

St. John, 12-27-2025

1. John: 1 of the 12. Part of the inner circle with his brother James and Peter. These witnessed miracles / events that the larger circle of disciples were not privy to.
 - A) the Great Catch of Fish (L 5:10)
 - B) the healing of Peter's mother-in-law (P 1:29)
 - C) Raising of Jairus' daughter (P 5:37 = L 8:51)
 - D) the Transfiguration (M 17:1 = P 9:2 = L 9:28)
 - E) the Agony in Gethsemane (M 26:37 = P 14:33)
2. Call the disciple that Jesus' loved – laid on Christ's breast at the last supper.
3. The only one of the twelve to not die a martyr's death. Was imprisoned/exiled. Expressed a willingness to die for Christ. Martyr by intention, not by deed.
4. John wrote the 3 Epistles of John and also the Gospel which bears his name, thus called evangelist. Also the Revelation.
5. Because he lives for a long time, John has more of a mystical quality to his writings.
 - A) Gospel emphasizes light and eternal life
 - B) Prologue is a creation narrative reenvisioned
 - C) The "I am" statements of Jesus (bread of life, light of the world, the door, the good shepherd, resurrection and the life, the way the truth and the life, true vine). Also "before Abraham was, I am" and "I am" in the garden
 - D) Interaction with individuals – Nicodemus (chp 3), woman at the well (4), Woman caught in adultery(8), man born blind and healed (9), raising of Lazurus (11), among others

6. Symbol of the Gospel of John is the eagle
7. Considering the emphasis upon light in John's gospel, we see a connection in the collect – we prayed that the light of Christ would fall upon the Church and bring illumination through the doctrine of St. John.
8. Highlights that natural man is unable to understand the things of God. We require the Holy Spirit to heal our fallen understanding, to bring the light of God so that we may see divine truths correctly.
9. Although John spent much of his life in solitary contemplation and prayer, thus providing insight to the understanding of God, he is not esoteric.
10. Anchors spiritual truth to the world and to our actions.
11. Writes the first epistle that we may have assurance - "THAT 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, of the Word of life;" John bears witness to the reality of Christ
12. the Truth of Christ's life, Truth revealed by Christ, means that we, followers of Christ, must be different, must live differently
 - A) "that your joy may be full."
 - B) that you walk not in darkness
13. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

14. Contrast of walking in darkness vs. walking in light. What does this mean?
15. If we are in Christ → meaning baptized and seeing the world as it is, as God sees it
16. Then our minds have been illuminated by the Holy Ghost.
17. "Walking in the light" refers to living in accordance with the precepts of God. It means that our lives comport with the law of God – the moral law of the OT and NT.
18. According to St. John, illumination with God's spiritual truth is directly connected to how we live. Not merely esoteric knowledge, but has an "earthy" component to it.
19. What do we do when our lives don't embody the eternal life and light of Christ? The problem is with our understanding – not with God or the Church or everybody else.
20. According to St. John, "Let your lives be consistent with your professed faith."
21. We give thanks for St. J - for the depth of insight and spirituality given us through Him, for the challenge, the imperative, to let the Gospel change us more and more into the image of Christ in beliefs and actions.