

Message #3

Series on John: "Believe"

"God Revealed"

C.R. 1-27-19

Text: John 1: 14-18

Intro: Can you believe it? This is our third message in this series on John, and we have not finished the prologue yet. Just in the introductory verses of John we have learned that Jesus is God, that He has always been and that there has never been a time when he was not. We have also learned that he is light and life and while many have rejected him to believe on Him is to become one of his children. (v. 12). We have clearly been told by John how that salvation is not something we inherit, or will to happen, it is us believing, receiving, and Him doing a supernatural work that make us become children of God.

Today we will camp out in mainly one verse. In my opinion it is one of the banner verses of the entire Bible. The apostle John wants us to know that Jesus was fully God, and that He thought enough of us to wrap himself in suit of flesh and walk among us. Let's examine together.

1) Observe God's Glory (v. 14)

- a. A young girl was laying in bed one night when a terrible thunderstorm started. The lightning flashed and the thunder clapped, and she yelled out loud to her dad. Her dad would say "Honey, God loves you and he will take care of you". This happened 3 or 4 times and the girl finally said "Daddy, I know that God loves me, and He will take care of me, but right now I need something with skin on it.
- b. Just think about this first statement of verse 14. The Word, the God of all creation, the sovereign, omniscient, all powerful God became flesh.
- c. Theologians refer to this action as the Incarnation.
- d. **When Jesus stepped out, the infinite God took on the form of a tiny unborn baby boy. The Son did not cease to be God when he became a man. He added humanity but he did not subtract deity. He was fully God and fully man-the God-man.**
- e. Think about it. When any other baby is born it is the creation of a new personality. A new life is created, one that never existed before. But when Jesus was born, it was the coming of one that had existed before anything existed.
- f. No wonder the angels lit the sky up and sang the songs of praise.
- g. John said in 4 words what Luke said in 2,500 words.
- h. "he dwelt among us". Carries the idea of pitching a tent. Tabernacled with us.
- i. Talk about the O.T. and the tabernacle. Noting beautiful about it. It was a tent.
- j. Read from Powell. Page 23. John's wonderful Gospel (See attached).
- k. Eugene Petersen in The Message paraphrases this verse, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood" (John 1:14 MSG).

- l. To the eye of the beholder it was just another tent, spaced off from other tents, but it was what was on the inside that was special.
- m. When he come to "pitch his tent, he did not lay aside his deity, but he veiled it.
- n. John said "We beheld his glory".
- o. When the priest went into the tabernacle to sprinkle the blood on the altar to make atonement for the sin of the people, the tabernacle was filled with a golden cloud of God's glory that gave evidence of God's presence.
- p. John is saying " I have seen God through Jesus.
- q. Ann Graham Lotz: John is saying emphatically, "I have seen Him! "I've seen Him first thing in the morning when He awoke. "I've seen Him when He was tired and had nowhere to lay His head. "I've seen Him when He was alone. "I've seen Him when He was surrounded by a crowd. "I've seen Him when He was so sad He wept. "I've seen Him when He was feasting and full. I've seen Him when He was fasting and hungry. "I've seen Him when He preached His heart out and the people turned away. "I've seen Him tenderly touch the eyes of a man born blind and create sight. "I've seen Him when He was angry. "I've seen Him when He was rejected as a son of Satan. "I've seen Him praised as One who came in the name of the Lord. "I've seen Him dressed in a robe more dazzling than the sun. "I've seen Him in a loincloth as He washed my feet. "I've seen Him confound the greatest religious leaders of His day. "I've seen Him cuddle a little child on His lap. "I've seen I've seen Him when His face was slapped. "I've seen Him when His feet were wet from Mary's tears and dried with her hair. "I've seen Him riding a donkey in triumph into Jerusalem.³⁵ "I've seen Him when He prayed so earnestly He sweat great drops of blood. "I've seen Him tortured, carrying His own cross out of Jerusalem. "I've seen Him dead, "I've seen Him buried, seen Him buried, "I've seen Him risen, , "I've seen Him ascended. "I'VE SEEN HIM! I've seen the glory of God clearly in Jesus Christ!
- r. When John writes, "We have seen," he uses a word that means to gaze intently upon, to study as in a laboratory. It's a word from which we get the English word theater.
- s. Jesus was not invisible nor was he obscure. When you look at Jesus, you see the face of God. God wants to be seen and to be known in his son. When you hear Jesus teach; you hear God teach. When you come to experience Jesus; you experience God. In Jesus we see God.
- t. All that God is, all that God says, all that God desires, all is fully expressed in Christ.
- u. If a child asked John what God is like, the apostle would answer "Jesus".
- v. Read **John 14:8-11**
- w. What a God that would love us this much. That would make a way for us to know Him, and see him, and walk with Him. Oh God, How great thou art.

