

Message 38 -- JOHN 1:1-18

Passage:

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
- 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- 15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.
- 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.
- 17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
- 18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John Gardner, a famous mental health professional, was walking through his clinic one day when he heard three children talking. "My mom yells at me," the first child said.

"My dad hits me!" the second boy said.

The third child, the saddest looking of all three, slowly raised his sorrowful eyes, "My dad doesn't even hit me."

The worst thing to happen to a person is to be isolated and ignored. God refused to isolate us because of our sins or ignore us because of our frailty. God became one with us.

Exposition:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus Christ has existed for all eternity. Jesus Christ is God, the second person of the Trinity. He has neither beginning nor end.

When the world began; when the universe first came into being; when God the Father spoke and all of creation sprang into being out of nothing, Jesus was already there with the Father and had already been there for all eternity.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Many times in the distant past; long before Jesus came to dwell on the earth as a man; long before He was born in that stable in Bethlehem; His light shined in the world as the one through whom all things were made. But very few recognized that light or rejoiced in it.

Today, the Light that is Jesus Christ shines in the world brighter than it did then, but the dark, dead souls of men and women cannot perceive that Light until the Holy Spirit works the mighty miracle and draws them to Jesus, giving sight to those who have been born spiritually blind.

And we were ALL born sprirtually blind. None of us were able to perceive the things of the Spirit until He opened our spiritual eyes. No, not one!

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

It is John the Baptist that the Bible is speaking of here.

Jesus testified of John, "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." Jesus essentially said that John was the greatest man that had ever lived!

But here was one so much greater that John later testified, "He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose." John was a great man. But Jesus is God!

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

John was a faithful witness. He told what he had seen. You too can be a faithful witness just like John.

You don't have to be a great or powerful preacher to be a faithful witness. You just need to tell what you have seen!

John R. Rice tells of a time he visited the famous Chicago landmark, the Pacific Garden Mission on South State Street.

"One night Holland Oates preached. He had been only to the fifth grade, and he butchered the king's English. He told how he had worked hard as a stone mason and had purchased a stoneyard. He drank and cursed with his employees. Then God saved him.

After he got saved, he began to do personal work the best he could.

As he preached that night at Pacific Garden Mission, my heart was so stirred. He quoted Romans 12:1 & 2. He had volunteered to serve the Lord. He had offered himself. He told about Isaiah. 'In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. . . Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Like Isaiah, Holland Oates had said, 'Here am I; send me.

I, too, said, 'Lord, Send me.' That night I won a drunken bum to the Lord. Oh, it was such a joy. I said, 'Lord, college teaching never was like this! If you will let me, I'll do this for the rest of my life.' And the Lord said, 'John, go to it!' And I have been going now for these many years."

John R. Rice went on to preach over fifty years and to write one hundred and eighty-five books. Why? Because as a sower, Holland

Oates went forth to sow seed! God was faithful to provide fruit!
We won't reap if we won't sow.

Yes, John the Baptist was a faithful witness, and you can be too!

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Jesus can light up your life. That is one thing that John could NOT do! John could only bear witness to Christ, the true Light, who alone is able to illuminate.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

What a terrible separation sin has caused between God and man! What empty ignorance sin has sown in the human mind! The entire universe was made by and through Jesus Christ and yet, when He came to Earth, the world did not recognize Him.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Jesus came to those who He had specially chosen; to those whom He called His own; to those He had selected out of all the nations upon the earth: and they rejected Him.

He came to those to whom He had been promised throughout the Old Testament scriptures; to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: but they refused to receive Him!

Verse 12: But...

Aha! Here is one of the greatest little words in all the Bible. A tiny little conjunction on which your salvation and my salvation rest!

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

This is a blessed "But" - Though Christ's own nation, the Jews, as a whole rejected and despised Him, yet there was "a remnant according to the election of grace" who DID receive Him!

How did they come to receive Him when so many others were bent upon rejecting Him? There must have been some great change wrought

in them to make them so different from all the rest of their countrymen.

And so there was - these men and women had been born twice:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

So you see, all those who received Christ then, and all we who receive Christ now, We who truly believe on Christ, are people who have been born a second time, as those who reject Him have not been born, by a new birth from heaven, a supernatural birth.

We are set apart by God as those who have been twice created, first a human beings just like everybody else, and then as new creatures in Christ Jesus!

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

"Before electricity can be of any use in a home or in a building such as this, it must pass through an electrical transformer. The transformer cuts the power down to whatever is needed for that particular place. Without this reduction, everything in the house would burn up.

"Jesus Christ brought God down to us; to the realm of our daily lives. He did not diminish God or His holiness, He merely brought Him to us.

"Man cannot look in the face of God and live, yet Jesus lived among men for thirty-three years. God said that we are to be holy as He is holy, yet He was unapproachably holy. Mountains quaked, smoke billowed, sometimes people died. So Jesus was born as a man, worked as a man, was tempted as a man, talked as a man, and yet, through the whole of His life HE WAS WITHOUT SIN.

"He was absolutely holy -- but transformed to our level!"

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

There is NO way to know God - There is NO way to be reconciled to God - except by receiving Jesus Christ His Son into our hearts. We must then learn from Jesus, through the teaching of the Holy Spirit, all that He delights to reveal to us concerning our Father, God.

Hallelujah. Amen.

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