

**Week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

*Prepared by Ken Sykes*

Welcome to John's Gospel and congratulations on still being with us.

Written about AD 80-90 and is the most reflective of the gospels. John was probably a disciple of John the Baptist, brother of James, son of Zebedee, writer of Revelation.

The gospels are not meant to be historically chronological – they aren't diaries!

### John 1

'This is the Word of God', words we often hear after a Bible Reading. John tells us that by receiving, believing the Word we become children of God – not by human means but by God's initiative.

How much do we have to believe, receive?

V 14 is key. V18 is the summary of the Prologue and the gospel. Jesus is God as a human being.

How important is it to you to understand this?

V 37 God's pattern for Salvation – we hear the witness and follow Jesus. Be encouraged by Philip.

### John 2

v 11 Like God, Jesus has the power to create. Conclusion...? NB Jesus brings joy not a downer.

Look out for Jesus overturning the old with the new (e.g. water to wine).

V19 Jesus is the new temple where we meet God, find God, hear God speak. Do we?

v3:9. Many believed Jesus, but he didn't believe in them. He knows us all inside out -Peter, Judas, John – and Nicodemus. NB John didn't write in chapters (C13th) and verses (C16th).

### John 3

1-9 New birth (see the Prologue in chapter 1) is what God does to us, not what we do for God. So a born-again Christian is how it is and not a variety of Christian!

10-21 The 'How' – believe. Anyone can, v16, the essence of the gospel, the Bible summarized.

22-36 Note the solidarity between Father and Son (see 5:19,20; 6:37-40; 8:29; 12:44-50; 14:9.

Check out 2 Cor 5:19. Also Mt 10:40 – Jesus solidarity with us! How encouraging is that!

### John 4

1-14 Crossing social boundaries. Anything to learn here? Do our spirits need the water of life?

15-42 The Divine is present tense ('I AM') 'To worship God is to meet Him in His temple -Jesus!

How did God meet you 'where you are'? God's extravagant grace in action.

Back to Cana to round off this section. "Affliction is one of God's medicines... if it lead us to Jesus" (J C Ryle). Fishermen, self-righteous Pharisee, 'fallen' woman, nobleman – greatest to least come to Jesus as paupers, the poor in spirit, and believe.

### John 5

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sign. Are we more interested in 'rule keeping' than freedom in Christ (See Gal 5:1)?

vv 16-47 Jesus' identity. Just enjoy reading and mulling over these verses.

Is Jesus who he claims to be?

'It is our greatest privilege to know Christ – one with the Father, universal judge, sovereign giver of life.'

Let is lean our whole weight on this mighty Saviour.