

## Monday, May 25, 2009

This is the first of the daily reading for the 105 days of summer. If this is your first summer with us here at Calvary, I pray that you will enjoy this journey of discovering God as much as those who have participated in the past. We begin by reading the Gospel of John, one chapter at a time. Today is chapter one. Remember to grab your log book and write the memory verse for the week (2 Samuel 22:b-3a) and an observation about each day's reading.

Jesus is the Word. He is the visible expression of the thoughts of God. This first verse of John is key to our summer theme. We need solid anchors for our soul and we need those anchors to be in solid ground--a solid foundation. That foundation and those anchors all depend on your response to the Word of God being true. This is a rock that holds all the anchors of your life.

Don't read these first words lightly. Notice that they exactly mirror the first words of Genesis. John is making a point here. Jesus is God. It was by the word that all things are created as God spoke them into existence. Jesus is the Word of God. As you read John's Gospel, remember this phrase. There is a reason that John starts with it. Think about Jesus being the visible expression of the thoughts of God as you read how He is misunderstood by the majority of the religious leaders. Think of how many times you have misunderstood Him.

Jesus came to reveal the Father. He came to make the Father known. You will read in John 14:9 that Jesus says anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. Jesus is God made flesh in a demonstration of His love for us. He revealed His truth in human form. He visually expressed His thoughts. Hang on every word spoken by the Savior of the world as you read this gospel. They are words of love. This is a really good anchor to have in your boat to prepare for the storms.

### Family Discussion Question:

How does believing God's Word is true affect my life?

## Tuesday, May 26, 2009

We are in Chapter 2 of John today. Were you able to make an entry in your log book yesterday? Did you work on memorizing the verse? The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer. . .

Do you ever get angry? Do you ever lose your temper? Have you ever wondered why or how to control it? Today's reading gives us a chance to see how God handled anger as a man. Perhaps you have read this before and you have an image in your mind of what this may have looked like. If so, my guess is you are basing that image on how you or someone you know has lost their temper.

Would you agree that most times when we see someone lose their temper they are out of control? Would you also agree that when someone gets angry it is because their rights have been violated? We see neither of those things in this text.

Here we see Jesus angry. Isn't it interesting that in all the truth we have about the time of Jesus on earth, the time we see Him angry is when worship of God is exploited. God expressed anger toward sin and toward all that keeps Him from being worshipped. Sin incurs the wrath of God. All sin. Even the little ones we tend to overlook because all sin keeps us from pure worship of the only One worthy. I am sure those selling the doves were able to rationalize their sin. They thought they were helping others worship. They were not. They were standing in the way of worship.

Jesus is not angry that His rights were abused. He is not out of control. **He is demonstrating what He will do to the barriers that keep you from worshipping Him.** God will fight for you. He will remove the barriers. He wants you to be able to come to Him freely to worship.

Worshipping God is another of those anchors you really need for your soul.

### Family Discussion Question:

How would focusing on worshipping God help me when I am tempted to get angry?

## Wednesday, May 27, 2009

John 3 today. Are you ready? Grab a cup of coffee and let's go! My God is my rock in whom I take refuge.

I want to take a look at some verses in this text that you may not have seen before. Look closely at verses 10-12. What do you see there? Remember that Jesus is the Word.

The Pharisees who met Jesus had a really hard time thinking of Him as anything other than a man. It is the same for many today. But Jesus is much more than a man. Jesus came in physical form to explain the spiritual--and most people missed it. Most people still do. The book of John is full of examples of people who misunderstood the message of Jesus--the Word of God--because they were not thinking of Him in a spiritual way.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16. Isn't this amazing? We do not regard Jesus from a worldly point of view--or anyone else. Every person you meet is an eternal person. Each has an eternal soul. In that way, every person is spiritual. Do you regard them as such or do you get so hung up on the physical that you miss it?

I mean to be blunt here. John 3:16 is one of the best known verses there is. But, are we who know the truth of it recognizing that it is our call to reveal God's truth to those eternal souls who do not know, so that they do not spend eternity in the conscious torment of hell? Do you regard each person from a worldly point of view? If so, you will not be concerned about their eternal condition and you will focus on the temporary.

It is easy to get caught up in day to day living and miss the real reason we are here--to glorify God and have joy doing it. Get into the game. See Jesus and the world through spiritual eyes. Ask God to help you see with His eyes those you come into contact with.

### Family Discussion Question:

Who can I tell about Jesus today? Who can I pray for today?

Thanks for spending the first three days of the week with me. I now pass the baton to Pastor Doug to prepare you for Sunday's message as you continue your journey in John.

  
Pastor Chuck Cervenka

Thursday, May 28, 2009

If you're reading with us on the Summer Scripture journey, today in John 4 you'll meet a woman for whom our summer theme is very appropriate! She lived a continual storm, her search for "anchors for the soul" was a full time job!

