

Date: April 28, 2026

John Section: John 20:1-21:25

Key Text: John 20:31

Main Idea: Jesus as the resurrected savior for sinful humans.

Genre: Theological Narrative

Author: John

Audience: Primarily second-generation believers, Jews, and Gentiles, needing encouragement and clarity about Jesus' identity.

Setting: Likely written from Ephesus, AD 85-95, in a context of synagogue opposition and emerging false teachings.

Quote of the Week: "Christ by His resurrection has opened for us the gate of life... for he rose, not for himself, but for us." - John Calvin



John Preview:

Highlight:

The Gospel of John is a unique New Testament account of Jesus' life, written by the Apostle John, the beloved disciple. John's Gospel is not merely a biography but a theological portrait, revealing Jesus as the eternal Son of God who became flesh to bring life and light to the world. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John emphasizes signs and discourses that unveil Jesus' divine identity and mission. From the opening words—"In the beginning was the Word"—to the climactic resurrection appearances, John presents Jesus as the one in whom God's glory is revealed, calling all to believe in Him for eternal life. This Gospel is rich with imagery (light, life, bread, water, shepherd, vine) and repeatedly centers on the theme of belief.

Focus of John:

- **Purpose of John:**
 - John tells us his purpose plainly: "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31).
- **Themes in John:**
 - Jesus is the Word made flesh
 - Jesus reveals God's glory
 - Eternal life is found in Him alone
 - Belief is the way to life
 - Life flows only from union with Christ
- **Our Response to this Truth:**
 - Believe in Him – Abide in Him – Live by His Word – Trust in His promises – Love as He loved

John 20:1-31 Resurrection of Jesus - Josiah

- We resume our journey through John with the Savior of the world, the Word became flesh, dead. Throughout John, we have seen seven “I am” statements, we have seen Jesus do countless miracles, and the disciples look up to Him as the Messiah, as seen in the Old Testament.
 - We begin in our text with Jesus dead; there is seemingly no hope for any of His followers, evil and death are victorious, and all is lost.
 - Mary Magdalene approaches His tomb, only to find it empty. She runs to tell the disciples, and Simon Peter and John run to the tomb. They see the empty tomb, but do not understand its significance; therefore, they return to their homes.
- **We have four gospels, each of them depict the death and resurrection of Jesus, yet all of them do it in different ways. Should this “inconsistency” cause us to doubt the accuracy of scripture? If not, why?**

- The Good Shepherd calls His own.
 - As we continue in the story, Mary remains at the tomb to weep. Looking into the tomb, she notices two angels who are sitting where the body of Jesus should lie.
 - They ask her, “Why are you weeping?”, seemingly without realizing the supernatural nature of the sight she saw, she turns and responds, saying that she is worried about where the body of Jesus is. While turning, she is met by Jesus himself. Yet again, her grief masks the amazement that is right before her eyes. She is blind to Jesus because of her grief and anguish.
 - Jesus merely speaks her name “Mary”, instantly her sorrow is turned into joy and she worships Him, saying “Rabboni”, meaning teacher.
 - John 10:3-4
 - “The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out ... for they know His voice.”
 - John 10:27
 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
 - Mary is lost in her grief; her life has been turned upside down. She has no hope, even to the extent that when Jesus stands right in front of her, she does not recognize Him. Yet, Jesus utters her name; He calls her out of her anguish, just as He called Lazarus out of the tomb, and she knows His voice. She recognizes that she has a Savior who has risen, and she clings to Him.
 - The same is true for us. We have a risen Savior, hallelujah. Yet, Jesus does not stop there. He does not then wait for us to come to Him, He calls us. What is that call? That call is to believe in Him, believe in Him, and find eternal life.

