

GOSPEL OF JOHN

HANDOUT

KEY DIFFERENCES OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

- John begins with the preexistence of Jesus
- John presents the true Person and work of the Savior.
- Perhaps reveals what Jesus taught in private, where the other authors show more of His public teachings (this is opinion, not fact).
- John's goal was to present the Person of Christ.
- John records seven miracles – all but the feeding of the 5,000 (6:4-14) and walking on the water (6:15-21) are unique to John.
- Miracles recording in the other gospels are performed out of Jesus' mercy. In John, miracles are presented as proofs of Jesus' messiahship.
- John records no parables, but has expansions upon incidents
 - Nicodemus (ch. 3)
 - Woman at the well (ch. 4)
 - Man born blind (ch. 9)
 - Lazarus (ch. 11)
 - Foot washing (ch. 13)
- John uses many images to describe Jesus and uses them as symbols to reveal a fuller picture of Christ
 - Bread (ch. 6)
 - Water (ch. 7)
 - Light (ch. 8)
 - Shepherd (ch. 10)

BELIEVING

- The verb "to believe" is found nearly 100x in the gospel, but the noun "belief/faith" never appears.
- For John, saving faith is a verb! It carries the sense of active trust in Jesus and is not a static noun.

LOVE

- John does not discuss much of other spiritual subjects related to fasting, almsgiving, marriage, wealth, etc. the way other gospels do.
- John's focus is on one's relationships to God, others, and the world in LOVE.
 - God loves His beloved Son (3:35; 15:9)
 - Beloved loves "His own" (13:1)
 - Christians, as recipients of God's love, are to love God by loving one another (13:34). This love unites believers (ch. 17) & is a testimony to the world.

NAMES FOR CHRIST AND "I AM" STATEMENTS

- The first chapter of John includes seven titles for Christ: Word, Lamb of God, Rabbi, Messiah, King of Israel, Son of God, and Son of Man
- The use of "I am" occurs 23x in the Greek text of John, and the emphasis is placed on the "I"
- The "I am" recalls the name of God, "I AM" in the Old Testament (Exod. 3:14)
- Only in John do we find such a list of "I am" statements of how Christ describes Himself. Here are just a few:
 - Bread of life (6:35)
 - Light of the world (8:12)
 - Before Abraham was, I AM (8:58)
 - Door of the sheep (10:7)
 - Good shepherd (10:11)
 - I AM the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
 - The vine (15:5)

WORLDVIEW

- John frequently refers to "the world."
- The Greek word, *kosmos* (cosmos), appears over 75x
- Refers to the "order of things" – the social, political, & spiritual structures governing the way life is – in essence, all humankind & the forces that govern humanity
- Jesus doesn't say the physical planet is in Satan's hands, but that humankind on earth has come under his sway.
- God's plan of redemption in Christ – not just Jesus coming to save humankind from sin & death, but also to break Satan's control over the world's order of things
 - Jesus came to overthrow the hellish power that controls societies & shapes cultures
 - These societies & cultures under Satan's power resist God & self-destruct
- Salvation gives forgiveness & the promise of heaven, but also releases from Satan's dominion & present order of society's futility, and restored partnership with God. This I live to the full!! (John 10:10)

KEY WORD DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOSPELS

In attempt to identify the different ways Jesus is presented in each gospel:

- Matthew = King
- Mark = Servant
- Luke = Son of Man
- John = _____ (put in your own word)

THE SEVEN SIGNS IN JOHN

Chart by Dean Niforatos

SIGN	REFERENCE	CENTRAL TRUTH
Changing water to wine	2:1–11	Points to Jesus as the Source of all the blessings of God’s future (see Isa 25:6–8; Jer. 31:11–12; Amos 9:13–14)
Healing the official’s son	4:43–54	Points to Jesus as the Giver of life
Healing the invalid at Bethesda	5:1–15	Points to Jesus as the Father’s Coworker
Feeding the five thousand	6:1–15, 25–69	Points to Jesus as the life-giving Bread from heaven
Walking on water	6:16–21	Points to Jesus as the divine I AM
Healing the man born blind	9:1–41	Points to Jesus as the Giver of spiritual sight
Raising Lazarus	11:1–44	Points to Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life