

*John: The Gospel of Light and Life*  
Adam Hamilton  
Chapter 5 Discussion  
The Farewell Discourse (pgs. 119-136)

**Opening Prayer**

Holy God of light and life, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who was willing to suffer and die for our salvation. Bless our time together as we study this Gospel. Open our hearts so that we may be receptive to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Before we Start.....*

**Remember:**

**Synoptic Gospels (n.)-** the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which describe events from a similar point of view, as contrasted with that of John.

**Read about the arrest in all four Gospels...**

Matthew 26:36-56 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1671-1672)

Mark 14: 32-52 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1725)

Luke 22:39-53 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1794-1795)

**Read about the Trial in all four Gospels...**

Matthew 26:57-68, 27:1-14 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1673-1674)

Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-15 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1725-1727)

Luke 22:54, 62-71 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1795-1796)

**Read about the Crucifixion in all four Gospels...**

Matthew 27:47-60 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1677-1678)

Mark 15:33-47 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1730-1731)

Luke 23:44-56 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1797-1798)

**Make connections and note the differences in the three different accounts prior to our Session on the Gospel of John.**

- What differences did you notice while you were reading and comparing the different accounts?
- **Let the participants make note of the differences, if they were able to identify any.**

- Did the same details appear in each account?
- No, the Gospel of John uses more descriptive details than the Synoptic Gospels and focuses on the divinity of Jesus as opposed to Jesus' humanity.
- Where there any Gospels that were less detailed?
- The Synoptic Gospels are less detailed than John's Gospel.

*In our Last session...*

### *The Arrest of Jesus*

We studied Jesus' words in the Farewell Discourse with his disciples at the Last Supper, just before he was arrested. What happens next you ask? Let us read *John 18:1-14*. Keep in mind this maybe different from the other four Gospels that we read prior to this session.

- What is the significance of Jesus' answer "I am"?
- In Greek "I AM"— "ego eimi" are equivalent to the Hebrew word "Yaweh" which is a personal name for God that means "I am that I am" or "I am life (or being) itself.
- When Jesus spoke this the soldiers fell back to the ground.

Notice that the author notes that the previous three Gospels are called the synoptic Gospels. These Gospels emphasize the humanity of Jesus, while John's Gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus.

- How did Jesus' appearance and actions in this account support John's purpose of revealing Jesus' divinity?
- Jesus' appearance and actions were Jesus Identifying with God, and everything that He carried out in this account was the father's plan, as he mentions numerous times in the Gospel.
- By describing it this way John is/was able to capture the authority, courage, and hidden identity of Jesus, the true Son of God.

We have already taken a moment to read these accounts, did you find anything interesting or appealing?

- These texts from the Synoptic Gospels emphasize the humanity of Jesus, and the text from John's Gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus.
- How do the two approaches work together to reveal the person and ministry of Jesus?

- The different types of Gospels tend to be in compliment of each other. What is stated in the Synoptic Gospels, is not directly stated in John, or sometime even elaborated on, using more distinct details.
- Jesus' life was more divine and focused on service, so John demonstrates that in is Gospel through his direct narrative format rather than using stories of comfort and joy.
- Jesus lived a hard life, and he knew what was going to happened and how it was going to happen.
- He used it to his advantage to try and re-teach, demonstrate good deeds, and even re-direct the world so that it was a more harmonious place to live.
- We experience all of the accounts in one form or another today in how people act, judge, treat others, treat themselves, disobey laws, and disobey canon law (or ordinances and regulations made by ecclesiastical authority for the government of a Christian organization or Church and its members.
- *Now it I do not believe that this or Jesus says that you need to be part of a specific church, religion, or religious institution to believe, study, and live in the way of Jesus. Religion is more personal than that and can be done in the privacy of one's own home.*
- *We are told to keep the Holy the Sabbath Day or Keep the Sabbath Holy. This does not necessarily mean attend church, but put all daily chores or acts aside, and focus on God, Scripture, and teachings.*

### ***The Trial of Jesus***

***Read John 18: 19-24, 28-38, 19:1-16 (pg. 139-141) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1848-1851)***

- Why did Pilate change the charge from blasphemy to insurrection?
- To save his reputation as High Priest, with his people and his entire reign.
- All the people: Chief Priests, Pharisees and even the Jewish Leadership.
- He knew that the right thing to do was to release Jesus, but he didn't do it because he was afraid.
  - A representation of all of us, we will all be tempted in our lives just as Pilate was.

