

Series: Believe And Be Changed
Sermon: Jesus, The Voice of God
9/28/25

The Claim

John 1:1-18 (ESV) 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through 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.

The Rejection of the Claim

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

The Proof of the Claim

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who 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 became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Intro/Recap of Last Week

Last week we saw that John tells us exactly why he wrote his Gospel.

John 20:31 (ESV) 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John's Gospel has the clearest statements concerning Jesus' identity and purpose. John knew something deep and personal about his savior that he wanted everyone to know and believe. John went from "Son of Thunder" to "The One Who Jesus Loved."

John was changed when he realized and believed who Jesus was.

1. The Claim: Jesus is God

John opens his Gospel (good news) with a prologue poem. Jesus in his cosmic context.

John 1:1-2 (ESV)

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

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through 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.

Word: Greek Logos. Not a one-for-one translation to the English “Word.”

Word: a unit of language, a combination of sounds written and spoken that carries meaning.

Logos: In Greek philosophy, logos is the impersonal, underlying, harmonious, rational order that governs the cosmos.

George Lucas actually drew on Eastern mysticism, Taoism, and Stoic-like ideas when shaping the Force. Kenobi said “The Force is what gives a Jedi his power. It’s an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together.”

Jesus’ claims through John’s Gospel

- 1) Logos is personal (not just energy, but “He”).
- 2) Logos is divine (not just rational order, but God Himself).
- 3) Logos is incarnate (not just binding the universe, but stepping into history as Jesus).

- Personal language is used. “He was in the beginning with God.
- God language is used. “In the Beginning,” “All things were made through him.”
- John claims to have met this living logos and knows him to be Jesus. Vs 14 “The word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

2. The Rejection of the Claim

John 1:4-5 (ESV) 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome (comprehend) it.

John 1:9-11 (ESV) 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

John's claims shocked the intellectual culture of Greek philosophy. While philosophers debated the exact nature of the underlying rationality and order, John said, "I know the Logos. Do you want to meet him?"

Moralist vs Relativist (the philosophical debate of John's day)

Stoics (The Moralist)

Belief: The universe is governed by rational order (logos). Happiness comes from accepting fate and living in harmony with nature.

Goal: Virtue is the highest good. The wise person disciplines desires, endures suffering with courage, and refuses to be ruled by emotion.

Path to Peace: Master yourself, accept what you cannot control, and live with reason.

Epicureans (The Relativist)

Belief: The Epicureans rejected the idea of logos altogether. They believed the universe was made up of atoms randomly moving in the void. There was no divine order, cosmic reason, or ultimate purpose.

Goal: The highest good is pleasure, defined not as wild indulgence, but as freedom from pain, fear, and anxiety.

Path to Peace: Seek pleasures, avoid excess, and cultivate calm friendships.

Today's Relevance (We need a Savior)

While left and right argue over what order, structure, and rationality should form our culture, the church proclaims Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The Gospel declares that no law has ever been able to tame the human heart and that we need more than a strong political ruler or a free and uncondemning culture; we need a savior.

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Equal Opportunity Offender

We want a system, not a Savior. We don't want a person to be accountable to, we want a system that we can set up and control. Religion and politics will always be popular with people who don't want to deal with a living God.

Light and Life vs Darkness and Death

To reject Jesus is to reject light, truth, and life. This is where we see our culture heading, but there is hope. The culture of death to children, perversion, and denial of reality has started to fall apart, and there is a hunger today for truth. We must stand in our culture and proclaim Jesus as the only one who has ever been able to defeat death and overcome darkness.

3. Proof of the Claim

John 1:12-13 (ESV) 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Gospel says that the path to peace is neither *moral mastery of the self* nor *pure pleasure and self-indulgence*. The Gospel's good news is that Jesus is the Logos, the way, truth, and life, and that when we believe in him, we become children of God.

When John the Baptist, who was in prison, sent his disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" Jesus didn't answer with a simple "yes" or "no." Instead, He pointed to the evidence of His works:

Matthew 11:4-6, ESV "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

Changed lives prove Jesus' claims. In other words, Jesus answered John by pointing to fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 61:1). The prophecy (logos) became flesh, and at the sound of his voice, prophecy became incarnate.

At the sound of Jesus' voice, the blind see, the lame walk, the outcast lepers are brought home, those who couldn't hear suddenly recognize his voice, the dead are raised to life, and the poor are made rich with the good news.

Logos as the Voice of God

Voice might be a good way to think of it.

Voice manifests the thoughts of our mind. Voice is personal and recognizable. Jesus is personal and recognizable and manifested God's thoughts toward us.

When God wanted to express himself fully, he spoke Jesus. Jesus is the Father's voice; when you read the words of Jesus, you hear the Father completely express his love for you.

Voice Recognition

John 10:27-30 (ESV) 27 My sheep hear my **voice**, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.

A researcher at the University of Wisconsin studied students who had just taken a stressful exam. Some of them texted their moms afterward. Others actually talked to their moms on the phone.

Here's what they found: the ones who heard their mother's voice showed a dramatic drop in stress hormones, and a rise in oxytocin—the hormone that calms and comforts. But those who only texted? No change at all. (*Leslie Seltzer, biological anthropologist at the University of Wisconsin*)

In another study, younger kids showed the same effect. Hearing their mom's voice activated the same part of the brain as actually getting a hug.

A researcher at Northwestern found that when patients in comas had the voices of loved ones played in their hospital rooms, they woke up sooner than patients who didn't hear familiar voices.

Think about that: a loving voice can calm your heart, bring healing to your body, and even call someone back to life.

VIDEO

<https://youtube.com/shorts/mzuPx0Zydfw?si=SnzonriSLq69pCVb>

John finishes his prologue by saying that the logos (voice of God) became flesh and wrapped us up in his love.

John 1:14-18 (ESV) 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** 18 No

one has ever seen God; **the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**

Can we recognize Jesus' voice among competing voices?

- Can we recognize Jesus' voice when it speaks in scripture, in our circumstances, and in our culture?
- Are we comforted by our father's voice or offended by his truth?

Do we sound like Jesus or like our culture?

- Do we care about the leper, the sick, and the poor like Jesus?
- Do we comfort the afflicted?
- Do we voice the Good News without the fear of man?

Communion

If you need an introduction to Jesus, the Word made Flesh, before you come to the communion table, come forward to believe and be received into God's family.

(Have team members and elders ready to pray with people while some are receiving communion)