- The Resurrection brings us peace.
 - That same evening, the disciples are meeting in the upper room, hiding in secret as they are highly wanted because of their association with Jesus.
 - Suddenly, Jesus appears in His physical form despite their secrecy and locked doors. Jesus is there, saying, “Peace be with you.” This may seem like a casual greeting, yet this is a packed theological proclamation.
 - This is a time in which the disciples had no peace. They had no clue what the future had in store for them. Yet Jesus says, “Peace be with you.” Jesus is their peace, His resurrection secured it, and their hope is secure. They have nothing to fear. He is the embodiment of peace. When He goes into the tomb, peace ceases to exist, yet He returns, and peace comes with Him.
- **Chaos into order. This is not a new theme in scripture and is certainly not new in John. What are some ways we have seen Jesus turn chaos into order throughout our study in John?**
 - The resurrection of Jesus Christ serves as the ultimate example of God’s power on display. Jesus carried the complete weight of evil and chaos to the grave and rose with peace. What a display of power and humility!
- Jesus gives the Spirit to His disciples.
 - During this interaction, He also says these words: “As the Father sent me, even so I am sending you.”
 - Jesus calls the disciples to continue to spread the message of Jesus's resurrection. Following this, He also gives them the Spirit of God to equip them in their task. He continues to explain what exactly He is sending them to do: He is sending them to spread the message of sinners being forgiven of their debt.
 - This is a daunting task. He is calling them to bear a burden that they could never carry on their own. This is the same task that we are called to today as followers of Christ in the 21st century. Among many things, we are called to be lights in a dark world, to continue to spread the message of the Gospel. Yet, He does not leave us helpless.
 - Through his resurrection, He offers us two particular things: Himself and the Spirit.
- Thomas did not have the pleasure of being present during the last interaction. Due to this, despite all His disciples telling him otherwise, Thomas did not believe that Jesus had risen.
 - 8 days later, yet again, Jesus appears in the Upper Room behind closed doors. Jesus turns Thomas’ doubts into confession and praise by showing Him the holes in His hands and side.
 - **29** Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

- Jesus rebukes Thomas' lack of faith by bringing him into faith. He is not begrudgingly affirming Thomas; He demonstrates that the pivot of all of Christianity is risen and glorified.
 - Christianity is not merely a religion of the senses. It does not rely on the natural means of the world. Christianity is primarily a religion of faith and the supernatural, but we also have a historically risen savior who exists and is reigning right now.
 - If anyone is unsure about Christianity and Jesus, inspect His teachings, inspect His historical claims, and accept Him in faith.
- Purpose of the book.
 - We have finally come to the passage in John that we have referenced oh, so much. The purpose of the book is so that you might believe in Jesus, and through faith, we obtain everlasting life with Him.
 - We have a physical savior who is reigning in His perfected body at the right hand of God for eternity. Through faith, we are able to participate in eternity with Him. By His resurrection, we can participate in His resurrection with glorified minds and bodies to follow and enjoy Him forever and ever.
- Implications of the Resurrection.
 - New Life
 - To begin this section, we see John finish in a similar way he began, with creation language.
 - “Now on the first day...”
 - John brought us back to the beginning of the universe when he used this language in John, but in this passage, he brings to mind a different type of creation, New Creation.
 - Jesus is the new creation. He had been buried, but He rose from the dead. Not only has He facilitated new creation in His glorified body, but through His resurrection, He has bought us new creation.
 - Romans 6:4
 - “Just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too might walk in newness of life.”
- Justification
 - Romans 4:25
 - “He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”
 - Many people may view justification as something that is merely bought upon the cross and leave it there. Yet, there is no justification without new life, without the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **How should a believer respond to the wonderful reality of the Resurrection?**

John 21:1-25 Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples - Ben

- As we enter John 21, we're stepping into what feels like an epilogue. John 20 works through Jesus' resurrection and ends with a purpose statement, and John 21 shows what life looks like for the disciples and for us following Christ's resurrection.
 - The scene begins with seven of Jesus' disciples gathering near the Sea of Tiberias. As of right now, Jesus has been crucified and risen, but has not yet ascended to the Father and left His Spirit. The disciples have been given instructions that He would meet them in Galilee. While waiting, Peter and six other disciples go fishing.
 - Jesus calls out to them and asks if they have caught anything. Then He instructs them to cast on the right side of their boat. Despite not knowing it was Jesus on the shore, they listen and catch a ridiculous amount of fish.
 - This is following an entire night of hard work, which resulted in not a single fish being caught. This is by design in order for Jesus' miracle to be best received. If the disciples had caught anything, the miraculous power of Christ would not have been so clearly presented. This contrast is what causes John to recognize that the Lord is the one on the shore and leads to Peter jumping in the sea to swim toward Him.
 - There are two examples of Christ's divine power in this part of the story: the first being the large draught of fishes the disciples experienced and the second being that, when the net held more fish than they could haul in, the net was preserved whole.
 - This is often recognized as a picture of the church. Heaven will be greatly populated, and none of the Lord's people will ever be lost. We saw this idea in John 17:
 - **12** While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
- The disciples arrive at the shore. There, they see a charcoal fire with some fish and bread.
 - Jesus is preparing breakfast for the disciples. He then, in verse 13, came and gave the fish and bread to the disciples, serving them. This should sound familiar, because Jesus has a habit of serving meals to His people.
 - Luke 12:37
 - **37** Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.
 - This is the kind of God He is. He serves us now, and He too longs for the day when He will serve a meal in heaven with us.
 - The charcoal fire may seem like an insignificant detail. But a charcoal fire is only mentioned one other time in the entire New Testament, in John 18 when Peter denies Jesus a second time.
 - Jesus is recreating the scene of Peter's denial. This is quite evident in the interaction between Jesus and Peter in verses 15-19, where Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him three times, just as Peter had earlier denied Him three times.

