

John - Part 3

The Gospel of John is heralded as a great starting point for any new believer and a great source of power for all other believers. The Apostle John was the closest disciple to Christ and out of his intimate relationship with the Lord he wrote to us as he was “carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pt. 1:21).

“The Voice” 21 Challenge

John Part 3 of 21

Well, the wedding celebration worked out just fine, thanks to Christ’s intervention. Most things do work out despite our fretting over something we think we need and will likely never get? Next Sunday we will dive into John 3 and the big discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus. The following week we will listen in on the discourse between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

We have discussed a “mini-theme” of “newness” in the first few chapters of John. So far, in just the first two chapters we see, a new testament, a new ministry, new wine, a new sign, a new temple system and the making of a new mindset concerning God, self and others. Chapter three continues the “newness” theme by highlighting the new birth available in in Christ.

Newness can wear off and loose its luster through a lack of use. The “newness” and excitement of becoming a new believer can be replaced with ceremony, pageantry and apathy if we are not careful. This week’s challenge is intended to make you and me dependent rather than independent. To meet the challenge we will likely need the Lord’s help and that is a good thing.

Part One of this Week’s Challenge

You are hereby challenged to do whatever Jesus tells you to do or has already told you to do all this week in one specific area of your life. The bracelet given to you in our worship service is for you to wear this next week as a visual reminder of this challenge. I challenge you to focus on one of the many things Jesus said to do

and do it without question or hesitation. Just like the servants in John 2. Just do it. No questions asked. Your one area of emphasis may deal with love, repentance, forgiveness, worship, honesty issues, serving others, generosity, patience, encouragement, sharing the gospel, gossiping, sarcasm, bible reading, evangelism etc. ...only you and He know. Total obedience for one week only with His help and without self-condemnation should you falter. Should we fall we immediately get back on the proverbial horse. No questions asked, adherence to exactly what the scripture says to do concerning your area of emphasis. Did I mention the absence of questioning the truth by simply obeying it? Regardless of the cost, we do just what he tells us to do in the Bible or in our heart. Think about this challenge this afternoon and decide on your area of emphasis –then immediately start doing it.

Part Two of this Week's Challenge

You are challenged to read John Chapter 3 at least three times this week in addition to chapters 1 and 2 (also three times). If you have the means it would also be good to listen to these chapters at home or in your car? (www.biblegateway.com)

Here are some questions for your personal and small group reflection:

- Is this WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) type of challenge something you are looking forward to or not? Why?
- Are you thankful for the challenge to totally obey no matter what? As Mary said, “Do whatever he tells you to do.”
- How do you expect to grow? What do you expect to learn? Were your projections accurate?
- Should this only be a week-long challenge?
- Is the pastor getting in your business? How do you feel about that as well?

- Pray for insight and a love for Christ that leads to obedience, no matter what!

Blessings,
Pastor Gary

If you would like to know more about becoming a Christian or if you need some help walking with Him as the Lord of your life and friend, please contact me personally.(gary@cbchighlands.com) I would love to help you get started or help you continue on your journey with Christ. Pastor Gary (828-526-4685)