



The Life of Jesus

A CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY

Lesson 22: The How, Why and Who of God So-Loving the World John 3:11-21

I. Remember where we are...

- It's Passover
- Nicodemus comes by night (in spiritual darkens)
- Jesus tells him he must be born again
- And he must be born of BOTH water (cleansing) and of the Spirit
- Nicodemus should understand these things

II. vv.11-12

- A. The 3rd “truly truly” in this chapter
- B. Who is Jesus’ “we”? - Disciples? Probably 5 already in - “Many believed” - 2:23
- C. What does “we” know? 1:49: “*Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!*”
- D. The “you” is y’all

III. v.13

- A. 4th Song of the Suffering Servant – Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - He was to be lifted up
- B. Remember John’s post-resurrection viewpoint – he knows this all came true
- C. The descended Son of Man has become flesh (Chapter 1)

IV. vv.14-15

- A. Jesus being “lifted up” is in John 3 times (here plus 8:28 and 12:32)
- B. Numbers 21:4-9 - Still around with Hezekiah in 2nd Kings 18
- C. 1st of 17 times John uses “eternal life”

D. v.14 – the Son of Man must be lifted up - Greek word is “dei”

1. Mark 8:31 – Son of Man *dei* suffer and be rejected
2. 2nd Corinthians 5:10 – We *dei* all appear before the judgement seat of Christ
3. Revelation repeatedly says “these things *dei* take place”

V. vv.16-18

A. 3 Greek terms

1. *Pas pisteuo* – whoever believes
2. *Monogenes huios* - Only Son - *Mono* – “only”; *ginomai* – “beginning” – Latin is Genesis
3. *Ho pisteuo* - anyone believes

B. Three Questions

1. v.16 – **How?** *Pas pisteuo* (whoever believes)

a. Hard for Nicodemus and other Jews to think about God so loving the world

b. To love (verb - *agapao*) and love (noun - *agape*)

- 259 times in the New Testament – John uses it 102 times

- 37 times the verb is used in his Gospel

- Father loves the Son – 3:35
- Jesus loves Mary, Martha and Lazarus – 11:6
- A new commandment: Love one another – 13:34
- You don’t love Me if you don’t keep my words – 14:24
- I love the Father and do what He says – 14:31
- Peter if you love Me, feed me tend My lambs and shepherd My sheep – Chapter 21

c. What about 1st John 2:15-17?

2. v.17 – **Why?** Save the world

a. Jesus was *apostello* into the *kosmos* NOT to condemn

b. John 9:39: Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

c. Keep in mind:

(1) Jesus has the authority to judge (Daniel 7:13-14)

(2) World is already messed up (1:9)

3. v.18 – **Who?** *Ho pisteuo* (anyone who believes)

a. monogenes 9 times in NT

- Mother at Nain
- Jairus' daughter
- Demon-possessed boy in Luke
- Isaac/Abraham in Hebrews
- John in gospel and 1st John 4:9

C. Two Options in vv.16-18: Eternal Life Or Condemnation

D. Who gets saved in the world? Whoever *pas pisteou* or Anyone *ho pisteou*

E. But the cost is great – Dietrich Bonhoeffer in The Cost of Discipleship:

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

VI. vv.19-21

A. These verses help bring home John's points:

- There is still light and darkness and they are directly connected to truth and evil
- It's not just believing its how "living in the light" is being born again
- Washed by the water and the Spirit are plainly seen

VII. My Take Aways

- His love for us is greater than I can conceive
- Whoever and anyone can be saved but not on your own
 - Jesus is calling
- Salvation comes at a price: His being lifted up

Questions? Comments? Thoughts?
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