When God Became a Fish
John 1:6-18

ETS: God entered into the human race as a man to reveal the fullness of God to man
ESS: Jesus is the revelation of God to humanity
OSS: Look to Jesus when you have questions concerning God
PQ: Are you looking to Jesus for answers?
UW:

ME

Fish Tank

In **John 1:1-5: The "WORD"**

The term **Word** (*logos*) would have been familiar to the **Greeks** as well.

- The Greeks viewed the "Word" (**Logos**) as the **ultimate reason** or the **rationale** of the **universe**.
- In John's day, the word "**Logos**" referred to the **shaping**, **ordering**, and **directing** principle in the universe.

The **Word** was "with God" and "was God"

- Separate yet the same!
- Not created by God!

The Word was "in the beginning."

- He has always been!

The Word was **creator** and **sustainer**

- Not dependent upon His creation!
- He is the Word, the agent, the guiding agent in creation.
- Only God can create. Jesus as creator is God!

The Word is the **giver of Life**

- Only God can raise the dead!
- Only God can restore spiritual deadness by forgiving sins!

The Word is the **Light of the world**

- The world is dark; Jesus is the shining Light!

<u>What is this "**WORD**"?</u>

John 1:6-15 "There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. 9 The

true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, 13 who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. 14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.'")

In these verses, you have two men!

- One is a **man**—John the Baptist!
- One is **more than a man**—Jesus Christ!

John makes it clear that John the Baptist is not equal to Jesus Christ!

- In v. 8: "He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light."

As good and holy as John the Baptist was, he was **not** the "light that shines in the darkness." (v. 5)

- In **v. 7**, it is clear that although John the Baptist preached a message of repentance and many responded, his job was to "testify about the Light."

Jesus Christ is more than John the Baptist; He is God's entrance into humanity!

Jesus is God in the Flesh

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us…"

- The Word that was "with God" and "was God," it "became flesh."
  - God left God and became flesh!

The **Trinity** in action!

- God came into our dimension as man.
- God entered into a new condition, becoming something that He was **not before**—a man.
  - Note: the **tense** of the verb "Became" refers to a **completed action** with ongoing ramifications.

In other words, *Jesus will always remain as the God/Man!*

- We will see Him in heaven as the God/Man

God the **Father** is a **Spirit**

- **John 1:18** “No one has seen God at any time…”

The **Holy Spirit** is a **Spirit**

Jesus is now **God** “in the flesh!”

God did more than enter a new condition; God…

- God Lived with Us
  - **John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us…”
    - lit. pitched his tent.

Jesus Christ pitched His Tent by:

- Being born by the virgin birth
- Being raised as a Jew
- Undergoing the physical changes of growing up!
- Enduring the pain, joys and sorrows of being human.
- Experienced backbreaking work
- Experienced sibling rivalry
- Experienced parental authority
- Experienced loss of loved ones
- Experienced rejection
- Experienced Pain
- Experienced the joys, pains, and desires of the human body.

Hebrews 2:18 "For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."

Jesus is God who could …

- Be **touched**
- Come over for **dinner**
- Tell **stories** to **children**
- Laugh at a good **joke**
- **Enjoy** a day on the **lake**
- Experience **human** life!

OSS: You can look to Jesus when you have questions because He understands what you are enduring!

In v. 15, John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the One "who comes after me…"

- Just as people could see, **hear**, and **respond** to **John the Baptist**,
    - so they would be able to **see, hear**, and **respond** to **Jesus**!

In **v. 14,** John states: "we beheld (looked upon, watched as spectators) His glory"

- Who was the "WE"?
    - The apostles Peter, James, and John saw the **transfiguration** of Jesus

Jesus Revealed God's Glory

Do you want to hear how cool the Bible is?

- Face of God….Moses

What did Jesus reveal to humanity? First Jesus…
Revealed God's glory
John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

What was the glory that was seen in Jesus?

- Glory of God revealed in **miracles**
  - Water to Wine
  - Long-distance healing of a royal official's son
  - Healing of a man lame for 38 years
  - Healing of a man blind since birth
  - Feeding of 5,000
- Glory of God revealed in **His life**
  - Knew no sin
  - Filled with compassion
  - Loved the seemingly unlovable
  - Servant although a Master
  - Willingly died on a cross

    - Allowed Himself to be beaten, mocked and scourged
    - Gave up His spirit under His own power
    - Cared for others while on the cross
- Glory of God revealed in **His resurrection**
    - Raised from the dead
    - Physically appeared to many
    - Proved He was indeed the Lord!
    - Only a God/Man could do what Jesus did!

John states in **John 1:18** "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."

- Jesus Christ is the **exegesis of God**, the **exposition** of His hidden reality! Jesus **clarifies God the Father!**
    - Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus "makes known" the Father!

What else did Jesus "make known" or **reveal**…

Revealed God's grace and Truth

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh… full of grace and truth."

Jesus is the **ultimate expression** of **God's grace!**

- Humanity did not deserve Jesus!

    - We deserve to die in our sins because we **deliberately sinned** against God.
    - Finally, after **thousands of years**, God came in the flesh to complete the full revelation of His truth.
- The promised Messiah was the full revelation of God's grace!
    - Humanity was **receiving** what it **did not deserve**.
        - The promised Messiah was the full revelation of God's truth!
    - Humanity was now **coming face-to-face** with **God's truth.**

Jesus was the answer to Pilate's question: "What is the truth?"

