

# No One Ever Spoke The Way This Man Does

November 5, 2023

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ online ministry. This week's message is titled, "No One Speaks the Way This Man Does." The scripture reading is John 1, 1-4. Thank you to Rhonda, Geoff, Barbara, and Don for being part of the video. Happy birthday this week to Jo.

## Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Good morning everyone! And today we have two birthdays and I don't think either of them are here because they're off celebrating with grandparents today, I think. And that's Ivy and Ellis, two children from Jan's class. So next week they won't know that you wish them a birthday late because they probably don't even aren't aware that their birthdays are coming up, except I think Ellis's is actually today. And Debby and Len are celebrating an anniversary.

On November the 4th at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall there's going to be a baby shower for Martin's daughter Ashley. The financial statements are available and if you talk to Adam nicely he'll give you one.

Updates. Okay. Now, Jan promised me she'd snicker at me when I tried to say this, but Siwajibu, which is Helene's sister, is now we know where she is. She's arrived in Canada and it was confirmed that she's in a hotel in Halifax, which makes Jan very sad because this was confirmed yesterday and Jan's been in Halifax on business all week and was four blocks away from her and didn't know it. It says we will be working now to see if she can come to Niagara. "We" means Geoff because he does everything around here. So it's probably Geoff is the "we," am I right? Probably. She came with five of her six children and her parents, her brothers and sisters, no brothers, no sisters, her brothers and her oldest son are still in the refugee camp.

Lindsey's husband Daniel, which is John and Glynnis's son-in-law, he's had several seizures lately and is not doing well at all. Some of our sickies are back, Marie's back, Dianne's back and Gloria's back. These are our, I don't think you were COVID, were you Dianne? These are our COVID and cold suffers that have been away the last couple of weeks and Jon is still not doing well. He's not doing too, too bad though, is he? And he's got shingles as well. So that kind of, he's got a double dose. So, he's a little slower recovering than Gloria. But we're glad to have those of you back who have returned. We've missed having you here. And let us pray.

Dear God in heaven, thank you so much for the opportunity we have to be together and to worship you together and thank you for, even though we have varied circumstances and varied backgrounds and varied nationalities that we are, come from, we thank you that we're all one in that we are your children and your people. We pray that you will fill us with love, love for you, love for each other and love for the community. And we pray that we will be filled with wisdom when we're dealing with others and when we're trying to decide how to use our time wisely. And we pray that you will fill us with your knowledge and that we will be your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Communion

As I read over Don's chosen passage for today, I was struck by one particular statement in John 1 verse 4. It says, "In him was life and the life was the light of men." In him was life. A statement is rich with meaning for us.

The word, as John has called him, was the one through whom creation was made. All life came from him. He existed before everything we see around us. Life did not come from lifeless matter. Rather, he breathed his life into the matter of our universe and into us. And that's a really comforting thought. But I think John was getting at something even greater. There is a life in him that the world needs. The world likes to think of themselves as alive and at the peak of our humanity. But Jesus was alive with something so much better. Eternal life in his father. John says in his first letter to the churches, "This is the testimony. God has given us eternal life and this life is in his son." This life doesn't wear down. It doesn't grow old or feeble. It is constantly renewed through the gift of the Father. And of course, when we talk about life on this earth, we have to think about death.

But that's what we're here to celebrate today. A victory over that death. Despite the fact that he has within him this eternal life, Jesus chose to come and be made like us. And he gave up that temporary life on our behalf. Paul says, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." That promised life that his Father has given him and continues to give him is our gift as well. I'm going to ask that you take only the bread because I have a few more things to say. But let's pray now as we remember that he chose to take on a human body and he chose to give it up to death.

Father, we thank you so much this morning that though he was in eternity with you and has endless life, for us as sinners, he chose to come to be made like us and to experience the weakness of humanity and to carry our sins. We remember now as we break this bread that body that he took on and the fact that it was put into a tomb, lifeless. But Father, we rejoice in the fact that you didn't leave him there, that three days later you raised him back to the life that he shared with you from eternity. Pass this bread as we break it now and partake in remembrance of his great gift.

