

Gospel of John

Week Five – Relationships

Structure

- Prologue (1: 1-18) - Above
- Book of Signs (Chapter 2 – Chapter 11) – Coming Down
- Book of Glory (Chapter 12 – 20) – nearing the Climax, then going back above
- Appendix (Chapter 21) – Appearances; ‘other things not written’

Signs

- ✓ Wedding at Cana
- ✓ Healing of the official's son
- ✓ Healing of the man lame 38 years
- ✓ Feeding of the 5000 'multitude'
- ✓ Jesus walks on water
- ✓ Healing of the man born blind
- ✓ Raising of Lazarus

The Incarnation and the Human Family

- Jesus comes to family/families – Cana & Lazarus
 - Jesus comes to destroy/conquer death
 - Sin and death cause separation
 - He brings light, life, but in abundance
- Jesus came to fulfill and perfect what was incomplete
 - The Old Law and the new covenant – opened to the world
 - Feeding of the multitude – Eucharist, gift of Himself
 - Brings reconciliation with God

This Week

- The Incarnation and Family
 - Weddings and marriage imagery
 - Family dynamics
 - Relationships changing/repared
 - God's relationship with His people is transformed
- The stories in between
 - John the Baptist
 - Jesus Cleanses the Temple
 - The Samaritan Woman
 - The Woman caught in Adultery
 - "I am the Good Shepherd..."

The stories in between

John the Baptist

- First mentioned in the Prologue:

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
- He represents all of the prophets that came before him

John the Baptist

- Super popular, perhaps more than Jesus at first
- Has to deny who people claim him to be – The Messiah
 - Not ‘The Anointed One’
 - Not ‘Elijah’ – prophecy in Malachi who will come before the ‘Day of the Lord’
 - Not ‘The Prophet’ – prophesy of Moses for a *new Moses*
- He *is* the one prophesied by Isaiah – A herald that God is coming

John the Baptist

‘Why are you baptizing?’ – who gives you authority

- Ritual bathing
- ‘unworthy to untie his sandals’ – this is what slave did

An authentic prophet does not take the place of the Lord, he fulfills his small but important role

John the Baptist

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world”

- Passover Lamb
- Temple sacrifice
- Jesus is more complete

On the third day, “Behold the Lamb of God”

- His disciples begin to follow Jesus

We will see him one more time...

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

- Takes place at the time of the Passover
- He's in the south (Judea) so... not too many fans
- Money changing happening within the Temple itself
 - Probably in the area set aside for non-Jews
- ****He *makes* a whip****
 - “...stop making *My Father's House* a marketplace”

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

“What sign can you show us for doing this?”

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

- The Temple united heaven and earth
 - God dwelled with His people, would not abandon them
 - Sacrifice was offered in expiation of sins, thanksgiving
 - Symbolized a marriage covenant between God and His people

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Jesus draws them to a new understanding

- Jesus' body is becoming the new Temple, God's dwelling
- He exerts His authority over the Temple
- The old Temple/covenant was ending
 - The temple activity had lost it relevance
 - No efficacy for salvation

Points to the passion/death/resurrection - God's marriage to his people is consummated by the death and resurrection of Jesus

John the Baptist

He reappears once more, after the wedding at Cana

- Jesus's disciples are now baptising as well
- Many went to Jesus instead of John

“He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.” (Jn 3:29-30)

Small Groups

- What do you think of John the Baptist's role in salvation history? Do you ever see yourself as one leading others to Jesus?
- How did the first disciples encounter Christ? What does this tell you about how to be a disciple of Christ?
- What did you think of the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple? Did it mean something different to you before tonight?

The Samaritan Woman

Jesus returns to the north (Galilee) and passes through Samaria

- Meets a woman alone at the well
 - Rebekah (Isaac's wife) was met at a well
 - Jacob (Isaac's son) meets Rachel at a well
 - Moses met his wife at a well
- "Give me a drink"... Um, what?
 - - a sinner, a woman, a Samaritan

The Samaritan Woman

Jesus brings the conversation to the eternal

- “If you knew... you would ask him for ...living water...”
- He wants her faith - to gift her the Holy Spirit
- ‘living water’ = running water, but she’s in ‘bios’ mode

“Go and bring your husband...” “I have no husband.”

“for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband”

The Samaritan Woman

Five Husbands - 2 Kings 17

- The false gods of Samaria
- Jesus calls her to true faith

“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”

- to know = a deeper ‘knowledge’, union
- Jesus declares He is the messiah - “I am he”

The Samaritan Woman

Jesus hungers for the Will of the Father

- The disciples arrive
- They, too, are stuck in the earthly - *who brought you food?*
- His food is 'above' - serving the Father - eternal reward
- He is the bridegroom preparing for His wedding (on the cross)

The Woman caught in Adultery

The Jews bring a woman caught in adultery - ask Jesus what they should do

- Adultery was a capital offense - for both parties
- The accusers execute judgement
- They weren't looking for guidance, they were testing Jesus
 - Leviticus 20:10 (where was the dude?)

The Woman caught in Adultery

“He who is without sin, cast the first stone”

Jesus wrote in the sand - twice

- Jer 17:1 - “The sin of Judah is written with an iron pen”
- Jer 17:13 - “Lord, you are the hope of Israel;

all who forsake you will be put to shame.

Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust

because they have forsaken the Lord,

the spring of living water.

The Woman caught in Adultery

- Jesus is the way, truth and life - He gave her life
- He exposes hypocrisy and doesn't condemn a sinner
 - Everyone is accused and condemned before Jesus
 - Jesus stands in the place of sinner for mercy and reconciliation
- Jesus came to fulfill the law with a deeper covenant - reconciliation

“Neither do I condemn you.
Go, [and] from now on **do not sin any more.**”

“I am the Good Shepherd...”

The image of the Shepherd is old... Ezekiel 34

- Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. ⁴ You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them.
- Thus says the Lord GOD, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves.

“I am the Good Shepherd...”

The Lord’s plan... Ezekiel 34

- For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
- I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

“I am the Good Shepherd...”

Jesus fulfills God's plan

- I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.
- For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Small Group

- Why do you think it was so hard for some people to accept Jesus was from God?
- Why do you think the men accusing the woman caught in adultery dropped their stones and walked away?
- How comforting is it that Jesus knows us so well?