

The Gospel Of

JOHN

16-21

FACT SHEET

AUTHOR: Although all the Gospels do not explicitly say who the author is, through scholarly research the majority believe it is the Apostle, John. This letter makes that more clear when the author shares himself as "the one Jesus loved."

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Gospel of John, stated in 20:31, was to record Jesus' "signs" so that readers would come to believe in Him. Some think John wrote to supplement the other Gospels. John's Gospel has a clear evangelistic purpose (as do the other Gospels), so it is no accident that it has been greatly used in the history of the church for that purpose. One clear purpose and accomplishment one will discover is that The Gospel of John clearly identifies Jesus as God.

DATE: Although there is still scholarly debate it is most realistically supported to have been written between A.D. 60-95

CRITICAL CONCEPTS: The Gospel of John is different than the other three Gospels (Synoptic Gospels). John includes a fair amount of material that the Synoptics make no mention of. Only in John is Jesus explicitly identified with God. Some have concern over The Gospel of John because this letter shares Jesus as Divine over historical while the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) share Jesus more historically before Divinity. But Many would argue John supplements the other Gospels to provide a more full and enriched view of Jesus.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR JOURNAL

SCHEDULE YOUR READING

Set aside a time and a place to meditate on God's word. Create a distraction-free environment to dive deeper into the scripture.

PRAY BEFORE YOU READ

Ask God to reveal His truths as you read. Pray for consistency and clarity.

READ WITH THIS BOOK/COMMENTARY

A Bible commentary is a scholarly response to the text to provide historical and cultural information to text. Don't have a commentary? That is okay this Book will provide some commentary information.

READ WITH A FRIEND

Read with someone that will hold you accountable for your daily reading.

SHARE WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING

Don't just read it! Share how God's word is speaking to you!

John

16

John 16 (FROM GRIEF TO JOY)

With the overwhelming amount of content that bombards us through our phones, it has resulted in attention spans that are creeping closer and closer to that of a goldfish. 9-seconds if you were wondering.

Sitting in a waiting room what do you do? Check social media. Standing in line to get your favorite cup of coffee? Check your emails. Out on a date? Check Instagram. Driving down the freeway? Check YouTube. We can't stop and have one thought go through our heads. To soak in an activity or thought nowadays is as unfamiliar to our normal lives as going to a local store to rent a DVD.

I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. - John 16:20

THE WORLD IS WORLDLY

Jesus explains something that is a massive tension in our lives. Sometimes our cultural norms are not in alignment with our personal/spiritual norms. There will be times that we live and act differently than our society.

Sex.

Our society says sex is a thing you do because it feels good. And you can't really know if you are compatible with someone unless you have sex with them.

Now we know sex is great. But we also know that God created it with some boundaries for our own good. Why? Because He has a greater purpose and blessing for us. So that we don't carry baggage and scars from past relationships. It comes with some difficulties and those are not always easy to carry into a new relationship.

Jesus, speaking to his followers says, ***"You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy." - John 16:20***

Remember Jesus is foretelling what is coming soon. Jesus will be arrested. Face a Kangaroo Court. Be judged. Death penalty. And the disciples will watch this all unfold. For them, it is a complete loss. They left everything for Jesus. They quit their careers to follow Him. They were supposed to win and succeed in everything.

This will happen, you will struggle.

You will experience this tension.

You will struggle.

You will grieve.

But

Make sure you hear the promise as well. It will be turned...

From loss to gain.

From grief to joy.

Some translations say "Abundant Joy" which is best understood in our language as 'super extra joy.'

That's how God turns things.

What is God turning in your life? What is in your life right now, are you only seeing the grief? And you are not seeing the joy. Remember, He will turn it!

Think about this for a moment. Today, the Church celebrates His death. This moment that Jesus is preparing His disciples for. They will grieve and struggle. Today we celebrate.

Why?

Because we know the full story. We know the promise. The cross was not the end. The cross was a part of the work of God from the beginning.