In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light that I hadn't talked about so far is part of that gift. It's an assurance, it's a promise, and it's the hope. Again, John writes, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." That light is our hope that we look forward to.

Let's pray. Father, we now take from this cup to remember it was his shed blood that washes us clean. And Father, seal the covenant that was a promise that you would raise us to newness of life. And Father, we thank you for that assurance and that hope that we have, that we will be raised with him at the last day. Thank you for the blood that covered our sins, that we might be seen as white as snow. And Father, that we have a place in your family. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

### John 1:1-4

Scripture reading for this morning is John chapter 1 verses 1 to 4. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all

things were made. Without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."

## Sermon

### No One Ever Spoke The Way This Man Does

Good morning, everyone. I was once told never say to the audience that you're going to preach a brief message. So today I'm going to preach a brief message. It's supposed to be a joke, but anyway. I just want to share a message that I think would be helpful.

Interesting that the words of Jesus are just so profound, and as many times as we read them, you know, they just bring us new insights. And there's a scripture that I wanted to share with you. It says that no one speaks the way this man does, meaning Jesus. No one speaks the way Jesus speaks. There was something powerful, spiritual, mesmerizing the way Jesus spoke. For example, in John chapter 7, 37 to 46, it says, "On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and said in a very loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." He's not talking about water. "Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water, spiritual water, will flow from within. By this, he meant the Holy Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time, the Spirit had not yet been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. On hearing his words, some people said this, "Surely this man is the prophet." Others said, "No, he is the Christ." And still others asked the question, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem?" The people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize Jesus, but no one laid a hand on him. Finally, the temple guards who were sent to get Jesus came back to the chief priests and Pharisees who asked them, "Why didn't you bring Jesus in?" And guess what his answer was? No one ever spoke the way this man speaks. When you stop and think about these big, strong, huge guards, couldn't do it. They just couldn't bring them in. There was something the way Jesus spoke. And I hadn't really thought about that because we can read the scriptures, especially Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and listen to Jesus' teaching. But it's amazing how he spoke.

No one ever spoke the way this man speaks. So, I promised you at the beginning this was going to be a brief message, and that it will be a brief message. I just wanted to share what some of this means because it stuck with me all week long. No one ever spoke the way this man spoke. No one ever speaks today the way this man speaks. We can read the words of God and put ourselves back in 2000 years because it's the same words then, and it's the same words now, and the expression of his magnificence is still alive in us today. For example, in Matthew 7, in verse 28, it says, "When Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because Jesus taught as one who had authority, not as their own teachers of the law." In other words, the old teachers could quote Old Testament scripture left, center, and right. But it was not perfect. It was not maybe even obligated. Jesus comes along and he speaks words that grabbed people's attention, and I think he still does. For people who've never heard the gospel before and hear it, their expression, like many of us who heard it for the first time, would be, "Wow."

He invites each one of us to come and to listen to him because no one ever speaks the way Jesus does. So, it says in John 7, "When Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he taught who had one with authority, not as their own teachers of the law. When Jesus spoke, people

got it." However, the Pharisees did their best to discredit Jesus. They tried to minimize anything Jesus said. They wanted to turn the crowd against him. Jesus never wanted to turn the crowd. He wanted to demonstrate who God is. So, Jesus left where he was and then he came to his hometown. Maybe you've been away for a long, long time, and even though you had a great experience, it's always good to come home. I just want to come home. So, Jesus left where he was teaching. He was being criticized. He was being mocked. Ah, it's good to be home. You would think. In Matthew 13, it says, "Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, in their church, and they were all amazed. They knew Jesus from a young boy. Where did this man get this wisdom? And these miraculous powers. They asked, "Isn't this the carpenter's son, Joseph's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary? And aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?" Now, not Judas Iscariot. Judas was a popular name back then. Aren't all his sisters with us? Did we know that Jesus had brothers and sisters? And they took offense at Jesus because Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He wasn't welcome. He grew up and he was turned away. I can't imagine going home and the door locking. You're not welcome. Jesus's brothers were welcome. His sisters were welcome. He wasn't welcome. They wanted to put distance between them. He didn't do many miraculous signs because of their lack of faith. Jesus brought the teaching of God into perspective.

