



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

A 10-WEEK ONLINE SERIES
BY DEACON JIM MCFADDEN

9/18/23 – 11/20/23 (MONDAYS)
MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Week 1: September 18 - The Gospel of John—Overview

During this series, we will explore John's narrative starting with the majestic and poetic prologue that depicts the origin of Jesus as the Word of God, before following the Jesus of John's gospel in his teachings and healings. The entire gospel, through powerful words and symbols expresses the heart of Christian faith: that in Jesus the eternal Word of God has become incarnate. In contemplating the person of Jesus, the Risen Christ, the disciple is actually encountering the human face of God.

Week 2: September 25 - The Prologue of John's Gospel

The Prologue is a liturgical hymn to the Incarnate Lord. It's not written the style of the rest of the Gospel, but is added on as an overture, in which he establishes the conceptual center for what ensues. It's the core vision which the rest of the Gospel radiates.

Week 3: October 2 - The Call to Discipleship

We are going to look at how the disciples are portrayed in John's gospel. The first disciples are representatives of Jesus and mirror what the Christian life looks like. The Call of the First Disciples reverse the trend of not being radically dependent upon God the Father. When John the Baptist gives witness to Jesus, his disciples will leave him and follow Jesus. This speaks to us: we must have a willing spirit, ready to leave it all, to turn around and follow the Lord.

Week 4: October 9 - The Johannine Discourses

A distinctive characteristic of John's Gospel is the long discourses, which break the narrative as Jesus engages in a soliloquy with his opponents and disciples. Unlike the synoptic discourses that presents Jesus' teachings, in John's gospel the focus is on Jesus himself: who he presents himself to be and his Mission.

Week 5: October 16 - The Bread of Life (part 1)

This is an important passage as witnessed by its length and the attention that John gave to it. It is important because of its Eucharistic overtones that permeate this discourse. It also seems to be turning point for the disciples as they respond to the teaching of Jesus. Chapter 6 is also the bases of five weeks of preaching during Cycle B; while there is a risk of redundancy, there is so much to draw from that it is a blessing to reflect upon Chapter 6, hence the 2-parts.

Week 6: October 23 - The Bread of Life (part 2)

Following Jesus' Bread of Life discourse, he goes to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Tabernacles in which he teaches there, paramount of which Jesus proclaims that he is The Light of the World: he is the very gaze of God; Jesus looks at us with the eyes of his Father. These eyes are translucent and transparent and they draw us into the truth.

Week 7: October 30 - The Raising of Lazarus

The Raising of Lazarus (11:1-44) serves as the climax and summary of Jesus' entire ministry. Jesus has overcome darkness, physical infirmity, blindness, lameness—he's overcome every kind of smaller death—now he has to overcome death itself. He is able to do so because he proclaims that "I am the Resurrection; I am Life." This is the epitome of Jesus' new teaching—defining himself as Life itself. Life that is so real, that it is forever.

Week 8: November 6 - The Farewell Discourse

This section is called the "Book of Glory" because 'glory' is the term John uses for the death of Jesus, which shows just how much God loves humanity. Beginning with Chapter 13, this sets the tone as we're moving into a new aspect of the Gospel, which is uniquely Johannine: namely, totally divine love can only be understood within the context of totally human love: i.e., action.

Week 9: November 13 - The Passion of Jesus

The cosmic journey of the Word of God began with the Logos hymn in John's Prologue. This was the descent of the Son of God into the human arena. The Word became Flesh—John is not just talking about the human body of Jesus, but more broadly, God becomes one of us in and through Jesus: in our vulnerability, mortality, as well as our nobility. Once he became human, he was destined for death, which he would rise above because he is divine.

Week 10: November 20 - The Resurrection

The Resurrection of Jesus means that he is forever for and with us. Because we can draw everything together in the Resurrection, which means the Cross is the final sign of hope. Jesus' final journey into death tells us that love is victorious and the risk of living a life of Love is worth taking because Jesus is Risen!



To register for the series, please email Theresa Grant at tgrant@talkpathlive.com.

You will receive an email prior to the scheduled session with the Zoom link & instructions. Please check your spam/junk mail in case you do not receive the email in your inbox. **Note:** Weekly attendance is not required.