The work of the cross is the redemption of our souls

NO NEED FOR AN INTERMEDIATOR

At that time, you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy. - John 16:23-24

The promise is that there is no in-between. It used to be that every believer had a mediator, the priest. Some traditions still practice this. The priest holds some extra power or access. Well, Jesus explains you now have direct access.

The only mediator is Jesus.

And through His work, you have direct access. There is this great image in the story of the crucifixion. Scripture explains that when Jesus took His last breath clouds formed, the weather drastically changed, an earthquake, and this great image of the veil in the temple being torn.

You see, there was a large curtain (veil) that would segregate the believers from the place in which God was, the holy of holies. And no one could go into this place except one chosen priest and this was a rare occurrence. So, this is the normal experience and expectation of a relationship with God and Jesus sets up a future expectation that requires no mediator except Jesus himself.

Through His name, we gain access.

But not only do you gain access. Jesus explains that through His name you receive also. Not just access but you get on the same page as the living God and when you call upon Him He provides.

And through this type of relationship, your emotions are transformed. From grief to joy. But not just joy...

Abundant joy.

This terminology is best understood in English as "super extra joy." It is an overwhelming amount. It's not just extra but more and more and more and more and you get the idea.

And this type of joy comes not in your personal preferences being answered but something more. Being aligned with the heart of God. Being in sync with God and His work. Then true abundant joy comes through His work performed through your life.

John

17

John 17 (Purpose in His Plan)

Some people like to plan. Others don't. They are usually married to each other.

But often what is not debatable is the fact that when someone has a plan they did it with a purpose in mind. No one plans with no purpose.

But here is the thing about planning. Timing matters. A plan can succeed or fail based on the timing. A good idea is great if the timing is right. Or that same idea is worthless if the time is wrong.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

You see timing matters because for some of us we know the relationship we are in was only successful because of timing. It would have never worked out if it was months or years earlier. The career that you dreamed of would never be possible 5 years ago. Or maybe the position you wanted was never available so you continued working and getting an education and just recently the position became open. Well, now you're qualified! Timing Matters!

Timing is everything... Like so important. And we see that Jesus looks at timing and acts accordingly. For someone that is not bound by time, He sure cared about it.

After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. - John 17:1

But here is the thing. There are many times where the 'right time' was not right. Check this out...

"Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." - John 2:4

Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime. - John 7:6

Jesus made these statements while he was teaching in the section of the Temple known as the Treasury. But he was not arrested, because his time had not yet come. - John 8:20

When the timing is right it is right.

When it's wrong... Move on.

You know what, let me say that again because that matters.

When it's wrong... Move on!

I believe there is something important about not seeing wrong timing as a bad thing but as the right time to work on other things.

You want that better career but first, you need to take this time to get the experience, education, etc...

You want to get into that one college but right now maybe it's more important to go to a community college, get your 2 years done closer to home, oh, by the way, save a ton of money.

You expected your financial situation to be further along but maybe God is building you to be more wise and frugal with your current finances.

You expected marriage to be different than it is but maybe right now is the perfect time for you to humble yourself, work out things, and begin building a marriage that can withstand all things.

But just like there is wrong timing, there is also right timing. Jesus explains that there is a right time.

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. - John 13:1

COMPLETING THE PURPOSE

Jesus was sent with a purpose.

I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. - John 17:4

If you stop for a moment and think about that... Jesus was sent with a purpose and the time is coming for Him to complete that purpose.

So, what was His purpose?

Jesus' purpose was the cross. He has come to this earth to take our sins. Read that. Not just recognize our sins or beat them. He took our sins, He took them upon Himself. He took them as His own.

Let that sink in...

The time has come where Jesus will complete that purpose. And that is the greatest news for you and me. Thank God for His purpose in our lives!

But what about your purpose?

What is your purpose? What has God called you to? Why are you here? What are you doing with your life?

Our purpose in Scripture is clear. To encourage each other. To challenge each other. And then together to go and share the Good News.

