

“The Gospel of John: He Knows”

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Scripture

John 2:23-25

“Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, **many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.**

24But Jesus, on His part, **was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,**

25and because **He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.**”

Overview of the Gospels

- **Matthew** -> **Jewish flavor to the writing, portraying Jesus as the Christ and King**
- **Mark** -> **Jesus as the “Son of Man”, really Peter’s Gospel for the Gentiles**
- **Luke** -> **Jesus is Human and the Redeemer of Humanity**
- **John** -> **Jesus is the Divine “Son of God”**

Why Write the Gospel?

Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospels were already around. Why another one?

The Purpose for John’s Gospel

John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But **these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;** and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Many events recorded in the Synoptics not in John -> the Transfiguration, for example

The word “believe” ~100 times in John’s Gospel

Omniscience

God is all knowing.

Psalm 139:4

“Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, **You know it all.**”

We’ve seen Jesus’s **omnipresence** with the **calling of Nathanael** – “I saw you” under the fig tree...

We also see God's omniscience on display in the Bible

Isaiah 46:9-10

"Remember the former things long past,
**For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,**
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, 'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'"

Isaiah combines God's omniscience ("Declaring the end from the beginning") as well as His omnipotence ("My purpose will be established")

Hebrews 4:12-13

"For the **word of God is living and active** and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him."**

What Jesus Knew

John 16:29-33

"**Now we know that You know all things and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God.**" Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world."

The "all things" here was holistic -> the disciples faith in Jesus as God in the flesh was extensive...

What Jesus Didn't Know

Hebrews 5:7-10

"In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. **Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.** And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek."

Jesus did not know what it was like to be human nor **being separated from God the Father:**

Matthew 27:46 (from the cross)

"About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**"

While on the earth, He didn't have knowledge of the Father's determined end of the world timeline:

Matthew 24:34-36

"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. **"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."**

Believing in His Name

John 2:23 (Let's get into our passage)

"Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, **many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing**.

What Does it Mean to Believe in His Name?

It can mean:

- In His Power or Authority -> performing miracles with great power
- In His Word -> trust in His promises
- In His Presence -> dedicate your life to following Him, regardless of circumstances

John 1:12

"But as many as received Him, **to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name"**

1 John 5:13

"These things I have written **to you who believe in the name of the Son of God**, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

John 3:18

"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, **because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**"

Observing the Signs

Some followed because of the signs:

John 6:2

"A large crowd followed Him, **because they saw the signs** which He was performing on those who were sick."

Jesus's healings drew a crowd -> Serve first, speak second...

Some followed NOT because of the signs – after feeding the 5,000...

John 6:26-27

“Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, **not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.** **“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life”**”

Some followed Jesus because of what they thought they could get from Him.

Fire insurance...

Some did not follow even WITH the signs:

Matthew 12:38-41

“Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, “**An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;** for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it because **they repented at the preaching of Jonah;** and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

John 12:37-43

“**But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?”** For this reason, they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, “**HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM.**” These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.

Nevertheless, many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of **the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;** for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.”

Those who followed regardless of signs

Matthew 19:23-27 (after the Rich Young Ruler interaction)

“Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. “Again, I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, “**Then who can be saved?**” And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Then Peter said to Him, “**Behold, we have left everything and followed You;** what then will there be for us?”

Peter realized that his following of Jesus was genuine because of his personal commitment to leave everything

Not Entrusting Himself to Them

John 2:24 (back to our passage)

“But Jesus, on His part, **was not entrusting Himself to them**, for He knew all men”

They had no TRUE faith in Jesus

John 5:40-41

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. **And ye will not come to me**, that ye might have life.”

John 6:64

“**But there are some of you who do not believe**. For **Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe**, and who it was that would betray Him”

Luke 22:67

“If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “**If I tell you, you will not believe.**”

Some would never come to Jesus, and He knew it.

Even today, some will never come, and He knows it.

Therefore, He had no faith in them

He Knew All Men

Hiding from God

Jeremiah 23:24 (noting His omnipresence)

“**Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?**” declares the Lord. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the Lord.”

1 Kings 8:39 (noting His omniscience)

“Hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for **You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men**”

Acts 1:24 (choosing a replacement Apostle)

“They prayed and said, “You, Lord, **who know the hearts of all men**, show which one of these two You have chosen”

Hiding Sin from God

Jeremiah 16:17

“For **My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face**, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.”

Psalm 139:7-10

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or **where can I flee from Your presence**? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, **Even there Your hand will lead me**, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.”

Question: Will I have all my life played before me at the judgment?

Yes. Just Push Play...

Hebrews 9:27-28

“**It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment**, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time for salvation** without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.”

The High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. When he came back out, the people knew that their sacrifice was accepted by God.

Jesus will come a second time, and believers will be accepted because of His sacrifice resulting in salvation.

1 John 3:19-20

“We will know by this that we are of the truth and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; **for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.**”

Did Not Need Anyone to Testify

John 2:25 **(back to our passage)**

“And because **He did not need anyone to testify concerning man**, **for He Himself knew what was in man.**”

He Knew What was in Man

1 Samuel 16:7 (Choosing of David to be the next king)

“He looked at Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’S anointed is before Him.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because **I have rejected him**; **for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**”

1 Chronicles 28:9

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for **the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts**. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever”

The Lord knows the heart...and **He knows what mankind is capable of.**

Luke 19:41-44 (after His Triumphal entry)

“When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, **because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.**”

Jesus weeps over the city and its blindness...

John 21:17

“He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "**Lord, You know all things;** You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.”

The “all things” here was the internal condition of Peter’s heart.

The Lord knows all who will come to Him and those who will not

Application

- 1) John’s point is that **Jesus has the Divine quality of Omniscience**
- 2) He knows our heart, our thoughts, and our intent, even before we act upon our intent
- 3) He knows those who are true believers and those who are not believers
- 4) There is no grey area -> Jesus said, “Whoever is not with me is against me; whoever does not gather with me truly is scattering” -> **Matthew 12:30**

We are going to see John **cite examples of true faith and no faith** in the next few chapters, so stay tuned.

Prayer

Benediction