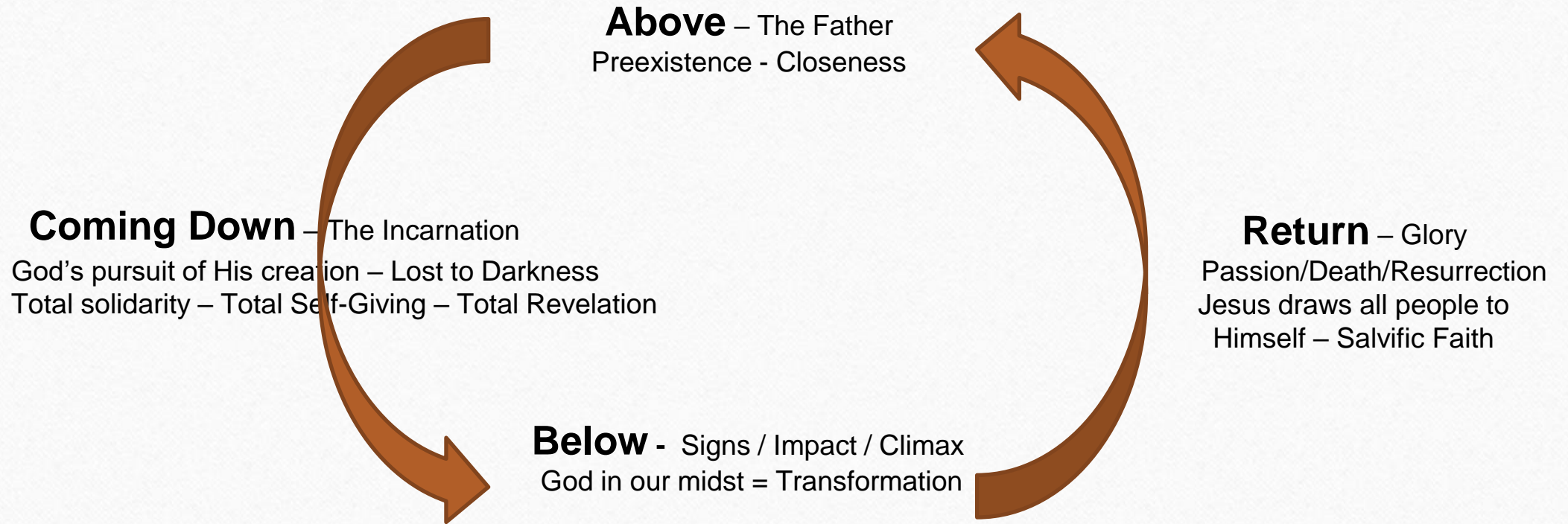


Gospel of John

Week 2 – 'Above' and 'Below'

Recap – The Structure



This Week

- Prologue (1: 1-18) – Above
 - Theology
 - Who God is in Himself
- Book of Signs (Chapter 2 – Chapter 11) – Coming Down, Below
 - The Economy of Salvation – The works God uses to reveal Himself
 - Not just miracles - God reveals His power and Glory Through Jesus Christ
 - Each Sign points to a deeper theology, understanding
 - Each sign is followed by discourse (why a discourse?)
 - They were confusing and needed more information/explanation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, ^[c] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Prologue

“Above” (pre-existence of God) and His coming “Down”

- Everything was in harmony, Closeness with God
- Fullness of God without much extra – simple truth
- The Word = The Totality of Who God is
- Ps 33:6-9

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.
Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Prologue – The Incarnation

What does incarnation imply?

- Coming down = self emptying
- Logos became flesh, entering humanity in its fullness and limitations (suffering, hunger, pain)
- He doesn't lose His Divinity, (no sin)
- Intimate friendship God has with humanity
- God reaching out to save the world that had been created good.

Prologue – The Incarnation

What does incarnation imply?

