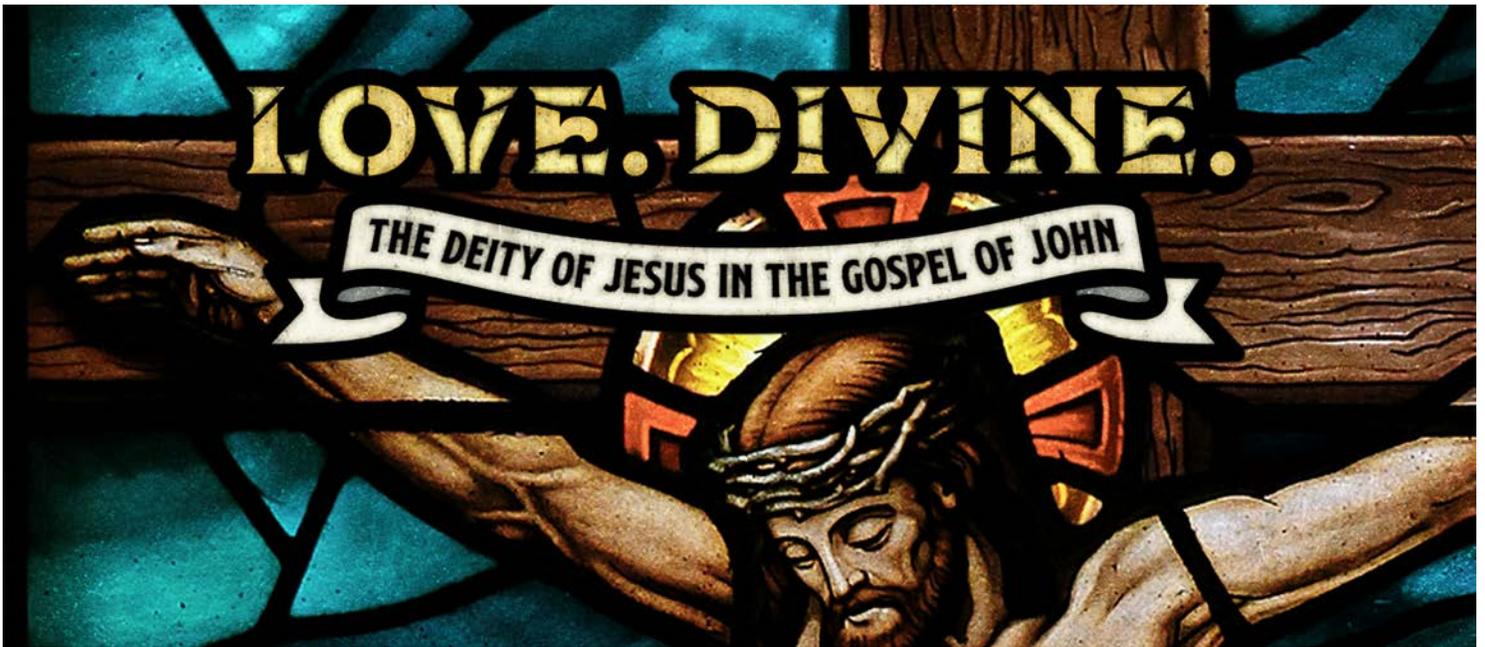


BAND OF BROTHERS

LOVE. DIVINE.

THE DEITY OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN





BAND OF BROTHERS

FALL 2020

September 8, 2020

Dear brother in Christ,

I'm truly excited to introduce this new series on the Gospel of John. The time I've spent exploring it this summer has resulted in some exciting new insights into the book and the Savior it reveals. For many of us, our familiarity with the life of Jesus as revealed in the four gospels, has left us with a "been there, done that" kind of attitude. We've heard all the stories before. We know all about the miracles Jesus performed and the parables He told.

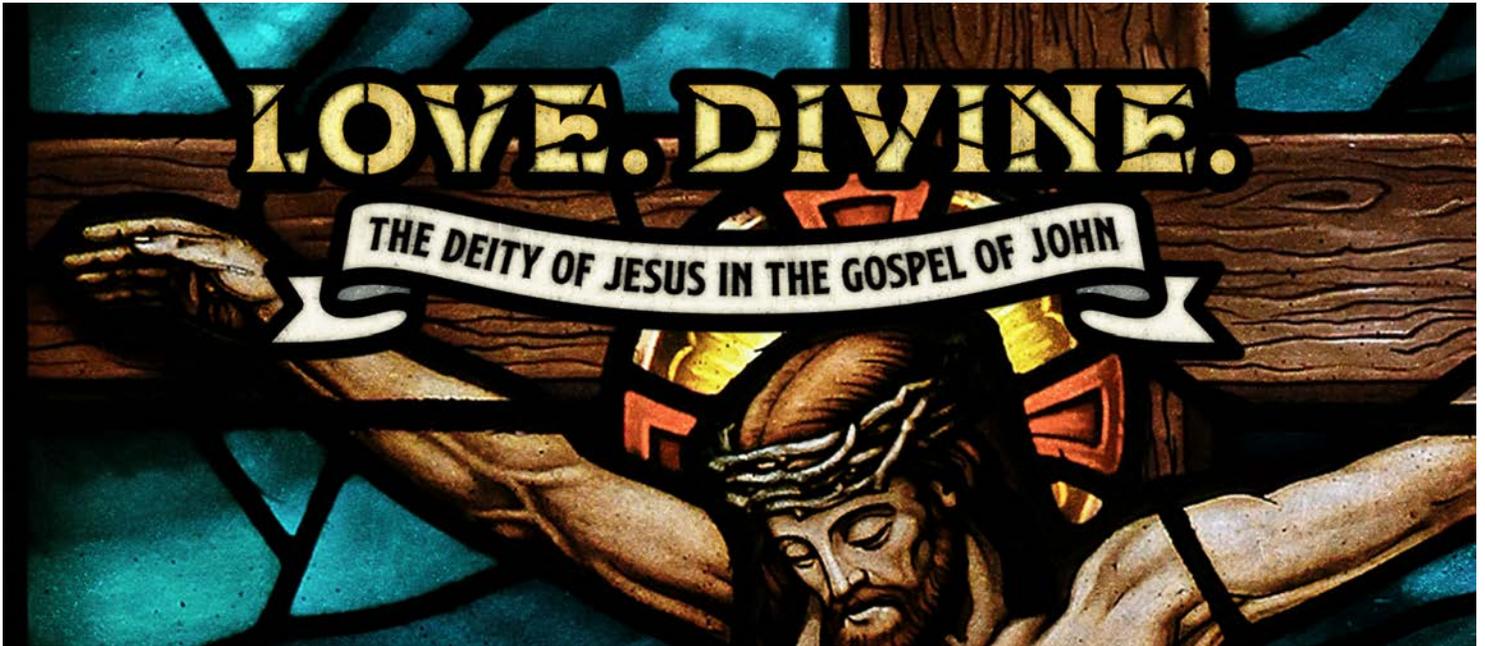
But John reveals an aspect of Jesus' life with which some of us are unfamiliar or ill-informed. Of all the Gospel authors, John goes out of his way to establish and support the deity of Jesus. John was writing late in the 1st-Century AD, long after Jesus' death and resurrection. And he was attempting to explain the divine nature of this man called Jesus. His message, aimed at followers of Christ who had never met Him, was intended to remind them that their belief in Jesus was based on His identity as the Son of God, sent by His heavenly Father as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Over the course of his book, John is going to repeatedly stress the deity of Jesus. The entire structure of his gospel is meant to prove that Jesus was just who He had claimed to be: The Son of God and the Savior of the world. For John, Jesus was God in human flesh – deity seamlessly and supernaturally existing in the form of humanity. By being born as a man, Jesus became "the visible image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15), making Him knowable and approachable. (John 1:18).

