

Gospel of John

The Book of Glory Begins

Structure

- Prologue (1: 1-18) - Above
- Book of Signs (Chapter 2 – Chapter 11) – Coming Down
 - Each sign is followed by discourse
- **Book of Glory (Chapter 12 – 20) – nearing the Climax, then going back above**
 - **Upper room discourse (ch 13-17)**
- Appendix (Chapter 21) – Appearances; ‘other things not written’

The Preface

(The Messiah Has Come)

- Jesus evades them until Passover
- Mary anoints him at Bethany
 - Points to His burial
- Jews plot to kill Lazarus
- Entrance into Jerusalem
- Gentiles openly come to Him
- Jesus summarizes His teaching, speaks of His death
- The Events in the Upper Room – Last Supper/Discourse/Etc.

The Upper Room

The use of an 'upper room' was established in ancient Israel

- Usually a room built on the roof of a house, set apart
- Used as a guest room, for travelers
- Used as a place of prayer to invoke God's power/grace
- Sometimes open air, a little less sheltered
- Other times, ornate and lavish (Jer 22:13)

The Upper Room – In the OT

- 1 Kings 17: 19 – Elijah stays with the widow of Zarephath – he works miracles (raised her child from the dead)
- 2 Kings 4:10 – A wealthy woman built a room for Elisha so he would have a place as he passed by – he worked miracles for her (child, raised him from the dead)
- Dan 6:10 – Daniel is overheard praying in the room just before his enemies throw him into the lion's den

The Upper Room – In the NT

In the Early Church

- A place to gather - for community, Eucharist
- Mark 14:15/ Luke 22:12 – The disciples are sent ahead to find a place to celebrate Passover.
- Acts 1:13 – The disciples gather after the Ascension
- Acts 9:37 – Tabitha, a disciple, dies and is placed there – Peter raises her to life

The Book of Glory Begins - (Ch. 13)

The Washing of the Feet

- Prophetic action –
 - Jesus becomes 'a slave'
 - Points to the cross, ultimate service
- Makes His apostles pure –
 - capable to participate in the Divine Meal
- Ending external purification (Jewish ritual) - Jesus' is complete
- The Word makes them pure, like at Baptism
- Christ was already embracing the cross (gift of self)

The Betrayal

The final event leading up to “The Hour” – Judas betrays Jesus

- Jesus is ‘troubled in spirit’
- The climax of Jesus’ purpose

“Do quickly what you are going to do.”

- Confirms Jesus is in control, gives permission to let it happen
- “..he immediately went out. And it was night.”
 - Judas is in spiritual darkness – turns his back on the light

All events are now in motion – His Hour has come

The Hour

“The Hour” – Has begun and is a ‘passing’

- Passing from one way of living to another
- Like a Passover
- Passing from this life to Glory

Crucifixion -> Elevation -> Death -> Resurrection

A New Commandment

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- Love is a new life within us
- Agape – a love that is donated, generously (freely gifted)
- Love to the end (completely, eternally)

He loved us first, invites us to love one another

- Through service – gift of self – identifies us as disciples

The Farewell Discourse (Ch. 14)

Jesus had just predicted Peter's denial & Judas has gone

- Anxiety about Jesus' departure, *everyone* was 'troubled'
- Jesus calls them to faith
 - "Do not let your hearts be troubled" - Encouragement
 - Do not be afraid of what is coming
 - They should be anchored in their faith
 - Belief in God – both the Father and in Jesus
 - What will the future look like, hardships
- Jesus was definitely leaving – the Hour has come

Warnings and Encouragement

Warning and Encouragement swing like a pendulum

- Many rooms in the Father's house
 - PS 65:4
 - “Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.”
- The Father's house is our final destination – but how do we get there?

Jesus Is the Way – *He* takes us there Himself

Preparing a Place for You

It's about the Journey. And the Destination! It's both.

- The destination is union with God - The journey is with Christ
 - He shows the way and He walks the way with us
 - The journey and the destination cannot be separated
- Preparing a place for you
 - Through His passion death and resurrection
 - Set free from corruption (sin/death) which separates us from God

Troubled

- Thinking about the betrayal and Peter's denial
 - Jesus was predicting terrible things – that would come to pass
- Jesus was also troubled (by the betrayal as well as via crucis)
 - They were far from understanding God's will
 - The Hour had arrived – He needed to die to bridge the gap
 - They need space to grieve
 - For a greater depth of faith rather than bitterness
 - Leads to salvation

Disciples Still Asking...

