



The Gospel of John Study

By: The Field Church

Week 8

Day 1:

John 10:22-30

1. Why does Jesus say the Jews do not believe in Him?
 - Can anyone believe in Jesus without God first opening their eyes?
 2. How does it make you feel that God drew you to Himself and opened your eyes to be able to believe in Christ?
 - Is there any room for pride in our salvation?
- ⇒ How should we approach our friends and family who do not believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior? Can we save them?
- How important is our prayer life for those in our lives who don't believe?

Day 2:

John 10:31-42

- Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus?
 - It is interesting that the Jews wanted Jesus to prove that He was the Son of God, but when He did (through His good works), they wanted to stone Him for blasphemy. However, if Jesus truly is the Son of God (which He proved many times over He was), then nothing He said was blasphemy.
- What did the Jews want that Jesus being the Son of God was threatening?
- What idol were they clinging to?
- How do our idols blind us from the truth?
 - What idols do you struggle with and how has holding onto your idols caused negative consequences in your life?
 - How are you clinging to the truth of the gospel now? How has the gospel given you freedom?
- ❖ The Jews seem to struggle with the deep idol of power. See Appendix B below. Maybe you can relate.



Day 3:

John 11:1-16

- ❖ Today and tomorrow's passage tells the famous story of Jesus raising His friend and follower, Lazarus, from the dead. The raising of Lazarus constitutes the final and ultimate sign of Jesus as the Messiah. It also foreshadows Jesus' own resurrection and how Jesus Himself would defeat death on our behalf and forgive our sins.
- When Jesus tells His disciples that Lazarus' illness doesn't lead to death what was He trying to teach them? Was Jesus lying to them since Lazarus did physically die?
- Read: Romans 6:23
 - What leads to death?
 - What type of death is this verse talking about?
 - What leads to life?
- Jesus through Lazarus was trying to teach His disciples about having an "eternal perspective".
 - What does it mean to have an "eternal perspective" about your life?
 - Do you live with an eternal perspective?
 - What do your choices and thoughts (including your worries) say about your perspective?

Day 4:

John 11:17-44

- Was there any question to the people that Lazarus was dead?
- How did Martha demonstrate her faith in Jesus?
 - What does Jesus teach us about believing in Him?
 - What kind of hope does it give you to know that you will never die?
 - ♥ How does the belief of eternity impact fear and worry? How does eternity impact your thoughts about others?
- Why did Jesus weep even though He knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead?
 - ⊗ What do you learn about the heart of Christ from this story?
 - ⊗ Does Jesus care about His children?
 - ♥ How do you demonstrate the heart of Christ when you love others?



Day 5:

John 11:45-57

- What was the motivation for the Jews to kill Jesus? What were they afraid of losing?
 - Do you think it was necessary for Jesus to die? (Reference verses 49-53.)
 - Why was it significant that the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus during the Passover?
 - ⊗ Read: Exodus 12:1-30
 - ⊗ What prophesy is Jesus fulfilling?
- ⇒ Why is it so important that the people around you place their faith in Christ? Based on that answer, why, then, should you share the message of the gospel with them?

Day 6:

John 12:1-8

- ⊗ What do you learn about worship from Mary?
 - ⊗ Was she obligated to pour this very expensive fragrance on Jesus' feet and then use her own hair to wipe his feet?
 - ⊗ Why would she find joy in such an action?
- Judas makes a logical point about giving to the poor. Giving to the poor is a very noble goal. On the surface, what Judas was suggesting was a more "godly" thing to do. Why, then, was his request sinful?
- How does God judge if an action is worship or sin?
 - Is it possible to sin in reading your Bible, praying, going to church, serving others, etc.?
 - What makes these actions worship?
 - Read: 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - Whose glory should you live for?
 - Whose glory *are* you living for?
 - What changes should you make this week to give glory to God?