Sometimes God would break into the world. Sometimes you would hear God speaking. It says in the Bible, speaking, "This is my son. Believe in him." For example, in chapter 9 of Mark, it reads this. "After six days, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up on a high mountain where they were all alone." So, you can picture that in your mind. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John. They lead up this high mountain that must have been a while before they got there. And this amazing thing happened. There, Jesus was transfigured. So, you can imagine people watching that. He was transfigured. Well, what does that mean? I don't know. He was glowing. He was real but not real. He was transfigured in front of them. Not in secret. He was transfigured in front of them. It's powerful. And it said, "His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them." Interesting comment. I mean, that's white. And there appeared before them, Elijah, Moses, talking with Jesus. Imagine, here you are watching this scene. Elijah, one of the great prophets of old, there he was. Moses, the one who brought the law into all of the Jewish people. There they were. And what were they doing? Having a chat? Just having a conversation? I mean, God breaks into this world sometimes on occasion. And they're talking with Jesus. Elijah, Moses, just talking, talking with Jesus. Peter, impetuous Peter, he listens to all of this. And he says to Jesus, "Rabbi, which means teacher, it is good for us to be here." And then it says, "Let us put up three shelters," which I thought was rather strange. One for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Peter was so frightened, he says, he didn't know what to say. I'm not so sure about these shelters or what that means. Maybe it was a place to honour them, but they were mesmerized. They couldn't grasp what's going on. Then a cloud enveloped them and a voice from the cloud said these words, and they're true today. "This is my son whom I love." God breaks into the world. And for the first time, maybe not the first time, people heard what God's voice sounded like. Can't you wait for that? One day, we're not only going to be with, but we're going to hear the voice of God. We're going to hear the voice of Jesus. We're going to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit who lives inside us. And one day, we'll hear the voices of those whom we loved, who have passed, but we'll be together again. We'll see them. We'll hear them. Something that you and I can be so grateful for, that God gives us these promises.

So, Matthew records Jesus saying these words. Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is the old song that we used to sing. Like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, the winds blew and beat against the house. Yet it didn't fall because of its foundation. It was built on a rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't put them into practice is like the foolish person who built his house on the sand and the rain came down and the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. And when Jesus finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching. Because they weren't just words. It went right to their heart because it says he taught as one who had authority. They knew what he was saying was right. But he taught as one who had authority. Not as the old teachers of the law that just quoted things. No, this was personal. This was intentional. It was back then. And it is today.

No one spoke about God the way Jesus did. In Matthew 6 it says, no one can serve two masters. Either he'll hate one and love the other or he'll be devoted to the one and despise the other. All the way through it's listen to him. No one ever spoke about the way Jesus did. He never spoke about man the way Jesus did. And it says this. Jesus coming as a man did not need man's testimony about a man. For Jesus knew what was in a man. Wasn't that every personality is different, and it was. But he also knew their heart. Words spoken by Jesus were true. They went right into the soul. And that still happens today. Listening to the words of Jesus. For many of us who are religious and coming to church and so forth over all the years. Something happened one day. Maybe it took some time but it's like I have to give my life to Christ. It's the only way that really makes sense. God the Father. God the Son. God the Holy Spirit. Who lives in each one of us. For me it's too profound to grasp. Promise these words to us. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I am always with you. Even when we're asleep. He's with us. And then no one spoke about anxiety and worry the way Jesus did. To help us knowing. That with us he's with us every second of the day. And so he says Jesus said. Seek first God's kingdom. And his righteousness. Don't worry about tomorrow. And then Jesus reminds us. I am always with you. I will never forsake you. And then Jesus said something afterwards that I thought was so profound. And it's so glad it's there.

No one spoke about children the way Jesus spoke about children. In Matthew 18 you may remember this story. The disciples came to Jesus and asked. Who's the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Well, the Pharisees might say this person. The Sadducees might say this person. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus takes a little child and brings the child. And puts the child among them. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." What does that mean? Well children are amazed. Sometimes at the simple things. Always at the profound things. They're so excited about what they can learn and what they can know. They want to grow up fast. This is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Because listen to these words. Jesus' words. "Whoever welcomes a little child in my name is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Never dismiss a child. Never. When a child is cranky, let him be cranky. When a child is crying, let him cry. But let that child know how much you love him or her. Wrap your arms around them. This is how God treats us. Even somebody who is as old as I am. Just loves us like a child. Because we are his children.

