

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IHOP BIBLE STUDY
August 2003

Topic: The Gospel of John 3:22 - 4:42 "Testimony on who Jesus really is."

This is the fourth study session of this Gospel. It shifts the topic from illuminating a series of "signs" concerning Jesus as the Logos to a long section (according to our chart) on "Testimonies, demonstrations and affirmations." Each of the next four study sessions has the focus of proving the Jesus is the Logos.

Today's session includes the testimony given to different audiences -- John the Baptist and the Disciples are Jews, while the Samaritan woman and "other Samaritans" are outsiders or gentiles.

I. Read through the assignment in one reading.

II. vss. 3:22 - 36 --

Take a few minutes to do a "gut trip analysis" on a few words in this section: vs 28 "Christ" and in vs. 27 "heaven."

The word CHRIST: For the Jews this word meant to be "anointed" or the "Messiah." For the Greek speakers, the word Christ was translated as The Logos. Both of these words represent The Good News. Remind yourselves that the "GOOD" in GOOD news represents The Perfect At-One-Ment, The Guarantor, or The Meaningfulness [God]. Consequently, Jesus as the Anointed reveals something about these things. Speculate on what this might be. Remember that God desires that we awaken to our full humanity only as we awaken to our relationship to The Perfect At-One-Ment.

What does it mean to be awakened to this relationship? Why is this Good News?
Recall how baptism (life to death to life) takes us on this journey.

Concerning the word HEAVEN. Heaven is not a place but it is a relationship to The Perfect At-One-Ment. Consequently, this sentence reads "A man [or woman] can receive only what is given him/her from the Perfect At-One-Ment."

These thoughts are repeated in several ways through this passage. Do the transliteration and see how it affects your reading and your understanding of this passage.

Be careful in vs 36 of the term "God's wrath." Remember, "My wife is the wrath of God." Why is she the "wrath of God?" Because she loves me, and she likes me when I'm more humane and thus more human. To this purpose she loves me so much as to provide the tough love necessary to call me back to being a human being. Do you have your own illustration or experience of this experience? What is it?

Take a moment to summarize this section by stating the testimony of John the Baptizer as to who Jesus really is.

II. vss. 4:1 - 30 The woman at the well. Note that this section has a brief interjection when the Disciples come back on stage. However, the testimony of the Samaritan Woman continues through verse 36.

Discuss the question about the source of living water.

Vss. 4: 23 Who are the “true worshippers,” and HOW are they TRUE?

Vss 4: 23, 24 We are given the dual formula that God is God and Spirit. Implied is that the Christ is the third part of the Trinitarian formula .

Take a moment to restate the testimony of the Samaritan Woman as to who Jesus really is.

III. vss. 4:27 and 31 - 38

What is “the food” Jesus has that the disciples know nothing about?

The key words in this section are in vs. 35 “Open your eyes.” Why is this true?

What is the human experience Jesus tells us about in the rest of this section (vss. 34 - 38)?

What is your experience of this, and how might this affect your own TESTIMONY CONCERNING JESUS AS THE GOOD NEWS?

How does all this prove that Jesus is the Logos?