



Interesting Men in the Bible: John

I believe that the synoptic gospels are the story of Jesus ministry. The gospel of John; however, is an outlier. 90% of his book is not related to the other three. Why? More and more I am convinced that Matthew, Mark, and Luke were one work that was shared in parts. Many of the direct wording in the synoptics are not by mistake. There are people who think three authors sat together and took parts of the Jesus story that they wanted. Somehow, there is more to the synoptic story of Jesus life and ministry. John; however, is a different cat.

I do believe that John is telling three stories in his gospel. The first is that Jesus is God. Throughout this gospel are clear references to the theology of God. It's hard to put on a percentage but John's writing has given us a vast amount of understanding into how the trinity works. The relationship between Jesus, The Father, and the Holy Spirit. It's by no mistake that John designates Jesus as the word found in the beginning of creation.

The second theme is Jesus. I feel that John would have followed Jesus around with a camera. He is the producer. The descriptions of Jesus actions, thoughts, and interaction with people sets him apart from the other gospels. John is the reality TV writer. He is describing what is happening in real time. Finally, we also get the disciples point of view. This gospel is seen through the eyes of the disciples. We get their feelings and their participation. You could call this

gospel book “Jesus and his disciples.” John is a disciple of Jesus. He was there from the beginning. I believe his epistle writing is a direct reflection of what he experienced while being with the Christ.

Why write a different gospel? As with the others it’s clearly written after Jesus was gone. John is carefully weaving theology in-between the Jesus account. The Spirit is front and center in this gospel. I can see the Jesus story from a disciple’s view. They are confused about how Jesus did ministry. Yet, John gets Jesus. The theology shows us that John had a deep understanding of who Jesus was. John was clearly affected by the Spirit. 1 John is a deep reflection of what he experienced while being in the company of God’s Son. John, James, and Peter have biblical writings beyond the gospels. It’s by no mistake that these three men were pivotal in the ministry of Jesus. Who wrote James? By tradition it is Jesus’ brother. Yet, James the disciple could have written it.

We get a glimpse into the man named John. Peter had stern dialogue with Jesus. Peter was the outspoken flashy one. John probably sat back and contemplated what it all meant. Are we really surprised that it was John whom Jesus gave care of His mother at the cross? Is it surprising that John was at the cross? John wrote beautifully. His letters are warm and thoughtful. You can tell it was him in the gospels and the epistles.

Why no parables? John was a disciple. It was from their point of view. The parables were placed to teach the points that Jesus was trying to make. John is telling us why, how, and when the Jesus story happened. Luke tells a similar story from the synoptic point of view. John chose to use his own recollection. It says Peter and John ran to the tomb. Both of these men were extra close to Jesus. I believe Peter ran faster because he felt more guilty. John on the other hand

probably went to the tomb because in retrospect, rising from the dead fit who Jesus claimed to be. I'm betting he wasn't that shocked.

This man named John is a good man. Jesus didn't leave His mother to just anyone. Mary pondered her son's meaning. I suspect that is John to a tee. I am betting there was not a softer, gentler, or kinder disciple. John wanted to show who Jesus is. That God came down and spent time with him. I get the impression that it affected him greatly. Sin meant more to him. The Spirit meant more. God the Father meant more. We get the thoughts, feelings, and heart of John in the Bible. It's why I believe John was a great man of the Bible. He allowed the Christ to affect and change him for the betterment of us all. Our Christianity would be very hollow without John.