And then it says no one spoke about salvation the way Jesus did. For God so loved all of us so loved the world that he gave his only one son. Whoever believes in him won't perish but have life eternal. God

didn't send his son into the world to criticize or condemn the world. He came to save the world through him.

No one spoke about women. In those days the way Jesus did. First John 4. Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink of water. John chapter 4. And the woman asked, "How can I as a Samaritan woman ask a Jewish man to give me a drink?" And Jesus just cuts through all that prejudice and says this: Everyone. Everyone. Well, what does that mean? It means everyone. It means everyone. "Everyone who drinks this water from this well will be thirsty again. But I'm going to give you water where you will never be thirsting again. Well, up into eternal life." What's the water? It's Jesus' spiritual life. He welcomes us. He asks us to come to him because he has come to us. The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming and when he comes, the Messiah will explain everything to us." And then you gotta, you gotta picture this in your mind. You've gotta picture this in your mind. Then Jesus says to this woman who's standing in front of him, "Woman, the one who speaks to you is he. I speak to you. It's me. I am the Messiah." She was looking into the eyes of the one who created all things. Even her. And one day, you and I will see his eyes. His face. And all we can say is. Wow. Does Jesus speak to us today? Sure. She was waiting for the Messiah. He was standing right beside her. I think that's true. To remind us that I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I am always with you. And that's something to really hang on to. Because there are dark days. There are things that don't make any sense. You can't figure anything out. But the promise of Jesus is always true. You are never alone. You may feel that way but you're not. I am with you always even until the end of the age.

And then it says no one ever spoke and physically demonstrated the resurrection unto eternal life. There's this, and you gotta picture this because I think it's one of the most fascinating scriptures in all of the Bible. It's not read very often because it's in Matthew chapter 27. But you remember chapter 26, 27 and 28. Death, the burial of, the resurrection of Jesus. But sometimes we forget about this. In Matthew 27. When Jesus died—listen now—and gave up his spirit. The curtain of the temple was torn in two. From the top to the bottom. Now if you're going to tear a curtain, it's going to start from down here and you're going to open it up. No. That's not what was going to happen. From the top to the bottom. And then it says. After Jesus died the earth, the earth shook, and the rocks split. And—now get this—the tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. Not only were they raised to life they came up out of the tombs. and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. Imagine that. Uh. I was at your funeral last week. Where'd you come from? Uh. I was at your burial. Where'd you come from? It's this remarkable story. Jesus' death, burial, resurrection. And these scriptures that remind us. We, too shall be raised. Not just some ghost floating around but raised to a new life. Just imagine. And the centurion said, because Jesus was raised to life, "Surely, He was the son of God." No, no, no. No, Jesus *wasn't* the Son of God. Jesus **IS** the Son of God. Jesus is always present with us. And as Jesus said to Martha, he says to you and I: "I am the resurrection and the life—listen now—Whoever believes in me will live even though we die. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die." And then Jesus asked the question, "Do you believe this?" And that's a question that I think needs to be answered. Do you believe that the promise of Jesus is true? Yes. Yes. Do you believe that we will live again? Yes. Do you believe that we will see our loved ones again? Yes. Do you believe that the earth will be transformed into his world. Yes, yes, yes. Do you believe this? Yes. So in conclusion. And may I ask everyone here. The very same question. Jesus asked. Do you believe. That Jesus Christ. Gives us. Eternal life. [Yes] Amen.

## Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you for the time we have been able to spend together this morning. Thank you for each one gathered here. Each one gathered all around the world. To lift up your voice--their voices to you. To lift up your name. Lord, we ask for boldness in our week ahead. To share your love. To be your hands and feet. To serve those who need you. To love them, and to love each other. God, as we leave this place now, we pray that your unity will continue to bind us. That we will remember always the gift of your son. His love, His life, His death, And his resurrection. We thank you for him. We are not worthy. But we thank you so much. It's through him that we come to you now. And in his name that we pray. Amen.

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