How are you living out your purpose? Because the time is right. The time is now.

John

18

John 18 (Denying Jesus)

Experiencing denial is rough. Have you ever been denied? Not fun...

We are told that Jesus was denied many times. Now some of them are less recognizable than others, obviously, the most famous account is that of Peter. Peter denies Jesus three times, strikeout.

Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, "You're not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "No, I am not." But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" Again, Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed. - John 18:25-27

This account in verses 25-27 shares two of the denials (earlier the first denial). And here we see what Jesus prophesied has come to fruition.

NO EXCUSES

Here is the thing. Often in the story of Jesus being arrested, put on trial, convicted (falsely), and executed we blame the religious leaders and Roman authorities.

But what about the disciples?

Here is the thing... We are often like the disciples. That does not always mean it's a good thing. The disciples failed a lot...

They Questioned Jesus.

Being afraid of a storm when they are in the presence of the one whom all things are created.

Then being fearful because the one who creates all things and is over all things calmed storms.

Serving directly beside Jesus and continuing to argue who is the best.

Fleeing when Jesus is being arrested.

Then denying Jesus to others.

They messed up... But they also share a redemption story. This is what needs to be noticed! Take responsibility and humble yourself. And often through that action comes the recognition of a need for something greater.

Not their proudest moments... And like them, we carry some regrets as well. I so wish I could take that mistake back. I wish I would have never gone with my 'friends.' I wish I never opened my mouth. I'm not very proud of some stuff.

And I have to take ownership of that.

FORGIVENESS IS REAL

Denying Jesus is sin.

Peter sinned when he denied Jesus. You have sinned when you denied Jesus as well.

You chose your way over Gods.

You denied God's Word for your own.

You have abandoned what God is doing for your own comforts and desires.

But here is the thing. Jesus forgave Peter. How do we know that? John chapter 21 shares a story where Jesus meets Peter again and redemption is close behind. I love this story. Because it shares the greater picture of God's grace.

There is no quota on sin. Once you breach the quota you are done. Nope! Jesus's forgiveness is for real and meets you where you are.

Jesus can and will forgive you of your sins when you are truly repentant.

Since all men fail and even many noted Christians stumble greatly, the record of Peter's denials (But subsequent restoration (Ch. 21)) is a BIG comfort to us all. There are endless stories of this same grace being received. Thomas doubts the resurrection and demands physical proof (touching the wounds in Jesus' hands). Peter and Thomas receive a great grace and you can receive that same grace.

So, what is your next step?

John

19

John 19 (You Have No Power Unless I Give It)

Have you ever talked with authority to your parents and the face your momma gives is like "boy, you ain't got no power? All you got I allow."

I find it funny how quickly we act like we know more, do more, and have more. We are quick to assume we are better than others or that we have more authority than we actually do.

Why is that?

Why do we think we know more and have more when often we don't?

Is it pride?

Or a false sense of reality?

YOU HAVE NO POWER

Jesus is on trial for his life. This is it. Decisions are being made right now. And the religious leaders are arguing for his execution. They want Jesus gone. They are yelling "crucify him" (v. 6).

The Roman leaders are more unsure but the guards are disrespectful and humiliating Jesus. Likely the guards are treating Jesus with such disrespect because he is a Jew. He is not from them. He is less than. So, they hate him. They mock him. Place a crown of thorns on him. And a robe over his shoulders. Then proclaim him as the "king of the Jews." This is another example of mockery and disrespect. Such hate.

Jesus is on trial for his life but the trial already includes punishment. Much like a movie where an interrogation is occurring and they use 'non-approved measures.' Jesus has his shirt removed and is tied to a pillar. Then the guards take a whip with three prongs that have lead and rocks attached. They begin to whip Jesus 39 times. Many have died just from this action.

Pilate the main Roman interrogator questions Jesus again. And Jesus is silent through much of Pilate's questions at this moment and Pilate asks why don't you respond to me? Don't you know the power I hold? And Jesus responds...

Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. - John 19:11"

Jesus responds that he knows where the real power is found. Pilate is just a part of the process. A part of something more.

But something is interesting in this response. Jesus does not say Pilate has no power. Just that the power he has comes from somewhere else.

See Pilate had power. He oversaw many guards and a certain region was under his control. Right now, he was still making decisions concerning Jesus and he has done it hundreds of times before with other people.

Pilate was responsible for his decision with Jesus. Acts 4 and 1 Corinthians 2 explains that Pilate was guilty for his decision about Jesus.

Like Pilate you two have power. You are responsible for your decisions and actions.

How you treat others. How you raise your kids. How you love within your marriage. You are responsible for things. And your decisions matter.

Don't blame God's sovereignty on your poor decisions.

You lost your job and you have been arguing it is all part of God's sovereignty but maybe it is also because you were late every day.

You are trying to understand God's sovereignty in your car accident. It's there but maybe the reason you got in an accident is because you were texting while driving.

You have power and responsibility.

But God's power is greater.

And this is what Jesus is recognizing in this situation. Pilate will not be able to free him from what he has to do. Jesus is on a mission with a greater purpose. Something greater is happening in the divine direction of God.

God will do what He determines. And what He decides will happen.

He is not surprised. Maybe you need to hear that. God is not surprised by your situation.

Jesus was not shocked when he was on trial. Because he had a greater mission. It is through this moment in time...

He is on trial.

He is beaten.

He is crucified. Executed.

To pay for the sins of humanity once and for all.

Thank God for his power!

IT IS FINISHED

When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. - John 19:30

Finished?

What does that mean? Jesus says finished. The Greek word is tetelestai and it was found on receipts back during this time to mean "paid in full."

Wow!

Paid. In. Full.

Have you ever paid something off? A car? A home? Isn't that the greatest feeling ever? To pay off debt. To be free of another monthly payment.

Now the normal action that religious people had during this time was to regularly sacrifice an animal for their sins. Because we all sin continually then animal sacrifices had to occur regularly. Jesus however became the final and ultimate sacrifice. This is all part of a plan to redeem humanity and bring each of us into an authentic regular relationship with God

Jesus says "It is finished." This is over. "Paid in full!"

But notice Jesus says "It is finished," Not "I am finished." He is speaking to something more than meets the eye. There is something more occurring. This is part of the plan. The redemptive work of Christ is completed.

John

20

John 20:11-16 (Who Are You Looking For)

ELECTING LOVE

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. - John 20:11-14

Jesus' first resurrection appearance was to Mary. Mary of Magdala. The Mary that Jesus cast seven demons out of. The Mary that was a complete wreck. A life filled with regrets. A past that she was ruined by. The Mary that had a ton of baggage from her past and was in many ways an outcast to the normal public. But why Mary? Why did Jesus reveal himself to her first?

You see Mary of Magdala was there earlier with Mary the mother of Jesus. They first noticed that the tomb was empty. Then the disciples came to check. But the crowd left and went back to their homes. In hiding. But Mary stayed.

Crying.

Lost.

Not sure what to do now. The only person she could be normal around was Jesus. If he is gone now what?

The fact that Jesus showed up to Mary first is important. He could have shown up to Pilate. The leader of Rome in the region. The guy who had him put to death. He could have shown up to the disciples. He led them and sent them. But he shows up to Mary.

Mary was broken.

She was lost.

And Jesus displays his compassion. Evidence of his elective love.

Maybe today as you read these words you feel lost. broken. Life has not happened the way you expected. It feels like God is silent.

Hear this! God does not wait for you to get your life right or choose right. He meets you where you are.

A perfect picture of his unfailing love. He knows what you are going through. He knows you better than you know yourself. He loves you.

WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

“Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). - John 20:15-16

Jesus asks a simple question. Now, this question also seems obvious. She is looking for the body of Jesus. And Mary was not expecting to find a risen Jesus but the body.

