

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 20

John 1

INTRODUCTION: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are four books written by four different men about the same Man, even the God-Man, Jesus Christ. Matthew wrote to picture Jesus as the King; Mark wrote to picture Him as a servant; Luke wrote to picture Him as the Son of man; and John wrote to picture Him as the Son of God. In other words, a man may be pictured by his child as a father, by his wife as a husband, by his mother as a son, and by his sister as a brother. He is the same man looked upon in a little different light according to the relationship of the person who is looking. It is interesting that Matthew's genealogy goes back to Abraham, for Matthew is trying to prove that Jesus had a right to be a king. Luke's genealogy goes back to Adam because to show Jesus as a man, Luke must go back to the first man. John's genealogy goes back to the beginning because as God, Jesus must be from the beginning. Yet in Mark, Jesus has no genealogy at all, for a servant needs no genealogy. Ah, what a wonderful book the Bible is! How precise and careful God is in giving us its truths!

The key chapter to John, and for that matter, to the entire New Testament, is John 1. Let us notice its truths as it unfolds.

- I. "IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD," John 1:1a. According to Revelation 19:11-13, Jesus is that "Word." Here we have the fact that Jesus was from the beginning. Though He became man at Bethlehem, the Son of God is eternal. He prayed in John 17:5, "...O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." He said in John 8:58, "Before Abraham was, I am."
- II. "...AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD," John 1:1b. Here is a picture of the deity of Christ. One cannot be a Christian unless he believes in the deity of Christ. He is God. In Isaiah 9:6 and 7, He is called "The mighty God, The everlasting Father." This same truth is given in John 1:2 which says, "The same was in the beginning with God."
- III. JESUS WAS THE CREATOR. John 1:3, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." Here we find that not only was Jesus preexistent and eternal, but He was the Creator. He was a part of the "Elohim," the God of creation, the plurality in one. He was in a real sense the Creator.
- IV. HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN CREATION. John 1:11 says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Here is a picture of Jesus coming to earth to pay the penalty for our sins.
- V. SALVATION IS IN RECEIVING HIM. John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." Ah, salvation is in receiving Jesus and believing on His name. It is not by baptism, not by good works, but by receiving Christ and His payment on Calvary. (Teacher, teach the Roman Road here. Teach the pupils exactly what it means to be saved.)
- VI. THE "HOW NOTS" OF BEING SAVED. John 1:13, "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
 1. "...not of blood." Salvation cannot be inherited. A big nose may be inherited, brown eyes may be inherited, short or tall stature may be inherited, big ears may be inherited, a certain type of disposition may be inherited, but salvation cannot be inherited! One is not saved because his father is saved, because his mother is saved, or because he comes from a long line of preachers. One is saved "not of blood." He must be born again!
 2. "...nor of the will of the flesh." In other words, there is nothing a man can do to save himself. Faith is the only thing that can please God. A man can turn over a new leaf, but that won't save him. He can become religious, but that won't save him. He can quit his cussing, but that won't save him. A man is not saved by the will of the flesh. He is saved by God when he is born again.
 3. "...nor of the will of man." Not only can man not be saved by the will of his own flesh, but he cannot be saved by the will of another. A preacher may baptize him, but that cannot save him. One

may give him communion, but that will not save him. One may try to absolve his sins, but that will not save him. The simple truth is, there is nothing a man can do to save himself, and there is nothing one man can do to save another. Not another Christian, not a preacher, not a group of people forming a denomination, not a pope, not anyone can save another!

- VII. THE "HOW" OF SALVATION. Notice the last words in John 1:13, "but of God." This is the secret: A man must be born of God! No one can be a child of God unless he is born of God. One is born of God by putting his faith in Jesus Christ and the finished work of Calvary.
- VIII. THE INCARNATION. Notice in John 1:14a, "And the Word was made flesh." It means that "the Word became flesh." This is really what it is all about. God became flesh. The incarnation means "clothed upon." God was clothed upon with human flesh. Herein is the real Christmas story.
- IX. GOD WAS TEMPORARILY WITH US. Notice in John 1:14b the words, "and dwelt among us." The word "dwelt" means "tabernacled." God's Son came to tabernacle with men. His heavenly body is likened unto a temple. His earthly body is likened unto a tabernacle. Many soldiers live in barracks, but when they are on maneuvers, they live in tents. Jesus came to earth to live in a tent. The physical body is likened unto a tabernacle; it is temporary.
- X. HE WAS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER. Notice in John 1:14c the phrase, "the only begotten of the Father." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...." Here we have the virgin birth. Modernists take the word "begotten" out of the Bible, but Jesus was begotten of the Father. (It might be wise, teacher, to explain the virgin birth here. Occasionally this great Bible doctrine should be explained to our pupils.)
- XI. HE WAS "FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH," John 1:14d. Notice the balance of our Lord. He was not just full of truth, but He was full of grace. He had conviction, yet He had grace. What a balance! We should have the same.

CONCLUSION: In John 1 we have the beautiful picture of the incarnation. John lays his foundation that Jesus is God's Son. Thank God for this wonderful truth! Let us rejoice again and again that our Saviour is God incarnate!