Thomas – “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

I am the way and the truth and life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip sticks his foot in his mouth: “Show us the Father”

- “Whoever has seen Me has seen The Father”
- “Believe in Me”
- The promise of the Holy Spirit, The Comforter, The Advocate
- The Holy Spirit will help them keep this new commandment

Small Group

- What is “Glory” according to the Gospel of John? Is it different from the gloria we sing on Sunday?
- What did Jesus mean by “Do Not Let Your Hearts be Troubled”? Was he not troubled too? What troubled Jesus? What is the difference between what troubled Jesus and what troubled the disciples?
- Jesus describes himself as three things: The Way, The Truth, and The Life. What is the significance of each of these terms? What is Jesus trying to convey to his disciples about why he came and what he offered people?

The Way

- How do we know the way? Where are you going?
 - It will be revealed to us – we cannot find it on our own
 - Jesus is the way – the only way
- ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments’
 - Conditional – commandments cannot be fulfilled without love
 - True faith goes with obedience
 - Love is a response – following God’s plan for salvation

The Way

- 'Ask anything in my name' – invoking the name of Jesus –
 - He is an intercessor with the Father
 - Anything to fulfill the plan of God will be granted
- I will not leave you orphans – Points to Ch. 16 and the Paraclete
 - Chief comforter
 - Extension of the presence of Christ

****More on the Holy Spirit next week!****

Jesus Explains – Ch 15

The Vine and the Branches

- Old Testament: Is 5:1-7, Jer 2:21
- The branch cannot exist without the vine
- Jesus is the source of life, to be cut off is death
- Intimacy with Jesus is intimacy with The Father

“I am the Vine and you are the branches...”:

- A collaborative, communion
- We are not in this alone, it is not in vain
- Better than the OT relationship with God

The OT Vineyard (Is 5:1-7)

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you

what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;

he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

The Vine and the Branches

The Good branches

- Jesus wants to start afresh –become the True Vine
 - Branches are genuine believers, communion with Christ
 - A new Israel founded on Jesus Himself
 - Faithful, Close
 - Produce good fruit

“Yet I planted you as a choice vine,
from the purest stock.
How then did you turn degenerate
and become a wild vine?” (Jer 2:21)

The Vine and the Branches

- Unity with Christ includes unity among the Disciples
- Jesus will complete the task God ordains
- “Abide in Me...”
 - A response of faith followed by obedience
 - Jesus loves and obeys the Father
- Fruit is demanded

The Vine and the Branches

“You did not choose me but I chose you”

- Disciples should be conscious that Christ chose them
- To respond, they should live pure lives
- It's a privilege, they should be humble

The Vine and the Branches

“The Father will give *whatever* they ask

- God will not fail to give them the resources they need
- They will bear fruit in His name
- Becoming a disciple is a process... still things to come...
 - After the resurrection

The Vine and the Branches

The bad branches

- Branches cut off wither and die (Judas has already left...)
- Produces bad fruit
- Israel was in sin and no longer producing good fruit, sterile/wild

To reject Jesus is to reject The Father and Holy Spirit
– to be cut off -

The World vs The Way

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

- Friends laying down their lives for one another
- Jesus’ love is complete and unchanging

“I no longer call you servants...”

- Jesus reveals all the mystery of God’s love
 - Service (washing of the feet)
 - Comforting words

The World vs The Way

“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you.”

- The Christian destiny is not separated from Christ
- Christ becomes a permanent root
 - Source of nourishment for His disciples
 - Jesus is the foundation of the Church
 - People are united to Christ and to each other
 - The Church provides this nourishment via the sacraments

Small Group

- When Jesus says, “apart from me you can do nothing,” what is he talking about? What things are impossible to accomplish apart from Jesus in your personal life? In the Christian community?
- When Jesus talks about joy, is he talking about happiness? What is the basis for the kind of joy that Jesus wants for his disciples?
- Have you ever experienced the full joy of Jesus in your life? Did it come at a time when everything was perfect or did it come in the midst of adversity and trial?