2) Experience God's Grace (v.14, V16,)

- a. You will not in our passage today that the word grace is written down more than once.
- b. Grace: His generous bounty, his sacrificial love.
- c. It is a grace that will never be used up or run out. There will be New Grace for each and every day.

- d. John said “of his fullness we have received”. V 16. All who have believed on Jesus have received and abundant supply of all that our souls need.
- e. It is new grace, continuous grace, uninterrupted grace.
- f. **Illustrate** with John Newton. A putrid mouth, a drunk, a reprobate, had to be harpooned out of the waters when he fell overboard drunk. But God. He was arrested by Savior, and was overtaken by Amazing Grace.

3) Trust God’s Truth.

- a. This is another word that John uses about Jesus. He was full of grace and truth.
- b. Grace is an irresistible compulsion to give men more than they deserve which springs spontaneously from the boundless generosity of God. Truth, on the other hand, has roots in a divine determination to be consistent, predictable, and thereby trustworthy in dealing with mankind. Grace without truth is easily seen as sentimentality while truth without grace can appear to be an inflexible rigidity. (Rick Ezell)
- c. **These two words explain why Jesus stepped out, coming to the earth. Because he was full of grace, he died for you and me while we were yet sinners. Because he was full of truth, he was able to pay for our sins completely.**
- d. Because Jesus is grace-full, we can come just as we are to him. We don't have to clean ourselves up first. Because he is truth-full, you can come in complete confidence knowing that he will keep his promises. When he promises a complete pardon for your sins, he means it.
- e. God is true, and His word is true.
- f. John witnessed first hand his truth on a daily basis.
- g. You and I can trust him. He is the way, the truth, the life.

She was fifteen and he was seventeen when they met. All through high school they dated and, after high school, it was not a surprise to anyone that they were married. Four years later, she was standing in her kitchen with a pile of dirty dishes in the sink, two children at her feet, and a pile of dirty diapers in the corner. Tears were streaming down her face. Looking back, she could never be quite sure why she made the decision, but she did. She took off her apron and walked out.

She called that night and her young husband answered the phone. He was, understandably, quite worried and, also, quite angry. "Where are you?" he said, his concern and his anger fighting for control of his voice.

"How are the children?" she asked, ignoring his question.

"Well, if you mean have they been fed, they are. I've also put them to bed. They are wondering, just as I am, where are you? What are you doing?"

She hung up the phone that night, but it wasn't the last of the phone calls. She called almost every week for the next three months. Her husband, knowing that something was seriously wrong, began, in those phone calls, to plead with her to come home. He would tell her that the children were with their grandparents during the day and were well cared for. He would tell her that he loved her. He would tell her how much they all missed her and then he would try to find out where she was. Whenever the conversation turned to her whereabouts, she would hang up.

Finally, the young husband could stand it no longer. He took their savings and hired a private detective to find his wife. The detective reported that the run-away wife was in a third-rate hotel in Des Moines, Iowa.

The young man borrowed the money from his in-laws, bought a plane ticket and flew to Des Moines. After taking a cab from the airport to the hotel, he climbed the stairs to his wife's room on the third floor.

If you had been there, you would have seen the doubt in his eyes and you would have noticed the perspiration on his forehead. His hand trembled as he knocked on the door. When his wife opened the door, he forgot his prepared speech and said, "We love you so much. Won't you come home?"

She fell apart in his arms. They went home together.

One evening, some weeks later, the children were in bed and he and his wife were sitting in the living room before the fire. He finally got up enough courage to ask the question that had haunted him for so many months. He asked, "Why wouldn't you come home? Why, when I told you over and over again that I loved you and missed you, didn't you come home?"

"Because," she said with profound simplicity, "before those were only words. But then you came."

Jesus came. He personally comes to each of offering grace and truth. He didn't stand off at a distance. He is personally reaching out to you. Will you come home to him?