Over the next 11 weeks, we are going to take a deep dive into this book and discover how the unparalleled message found in the book is just what we need for these unprecedented times.

In Him,

Ken Miller
Minister to Men / Christ Chapel Bible Church



BAND OF BROTHERS

FALL 2020

SERIES' SCHEDULE

- WEEK 1 – September 8 – **The Son of God** – Introduction
Key Verse: *"...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."* (20:31)
- WEEK 2 – September 15 – **The Son of God Made Flesh** John 1:1-34
Key Verse: *"This is the Son of God."* (1:34)
- WEEK 3 – September 22 – **The Son of God Revealed** John 1:35-2:25
Key Verse: *"You are the Son of God."* (1:49)
- WEEK 4 – September 29 – **The Son's Mission Disclosed** John 3:1-4:45
Key Verses: *"God...gave His only Son."* (3:16)
"Savior of the world." (4:42)
- WEEK 5 – October 6 – **The Son's Authority Displayed** John 4:46-5:47
Key Verse: *"The Father...has given all judgment to the Son."* (5:22)
- WEEK 6 – October 13 – **The Son's Sacrifice Foreshadowed** John 6:1-59
Key Verse: *"I am the bread of life."* (6:35)
- WEEK 7 – October 20 – **The Son's Claims Received and Rejected** John 6:60-7:13
Key Verse: *"You are the Holy One of God."* (6:69)
- WEEK 8 – October 27 – **The Son Sent from God** John 7:14-52
Key Verse: *"I came from him, and he sent me."* (7:30)
- WEEK 9 – November 3 – **The Son as Light and Truth** John 8:1-38
Key Verse: *"you will know the truth..."* (8:32)
- WEEK 10 – November 10 – **The Son of God Despised** John 8:39-9:41
Key Verse: *"So they picked up stones to throw at him."* (8:59)
- WEEK 11 – November 17 – **The Son of God as Shepherd** John 10:1-41
Key Verse: *"I lay down my life for the sheep."* (10:15)

SPRING SERIES

- WEEK 1 – January 12 – **The Son’s Authority Over Death** John 11:1-44
Key Verse: *“I am the resurrection and the life.”* (11:25)
- WEEK 2 – January 19 – **The Son’s Death Draws Near** John 11:45-12:36
Key Verse: *“For this purpose I have come to this hour.”* (12:27)
- WEEK 3 – January 26 – **The Son’s Role as Servant/Shepherd** John 2:37-13:20
Key Verse: *“I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.”* (12:47)
- WEEK 4 – February 2 – **The Son Glorifies the Father** John 13:21-14:14
Key Verse: *“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. (13:31)*
- WEEK 5 – February 9 – **The Son’s Promise of the Spirit** John 14:15-15:27
Key Verse: *“For apart from me you can do nothing.”* (15:5)
- WEEK 6 – February 16 – **The Son Prays for His Own** John 16:1-33
Key Verse: *“That they may all be one... (16:21)*
- WEEK 7 – February 23 – **The Son Betrayed** John 18:1-11
Key Verse: *“Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”* (18:11)
- WEEK 8 – March 2 – **The Son on Trial** John 18:12-40
Key Verse: *“I find no fault in Him...”* (18:38)
- WEEK 9 – March 9 – **The Son Delivered** John 19:1-16
Key Verse: *“So he delivered over to them to be crucified.”* (19:16)
- WEEK 10 – March 16 – **The Son Crucified** John 19:17-37
Key Verse: *“It is finished!”* (19:30)
- WEEK 11 – March 23 – **The Son Buried** John 19:38-42
Key Verse: *“So they took the body of Jesus...”* (19:40)
- WEEK 12 – March 30 – **The Son Appears** John 20:11-21-25
Key Verse: *“After this Jesus revealed Himself...”* (21:1)

- Read 1 John 1:1-4. What similarities do you find between this passage and the opening verses of John 1?

- What do you find significant about the following verse:
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. – John 1:14 ESV

Compare it to the following verses:

Philippians 2:5-8:

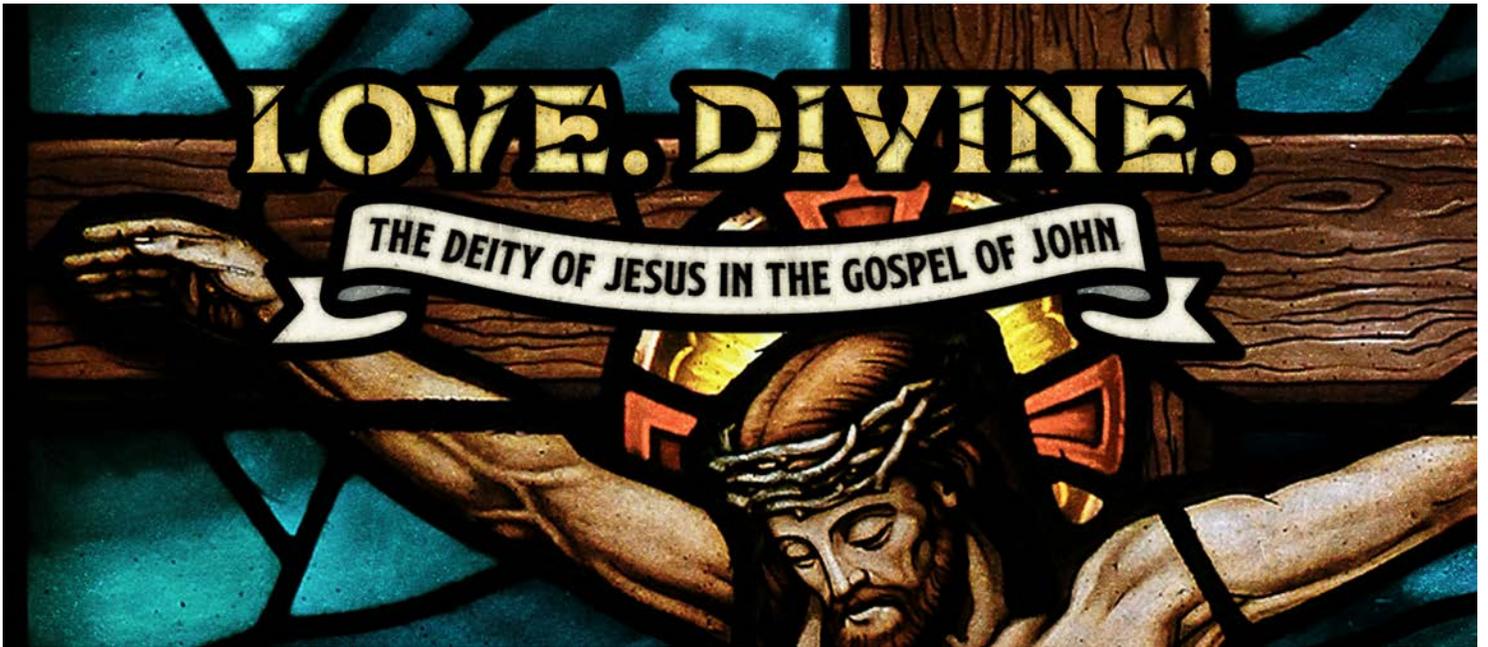
Galatians 4:4:

Hebrews 2:14:

1 John 4:2:

2 John 1:7:

- Read pages 5-16 in Ken's Devotional™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK TWO – **The Son of God Made Flesh**

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Key Verse: *“This is the Son of God.”* – John 1:34

- Read John 1:1-34. Write down the various titles or names used of Jesus in this passage:

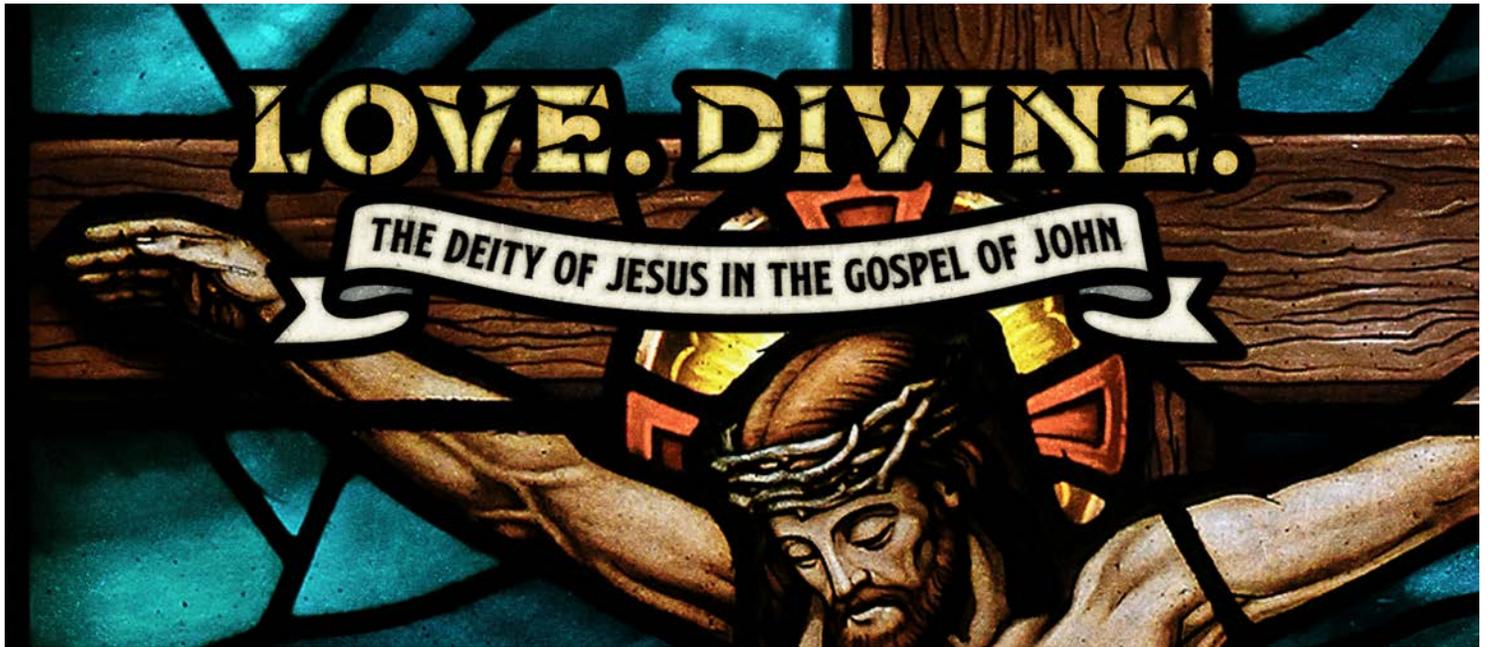
What unique qualities or characteristics are attributed to Jesus in this passage?

There are numerous places in this passage that allude to Jesus being from heaven or refer to Him as the Son of God. When you find them, write them out below:

- Why do you think John spends so much time establishing the divinity of Jesus at the very outset of his gospel?
- Read John 1:14-18. According to verse 14, what does John claim to be true about Jesus and his relationship with Him?

What does verse 18 say Jesus accomplished by taking on human flesh?

- Read John 20:30-31. You looked at these two verses last week. They provide a summary to John's entire gospel and serve as a kind of synopsis for the entire thesis statement of his book. What importance does the Sonship of Jesus play in what John has to say?
- Read pages 17-26 in Ken's Devotional™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK THREE – The Son of God Revealed

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Key Verse: *“You are the Son of God.”* – John 1:49 ESV

- Read John 1:35-2:25. Write down all the statements found in this passage that seem to support John’s thesis that Jesus was the Son of God:

In verse 36, John the Baptist reiterates his testimony that Jesus was “the Lamb of God.” It is a repeat of what He said about Jesus upon first seeing Him: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.” In the other gospels, the authors add another testimony about Jesus that John chose to leave out.

*And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**”* – Matthew 3:16-17 ESV

*And a voice came from heaven, “**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**”* – Mark 1:11 ESV

*...and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**”* – Luke 3:22 ESV

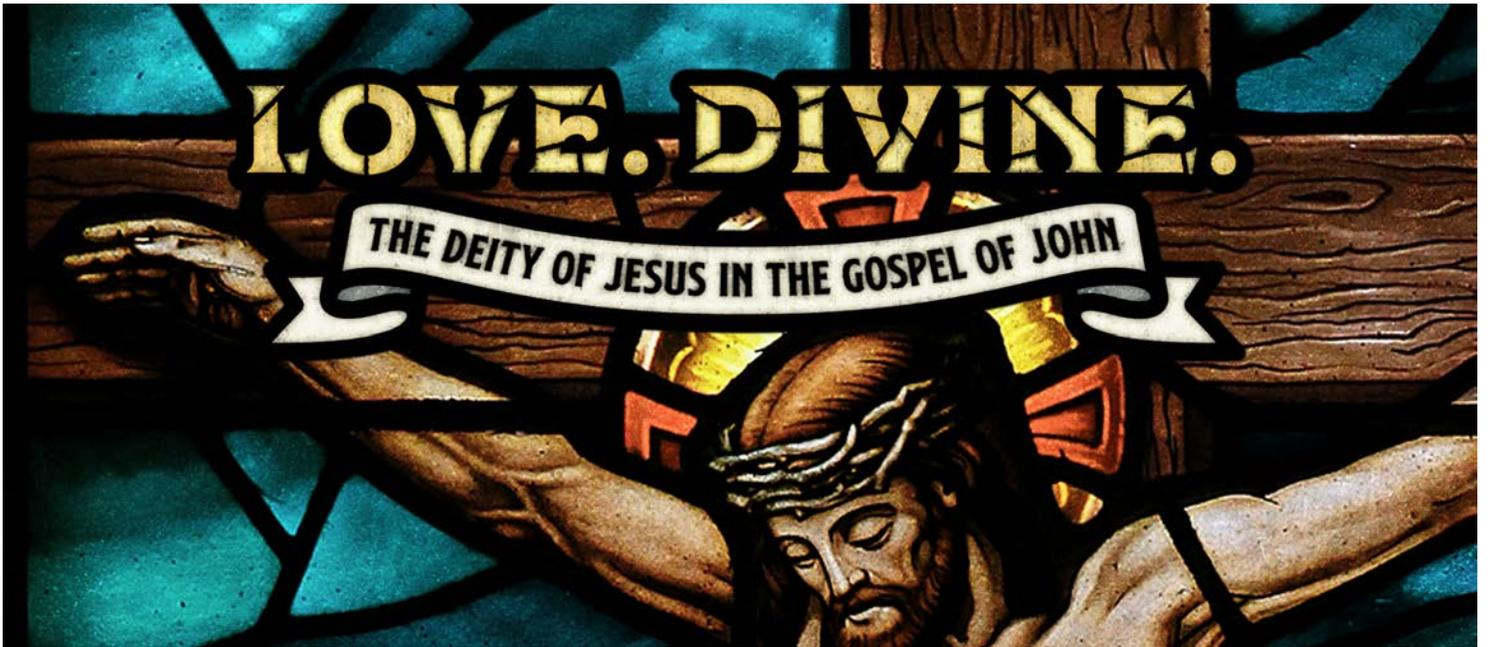
Why do you think God chose to verbally acknowledge Jesus as His Son at the very outset of His public ministry?

