

A SERMON SERIES FOR EASTER 2005
The People of the Easter Story: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
Message Five- John: Loyal to the Christ
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, March 27, 2005

INTRODUCTION:

Our Series:

- Pilate: Refusal of the Christ
- Judas: Betrayal of the Christ
- Peter: Denial of the Christ
- Barabbas: Grateful to the Christ
- ***John: Loyal to the Christ***

PROPOSITION: Considering four truths about John's commitment to Christ will help us honor our Lord, as John did, on this resurrection Sunday, as we, like John, seek to be loyal to Christ.

I. CONSIDER JOHN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS- HIS DEVOTION.

A. John Was One of the ***Chosen***. Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 5:37; Mark 14:33.

Matt. 4:18-22:

¹⁸And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ²¹Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Mark 5:37:

And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Mark 14:33:

And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed.

B. John Was One in the **Circle**. Matt. 17:1.

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves...

C. John Was the One in the **Center**. John 13:23.

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

This phrase, "whom Jesus loved," is used of John at least four times.

II. CONSIDER JOHN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO JESUS- HIS DUTY.

A. John Was Responsible in His Call to **Follow**. Matt. 4:21, 22.

²¹Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

B. John Was Responsible in His Caring of **Family**. John 19:26, 27.

²⁶When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

C. John Was Responsible in His Commitment to **Follow-Through**. 1 John 1:1-4.

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— ²the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

D. John Was Responsible in His Communicating the **Future**. Rev. 1:1-3.

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

III. CONSIDER JOHN'S REALITY OF JESUS- HIS DESIRE.

A. John Was of **Several** Apostolic Witnesses of Jesus' **Transfiguration**. Matt. 17:1-8.

¹Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ²and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" ⁶And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." ⁸When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

B. John Was a **Sleepy** Apostolic Witness of Jesus' **Intercession**. Mark 14:32-42.

³²Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. ³⁴Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." ³⁵He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." ³⁷Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. ⁴⁰And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. ⁴¹Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son

of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²“Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

C. John Was the **Sole** Apostolic Witness of Jesus’ **Crucifixion**. John 19:26, 27.

²⁶When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

D. John Was a **Secondary** Apostolic Witness of Jesus’ **Resurrection**.

1. He Saw the Empty Tomb Before Peter, but Peter Went In First. John 20:1-10.

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” ³Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. ⁹For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

2. He Saw the Risen Lord After Peter. Luke 24:33, 34.

³³So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”

E. John Was a **Special** Apostolic Witness of Jesus’ **Ascension**. Acts 1:9-13.

⁹Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were

staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

- F. John Was the **Sacred** Apostolic Witness of Jesus' **Consummation**. Rev. 19:11-16.

¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

IV. **CONSIDER JOHN'S RESPONSE TO JESUS- HIS DECISION.**

- A. John **Followed** Well Because of His **Confidence** in Jesus. John 1:1-5.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

- B. John **Focused** Well Because of His **Comprehension** of Jesus. 1 John 1:5-10.

⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- C. John **Finished** Well Because of His **Commitment** to Jesus. Rev. 22:18-21.

¹⁸For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. ²⁰He who testifies to these things says,

“Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

APPLICATION:

1. Do you know that as one of God’s saved, you are among His “chosen”? How does that make you feel? What does it mean to be His chosen?
2. In your commitment to Christ, do you always follow through with His will in your life? Do you know His will for your life?
3. Christ has revealed Himself to you in many ways; how do you share this reality with others? When was the last time you shared Christ with someone else? Does the previous question even make sense to you?
4. Have you made a decision for Christ? To accept Him as Savior and Lord? To Follow Him no matter what?
5. Make a decision to go wherever He leads and to do whatever He commands; you will never regret it!