

So That You May Believe

A Study of the Gospel of John 11-21

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For the Church of Christ in Normal
April - June 2022

John 11.1-44

Summarize the section:

1. How does Jesus frame this sad news?

2. Why do the disciples not wish to return to that area?

How is this passage an encouragement to us?

3. Who is around for Jesus' visit to Bethany?

4. What does Martha understand about resurrection? What does Jesus have yet to teach Martha?

5. What kinds of emotions was Jesus experiencing?

For further study (optional):

A) When Jesus heard Lazarus was sick, he waited two days. When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead four days. How might this be worked out?

B) How does Jesus use "I am" statements throughout this book?

(6.35, 41, 48, 51; 8.12, 58; 10.7, 9, 11, 14; 11.25; 14.6; 15.1, 5; 18.5, 6, 8)

John 11.45-12.11

Summarize the section:

1. Contrast John's purpose (20.30-31) with the reasoning going on among the council in Jerusalem.
2. What did Caiaphas intend by his comment? In what way was it more true than he knew?
3. What effect did Lazarus' resurrection have on Jesus' fate?
4. What was Mary expressing? Why?
5. Contrast Mary and Judas.
6. Why did Jesus say "For the poor you always have with you"?

How do we "waste" resources in adoration for our Lord?

John 12.12-50

Summarize the section:

1. Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey?
2. Why were people so excited about going out to meet Jesus as he entered the city?
3. In what way did the Pharisees speak more truth than they knew?
4. What does it mean that the hour has come (12.23)?
5. Was it sufficient for people to see signs? Was it sufficient for people to believe in Jesus and to keep their belief private? (12.37-43)

Jesus was getting more attention. Would this coming hour hinder that growth? How might this help us properly assess the results of suffering and sacrifice?

John 13.1-35

Summarize the section:

1. What does John really want us to understand before telling us about Jesus washing the disciples' feet?
2. What was it like to wash someone's feet?
3. Why didn't Jesus just tell them to wash each other's feet? Why did he do it himself?
4. Notice the quote in 13.18. Where is it from? How is this Scripture applied to Jesus' betrayer?
5. What was new about this commandment? (13.34-35)

For further study (optional):

Who was aware of Jesus' exchange with the disciple whom Jesus loved? Who was aware of the exchange between Jesus and Judas?

John 13.36-16.33

Summarize the section:

1. What is the setting that prompts Jesus statement in 14.1?

2. What does Jesus call the Holy Spirit?

3. What would the Holy Spirit be doing?

- 14.15-17

- 14.25-26

- 15.26-27

- 16.5-15

4. Will Jesus and the Father be with them in any way? How?

5. What positive side is there to the fact that Jesus is leaving?

How is Jesus' teaching in preparation for his departure relevant to us?

Is the Spirit with us or only with the apostles?

For further study (optional):

What has Jesus said about the Spirit in other parts of the Gospel of John?

John 13.36-16.33 (continued)

6. What does Jesus mean when he tells them they can ask for anything in his name?
(14.12-14; 15.16; 16.23-28)

7. What does Jesus have to say about our closeness to him?

8. What does Jesus teach about persecution?

- 15.18-25

- 16.1-4

- 16.31-33

9. What should they expect in the end?

Has anything stood out which has been particularly helpful for your faith?

John 17.1-26

Summarize the section:

1. What themes do you see in this prayer that were also in chapters 14-16?
2. When did Jesus have glory?
3. How were the disciples of Jesus to be like Jesus?
4. Consider how we might characterize the apostles during Jesus' ministry. How does Jesus describe them in this prayer?
5. What does Jesus ask for the sake of his apostles?
6. Why doesn't Jesus ask the Father to remove them from the world?
7. In this prayer, does Jesus pray for anyone other than his apostles?

John 18.1-27

Summarize the section:

1. What do you suppose the band of soldiers expected from Jesus when they came to arrest him?
2. What do you make of the moment when "they drew back and fell to the ground"?
3. How did Jesus protect his disciples? Contrast this with Peter's method.
4. Jesus said, "shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" What did he mean?
5. How did Jesus respond to questioning from Annas?
6. Where did Peter find himself as Jesus was taken to Annas?

John 18.28-19.16

Summarize the section:

1. Why did Jewish authorities deliver Jesus to Pilate?
2. As referenced in 18.31-32, what had Jesus said earlier in the book about the kind of death he would die?
3. What did Pilate decide about the accusations against Jesus?
4. How was the Roman Governor Pilate affected by Jesus?
5. What case did the Jewish authorities present to Pilate against Jesus?

For further study (optional):

There is an apparent problem in 18.28. Had the Passover already taken place by the time of Jesus' arrest? Why are there Pharisees who are avoiding defilement before eating the Passover?

John 19.16-42

Summarize the section:

1. What was written on Jesus' cross? How did many Jews respond? What kind of emotion does that stir in you as you read?

2. Why did Pilate have Jesus crucified? What is Pilate's dilemma?

3. Select one (or more) of the Old Testament quotations to give it a closer look. Read the OT context. What does it mean in the OT? How is it used here?
 - 19.24

 - 19.28-29

 - 19.36

 - 19.37

4. Why did John include what is said to Jesus' mother and to the disciple whom he loved?

5. Describe Nicodemus' faith over the course of John's gospel.

For further study (optional):

Read 1John 4.1-2 and 2John 7. What did some believe about Jesus? What does John's testimony that Jesus bled and died prove?

John 20.1-31

Summarize the section:

1. Which followers of Jesus anticipated his resurrection?
2. Is there any reason we are given details about the "race" to the tomb or the linen cloth?
3. If no one ever saw Jesus again, would they have believed Jesus was raised?
4. Why did the disciples have the doors locked?
5. How should we understand Thomas' exclamation when he sees Jesus?
6. How does Thomas' story relate to John's purpose in writing this book?

How should the post-resurrection appearances factor into our faith?

For further study (optional):

Read the other resurrection accounts. How does Mary Magdalene's visit fit with the visit of the other women?

John 21.1-25

Summarize the section:

1. Read Luke 5.1-11. What are we meant to take away from this similar fishing incident?
2. What is Jesus getting across to Peter? Consider what Peter had said for a 3rd time when he was last seen at a charcoal fire.
3. What will be different for Peter and John? How would Peter die?
4. What has been unique about the Gospel of John (compared to the other Gospels)?
5. How does John elevate our view of Jesus?

How does John challenge and encourage our devotion to Jesus?