God expressed His pleasure with Jesus before He had performed a single miracle or spoken a solitary word. Why would this be important?

- What you find significant about Jesus’ miracle at the wedding in Cana?

According to verse 11 of chapter 2, what does John seem to think gives this miracle its significance?

- Read John 2:13-22 very closely. Look for any comparisons you find between the temple of God and Jesus, the Son of God. How does Jesus seem to be contrasting the two and why might this be important?
- Read pages 27-38 in Ken’s Devotionary™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK FOUR – The Son’s Mission Disclosed

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Key Verses: “God...gave His only Son.” – John 3:16 ESV
“Savior of the world.” – John 4:42 ESV

- Read John 3:1-4:45. As you read, circle every time you see the words “believe,” “believes,” or “believed.”

In this section of John’s gospel, we have some of the most familiar verses in the entire New Testament. They include John 3:16 and John 4:45. Now that you see them in their immediate context, are there any new insights you have gained about them?

John 3:16:

John 4:45

- Chapter 3 presents an encounter between Jesus and a Pharisee, a prominent member of the Jewish Sanhedrin and well-respected religious leader in the Jewish community. In chapter 4, John presents an encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. To better understand the stark difference between these two individuals, read the following description:

“A Samaritan in the Bible was a person from Samaria, a region north of Jerusalem. In Jesus’ day, the Jewish people of Galilee and Judea shunned the Samaritans, viewing them as a

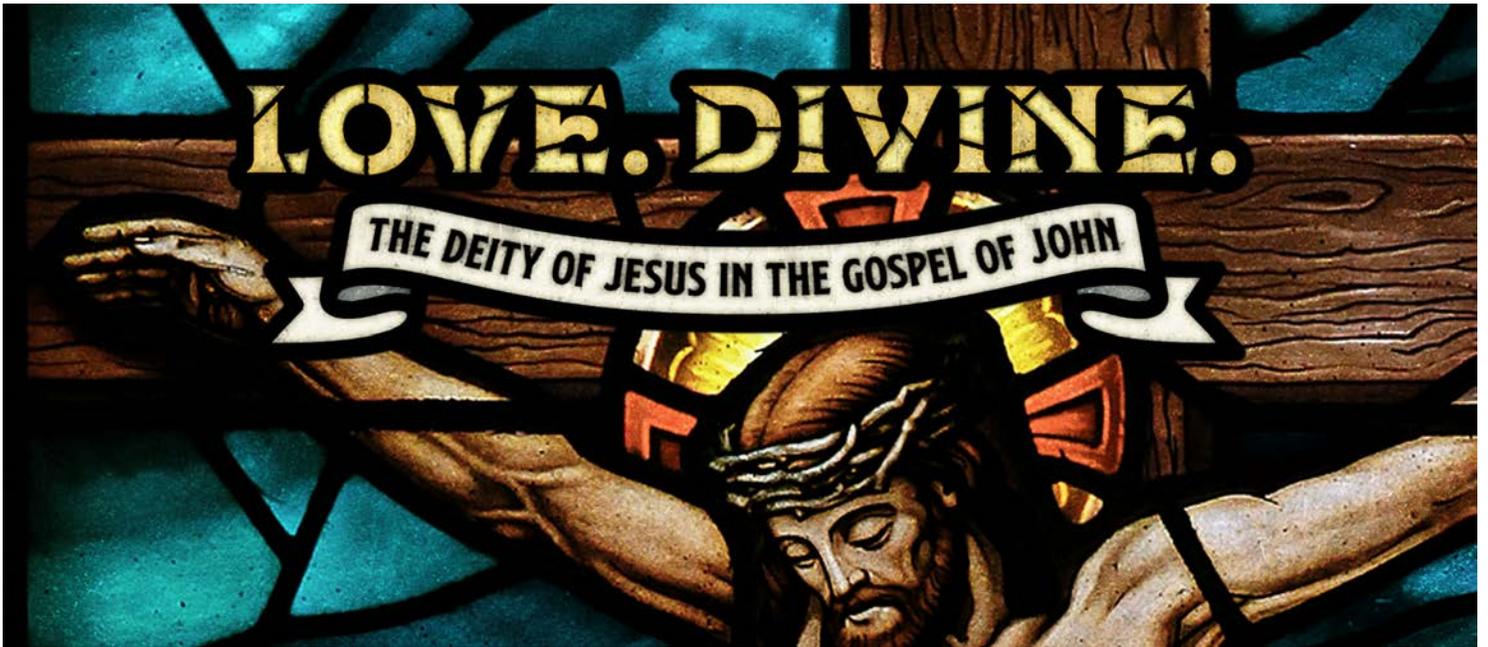
mixed race who practiced an impure, half-pagan religion. Samaritans, as a people distinct from the Jews, are first mentioned in the Bible during the time of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. The Samaritans saw themselves as the keepers of the Torah and the true descendants of Israel, from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. They had their own unique copy of the Pentateuch, the first five books of Moses, and believed they alone preserved the original Mosaic religion. Samaritans also had a unique religious system and established their primary worship site on Mount Gerizim. They considered the Jerusalem temple and the Levitical priesthood illegitimate.” – www.gotquestions.org

Why do you think John places these two encounters back-to-back in his gospel? What does this reveal about Jesus, the Jews, and religion in general?

- Go back and read John 3:19-21. In what ways do you see people in our day loving the darkness rather than the light?

What does John reveal as mankind’s motivation for rejecting the light? And how do we see this today?

- In chapter four, John presents a very unexpected and socially unacceptable encounter between Jesus and an entire town of Samaritans. Yet, according to verses 39-42, these non-Jews come to believe in Jesus. Why do you think this is significant and what does it reveal about Jesus doing the work of His Father?
- Read pages 39-84 in Ken’s Devotional™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK FIVE – The Son’s Authority Displayed

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Key Verse: *“The Father...has given all judgment to the Son.”* – John 5:22 ESV

- Read John 4:46-5:47. In this passage, John chronicles two different healings performed by Jesus. Look at them closely, then write down any key differences and similarities between the two.

John 4:46-54

John 5:18

The second healing takes place in Jerusalem during one of the annual feasts, and John points out that it just so happened to occur on the Sabbath (see John 5:9-10). Why is this significant?

And what does verse 18 reveal about the perspective of the religious leaders?

According to John 5:18, these powerful religious leaders knew exactly what Jesus was inferring by His statements. What was it that made them so upset and why do you think John is stressing this point?

