

WHAT DO YOU SEEK? (JOHN 1-4:1-42)

[**John 1:1-5 (The Eternal Word)**] In the beginning was the Word [Logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [The same Who is referred to throughout **Genesis** saying, "God said...", including "God said let us make man in our own image..." (**1:26**)] He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the **light of men**. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. [That is where we are being called "out of the darkness and into His marvelous light"! (**1 Peter 2:9**)

[**John 1:6-34 (Man's Role)**] There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, **that all through him might believe** [love "believes all things, hopes all things" (**1 Cor. 13:7**)] He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light [same for us (Great Commission)]. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **But as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe in His name**: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became 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. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred **before me** [God's eternal plan], for **He was before me.**' " [HE IS eternal] And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace [By grace He is revealed to us (to believe) and by grace we are saved (to receive)]. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." [literally speaking (**Matthew 17:12-13**)] "Are you the Prophet?" [**Deut. 18:15**] And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord," ' as the prophet Isaiah said." [**Isaiah 40:3**] Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ["The Pharisees composed a great part of the Sanhedrin, **Acts 23:6**"¹] And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is **preferred before me**, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." These things

1 <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/john/1-24.htm> (Barnes)

were done in Bethabara ["House of the Ford"², aka Bethany] beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, **"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is **He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

[John 1:35-51 (The First Disciples)] Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, **"Behold the Lamb of God!"** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, **"What do you seek?"** They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, **"Come and see."** They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, **"You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas"** (which is translated, a stone). The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, **"Follow Me."** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, **"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"** Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, **"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."** Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, **You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!**" Jesus answered and said to him, **"Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."** And He said to him, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."**

[John 2:1-12 (Water Turned to Wine)] On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no

2 <https://www.gotquestions.org/John-baptizing-in-Bethabara.html>

wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." [Symbolic representation of His blood being the wine and His flesh being the bread and our Communion in Him] His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

[John 2:13-22 (Jesus Cleanses the Temple)] Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said. [Jesus' zeal for God's house also speaks of the temple of our body and His cleansing of it!]

[John 2:23-25 (Discerner of Hearts)] Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. [Nicodemus/Samaritan Woman]

[John 3:1-21 (One Must Be Born Again)] There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be

born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You must be born again.**' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.** He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the **only begotten Son of God.** And this is the condemnation, that the **light has come into the world,** and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone **practicing evil** hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who **does the truth comes to the light,** that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

[John 3:22-36 (John the Baptist Exalts Christ)] After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison. Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!" John answered and said, "**A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.** You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. **He must increase, but I must decrease.** He who comes from above is above all; he **who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth.** He who comes from heaven is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves

the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

[John 4:1-42 (Samaritan Woman Meets Her Messiah)] Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. [Noontime] A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

[What then are we seeking? Jesus said in **Matthew 6:31-34**, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." God is presently building His eternal kingdom, determining who wants to live in His righteousness, His holiness, His glory and not seeking our own!]

The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we

know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. **But the hour is coming, and NOW IS, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**" The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am He."** And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, **"What do You seek?"** or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, **"I have food to eat of which you do not know."** Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.** Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

[Some people WILL believe on the testimony of others, perhaps due to their radical transformation or just that they are receiving what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them in that testimony. Others believe on a personal one-on-one encounter with Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus saying He must be about His Father's business as a young boy even, us too, we are called to be about our Heavenly Father's business. As the Apostle Paul says, "So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will **receive his own reward** according to his own labor. For we are **God's fellow workers**; you are God's field, you are God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:7-9) "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that **your labor is not in vain in the Lord**" (1 Corinthians 15:58) Also, as God promises, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please,

and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (**Isaiah 55:11**) Now we have been sent out in Jesus’ “Great Commission”! (**Matthew 28:18-20**) “Indeed the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the world: “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, **His reward** is with Him, and **His work** before Him.’ ” (**Isaiah 62:11**) What do you seek, the kingdom of God, not just for yourself but also for others, and His Righteousness or in the building of your own kingdom and for your own pleasures? Are you seeking your own increase or His increase in His building of His eternal kingdom?]