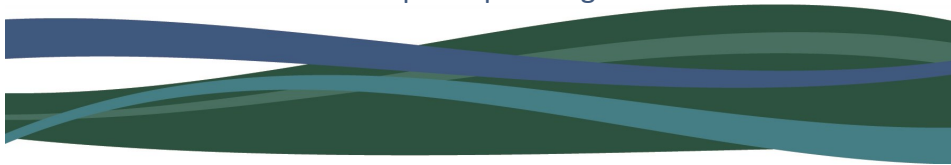


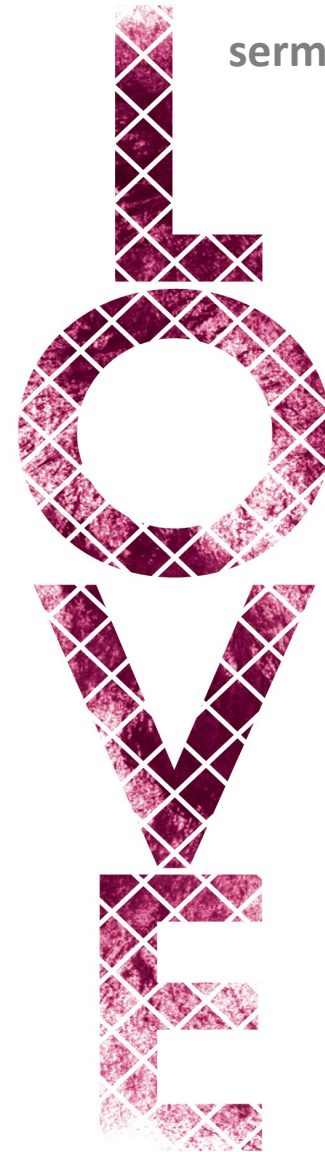
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gospel

spring 2017: A LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS
EVERYTHING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

sermon study guide
part 1



Lesson 16: John 10:22-39

April 9, 2017

Read John 10:22-39.

1. Why do the Jews seek to stone Jesus in verse 31? (Be specific.)
What does this reveal about their hearts?

2. What is Jesus trying to reveal about himself in this encounter?

3. What must the Pharisee do to be saved? What is the one thing they refuse to do in this passage?

4. At the bottom of every sin is a lack of belief. At the end of our sin is Jesus saying "I told you and you do not believe." What are the truths about Jesus you struggle to believe? What are the lies about Him you do believe? (To help you answer these questions honestly look at sin in your life and work backwards to see what the root of falsehood is.)

Lesson 15: John 10:1-18

April 2, 2017

Read John 10:1-18.

1. In these verses, Jesus refers to himself as the good shepherd. What do we learn about the good shepherd in these verses?
2. He compares the shepherd to a stranger. How do the sheep react to a stranger?
3. What are the characteristics of the sheep?
4. As Jesus's sheep we are brought into his fold and must cultivate ears that listen to and hear our savior's voice. What steps can you take to distinguish Jesus's voice from all the other voices crying out for our attention. What makes Jesus's voice different? Write down some of the promises he gives to his sheep.

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December 2016

Lesson 1: John 1:1-18

December 25, 2016

1. The gospel of John was written by John, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. John wrote this book with the deep desire *that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.* (John 20:31) Why was this message so important to John?
2. In John 1:1-18, what do we learn about Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
3. In verses 1-18, we get a glimpse into the world where Jesus was born. How does John portray the world?
4. What remedy does the Word have for the problems of the world?
5. How does the knowledge that the creator of the universe “became flesh and dwelt among us” impact your life? your relationships?

Lesson 14: John 9:1-41

March 26, 2017

Read John 9:1-41.

1. What caused this man to be born blind? Why was he born in such a way?
2. Why does Jesus heal this man by making mud, and making him wash in the pool? What is he trying to show or prove?
3. After the man is healed, how does he respond or act? What does he say about Jesus?
4. In the end, Jesus uses this physical healing to talk about a spiritual reality. What are your spiritual blind spots?

Lesson 13: John 8:31-59

March 19, 2016

Read John 8:31-59.

1. In verse 30, we read that many people believed in Jesus as he was teaching at the Feast of Tabernacles. He continues preaching to these believers and begins to talk to them about how do they know if they are truly his disciples. What does he say in verses 31-32?
2. What does the conversation in verses 31-38 expose regarding the state of their hearts? What truth causes them to struggle? What is their response to Jesus?
3. From what powers does Jesus free us in verse 34-55? How does Jesus free us from them?
4. What in your life enslaves you?

Lesson 2: John 1:19-34

January 1, 2017

1. What were the people looking for in their questioning of John the Baptist? How does this indicate their brokenness and need? How do John's responses show his brokenness and need?
2. Who does John claim Jesus is, and how does he say he knows this?
3. What is the significance of the phrase "Lamb of God?" consider this especially in light of question 1.
4. If Jesus is who John claims he is, what does this mean for your life? Are you living in light of the reality of John's claims?

Lesson 3: John 1:35-51

January 8, 2017

Read John 1:35-51.

1. What does Jesus's question in verse 38 tell us about John's disciples?
2. What does Jesus invite them to do?
3. Jesus meets several different people in these verses who all seem to know something about him. As they encountered Jesus, what were their responses?
4. In these verses we see that Jesus is concerned with the kind of relationship we have with him when he asks the questions "What are you seeking?" So we need to ask the question, What are you seeking by coming to Jesus Christ?
5. What does it mean to truly follow Christ?

Lesson 12: John 8:1-20

March 12, 2017

Read John 8:1-20.