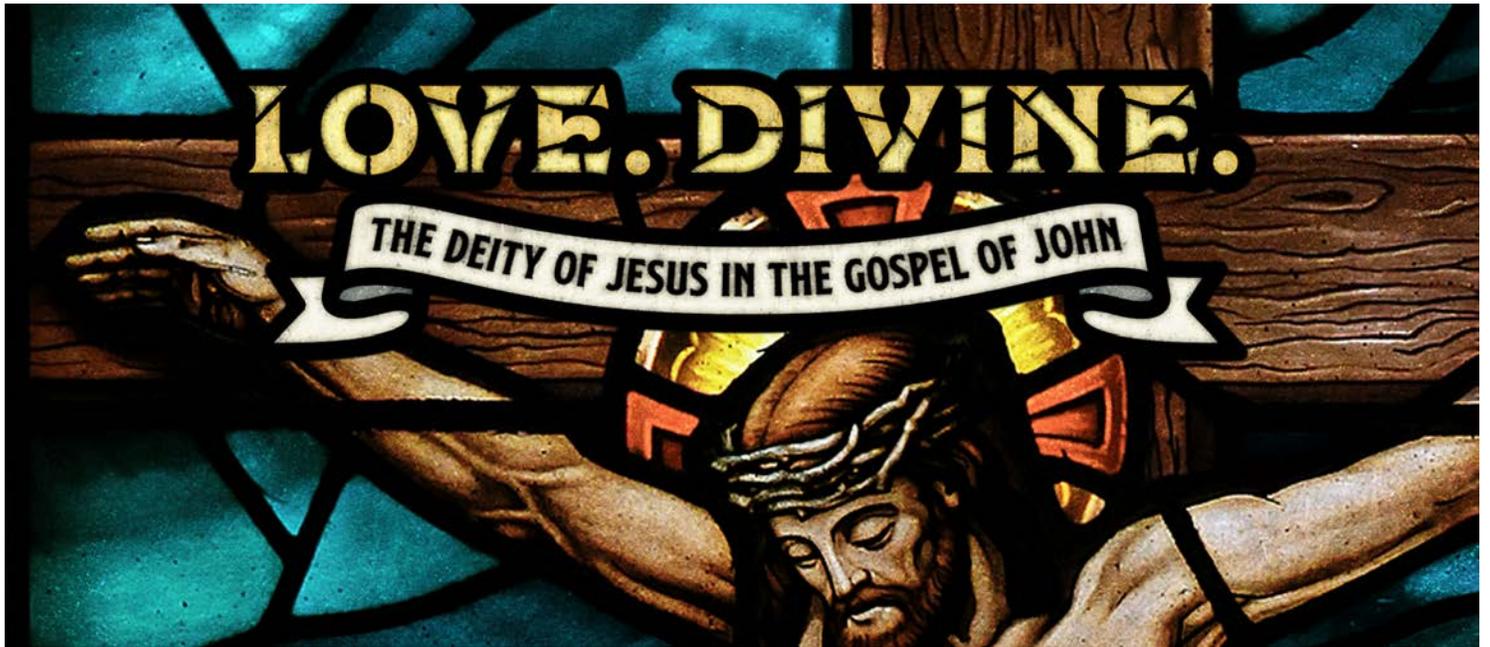
- Look closely at John 5:19-29. Circle each reference to the mention of “the Son” and “the Father.” What is it that Jesus is trying to convey about His relationship with God and why would this further infuriate the religious leaders?
- In verses 30-47, what reasons does Jesus give as to support His actions?

What does He say that would have further enflamed the wrath of His opponents?

Read Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19. What did Moses have to say about the prophet to come?

How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

- Read pages 85-112 in Ken’s Devotional™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK SIX – The Son’s Sacrifice Foreshadowed BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: *“I am the bread of life.”* – John 6:35 ESV

- Read John 6:1-15. Here we have a very familiar New Testament story that was included in all four of the gospels. Take a few minutes to read each of the other accounts and write down any points of difference you may see.

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark 6:30-34

Luke 9:10-17

According to John 6:14, what was the response of the people to what Jesus had done?

What do you think the response of Jesus’ disciples should have been?

- Now read John 6:16-21. In this short narrative, John provides us with a glimpse into the mindset of the disciples. What does this passage seem to say about their faith or belief in Jesus?

Read Matthew's account of this same event found in Matthew 14:22-33. What does Matthew add that John leaves out?

According to Matthew 14:31, what was Peter's primary problem?

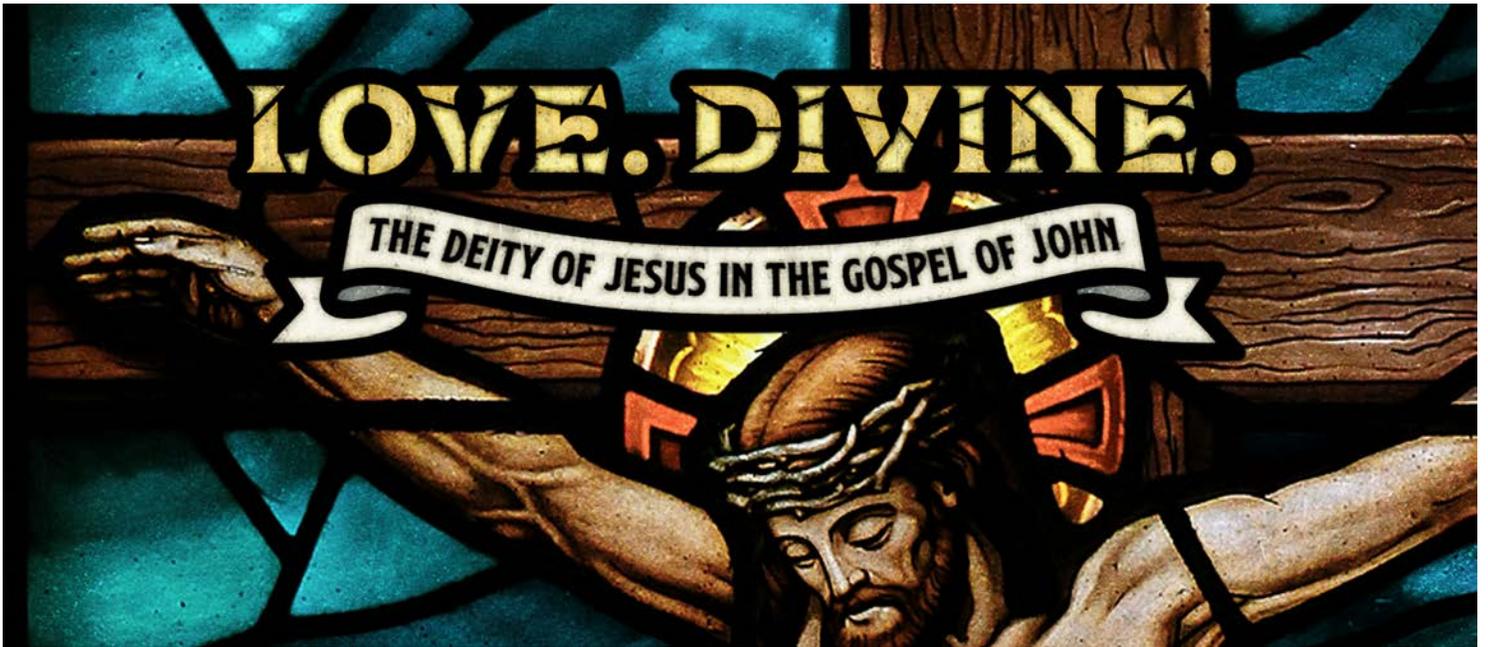
What does this reveal about the belief of the disciples at this juncture in their relationship with Jesus?

