

Woodland Baptist Church
Morning Worship - January 20, 2013
The Uniqueness of John's Gospel

1. Remember the purpose of John's gospel - **John 20:30-31** - Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

2. John's Uniqueness as compared to the synoptics:

- a. Matthew (28 chaps, longest) - begins with a genealogy/family tree
 - i. Verses 1 - Shows his _____ - Christ, the Son of David (David who?...King David of Israel) the son of Abraham.
 - ii. Verses 2-17 - Begins with Abraham...ends with...Joseph (even though Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus.
 - (1) From Abraham forward to Jesus Christ, showing that Jesus was indeed the _____ of the Jews.
- b. Mark (16 chaps, shortest) - has no genealogy
 - i. Begins with John the Baptist's ministry [quote from Isaiah] to "prepare the way" for Christ;
 - (1) Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
 - iii. Luke (24 chaps) - Begins with early introductory information about John the Baptist and Jesus and how they were related - the _____ aspect of both of their births.
 - i. After Jesus is baptized by John, a genealogy is presented in the text:
 - ii. 3:23-38 - Begins with...Joseph...ends with the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.
 - (1) From Joseph backwards to Adam [show _____]
 - d. John (20 chaps) - begins "in the beginning," before time began [show _____]
 - i. John shows Christ as the pre-incarnate Word - existing with God the Father before time began.

3. What is different in John? [not all inclusive]

- a. Christ's Divinity - In the initial verses, the synoptics present Jesus as a historical figure and move toward his divinity...but John begins in his initial verses by stressing the deity of Jesus - full deity. Christ is part of the _____ from the very beginning.
- b. Uniqueness in vocabulary: the key word in the book is the verb "believe" (pisteuo), which appears _____ times; the noun form of the word (pistes, faith) does not occur at all; we also hear witness,

love, abide, the Counselor, Holy Spirit, light, life, darkness, Word, glorify, true/truth and real.

- 4. Omissions & Differences - John omitted several things that are troubling to many:
 - a. Jesus' genealogy, his miraculous birth in Bethlehem, temptation, exorcizing demons, parables (40), the sermon on the mount, the transfiguration, institution of the Lord's Supper, agony in Gethsemane and ascension.
 - b. Descriptions of Jesus' baptism and the calling of the 12, listing them by name.
 - c. The _____ cleansing is at the beginning of John's gospel, in the synoptics it was after the triumphant entry on Palm Sunday (Mark 11, Matt 21, Luke 19)
- 5. Geography - In the synoptics Christ spends most of his time in and around _____ and makes one trip to Jerusalem, just a week before his death. According to John, Jesus makes four trips to Jerusalem (2:13, 5:1, 7:10, 12:12) and spend a significant part of his ministry in Judea.
- 6. Content - About _____ of the material in John's gospel does not appear in the synoptics; it seems that John was writing a work that would "_____ the other gospels instead of replacing them, bearing witness to certain events that were not in the synoptics.
 - a. Chapters 2-4, including Christ's miraculous transformation of water into wine, his talk with Nicodemus, his ministry in Samaria.
 - b. No record of the institution of the Lord's supper, instead we have the _____; the resurrection of Lazarus
- 7. Writing Style - Jesus teaches in sets of pairs "_____ opposites" - life/death, from above/below, light/dark, truth/lie, sight/blindness
- 8. The seven "I AM" statements - Where Christ ascribes to himself divinity but using the "I AM" statement from Exodus 3:14 - God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'
 - a. 6:35 - "I am the bread of life"...8:12, "I am the light of the world"... 10:7, "I am the door of the sheep"...10:9, "I am the door"...10:11, "I am the good shepherd"...10:14, "I am the good shepherd"...11:25, I am the resurrection and the life"...14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life"...15:1, "I am the true vine; you are the branches"...15:5, "I am the vine"
- 9. The seven signs
 - a. 1) changing *water into wine* 2:1-11; 2) Healing the *official's son* 4:36-54; 3) healing the *paralytic* 5:1-9; 4) feeding the *5,000* 6:1-15; 5) walking on *water* 6:16-21; 6) healing a *man born blind* 9; 7) Raising *Lazarus* 11:1-44.
 - b. Eighth - The Resurrection of Christ!