1. Read this story from the perspective of the Pharisees. What is the brokenness they are displaying in the story and how does Jesus bring it to the light?
2. Considering Jesus's comments in verses 11 and 15, how do you think Jesus would have responded to the Pharisees brokenness, had they brought it before him?
3. Thinking now about the woman, what is the anticipated response of her forgiveness?
4. The Pharisees thought forgiveness was bought through legalism, and the woman thought forgiveness was not possible. What do you believe about forgiveness and where it comes from?
5. Your answer to question 3 is the anticipated response for all who have been forgiven. How are you living out your forgiveness?

Lesson 11: John 7:10-52

March 5, 2017

Read John 7:10-52.

In John 6, we see Jesus feeding the 5000 during the Passover Feast in the Spring. John picks up the story six months later at the Feast of Booths, or Feast of Tabernacles. In these chapters, we see people struggling to understand Jesus and his message. Many are abandoning him.

1. Think about the words in verse 13. We read that no one spoke openly about Jesus because they were afraid of the Jews. Are you willing to speak openly about Jesus? Or are you afraid? Of what or whom are you afraid?
2. The people seem to have 2 main questions about Jesus. “Who is he?” and “Can I trust Him?”. How did the crowds answer these questions? How do you answer these questions?
3. On the last day of the feast, Jesus cried out to the crowd, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.” What does that mean? What does Jesus say will happen to those who believe in Him?
4. Who needs to hear this message of healing and hope? As Jesus fills us, we can invite others to come and find satisfaction in him, too.

Lesson 4: John 2:1-11

January 15, 2017

Read John 2:1-11.

1. Wine in Scripture indicates joy, life, and vitality. With this in mind think of as many things as possible that running out of wine at a wedding might indicate. What do you think the emotional response of the couple would be?
2. Continuing to think about all that wine symbolizes, what is Jesus doing for this couple by providing them with a fresh supply of wine?
3. What is the result of this miracle in the life of Jesus? The disciples? The servants? The newlyweds?
4. Are you living in the fullness of joy and life that Jesus offers? What things do you need to turn over to his joy-giving authority?

Lesson 5: John 2:13-22

January 22, 2017

1. In **John 2:13-22**, we read that Jesus goes to Jerusalem during Passover. What does he see, hear, smell when he gets there?
2. Jesus finds the money changers and the animal traders in the Court of the Gentiles. Why does this make him so angry?
3. The religious leaders really did not understand what Jesus was telling them in verses 18-22. Knowing what we now know about Jesus, what point was he trying to make?
4. How did the religious leaders respond to Jesus?

How did the crowds respond to Jesus?

What is your response to Jesus?

Lesson 10: John 6:22-59

February 26, 2017

Read John 6:22-59.

1. What did Jesus say the people were interested in?
2. On the contrary, what did Jesus say they ought to desire?
3. Where does Jesus say they can find what they truly need and ought to desire? How does he prove this even from the Old Testament?
4. What things do you desire besides Jesus? What things do you believe will give you real joy and satisfaction? When you go to God do you want what he has or do you want him?

Lesson 9: John 5:1-17

February 19, 2017

Read John 5:1-17.

1. Jesus is walking next to a pool by the Sheep Gate as he enters Jerusalem. Many invalids gathered at this pool hoping to be healed. Jesus sees one man in the midst of many and approaches him. Why does Jesus ask the man if he wants to be healed?
2. What happens to the man after Jesus heals him?
3. How do the religious leaders respond when they see that the man has been healed? What is the sick man's response to Jesus?
4. It is obvious that the religious leaders cared more about the Sabbath than the miraculous healing of the sick man. The Jews believed that obeying God's law (keeping the Sabbath) earned God's favor. Are there times in your life when you miss the wonderful signs of God's grace in your life because you are driven by the whip of legalism? What signs of grace can you see today?

Lesson 6: John 3:1-21

January 29, 2017

Read John 3:1-21.

1. Considering all you know about Pharisees, what do you think Nicodemus was thinking when he came to Jesus that night?
2. Jesus gives several strange responses to Nicodemus. What is he trying to point out about Nicodemus' reasoning? (for help consider verse 12)
3. What is Jesus's (or God's) response to a world in sin and disbelief? (Be thorough in your answer, consider the whole text.)
4. What connection does Jesus draw between our works and our beliefs? What do your works reveal about what you believe?

Lesson 7: John 3:22-29

February 5, 2017

Read John 3:22-29.

1. What is happening in these verses? Why are John's disciples concerned?
2. What does John the Baptist's response tell you about his understanding of his role in the gospel story?
3. In verse 29 John says that his joy is now complete. Do you know the joy that comes from being able to say, "Here I am, Lord, use me"?
4. How can you and I be useful Christians? How can we be the kind of believers who make a difference for Christ in our time and place?

Lesson 8: John 4:1-42

February 12, 2017

Read John 4:1-42.

1. As we walk through this story we see the brokenness of this woman becoming ever more clear. Thinking about the story as a whole, list the areas of brokenness you see in this woman's life. (Be as specific as possible and as thorough as possible.)
2. We also see Jesus breaking all sorts of social, religious, and cultural barriers as the story progresses. Make a list of barriers Jesus destroys in the course of the story. (Be as specific as possible and as thorough as possible.)
3. What is the result of Jesus's willingness to cross barriers in order to engage with this woman? (Consider the results in the life of the woman, the town, the disciples, etc.)
4. Are there groups of people or individuals you allow barriers (cultural, religious, or societal) to keep you from loving? What are those barriers? How can you allow Jesus to help you overcome these barriers?