- Read John 6:22-59. Once again, circle all the occurrences of the words "believe" or "believes." What is it that Jesus wants them to believe about Him?

What do you think is the significance behind Jesus' use of the bread metaphor when referring to Himself?

What does Jesus say in verses 50-59 that so confuses the religious leaders and what do you think Jesus was trying to say that they simply missed?

- What differences does Jesus point out between Himself as bread and the manna the Jews ate in the wilderness?
- Read pages 113-136 in Ken's Devotionary™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK SEVEN – The Son’s Claims Received and Rejected BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: *“You are the Holy One of God.”* – John 6:69 ESV

- Read 6:60-71. What was the response of Jesus’ followers when they heard His message about eating His flesh and drinking His blood?

How did Jesus respond to their confusion and obvious repulsion to His message?

In verse 62, Jesus refers to the Son of Man ascending to where He was before. Then He mentions the necessity of the Spirit of God. Read the following passages and write down what they reveal about what Jesus was saying:

Luke 24:50-53

Acts 1:4-11

Acts 2:1-4

But what does John say about the reaction of the crowds, in spite of Jesus' words regarding His ascension and the Holy Spirit's coming (see verse 66)?

What was Peter's response and what does it reveal about his growing faith in Jesus?

- Read verses 54 and 70. What do these two verses seem to teach us about Jesus' deity and divine power?

While we know that Jesus' regularly displayed His possession of supernatural powers, we don't always consider His possession of divine insight. Read the following passages and write down what they reveal about Jesus' capacity to know the apparently unknown.

John 1:47-51:

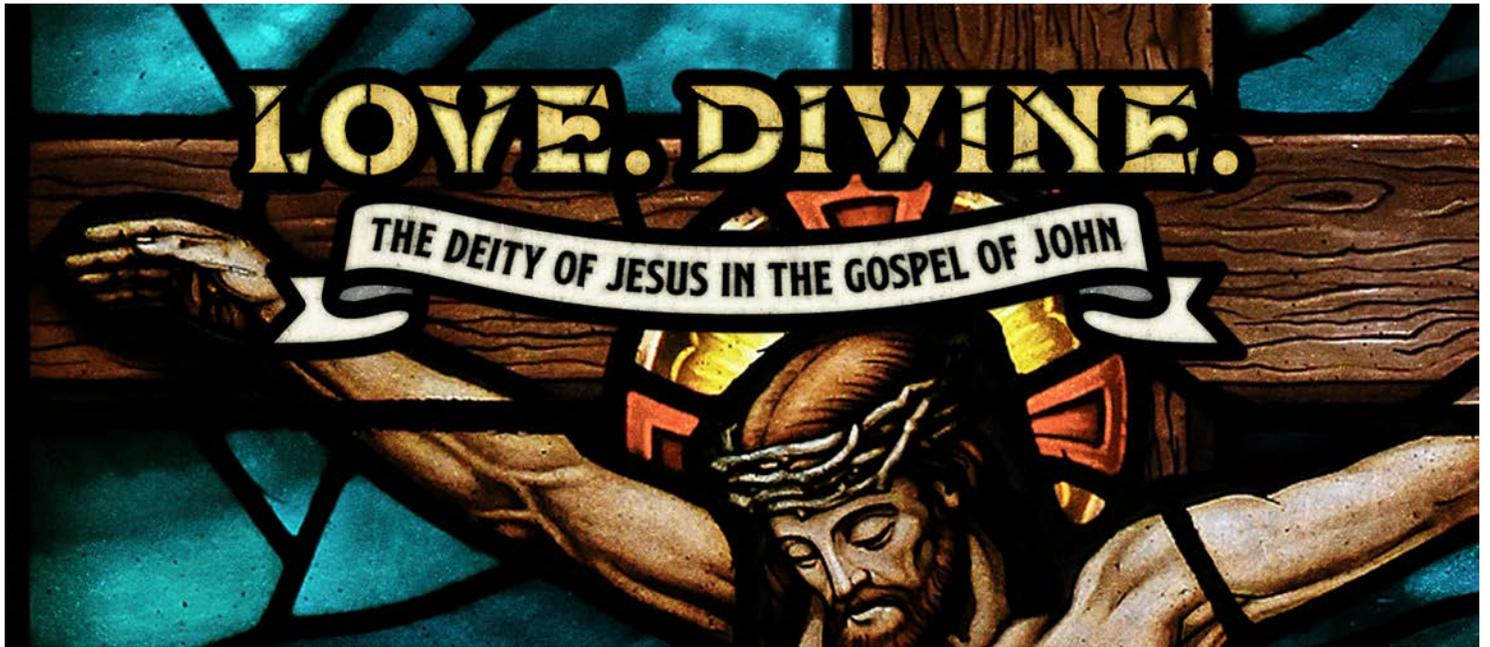
Matthew 9:3-4:

Mark 2:6-8:

- Read John 7:1-13. According to these 13 verses, what were some of the common perceptions about Jesus at this point in His ministry?

Why do you think His brothers were so eager for Jesus to show up in Jerusalem and reveal His powers? What could be their personal motivation?

- Read pages 137-148 in Ken's Devotionary™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK EIGHT – The Son Sent from God

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Key Verse: *“I came from him, and he sent me.”* – John 7:30 ESV

- Read John 7:14-52. Look closely for the five different times in this passage where Jesus claims to have been sent by God. Circle them in your Bible.

Why do you think Jesus spends so much time clarifying that He is on a mission personally approved by His Heavenly Father?

When the people are blown away by the depth of Jesus’ knowledge, He begins to explain that His words are not His own, but He is acting as the personal messenger for God Almighty (see verse 16-17). Why would this information be important but also controversial?

- Read John 7:25-31 again. This is one of the first places where the people begin to question whether Jesus might be their long-awaited Messiah. But they are confused by the reaction of the religious leaders. They have heard that these men want Jesus dead, yet here He was teaching in the temple and no one was laying a hand on Him. According to this passage, what is the reason for their reluctance?

What was it about Jesus that caused some of the people to believe in Him?

Do you think their belief was sincere and motivated by a right understanding of who Jesus was? Explain your answer.

- According to verses 32-36, what was it that Jesus was trying to reveal about Himself and how did the people misunderstand it?
- In verses 37-39, Jesus begins a short discussion regarding “living water.” Compare what Jesus has to say here with what He said to the Samaritan woman at the well (see John 4:7-15). What similarities do you see?