Like most women, her deep desire was to find her "soul anchor" in a loving husband . . . but alas, she had been married 5 times and was in a 6<sup>th</sup> relationship yet unmarried. Have you discovered that while marriage is designed by God to be wonderful, it is volatile, for your spouse is just as imperfect as you are? Marriage can work very well, however, if both husband and wife have their lives anchored in God. Remember Deuteronomy 6:4,5 *"Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength."* The SHEMA goes on to say "impress these things upon your children". The secret for family wholeness is that mom and dad have their hearts, minds and souls anchored in loving God. Children will find that contagious!

The woman in John 4 is identified as a Samaritan. You'll recall, the northern part of Israel was conquered by Assyria in 722 B.C., and most of the inhabitants were forcibly removed from their homes and marched off as prisoners of war, never to return. Assyria had a policy of re-populating conquered territory with exiles from other conquered nations, thus northern Israel was re-populated and an intermarrying with the few Jews left behind occurred. Samaritans were the mixed blood race which resulted. Less than "second class citizens" there was strong prejudice against them by "pure blood" Jews. Yet it was to this woman Jesus identified Himself as Messiah! (John 4:26)

The over-riding question of summer 2009 is this: What are the anchors of your soul upon which you are building your life? Are they reliable even in the storms? Do you see how this woman's life changed with her encounter with Jesus? Notice how it impacted her entire town!!

Friday, May 29, 2009

Our Summer Scripture reading has us in John 5 today. Have you noticed John's Gospel gives us a very personal perspective of Jesus? HE is the "anchor" we're going to be considering in our worship services tomorrow and Sunday at Calvary. There is no greater, stronger, more significant life anchor than Jesus THE Christ . . . do you agree? There is no aspect of the human journey that can be lived better apart from Jesus, no human experience Jesus cannot relate to.

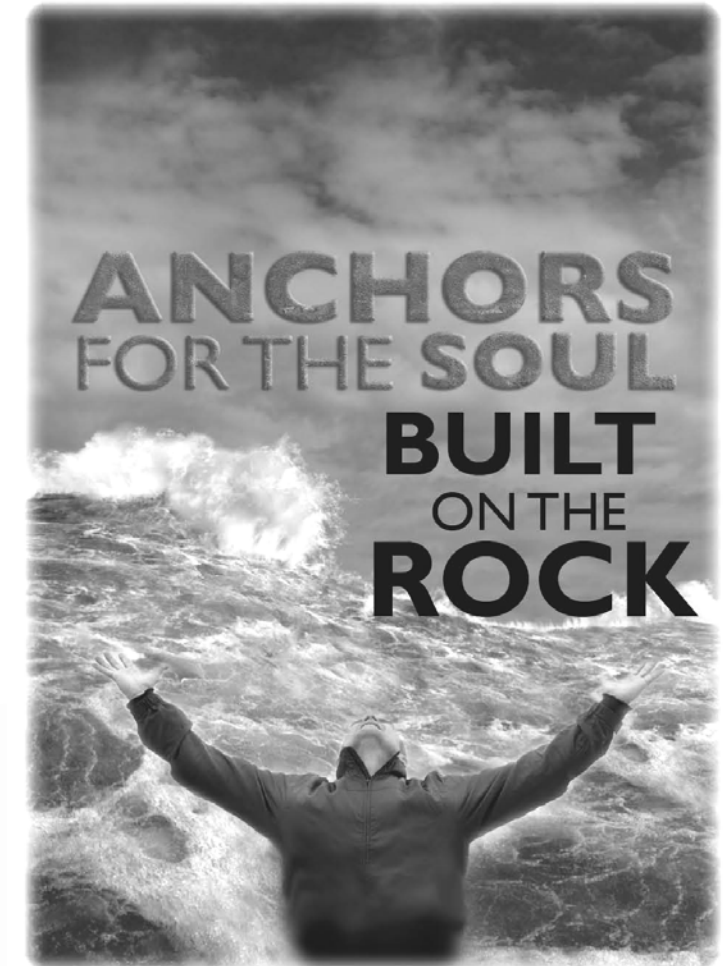
Go back . . . briefly review John 1-6 today and this weekend. John, led by the Holy Spirit, is painting a very clear picture for you of WHO Jesus Christ is. Each chapter is a different perspective . . . can you identify them? In John 1 He is the eternal WORD and "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". What are your conclusions about how John presents Jesus in chapters 2, 3, 4 and today 5?

Note John 4 ends and John 5 begins with two powerful, miracle healings. In John 4 Jesus proves He is not limited by geography, He doesn't even have to see the person He is healing! In John 5 Jesus is able to heal a life long problem! Notice please that in both cases Jesus' healing work was done in response to a significant step of faith! Who takes the faith step in John 4? Does that suggest that as you come before God in genuine intercession, praying for someone else, even if they don't know about your prayer, God may do a special work in the one you are praying for? Link in John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23, what do you see?

Who takes the faith step in John 5? Do you see this miracle positioned Jesus for confrontation with religious leaders? Count the number of times in John 5 Jesus uses the phrase "My Father" or "the Son" . . . one of the great anchors for your soul is the identity of Jesus Christ, God the Son, and His inseparable relationship to God the Father!! Now, in your summer journal what will be your reflections for this week? Have you contacted your summer sailing partners?

  
Pastor Doug Anderson

May 25 – May 29, 2009



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