FAITH & DISCIPLESHIP IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Course Description

Website – www.mountstreet.info
  - Brief introduction to John’s Gospel
  - Outline of Gospel
  - PowerPoint slides of each session
  - Texts for following week
  - Audio recording of previous session
FOUR SESSIONS

John’s Story of Jesus

1. Andrew & Philip
2. Nicodemus
3. Martha, Mary & Lazarus
4. The Beloved Disciple
JOHN’S STORY OF JESUS

- Jn 1:4 “In Him [Jesus] was (divine) life”

- Purpose of the story: Jn 20:31

- Dualistic & Symbolic
JOHN’S STORY OF JESUS

- Dualistic

- Two realms: above (heaven); below (earth)
- People accept or reject Jesus & his life-giving revelation
- Jesus is *mediator* between the two realms
JOHN’S STORY OF JESUS

- Symbolic
  - water (4:10-11; 7:38)
  - bread (6:33, 35, 51)
  - light (1:4-5; 8:12)
  - gate (10:9)
  - vine (15:1, 5)
  - flesh (3:6)
  - darkness/night (1:5; 3:2; 8:12; 13:30)
  - blindness (9:1-41)
SYMBOLS

- Link between two levels of meaning in a story

- Effectiveness depends on whether people see symbols as pointers to another reality
THE STORY

- Bleak picture of "the world" (7:28; 8:55; 15:21; 16:3; 17:25)
- Enveloped in darkness (1:5; 12:46)
- Verdict on world is damning (3:19)
- Need for life-giving knowledge about God (6:63; 17:3)
THE STORY

- Solution comes “from above” (3:16-17)

- Jesus’ Mission (1:18; 3:11-13, 31-36; 8:19; 14:9-11; 15:15; 17:6-8, 26)

- Acceptance or rejection of Jesus (cf. 1:10-13)
FAITH RESPONSE

- Understand Jesus’ teaching
- Spirit enables understanding
- Ongoing faith expressed in discipleship
- Broad spectrum of responses
“Believing”

- **Πιστεύω**: verb: “to believe, trust”
  participle: “believer”
  NT: 241x; John 98x; Synoptics 34x

- **Πιστις**: noun: “faith, trust”
  NT: 243x; John 0x; Synoptics 24x
“Believing”

- Jn’s Gospel never uses noun ("faith, belief") only verb ("to believe, trust")

- Believing is an action one does

- Involves relationship

- Synonyms & opposites
RESPONSES

- Hear/see, *refuse* to believe: 12:37; 7:5
- *Begin to believe*, don’t recognise Jesus’ identity fully: 6:36, 64; 8:31; 11:45
- Believe but *afraid to do so publicly*: 3:1-10; 12:42; 9:18-23
- Believe & are *disciples*: 1:50; 4:41-42; 9:35-38; 20:24-29
- Believe *without seeing*: 4:53; 11:27; 20:19-29, 30-31
ANDREW & PHILIP

- Stronger presence in Jn
  - Andrew 5x; Philip 12x

- Distinct role

- Always appear together (except 14:8-9)

- Identity & social status?
ANDREW & PHILIP

- Bringing people to Jesus 1:35-51
- Challenge to think “from above” 6:3-9
- Bringing More People to Jesus 12:20-22
- Philip’s Misunderstanding 14:7-8
BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

- 1:35-51 – Jesus’ first disciples

- Important aspects of discipleship
  - Invited to come to Jesus – “Come & see”
  - Need to remain with Jesus as disciples
  - Testify to others
  - Bring them to Jesus
  - Link between disciple & witness
“FINDING” PEOPLE

- Disciples’ mission (17:18-20)

- "Finding fish": Symbolic of disciples’ future mission (21:6)

- Finder has some perception about Jesus
  - Andrew: Jesus as expected Messiah (1:41)
  - Philip: Jesus as Prophet like Moses (1:45)
THINK “from above”

- Philip & Andrew tested 6:3-9

- Challenge to think “from above”

- Receive the Holy Spirit 14:16-17

- Ask the Father in Jesus’ name 14:13-14; 15:7; 16:23-24
BRINGING MORE PEOPLE TO JESUS

- "Greeks wish to see Jesus" 12:20-22
- Arrival of the hour
  - 12:9-18
  - 7:32-36
- Role of Andrew & Philip
CONCLUSION

- Andrew & Philip as “finders”

- Exemplary disciple-makers

- Foreshadow disciples’ future mission

- Inquiring (1:39); perceptive (1:41,45); resourceful (6:8-9); sometimes dull (6:7-9; 14:8-9)