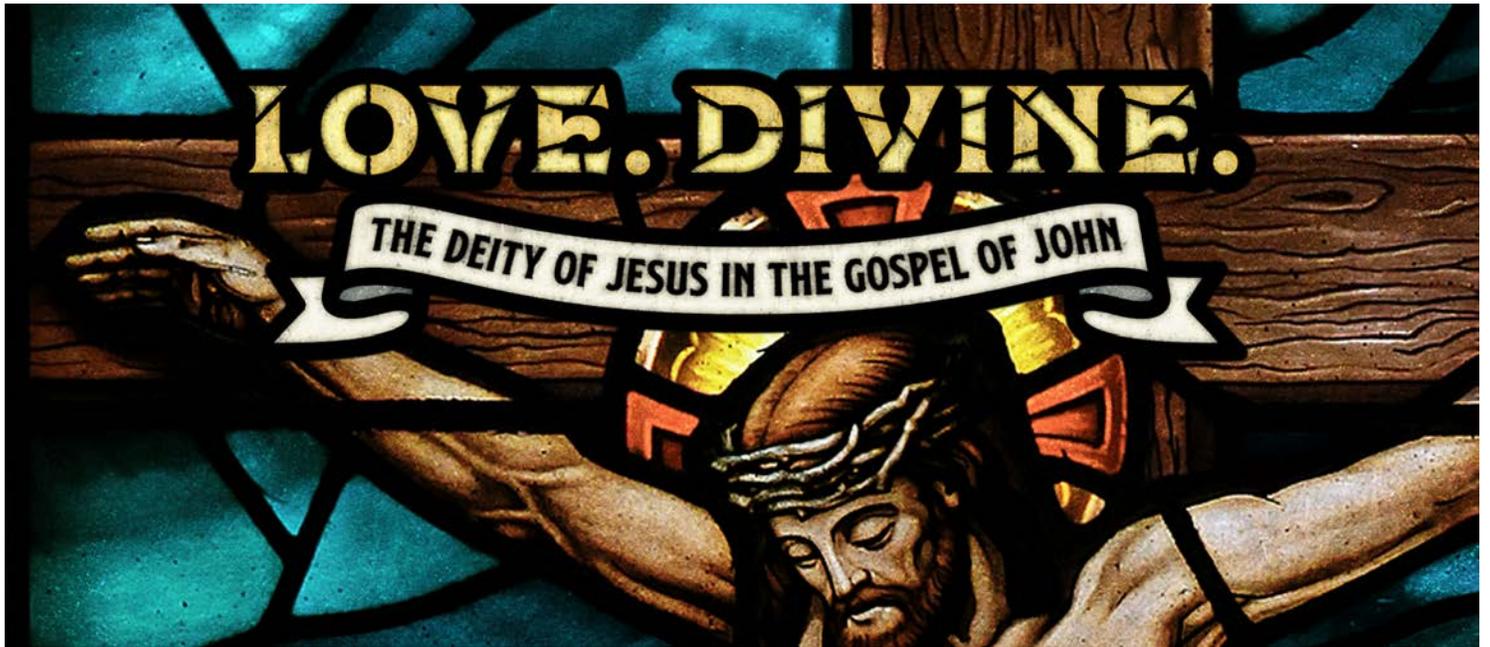
Take a few minutes to review the following Old Testament passages and write down what they have to do with Jesus’ offer of living water:

Psalm 42:1-2

Psalm 63:1-2

Isaiah 55:1-2

- How do verses 50-52 portray the reaction to Jesus’ words?
- Read pages 149-167 in Ken’s Devotionary™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK NINE – The Son as Light and Truth

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Key Verse: *“you will know the truth...”* – John 8:32 ESV

- Read John 8:1-38. In this section of John’s gospel, we are given a glimpse of the kind of spiritual darkness that permeated the land of Israel. We have already seen just how evil and corrupt the religious leaders can be. Now, John is going to display their self-righteous pride and hatred for the people, while focusing on the sin of adultery as a way to illustrate the unfaithfulness of the entire nation.

As you read the story of the woman caught in adultery, recorded in verses 1-11, what catches your attention?

According to John, what was the motivation of the religious leaders?

How do you think this woman felt about what was happening to her?

- Notice that, in verse 12, John makes a not-so-subtle shift from talking sin, guilt, and punishment, to discussing darkness and light. Read verses 12-30 and write down what you believe to be the main point that Jesus is trying to make.

Verse 25 reflects that they still had no idea who Jesus really was. Why do you think some could easily recognize that Jesus was the Son of God, while others were left wondering who this strange man from Galilee could be?

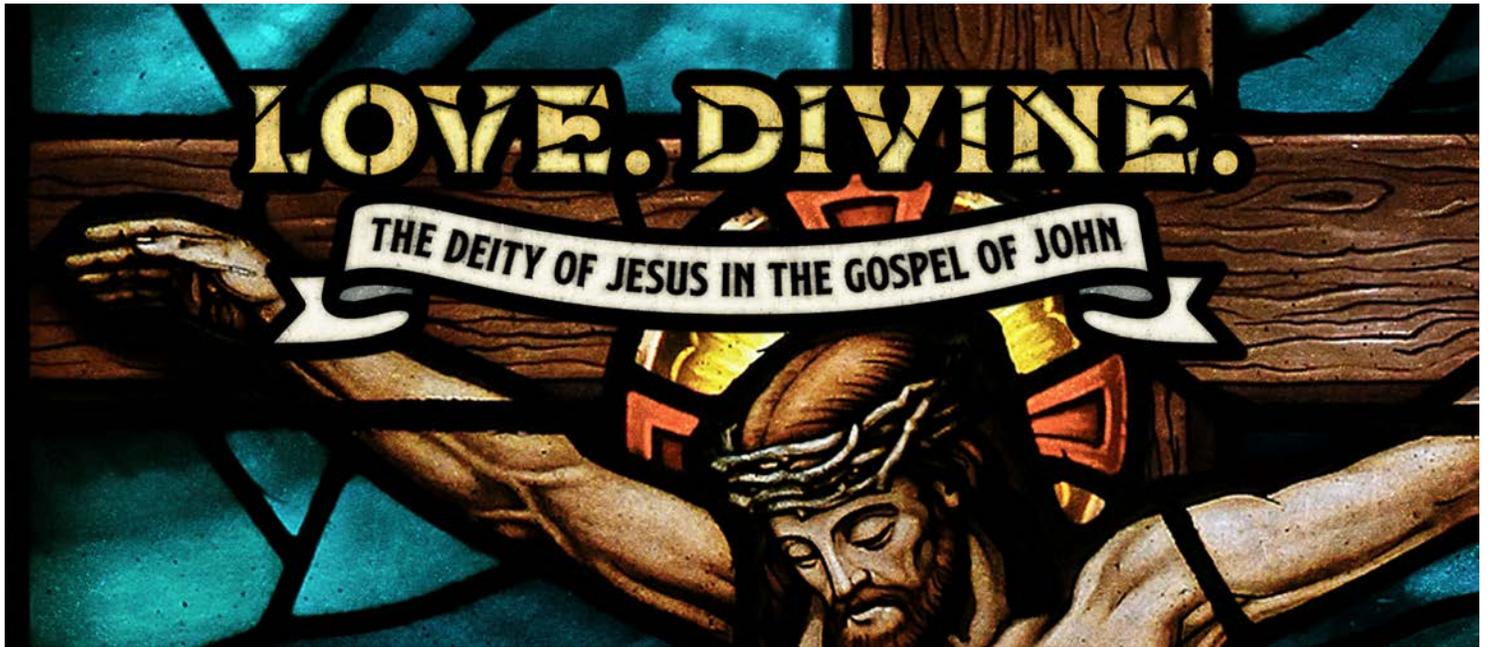
In verse 28, Jesus makes a rather cryptic allusion to being “lifted up.” What do you think He means by this? (See John 3:13-15; 12:32-33; Numbers 21:4-9)

- Reread verses 31-38. What seems to be Jesus’ main point in this passage?

John makes it clear that Jesus is addressing those who had believed in Him. He is offering them freedom from sin, but they don’t seem to catch His meaning. Why do you think they had such a difficult time understanding what He was talking about?