Have you ever already decided and expected what God can and is doing? Mary was searching for a body while Jesus already rose.

Jesus calls her by name.

The Good Shephard knows His sheep names.

And His sheep know the shepherd's voice.

The moment Jesus calls her by name she can finally see. Jesus is risen! He is here! Right in front of her.

Do you feel lost? Confused? Out of touch? Disconnected? In a funk?

The Good Shephard knows everything about you. He knows your feelings and struggles.

If you do not see him or feel his presence just listen and know the Good Shepard finds his sheep. His sheep don't find him. He is there right in front of you... Maybe you just don't see him.

John

21

John 21 (A Second Chance)

SECOND TIMES THE CHARM

At dawn, Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So, they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. - John 21:4-7

Peter jumps in.

When I read this, I was reminded of another moment where Jesus is with other disciples in a boat and Jesus calls to him. He steps out of the boat. And that time. He. Walked. On. Water.

This time he may not be walking on water but there is something about his passion that he jumps out and begins swimming to Jesus. There is more passion at this moment even though the other time had more excitement for the readers. You remember the time Peter walked on water, but do you remember this moment? Where Peter swims to shore.

Sometimes our situation of circumstances may look less significant or exciting but God is doing something greater in the simple.

This story has such significance because it is a moment where Peter failed. He denied Jesus three times and, in that failure, he goes back. Back to his old profession. Back to fishing. But this is not a story of failure. This is a story of redemption. A story of second chances.

This is his second time getting out of a boat to go to Jesus but this is a moment where things come together. Remember the future of Peter is that he is the 'rock' in which the Church will be built.

Peter's story is a story of second chances.

Thank God for that!

This same truth is what you have to be thankful for. No matter your past. No matter your denials. No matter your regrets. No matter what you have done or will do.

God is the God of second chances.

You and I have failed over and over again, but God's grace is sufficient and meets us where we are. In our failures and our mistakes. Thank God for second chances.

DO YOU LOVE ME?

After breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you. "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep. - John 21:15-17

When Peter gets to the shore he meets Jesus and a conversation begins. Jesus leads Peter through a series of questions to help in removing the cloud of doubt.

Remember Peter said he would never fall away from the faith even if everyone else did (Matthew 26:33-35, Luke 22:33, John 13:37). He was strong. He has his faith together. He would never fail. But then he does...

Jesus asked three questions. Actually, the same questions but slightly different. Jesus asked, "do you love me?" But the word 'love' is a different word in the original language. First, Jesus says "agapas" which is a self-sacrificial love. The second time Jesus says "agapas" again. But the third, Jesus says "phileis" which translates to affinity or brotherly love. Why?

When Peter responds to these three similar but slightly different questions he keeps it consistent. To all three questions, Peter responds with "Yes I love you." But the word he uses is "phileis." Why? Is it that Peter is not sure if he

really "agapas" Jesus? Or is it that he feels unworthy to love Jesus with an 'agapas' love?

Because of our actions and situations sometimes we don't think we can love God completely. Sometimes we don't think we are worthy to follow him completely because we have failed.

But Jesus responds to Peter with a simple statement "feed my sheep." But again, there are variations to how Jesus says it. First, Jesus says "boske" which is best translated to 'tend' to my sheep. The second time Jesus says "poimaine" which means to herd, lead to pasture. And third Jesus says "boske" again.

God shows us that our love for him turns into an action. And like Jesus always it involves others. It is not just about him. Not just worship him. Not just pray to him. But go and care for, serve, lead, tend to... others.

Here is the thing. No matter how great a person is or they think they are they will fail. We all do. But the grace and forgiveness of God will restore the repentant.

Peter had to answer his true feelings about Jesus. And you do too. Do you love Jesus?

What are your feelings?

Is Jesus just a safety net? Is he a friend? Or is he more?

This is the most important question that you need to answer. So... Who is Jesus to you?

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