Appendix B

Power

Idolatry Defined:

(Reminder)

Dictionary.com has two different definitions:

1. An image or other material object representing a deity to which religious worship is addressed.
 - a. These can be things like:
 - i. A Buddah statue, Hindus' worship of cows, or even lucky charms like a rabbit's foot or horseshoes.
 - ii. The Old Testament had things like Asherim poles (Deuteronomy 7:5)
 1. Female fertility symbols
 2. Carved images or golden statues
2. Any person or thing regarded with blind admiration, adoration, or devotion.
 - a. Movie Stars
 - b. Sports Stars
 - c. Sports Teams
 - d. Bands

In other words, idols are the object of our worship. So what is worship? Worship is any person or thing that we seek, serve, sacrifice for, spend our time and money on, speak about most, and trust in most. We tend to worship idols as a means to serve ourselves.

The Truth About Idols

- **Idols have something that we want.**
 - Fame
 - Popularity
 - Security
 - Happiness
 - Love
 - Character
- **Idols promise to give us the hope and security that we are looking for.**
 - If I can just get married, then all my dreams will have come true.
 - If I could make a lot of money, all of my problems would go away.



- If I could just know what is going to happen tomorrow, then I could prepare for it and not be so afraid.
- **Idols lie to us.**

“Idols promise everything and they take away everything”

How Idolatry Functions

Since our hearts are worshipping hearts, we are idol making machines. We can turn anything into an idol. This makes the idols of our hearts very complex. So, in order to find freedom from our idols we must first understand how they function.

There are two levels of idols according to Tim Keller in his book “Counterfeit Gods”:

1. **“Deep Idols”**
 - a. Deep idols are the result of sin corrupting our deep motivational drives.
 - b. Power, approval, comfort or control
2. **“Surface Idols”**
 - a. These are the things that we seek and serve in order to satisfy our deep idols.
 - i. These are things like money, a relationship (a spouse, kids), success, fame, etc.

Power

The idol of power is focused on having control over others, whereas the idol of control is focused on having control over ourselves.

Definition: the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events.

The Emotion of Power

What does it feel like when you trust in the idol of power, but find yourself losing it?

Fear of Humiliation:

- Being humiliated is your greatest nightmare.
 - People who struggle with the idol of power can never be wrong. You might even talk in circles until you make whatever you are saying seem right.
 - If you are a verbal processor, it might be due to the idol of power.
 - (Not always, though.)



- People who have been abused, bullied, or raped tend to gravitate to the idol of power.
 - You know what it feels like to have all of your power taken away, so you vow never to let that happen again.
 - Understand that what you went through was the result of someone else's sin, something we call "suffering".
 - We have to deal with suffering through forgiveness and through resting in the comfort of God. However, we still have to recognize and repent of the idol of power in our lives.

Anger:

- You hate being challenged.
 - When someone questions your authority, you may want to push back.
- When things don't go your way, you may get mad.
- Power is a direct result of pride. In your world, you are god and no one questions god.

The Action of Power

Success:

- Success is a way to prove to everyone that you are superior.
 - Being a workaholic can be a result of having the idol of power.
- While you are successful, it is easier for you to put on a façade of grace and humility, but, when you fail, it all falls apart.

Competition:

- You *have to* win. Notice "have to." Healthy competition and winning are ok on their own, but become an issue when this becomes a need.
 - The goal becomes to prove your dominance.

Influence:

- As a leader, influence is a healthy thing to have, but becomes dangerous when motivated by the idol of power:
 - You use others for your own gain.
 - People feel used by you.



- You keep others at arm's length.
- You manipulate others.
 - You bully people.
 - You control others through fear.

Crushing the Idol of Power

We Must Be Honest with Ourselves:

- The idol of power is predicated on our ability to lord over others. If you find yourself doing this you need to repent to the Lord and repent to the people you have tried to control.

Repent of our Pride:

- James 4:1-7

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

*‘God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.’*

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.”

God opposes the proud, but He promises to draw near to those who humble themselves under His authority.

God Wants to Restore You Through His Power:

1 John 1:9

- God is the one who has the power to forgive.



- We need to embrace His power in our lives.
 - **Philippians 2:13**
- We have the opportunity to use our influence for God's glory and also for the good of other people, not for our own selfish gain.