



# Johannine teaching

## 2 of 3 – **Structure & theology**

**Riverside Vineyard VBI course**  
**Summer 2003**

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**Notes ref. pgs 27-48**



# Last week

8.05pm AL

- Differences between John & the other gospels (Matt., Mark & Luke)
- Tensions arising
- Authorship – the apostle or the elder



# Tonight

8.10pm AL

1. Introduction – now
2. **4x class interactions** (10-20 min)
3. **7x slots of teaching** (5min)  
alternating teachers



# Class interaction #1

8.15pm SC

- Gather into groups of 2-3
- List out the headline events in John's gospel (use your bible notes where possible)
- Analyse the structure and come to a consensus as to John's priorities as he wrote this (ie by space and time given to different events)
- What do you make of this?



# John's structure

8:35pm SC

Full Outline – see pages 36-37

- I. Prologue 1:1-18
- II. Jesus' Ministry Begins 1:19-51
- III. Signs and Discourses 2:1-12:50
  - First Sign: 2:1-11
    - First Discourse: 3:1-21*
    - Second Discourse: 4:1-42*
  - Second Sign: 4:46-54
  - Third Sign: 5:1-18

# John's structure (continued)

*Third Discourse: 5:19-47*

Fourth Sign: 6:1-15

Fifth Sign: 6:16-21

*Fourth Discourse: 6:22-66*

*Fifth Discourse: 7:1-52*

*Sixth Discourse: 8:12-59*

Sixth Sign: 9:1-42

*Seventh Discourse: 10:1-42*

Seventh Sign: 11:1-57

# John's structure (continued)

■ Close of his public ministry, 12:1-50

IV. Farewell Discourses, 13:1-17:26

V. Crucifixion, 18:1-19:42

VI. Resurrection, 20:1-29

VII. The Purpose of the Gospel,  
20:30-31

VIII. The Epilogue, 21:1-25



# Class interaction #2

8.45pm

(A) You are a film director casting for the role of John the Apostle. Characterise John in the areas of

1. *personality/temperament*
2. *emotions*
3. *character*
4. *beliefs*

so that auditioning actors know how to portray themselves at auditions.

ie tell us who John is, what he's like (eg emotional or reserved or chart a progress if he changes) and his most tightly held beliefs/attitudes re life, world, God, country etc.

(B) How has he changed (if at all) through his time w/Jesus?

# Scripture verses about John

- Matthew 4:21; 17:1-7
- Mark 10:35-41; 13:3
- Luke 5:8-11; 9:53-56; 22:7-8,13
- John 13:23-25; 19:26-27; 20:2-8; 21:2-3,7-8
- Acts 3:1-4; 4:13,19; 8:14
- Revelation 1:9



# 1. Who was John?

9.05pm SC

In general, was he:

Loud/Quiet

Extravert/Intravert

Spontaneous/Thoughtful

Talker/Listener

How did these qualities benefit him?

Which of the main disciples contrasts

John? How was this one used of God?



## 2. Cosmic man!

9.10pm AL

- ❑ God/man, heaven/earth, light/darkness, life/death
- ❑ Eschatology = study of end times
- ❑ Synoptics - 'process of salvation' – it all gets wrapped up later
- ❑ John different – 'realised eschatology'  
*judgment yes, people raised to life yes,  
Jesus come back yes*

"If that were not so I would have told you"

**BUT**



## ...cosmic continued

- ❑ John 4:23 [the woman at the well]  
“... a time is coming **and has now come** when the true worshippers...”
- ❑ **John is revolutionary, no LSD but he’s cosmic in concept – so what’s he on?**
- ❑ John 17:3 [Gethsemane prayer]  
“now **this is eternal life**: that they may **know you**, the only true God...”
- ❑ Starts here – now... *present possession of eternal life*



# 3. Pre-existence

9.15pm SC

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.



# Class interaction #3

9.20pm AL

1. In your groups of 2-3 agree what the incarnation is (Phil 2 might help), then...
2. Individually think of a metaphor which you could convey (making sense!) to an unbeliever on the street
3. Share your metaphor with your group and then have your group share one with the class

# 4. Incarnation

9.35pm AL

- John 1:14 – “The **word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us, **we have seen his glory**, the glory of the one and only who came from the Father full of grace and truth.”
- Religion = man reaching for God
- Christianity disembowelled = God comes to man while keeping his distance so as to not get sullied by sin/or suffer (adoptionism)
- Glory of the incarnation - God not only comes to us, but **becomes one of us – inhabits flesh**, eventually becoming our sin – in Him we become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21)



## 5. The "I AM's"

9.40pm SC

The absolute "I AM" statements:

John 4:26 "I who speak to you am He."

8:24 ...believe that I am He...

8:28 ...you will know that I am He...

John 8:58 "Most assuredly, I say to you,  
before Abraham was, I AM."

13:19 ...you may believe that I am He.



## 6. John's X-rated<sub>(and then some)</sub> Jesus

9.45pm AL

- Moses@bush YHWH who?? "I am who I am and I will be who I will be" Ex.3:14
- Jesus is God & His glory revealed (help!) SO...
- He says "I am the Bread of life"
  - *and provides bread to 5000 (6:10)*
- He says "I am the Light of the world"
  - *And gives sight to a man blind from birth (9:7)*
- John's Jesus was explicit – no room for ambiguity
- wrote so we'd believe Jesus is the Christ



# Class interaction #4

9.50pm SC/AL

1. Share anything that has hit/struck you out of John's writings...
2. John has spoken out of reflection on what Jesus has said. He's now 'got it'. It's sunk in/registered/hit home.
  - what would John say/what would he listen to with a Jehovah's Witness?
  - what would he desire that they 'hear'?
  - what would he focus them on?