- My hour has not yet come.

Note his mother's response:

- To the servants she said, "do whatever he tells you".

Jesus shows in this first sign that indeed by him were all things made that were made through his ability to turn ordinary water into wine.

The wine that Jesus made was of a better quality than what had been previously served to the guests at the wedding feast

This first revelation of His glory led to belief in him by his disciples.

# Defending the Purpose of the House of God

Now we find Jesus going up to the Temple during the time of Passover as was the custom of all Jewish people. What he finds going on there however stirs up some emotion in him. What did he find?

- ▶ The selling of goods and services
- ▶ The money changes helping facilitate the commercial enterprises

As stated earlier this sight led Jesus to exercise holy indignation concerning how his Father's house was being treated. This led to questions from the Jews regarding his authority to cast out the money changers and others.

Jesus replied: " Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.

# The Second Sign

“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days”.

- ▶ Jesus was not referring to the physical temple but his own body
- ▶ This sign while stated by the Lord in response to the jews questions was a progressive sign: it was pointing towards something that would happen at a future time when reflecting upon then by his disciples would further strengthen their belief in him.



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# Progressive Revelation in the Signs

LESSON 2 SIGNS, FAITH & CONVERSATIONS

BEHIND | THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

# A Conversation regarding Kingdom Access

## **Nicodemus approaches Jesus under the cover of night (under cover brother)**

- ▶ He believed Jesus to be a teacher from God because of the signs and wonders that Jesus did
- ▶ Jesus pushes Nicodemus further in his belief by declaring that no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. This introduces a new concept to Nicodemus that is foreign to his current understanding of the kingdom (spiritual rebirth)
- ▶ “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”

# The Great Invitation

Jesus says:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John the Baptist confirms:

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

# A Revealing Conversation

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Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at the well as he was passing through Samaria. As she comes to draw water a question is raised:

Will you give me a drink?

This leads to an ethnicity question regarding the mixing of Jews and Samaritans.

Which leads to a declaration by Jesus regarding who He is and the living water he has to offer as well as his knowledge of her life story.

This conversation leads to a conversion of many in the town based on the woman's testimony of her encounter with Jesus.

**For Studio P ONLY:**

# In Front | Evangelism as Personalized Conversation Lecture

LESSON 2 SIGNS, FAITH & CONVERSATIONS

BEHIND | THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

# The Third Sign- Healing and Believing

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Jesus has returned to Cana in Galilee and encounters a royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

- ▶ The official begs Jesus to heal his son.
- ▶ Jesus replies: ““Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”
- ▶ The official begs again-”Sir, come down before my child dies.”
- ▶ Jesus replies: Go, your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So, he and his whole household believed.

# Healing and Believing

The encounter with the invalid man at the pool of Bethesda

- ▶ Do you want to get well?
- ▶ Then the acknowledgement of helplessness from the man: I have no one to help me
- ▶ The response from Jesus: Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

# Feeding and Believing

- ▶ Jesus saw the great crowd that had followed him
- ▶ Saw the need to feed them
- ▶ Andrew found small provision (A boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish)
- ▶ Jesus prayed then had the disciples feed at a minimum 5,000 people then had the disciples gather up what was left over so that nothing was wasted
- ▶ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

# To Believe or Not - That is the question

- ▶ What he wrote in the sand saved and changed a woman's life and challenged those who thought they were innocent
- ▶ This led to a challenge from the Pharisees regarding Jesus witness of himself when he declared: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- ▶ "Who are you?" they asked.
- ▶ "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many believed in him.



**For Studio P ONLY:**

# I AM Statements Lecture

LESSON 3 "I AM" STATEMENTS

BEHIND | THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

# The I AM Declarations

The list below gives all the passages with I AM statements in the book of John. They are normally spoken in the context of a sign or a teaching and therefore add further insight into Jesus' identity:

- **Bread of life: 6:22-59** (spoken in the context of his conversation with his disciples and their recollection of the manna their ancestors ate in the wilderness experience)
- **Light of the world: 8:12-30** (spoken to the Pharisees who challenged Jesus' testimony of himself after he forgave the woman caught in the act of adultery)
- **Door of the sheep & the Good Shepherd: 10:1-18** (spoken to the Pharisees in a teaching moment as they were investigating the healing of the blind man)

# The I AM Declarations-cont.

- **The resurrection and the life: 11:17-27** (spoken to Martha and Mary right before raising their brother Lazarus back to life)
- **The way, the truth and the life: 14:1-7** (spoken to his disciples as he was preparing them for his upcoming death, burial, resurrection, and subsequent return to His Father)
- **The true vine: 15:1-11** (spoken to his disciples as he further instructed them on living life successfully in the kingdom and he being the source of that life)

Notice also that these statements not only speak to who Jesus is; pointing to his oneness with the Father, but they also speak to how Jesus' identity relates to his people, or those who will become his people.

# The Resurrection Sign- A foreshadowing of things to come

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Lord, the one you love is sick (That being Lazarus the brother of Mary and Martha)

Jesus receives the message then tells his disciples the sickness is not unto death and then delayed his going to see about his friend for two additional days.

Upon his arrival Jesus finds that Lazarus has been dead and in the tomb for four days. Martha meets him and confronts him regarding his late arrival.

Jesus then assures her that she will see her brother again in the land of the living by declaring: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

He then asks a pointed question: "Do you believe this"?

# Resurrection (cont.)

Mary then reaches the place where Jesus is and says the same thing to him that her sister said: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

We then see the humanity of our Lord and Savior on full display, Seeing those gathered around weeping, seeing his close friends weeping, Jesus wept.

Finally, upon reaching the tomb he commanded the stone be taken away. Once again, he challenges those gathered to believe then he prays to the Father so that all gathered could hear him: “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

Then he calls with a loud voice: “Lazarus, come out!”

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

# The Final Straw

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. **So from that day on they plotted to take his life.**

# Anointed for an Appointment

## **The Anointing:**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

## **The Appointment:**

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."



**For Studio P ONLY:**

Wrap up

LESSON 3 THE I AM STATEMENTS  
BEHIND | THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

# Are you convinced?

Have you seen enough through the signs we saw in this study. Have you experienced enough in the faith testimony of others in this study. Have you heard enough in the personal conversations of those who came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ in this section of the Gospel of John to believe? Have you internalized the I AM declarations of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." John 12: 44-50

Believe and Live