Jesus puts a huge emphasis on abiding. Read John 15:1-11, then write down what you think it means to abide in Christ.

- Read pages 169-184 in Ken’s Devotionary™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK TEN – The Son of God Despised

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Key Verse: *“So they picked up stones to throw at him.”* – John 8:59 ESV

- Read John 8:39-47. Here, Jesus begins a lengthy debate with His adversaries that centers around the somewhat strange topic of paternity. As we have seen, Jesus has repeatedly raised the issue of His identity as the Son of God. The religious leaders are not buying it. In fact, in verse 33, they described themselves as “children of Abraham,” which was a kind of code for saying they were children of God. As the offspring of Abraham, they were his descendants and, therefore, card-carrying members of God’s family.

But in verses 39-47, how does Jesus respond to their arrogant and self-righteous claim?

In verse 44, we see Jesus taking the debate to an all-new level by accusing them of being sons of the devil. Is Jesus simply being confrontational or is there a point behind His harsh words?

In verses 45-47, Jesus provides His explanation for their refusal to believe in Him. What is it and what does it reveal about the Jew’s misunderstanding of their relationship with God?

- Now read verses 48-59. These verses contain one of the clearest and boldest expressions of Jesus' claim to deity. It is found in verse 58. To better understand the force of His two-word statement, read the following Old Testament passages and write down what they reveal.

Exodus 3:1-14

Isaiah 43:10-14

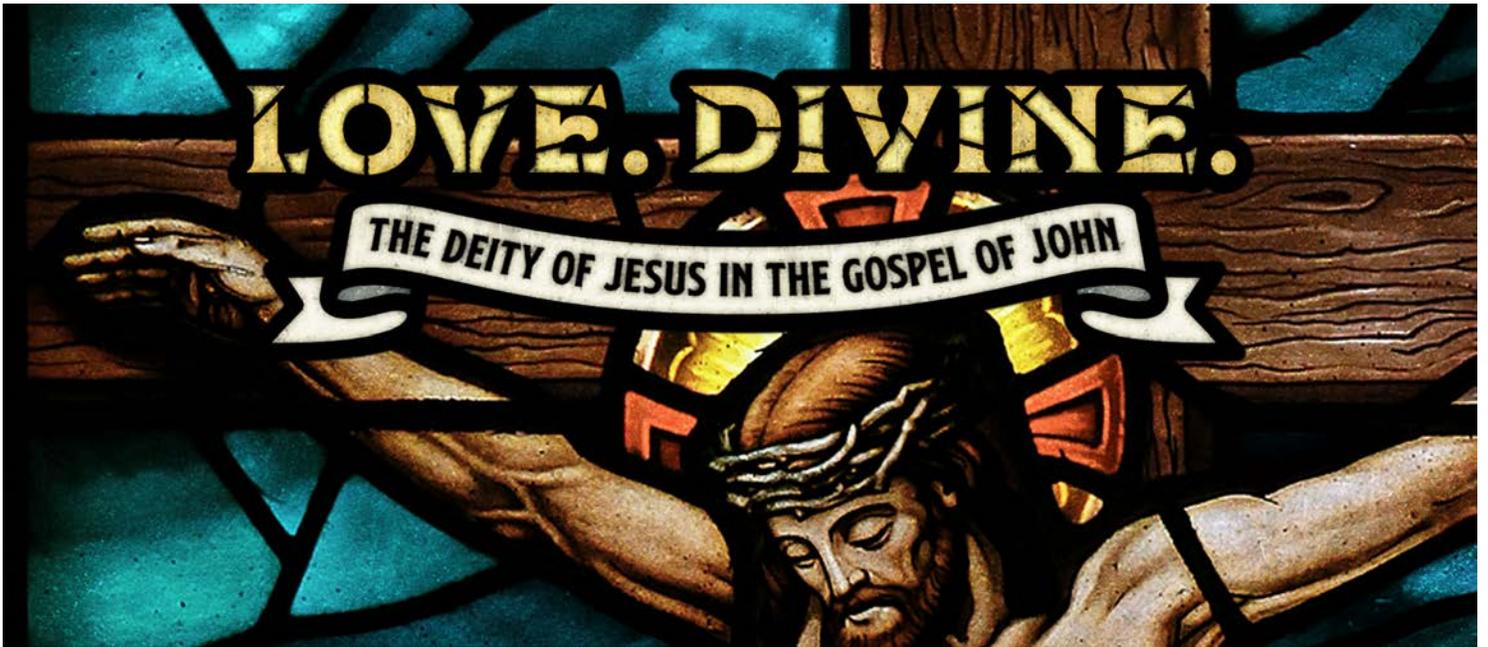
It is apparent that the religious leaders understood exactly what Jesus was saying with His statement, and the proof is in their reaction. What did they attempt to do and how did it turn out for them?

- In chapter 9, John provides a timely follow-up to his account of the heated debate between Jesus and the Jewish authorities. He tells of Jesus healing a man who had been blind since birth. Why do you think John placed this story at this exact point in his narrative? Could he have an important lesson he wants his readers to take away? If so, what is it?

As you read this passage, don't miss the link that is made between the man's blindness and sin. This man was born without sight and it was a common thought among the Jews that such a debilitating defect was the result of sin, possibly the sins of the man's parents. Look closely at what the religious leaders say to his man in verse 34. What is their conclusion?

But interestingly enough, these same men accuse Jesus of being a sinner. What is it He has done that leads them to that conclusion? (see verses 13-16)

- Now look at verse 39. How does Jesus bring this whole encounter to a close and what is His assessment of the situation and of all those involved?
- Read pages 185-192 in Ken's Devotionary™ on the Gospel of John.



HOMEWORK FOR WEEK ELEVEN – The Son of God as Shepherd

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Key Verse: *"I lay down my life for the sheep."* – John 10:15 ESV

- As we get ready to wrap up this first half of our study in the Gospel of John, we reach a critical juncture in the book. Chapter 10 brings us to the halfway point of the book, but the speed and intensity of the storyline is about to increase dramatically. The animosity of the religious leaders is about to reach a fever pitch as they desperately seek a way to eliminate this threat to their authority once and for all.

But in chapter 10, Jesus provides another glaring contrast between Himself and these men who should have been the spiritual leaders of Israel.

Read John 10:1-21. Write down the differences Jesus lists that separate His ministry from the religious leaders of Israel.

JESUS

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Read Psalm 78:70-72. How does Jesus' description of Himself as the Good Shepherd mirror the activities of King David?

Read Numbers 27:15-23. In this passage, Moses is asking for God to provide a leader to shepherd the people of Israel after his death. And God promises to raise up Joshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus). How is Jesus the ultimate fulfillment of this promise?

- Now read verses 22-41. These verses record the last times Jesus enters the grounds of the temple. He is preparing for the final days of His life and communicating His intent to lay down His life for the sheep. But according to verses 27-30, who are His sheep?

Why should a follower of Jesus Christ find these words comforting?

In verses 36-39, Jesus summarizes the entire content of the first ten chapters of John's book. How would you put His conclusion in your own words?

John bookends these first ten chapters with an interesting note. He began his account of Jesus' ministry with His arrival in the Judean wilderness to be baptized by John. Go back and read John 1:29-34. Then reread John 10:40-42. Why do you think John has Jesus returning to the place where He received His anointing by the Spirit of God?

What does John write that provides a powerful assessment of Jesus' life up to this point?

- Read pages 185-216 in Ken's Devotional™ on the Gospel of John.

