

What Did Jesus See In John?

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A little history about the Apostle John, also known as the disciple that Jesus loved:

John was the brother of James. Son of Zebedee and Salome who is believed to be a sister of Jesus' mother, Mary. John, James, Zebedee and Peter and Andrew were partners in a fishing business. It is said that John owned a home in Jerusalem and that it is possible that the interview Nicodemus had with Jesus was held there. John rose to a position of influence within world-wide Christianity. Shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, he moved to Ephesus (in modern Turkey). He pastored the church at Ephesus and started many churches in that area.

James was the first apostle to die as a martyr and John was the last. All the apostles met a violent death, however, John died peacefully in Ephesus at an advanced age, around the year 100 AD. While in Ephesus, by order of the Roman emperor Domitian, John was exiled to the island of Patmos, tradition tells us this happened after Domitian tried to kill John by boiling him in oil.

It was in the cave known as the cave of the Apocalypse that Jesus gave John the book of Revelation. Other books accredited to John are his Gospel, along with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. When he was released from exile, he returned to Ephesus and lived till the time of the Roman emperor Trajan. It is said that John founded and built churches throughout all Asia, and worn out by old age, died in the sixty-eight year after our Lord's passion and was buried near Ephesus.

There is church tradition which says that when John was evidently an old man in Ephesus, he had to be carried to the church in the arms of his disciples. At these meetings, he was accustomed to say no more than, 'Little children, love one another!' After a time, the disciples wearied at always hearing the same words, asked, 'Master, why do you always say this?' His reply was, 'It is the Lord's command and if this alone be done, it is enough!'

Jesus saw something in John that was special. Special enough to be permitted in our Lord's inner circle. Special enough for him to be known as the disciple that the Lord loved. Special enough that our Lord entrusted the care of His mother into John's hands.

WHAT SHOULD WE LEARN FROM JOHN'S LIFE?

John 1:29-42

He was pursuing the ways of GOD (as a disciple of John the Baptist). He had faith as a little child. The man of God testified and without hesitation, John believed and he acted on that belief. He followed Jesus.

Mark 1:19-20

When Jesus called, he immediately left everything to follow Him. The text infers that John came from a wealthy family. The family has a fishing business with more than one boat, partners and employees. Notice the Amplified tells us he left everything--even any and all claims to the business--to follow Jesus. He was an all or nothing kind of person. People like this are zealous, passionate, loyal, dependable and usually bold and very confident.

Mark 3:13-17

Notice the nickname that Jesus gave John and his brother James, the Sons of Thunder! When you think of thunder you think of LOUD, INTIMIDATING, COMMANDING, BOISTEROUS...

Luke 9:49-56

In verse 49, John is 'commanding' someone. He's taking charge of the situation. You can see a protective guardianship that John felt for Jesus' ministry in his action. But he received Jesus' correction with the right attitude. In verse 54, there is that protective guardianship over Jesus again. Do you see the zealous and passionate response to the snub from the Samaritans? How dare you insult our Lord!!!! Look out! Jesus rebukes them, but you can tell from John's later writings that he learned this lesson very well. It's all about LOVE.

John 20:1-8

At the news that Jesus' body was gone from the tomb John ran immediately to assess the situation. Once he saw the grave clothes and

the empty tomb--he remembered what Jesus had told them and he understood and he believed. There's that childlike faith again. Once John understood a truth, he incorporated it into his lifestyle. John had an unwavering trust in whatever Jesus said. Once he heard the Word from Jesus, obedience was his next response. No hesitation; only instant obedience!

John's life serves to remind us of several lessons which we can apply to our own lives:

1. Zeal for the truth of the Word of God must always be balanced by a love for people. Without it, zeal can turn to harshness and being judgmental. We must speak the truth in love.

2. Confidence and boldness, untempered by grace and compassion, can quickly turn to pride and smugness. If we are to be an effective witness for Christ, our demeanor should be one that reflects a passion for the truth, compassion for people, and a steadfast desire to serve and represent our Lord by reflecting His humility and grace.

The Apostle John's Prayer:

Lord Jesus, now that Your promise is fulfilled, and we have all received of Your fullness, grant to the garland of Your disciples, that wherever, Lord, they make mention of Your birth from the virgin, and Your abiding among men, and Your passion on the cross, and Your death and Your entering within the grave, and Your resurrection on the third day, and Your ascension unto Your Father to Heaven, the feeble race of mankind may be strengthened, which in its infancy the evil one deceived, and took captive, and led them astray to worship idols, and sacrifice to devils, and bow down to senseless stones.

Yea, Lord! Hear and answer me. Let the devils and the legions of Satan wail, wherever one of us proclaims Your Gospel, and let the whole assembly of the Apostleship be enriched with the sound of Your praise thundering in every place. Let the demons tremble at the voices that thunder in the midst of Your Church; and remember Your Church, which You have bought with Your precious Blood, which Your Father has given, that through Her all creation might be atoned for.

You Lord, are Light of Light, and because it seemed good to You, in the love of Your Father, You did walk on Earth, and did humble Your majesty, that You might raise us up from the degradation into which the

slayer of man had cast us down through his envy.

And You have said, and we have heard with our ears of flesh, ' I and My Father are One,' and 'he that has seen Me, has seen the Father,' and in this confidence, Lord, my youth beseeches You to hear my prayer. For I too trust that I have received the Spirit of holiness with my companions, and of it, lo, have obtained and am full. And whatsoever I ask of Your Father in Your Name, He will give to me; and nothing shall be too difficult for one of those who believe in You, but whatsoever they ask, they shall receive.

Yea, Lord! Grant me that I may abide in Your Gospel, and may prosper in all the truth; because I speak the truth, that You are from the beginning, the Word that proceeded from the Father; and You did appear to the world in the body derived from Adam, from the virgin Mary, who was preserved in her virginity; and there was not a time when the Father was without You, or You without Him; and You before us have laid the foundations of the Earth; and Your mercy made You bow, and You did enter by the ear of the virgin, and did dwell in her nine months, and did come forth from her, and was in the world, in contempt and littleness; and You did choose us from the world, that the world might live through our preaching.

Now then, Lord, I will go to that place to which Your heavenly grace has made me look; and may they be turned, and become disciples, and be baptized in Your name and in the name of the Father who sent You, and receive Your Spirit of holiness, which has proceeded from Your Father, and lo, dwells in us; and may the graven images of error be destroyed; and do build for Yourself in the city of priests churches for Your glorification, and in place of the house of altars for the libations of demons, altars for Your dwelling places; and may these, who through our means are to take the road and paths to turn unto You, make praise ascend unto You at all times. Amen.