- **What is Jesus accomplishing through this intentional moment of restoration for Peter?**
 - Jesus asks Peter three separate times not because He is testing Peter or because He doesn't believe him. He is actively mirroring the three denials that took place in John 18.
 - Each time Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?", He follows it with a command:
 - "Feed my lambs."
 - "Tend my sheep."
 - "Feed my sheep."
 - Jesus gives Peter quite a difficult task. Caring for people is exhausting and a heavy responsibility. With love for Christ, Peter is able to persevere because he is devoted to Jesus.
 - In verses 18-19, the tone shifts. After restoring and recommissioning Peter, Jesus prepares him for what lies ahead. This calling will not lead to comfort, but to suffering. This is the same language we saw throughout the Gospel of John.
 - John 15:18-20
 - **18** "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.
 - What comes of Peter is the fulfillment of that teaching. Following Christ does not lead to comfort, but often to opposition and suffering. Yet we are reminded that while the path ahead will be costly, it will not be meaningless. The same Savior who restored Peter is the one who walks with us, strengthens us, and sustains us in every trial.
- To close the chapter (and book), John gives us a brief but important interaction between Peter and himself.
 - After hearing about his own future suffering, Peter asks Jesus about John, wondering what John's path will look like. Jesus redirects Peter, reminding him that his responsibility is solely to remain faithful to what Christ has personally instructed of him.
 - Finally, John closes by identifying himself as the eyewitness behind these accounts and tells us that what has been written is only a portion of all that Jesus did.
 - **25** Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

- What an ending! This leaves us with humility and confidence. Humility in knowing that we have only seen a glimpse of the glory of Christ, and confidence in knowing that what we have been given is more than enough.
- This of course also aligns with the purpose statement given in John 20:31...
 - **31** But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.
- **What has stood out most to you about Jesus throughout John's Gospel? Why?**

Other Helpful Resources:

- He Must Increase Podcast by Connor Shady & Adam Tredeau & Josiah King (Official Podcast of 3:30!)
- Waukesha Bible Church John Sermons on YouTube

Other Reminders:

- Get involved with a church - **Specifically WBC!**
 - **Connor and Adam are teaching: 9 AM Class on the Book of Romans at WBC prior to service.**
 - WBC service is at 10:00 AM every Sunday!
 - Check out our Website: Threethirtyministry.com
- Join the 3:30 GroupMe or WhatsApp chat to stay up to date on everything 3:30 Ministry.
- Also check us out on Instagram: @three.thirty.ministries and @three.thirty.mens.ministry

The Gospel: **We Can't**, **God Can**, **Jesus Did!**

- **Sin.** None of us can escape it. Because of it, we are spiritually dead and in need of life. Our debt before God is insurmountable. It is the biggest problem any of us has, since there is nothing we can do ourselves to pay that debt. God's standard is perfection, so no amount of good works or religious activities is enough.
 - 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- **But God...** These two words are some of the most powerful words in the Bible. God is merciful and loving. He did what we could never do in and of ourselves. He saved us by grace alone and gave us new life in Christ.
 - 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)
- **Jesus saves.** He is God's gift to us. He paid our debt before the Father. And through his death and resurrection, we are raised to eternal life. There is nothing we can do to earn it. It is only through Christ that we live a life pleasing to God.
 - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)