- What is the “kingdom” that Jesus speaks about in *John 18:33-37* (pg.140) (*Cultural Background Study Bible* pgs. 1849)
- *A place where all will be judged according to thought, word, action, and deed. But a place where all believers and followers are welcome to live in the many rooms of the father.*
- What did Jesus mean when he said, “My kingdom doesn’t originate from this” and “My kingdom isn’t from here”? *John 18:36* (pg.140) (*Cultural Background Study Bible* pgs. 1849)
- *Jesus meant that his Kingdom with with the father in heaven, a much higher level of hierarchy.*
- *John’s depiction demonstrates that Jesus is from a Kingdom tat transcends all geographic boundaries, and even time, one that is made up of all who believe in him, follow him, and seek to love God and neighbor.*
- *It is a Kingdom of truth, light, and life.*
  - *Rome’s concern was with military and political threats—not with idealistic sages. From Rome, Pilate undoubtedly knew of the many apolitical sages (especially Cynics) who taught their followers how to “reign” in life as if “kings” yet were deemed by the elite curiosities or laughable rather than relevant to the political order. They spoke about truth but proved harmless. To Pilate, Jesus must have seemed such a sage.*
- What does it mean for us to accept Jesus as our King?
- *Accept that he is the true Son of God, the Messiah, the one who has saved us from sin and death. Accept his as the true and living word, the life-giving flesh.*
- *To accept Christ as your Savior, accepting him as your King—the One who lives within you and give you victory over sin every day.*
- How do we live in the kingdom Jesus spoke about during our life on Earth?
- *By living the kingdom of heaven here, we experience a continual renewal of God’s forgiveness and acceptance.*

We have already taken a moment to read these accounts, did find anything interesting or appealing?

- These texts from the Synoptic Gospels emphasize the humanity of Jesus., and the text from John's Gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus.
- How do the two approaches work together to reveal the person and ministry of Jesus?

### ***Food for Thought...***

- ***Have you ever had to make tough decision between your faith and the world's values? If yes, what happened?***

*To live faithfully is a process. God sends the Holy Spirit to help us discern right from wrong. The Holy Spirit is with us to grant us strength and courage to make decision that reflect our faith. Yet, there will be times when we falter, and like Peter, deny that we even know Jesus. Remember that Jesus died for our sins. Through Christ we have forgiveness of sins and the opportunity for new life.*

### ***Passover***

***Read Exodus Chapter 12 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 128-131)***

- In the Synoptic Gospels note the timing of the Passover Festival.
- In the Synoptic Gospels, the Passover meal was the setting for the Last Supper.
- In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says, "I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples." ***Matthew 26:18- (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1670)***
- John sets the Last Supper and foot-washing ritual with the disciples "before the Festival of Passover" ***John 13:1- 12 (pg. 111) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1838)***
- In John's timeline, the Crucifixion occurred on the day of preparation for Passover.
  - Why was it significant for John to place the Crucifixion on the day of preparation for Passover?
  - **Because he wants his readers to see Jesus as a kind fo Passover lamb.**
  - **This was set up earlier in the Gospel when John the Baptist looked at Jesus and said "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.!"**

- Why is it significant in the Synoptic Gospels that the Last Supper took place while Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples?
- The Synoptic Gospels portray that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper before his death. It took place during a Passover meal with his Apostles. He established a new covenant by offering his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. In John's Gospel, the Last supper occurs before the Passover celebrations.