- He comes as a Light to conquer Darkness – reclaiming what He created
- The Logos is the source of life (light shines in darkness)
 - What is life? The result of oneness with Christ in the Father
 - Being born 'of God' – becoming children of God
 - He cannot be overcome by darkness (sin, death)
- Reveals the Father who is Love

1st Small Group

- What is opening words of John's Gospel intended to remind us of? Who or what is the Word?
- Discuss the parallels you can find between the opening verses of John and the opening of Genesis
- "And the Word Became Man and dwelt among us" Jn 1:14
Was the Incarnation necessary for our salvation? Discuss the importance of Incarnation in relation to the love of God for us and the world.

The Book of Signs

More than miracles

- Convey Glory of God
- Recall the signs and wonders of the Exodus (Ex 7:19)
 - Striking of the Rock, water flows (Jesus talks about water)
 - Manna from heaven (Jesus is the Bread of Life)
 - Joshua succeeded Moses (Jesus is a new Joshua – ‘God Saves’)
 - Passover (Jesus is the new Passover lamb)

Signs

- Wedding at Cana - Water into Wine – Beginning of everything
 - Nicodemus
- Healing of the official's son (chpt 4)
 - Faith and the power of God's Word (the Logos)
- Healing of the man lame 38 years – controversy begins here
- Feeding of the 5000 - Controversy intensifies, people begin to leave
- Jesus walks on water
- Healing of the man born blind
- Raising of Lazarus – They sought to kill him (and Lazarus) – Starts towards Glory and going 'above'

Wedding at Cana

Water into Wine – Beginning of everything – Looks to Calvary

- Signified a New Covenant – Beginning of a new family – the Cross begins a new family (Mary, John, All of humanity)
- Significance of Water/Purification
 - Jesus TRUELY cleanses the people defiled by sin
 - Uses purification water (old covenant) and changing to wine – they were ‘dead’ in their sins
 - Wine flowed from the vessels made to purify
 - Blood and water flowed from the side of Christ at the cross
 - Points to the Eucharist

Wedding at Cana

- Mary
 - “There is no wine” - Concern for everyone
 - Creation imagery
 - Mary is mentioned in the beginning (“Woman”) and then at Calvary
 - She is the New Eve (she is obedient) – Jesus is the New Adam
 - Mary is at the start of His ministry and at the End (foot of the cross)
- First time Jesus mentions ‘The Hour’- when all events climax
 - The Hour – Passion and Death of The Lord – Determined by God (not man)
 - Not *His* wedding, yet – points to it
- The best wine saved for last – The true ‘last’ is the sacrifice of the cross

Wedding at Cana

- Isaiah 25:6-8
 - “On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Wedding at Cana

- Water to Wine
- Wine to Blood (Last Supper)
- Water and Blood flow from His side on the cross
 - Wedding
 - Feast
 - Covenant
- Followed by the Woman at the Well – which is a place where Jacob met his bride
- Nicodemus discourse explains

Healing of the Official's Son

- “Royal official” – A Gentile
 - Begged a carpenter for help – willing to risk humiliation, ridicule
 - Non-Jews have faith too
 - Points to the universal mission of Christ
- Faith and the power of God's Word (the Logos)
 - God's Word brings life, creates
 - Sign of the eternal life Jesus brings to **all** people

Healing of the Official's Son

This man already had faith – other signs led to faith, he already had it – there was **NO VISIBLE SIGN**

- “Go; your son will live” and he did
- Believing the word of God brings life
- Trust the Lord, His promises (Isaiah 55:11)

“so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Healing of the Official's Son

- The boy was healed at the 7th hour
 - “7” points to perfection, fullness of life
 - Points to the 3rd Sign (which happened on the Sabbath 7th day)
- Cana/Capernaum were in the North, where people believed in Jesus
- The South (Jerusalem) did not believe in Him – “He came to His own and they did not accept Him”

2nd Small Group

- In what ways do signs performed by Jesus help build faith?
- Mary's request of Jesus was plain and simple. How does this serve as an example for us on how we intercede for others?
- Where do you need to see water turned into wine in your life?

Next Week

- Healing of the man lame 38 years – controversy begins here
- Feeding of the 5000 - Controversy intensifies, people begin to leave
- Jesus walks on water