- Jesus told Pilate in **John 18:37** "… for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."
- Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (**Jn 14:6**)
- **John 1:16, 17** "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."

Jesus Was Rejected By His Creation

There are two basic groups in the world: **Jews and Gentiles**.

- In verses 10, 11, John tells us about how these groups reacted to God's entrance in the world. The first reaction was…

Blinded Ignorance

- **John 1:10** "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him."

Jesus, by whom "All things came into being through Him" (**v. 3**) came into the very world He created, but the *world did not recognize Him*!

- Because of the **blindness and ignorance caused by sin**, many failed to recognize Jesus God.

Not only did the world in general fail to recognize Jesus, His own people failed to recognize Him as the Messiah! Their reaction was …

- Rejection
  - **John 1:11** "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."

It may **not be surprising** that the **Gentiles**, who were not raised with stories of the coming Messiah, but **it is**

surprising that the very people *who were looking for a Messiah* rejected the Messiah!
Jesus did what **they were expecting the Messiah** to do.

- For example, **He performed signs** and miracles.
    - **Yet**, He failed to do the one thing they expected Him to do—*defeat the Romans and provide for the physical needs of Israel.*

In **Jn. 7:15**, Jesus fled when He perceived that the crowd, whom He had just fed, was "intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king."

- Jesus did not want people to **proclaim** that He was the **Messiah**, nor did He use the **title Messiah publicly**,
    - because if He had used the **title "Messiah**," people would have thought he was a **political king.**

The fact that **Jesus** was a **suffering Messiah**—a crucified deliverer—was a "stumbling block" to many of the Jews (**1 Cor. 1:23**).

- They saw the **cross** as a sign of **Jesus' weakness, powerlessness, and failure**.
- They **rejected** the **concept** of a **crucified Messiah**.

John states in **v. 9** that Jesus was the "True light" because **the Jews were content** with the **copies**.

- They had **Moses** and the **Law**, the **temple** and the **sacrifices**, but they did not **comprehend** that these "lights" **pointed** to the **true Light** who was the fulfillment, the **completion**, of the Old Testament religion.
- It was not enough just a copy of the light; Jesus was the "true light" which His people, and the world, needed.

Jesus was trying to teach them that…

- It was not enough to be **born a Jew**; they had to be **born again**, born from above (John 3).
- He **deliberately performed two miracles** on the **Sabbath** to teach them that He had a **new rest** to give them (**John 5; 9**).
- He was the **satisfying manna** (**John 6**) and the **life-giving Water** (**John 7:37–39**).
- He is the **Shepherd of a new flock** (**John 10:16**),
- He is a **new Vine** (**John 15**).

BUT, the people were **so shackled by religious tradition** that they **could not understand spiritual truth.**

- Jesus **came to His own world** that He had created, but His own people, Israel, **could not understand Him** and would not receive Him.
- They **saw His works** and heard His words. They **observed** His perfect life.

He gave them every opportunity to grasp the truth, believe, and be saved. Jesus is the way, but they would not walk with Him (**John 6:66–71**).

- He is the truth, but **they would not believe Him** (John 12:37ff). He is the life, and they crucified Him!
- They failed to see that **Jesus was defeating Satan**, the stronghold of sin over humanity and providing a way of salvation!

I want you see another reality about Jesus as the God/Man. Third…

I want you see another reality about Jesus as the God/Man. Fourth…

Jesus is God's Invitation to Humanity

In **v. 7** John states that **John the Baptist** came "…as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him."

- As John states in **v. 9, Jesus** is the "True Light" about which John the Baptist testified.

Even though the Gentiles and the Jews rejected Jesus, John wants us to know that *God still offers to all an invitation*. First…

Believe

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,"

- **To "receive"** Jesus is to **believe** in Him.

The **whole point of John's Gospel** (or any Gospel) is for the reader to believe in Christ.

- After "Doubting Thomas" falls down and proclaims Jesus as "My Lord and My God"

John writes in **John 20:31** "but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

The invitation to "believe" is **not limited** to just the **Jews**!
John states that "as many as received Him"!
All are welcome to place their faith and trust in Christ.

Even though the Gentiles and the Jews rejected Jesus, John wants us to know that God still offers to all an invitation. Second…

Receive

When you believe in Christ, you receive a **new legitimate position**: **Child of God**!

- There are a lot of unbelievers who illegitimately believe they are "children of God."
    - Some preachers like to say: "We are all children of God."

Jesus says in **John 8:44** that we are **children of the devil** until we come to that point of placing our faith and trust in Him!

- John states that children of God are **not simply** those who have been born of "flesh and blood" (v. 13) but rather the **true children of God** are those who have been **born of God** (**v. 13**).

WE

The **Gospel of John**, like all other Gospels, is NOT a **biography** of **Jesus**; but rather it is an account of the **Good News** of God that has come into this world.

John has made it clear that:

- Jesus is God.
- Jesus is God in the flesh
- Jesus has come to reveal the fullness of God to man.
- Jesus is the full revelation of God to humanity

John has given us a glimpse of man's reaction to Jesus:

- He will be rejected by the Jews and the Gentiles

John is telling us:

- The invitation of God is still open to all who will believe and receive Christ as Savior.

PQ: Do You Know Jesus ?

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