

Spirit and Truth/Water and Spirit

Learning Important Truths from John's Gospel

John 3:3-5; 4:24

The Gospel of John is an enormously theological book. John's contrasts and comparisons are enlightening, engaging, and thought provoking. As we have a look at a few, I think we will have our understanding of the kingdom deepened.

Lamb and LAMB (Jn. 1:29, 36; crucified "between the evenings" of Passover Day, Ex. 12:6, literal Hebrew)

- John does not actually record the eating of the Passover feast, but he does record the killing of the true lamb (Jn. 19:32-33, 36; Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12; Ps. 34:20)
- This is just one of John's powerful Old Covenant fulfillments.

Temple and TEMPLE (Jn. 2:19-22; cf. Jn. 1:14; Matt. 26:61: 27:40; Acts 6:14)

- Jesus was the fulfillment of all contained in the Old Testament (Matt. 5:17-20)
- John introduces us to the concept of Jesus being the fulfillment of the temple while others show how it came to be distorted
- An interesting synchronism between John and the Synoptics

Born Again and Born from Above, S(s)pirit and Truth vs. Flesh (Jn.3:1-12)

- John sometimes uses a word with more than one meaning (*another* can mean either "born again" or "born from above") Nicodemus goes one direction, Jesus another
- Does John intend Spirit or spirit?
- Contrasts also make captivating points, S(s)pirit and Truth vs. Flesh
- Combinations can be very interesting, S(s)pirit and Truth

Water and WATER, Spirit and Truth (Jn. 4:7-15; cf. Jn. 6:35; 7:38)

- Only Jesus can quench our deepest thirst, the thirst of our spirit
- We are too often consumed with temporal things
- Yet even spiritual priorities must be guided by God's truth
- We don't always get what we want, but if we try, sometimes we just might get what we need

Flesh and Blood and FLESH and BLOOD, Bread and BREAD (Jn. 6:44-69)

- Jesus again contrasts temporal concerns with spiritual values
- Here, the teaching of God is cleverly intertwined with matters of the flesh
- In all such things, Jesus alone has what we need for eternity
- We need to look above (Col. 3:1-3)

John is a master at telling the story of Jesus. His devices invite us to think again, and then think even more. John takes us from the bounds and distractions of this short life and sweeps our spirits into the realm of eternity.

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