

## An Outline of John's Gospel

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
  - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
  - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
    - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
    - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
    - 3. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-10:39)
    - 4. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
    - 5. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
    - 6. The hour has come (12:20-36)
  - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

## The Fear of Man and God

*Gospel of John, Part XXXVI*

John 11:1-16

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### I. The Seventh Sign

### II. The Death of Lazarus

A. Lazarus is sick (1-4)

B. Let us go to Judea (5-10)

So why does Jesus wait to visit Lazarus?

1. He loved Lazarus.
2. He wants the glory of the Lord to be displayed more fully.

C. I go that I may wake him up (11-16)

### III. Application

A. Identifying the fear of man (cf. Lk 22:54-62; Jn 9:22; 12:42-43)

We do well to heed the biblical principle of prudence. “*A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.*” (Pr. 22:3, 27:12) However, the disciples’ counsel is motivated by the fear of \_\_\_\_\_ not by prudence.

B. Diagnosing the fear of man (cf. Pr 29:25; Mt 10:27-33)

Nicholas Batzig notes that “*the fear of man is not simply the fear of the harm that men may do to us. Surely the fear of harm partly drives our desire to be approved by men. However, most properly, the fear of man is, as [John] Bunyan put it, ‘the fear of losing man’s favor, love, goodwill, help, and friendship.’ Simply put, it is ‘an idol of approval.’ We seek to avoid persecution because of ‘idols of approval,’ ‘comfort,’ or ‘pleasure.’ These idols lead us to compromise in order to gain approval – to give in to wickedness in order to gain acceptance and peace.*”

C. The solution to the fear of man (cf. Is 51:1-13)

The fear of \_\_\_\_\_ is the opposite of the fear of man. Hence, the solution to the fear of man is replacing it with the fear of \_\_\_\_\_. Note Isaiah 51:

*<sup>12</sup> "I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid Of a man who will die, And of the son of a man who will be made like grass? <sup>13</sup> And you forget the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; You have feared continually every day Because of the fury of the oppressor, When he has prepared to destroy. And where is the fury of the oppressor?"*

Notice that the Lord urges His people (v.1) to put life in proper perspective. The solution to the fear of man is to meditate on the greatness of our God. So note:

1. Listen & Remember the faith of our ancestors (1-3)

*<sup>1</sup> "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him." <sup>3</sup> For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.*

Abraham and Sarah illustrate that it is those of faith who are blessed by the Lord not those who fear man.

2. Listen & Remember the law of the Lord will prevail (4-6)

*<sup>4</sup> "Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples. <sup>5</sup> My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. <sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.*

Those who mock God's law will come to an end. So if you want to be on the "right side of history" then uphold the righteousness of God despite opposition.

3. Listen & Remember the fleeting nature of the wicked (7-8)

*<sup>7</sup> "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, You people in whose heart is My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults. <sup>8</sup> For the moth will eat them up like a garment, And the worm will eat them like wool; But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation from generation to generation."*

The \_\_\_\_\_ shall surely perish but God's righteousness and His salvation shall endure.

#### IV. Conclusion