*It is important to note that we do not know historically, what the actual timeline was. We do know that Jesus chose to go to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover Festival. We can conclude that Jesus wanted his followers to understand the events of what we now call Holy Week in light of the meaning and symbolism of Passover. Passover is a celebration of God's gift of deliverance and salvation from slavery in Egypt. Jesus came for the salvation of all people.*

**Read John 19:16-30 (pg. 140-142) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1851-1853)**

- What claim did the “public notice written and posted on the cross” make about Jesus (**John 19:19**)?
- **Jesus the Nazarene, The King of the Jews.**
- **INRI**
- Why was it written three languages?
- **Aramaic**
- **Latin**
- **Greek**
- **These were the languages of the world at the time.**
- How did the Jewish chief priests react to the claim that Jesus was “the King of the Jew?” (**John 19:21**)?
- **They protested saying “Do not write The King of the Jews, but that this man claimed to be the King of the Jews.”**
- Why do you think Pilate identified Jesus as “the king of the Jews”?
- **Because he saw the Glory of God in Jesus, his actions, words, and deeds.**
- **He was unable to find anything wrong with what he had done. Jesus' innocence was stronger than the claims made against him.**

- He realized that Jesus' accepted his fate like a true hero, regardless of the claims against him. He know what was going to happen, why it would happen, and what the truth was.
- What do you imagine Pilate was thinking when he made the remark in *John 19:22*?
- Answers will vary. This is a more personal questions for each participant.
- What would you have written and posted on the cross about Jesus?
- Answers will vary. This is a more personal questions for each participant.

***Read the following words in the Farewell Discourse John 17:1-5 (pg. 117) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1845-1846)***

- How was Jesus' glory revealed on the cross?
- How did Jesus glorify God through his Crucifixion?

***Read Exodus 12:22 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 130)***

***Read John 19:29 (pg. 142) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1853)***

- How does mention of "a hyssop branch" add meaning to John's account of the crucifixion?

***Read John 19:30 (pg. 142) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1853)***

- What did Adam Hamilton think Jesus meant by these final words?
- For a long time, he thought Jesus was saying these words because her was defeated, tired, and he gave up.
- After learning the Greek phrase, he realized that it is a shout of victory!! A saying that the war is won, the mission is complete.
- A masterpiece has been complete, God's saving mission was finished.

- What do you think?
- **Answers will vary. This is a more personal questions for each participant.**
  
- We have already taken a moment to read these accounts, did find anything interesting or appealing?
- **Answers will vary. This is a more personal questions for each participant.**
  
- These texts from the Synoptic Gospels emphasize the humanity of Jesus., and the text from John's Gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus.
- How do the two approaches work together to reveal the person and ministry of Jesus?
- **They in compliment to one another.**

### *Hymn Study and Discussion*

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*  
*James Montgomery*

#### *Verse 1*

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
ye that feel the tempter's power;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
watch with Him one bitter hour,  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

#### *Verse 2*

See Him at the judgment hall,  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall!  
O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
learn of Christ to bear the cross.

#### *Verse 3*



Calvary's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;  
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

**Verse 4**

Early hasten to the tomb  
where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes;  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

- What message or story is this Hymn portraying?
- **This tells the story of the walk to Gethsemane, the crucifixion, and the resurrection.**
- By listening just to the poetry alone, can you hear the suffering and power this hymn alludes to?
- **The poetry speaks of suffering in how the words are written, however, the music also speaks very strongly in the melody is written also.**
- What did you feel or hear after listening to the recording?
- **Answers will vary. This is a more personal questions for each participant.**

**Wrapping Up**

The Author describes all these events in the Gospel of John as the "Dramatic Climax."

Items to reflect upon:

- What has been said about Jesus?
- How does Jesus bring life to me?

- What response is required of me?

**Closing Prayer**

*Merciful God, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the amazing gifts of salvation and forgiveness. Let us always be mindful of your great love for us. Let us walk in the light of Christ with love and faith all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*