



Lesson 47 – John the Beloved

1) How did the Apostle John refer to himself?

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

He was one of the three permitted to witness Christ's glory upon the mount of transfiguration and His agony in Gethsemane, and it was to his care that our Lord confided His mother in those last hours of anguish upon the cross.

The Saviour's affection for the beloved disciple was returned with all the strength of ardent devotion. John clung to Christ as the vine clings to the stately pillar. For his Master's sake he braved the dangers of the judgment hall and lingered about the cross, and at the tidings that Christ had risen, he hastened to the sepulcher, in his zeal out-stripping even the impetuous Peter.

2) What did Jesus call them when he first met them?

Mark 3:17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

John did not naturally possess the loveliness of character that his later experience revealed. By nature, he had serious defects. He was not only proud, self-assertive, and ambitious for honor, but impetuous, and resentful under injury. Evil temper, the desire for revenge, the spirit of criticism, were all in the beloved disciple. But beneath all this the divine Teacher discerned the ardent, sincere, loving heart.

3) What was one of the evidences of the old man Jesus was trying to heal?

Luke 9:52-54 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not _____ him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command _____ to come down from heaven, and _____ them, even as Elias did?

4) What was Jesus' reply?

Luke 9:55-56 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of _____ ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to _____ men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

They were surprised to see that Jesus was pained by their words, and still more surprised as His rebuke fell upon their ears.

5) What was asked of Jesus at a later date?

Matthew 20:20-21 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and _____ a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my _____ may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.



James and John presented through their mother a petition requesting that they might be permitted to occupy the highest positions of honor in Christ's kingdom. Notwithstanding Christ's repeated instruction concerning the nature of His kingdom, these young disciples still cherished the hope for a Messiah who would take His throne and kingly power in accordance with the desires of men.

6) How did Jesus reply?

Matthew 20:22-23 But Jesus answered and said, Ye _____ what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye _____ drink _____ of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

7) What did Jesus say to give clarity to them all?

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise _____ over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall _____ among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your _____: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

In the kingdom of God, position is not gained through favoritism. It is not earned, nor is it received through an arbitrary bestowal. It is the result of character. The crown and the throne are the tokens of a condition attained, tokens of self-conquest through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8) What is the condition of nearness to the Kingdom?

Revelation 3:21 To him that _____ will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

9) How did Paul describe love (charity)?

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity _____ not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not _____ up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no _____;

10) What was recorded about James John?

Mark 9:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we _____ him, because he followeth not us.

11) What was Jesus' reply to that?

Mark 9:39-40 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on _____.

None who showed themselves in any way friendly to Christ were to be repulsed. The disciples must not indulge a narrow, exclusive spirit, but must manifest the same far-reaching sympathy which they had seen in their Master. James and John had thought that in checking this man they had in view the Lord's honor; but they began to see that they were jealous for their own. They acknowledged their error and accepted the reproof.



12) When John was very aged, what did he write?

John 1:12-14 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the _____ of _____, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the _____ was made flesh, and _____ among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The lessons of Christ, setting forth meekness and humility and love as essential to growth in grace and a fitness for His work, were of the highest value to John. He treasured every lesson and constantly sought to bring his life into harmony with the divine pattern.

13) What did John testify to?

1 John 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have _____, which we have _____ with our eyes, which we have _____ upon, and our hands have _____, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

John 1:16 And of his _____ have all we received, and grace for grace.

The depth and fervor of John's affection for his Master was not the cause of Christ's love for him, but the effect of that love. John desired to become like Jesus, and under the transforming influence of the love of Christ he did become meek and lowly. Self was hid in Jesus. Above all his companions, John yielded himself to the power of that wondrous life.

John knew the Saviour by an experimental knowledge. His Master's lessons were graven on his soul. When he testified of the Saviour's grace, his simple language was eloquent with the love that pervaded his whole being.

14) What hope did he ever carry in his heart?

1 John 3:1-2 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the _____ of _____: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be _____; for we shall see him as he is.

Jesus loves those who represent the Father, and John could talk of the Father's love as no other of the disciples could. He revealed to his fellow men that which he felt in his own soul, representing in his character the attributes of God. The glory of the Lord was expressed in his face. The beauty of holiness which had transformed him shone with a Christlike radiance from his countenance. In adoration and love he beheld the Saviour until likeness to Christ and fellowship with Him became his one desire, and in his character was reflected the character of his Master.

Can you see John's transformation?

Would you like to be present with Jesus?

When is the time reflect the Father's love?