

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Alta Vista Baptist Church

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." – Acts 4:13

Six Things You May Not Know About John the Apostle

1) John came from a prominent family

O Mark 1:19-20

O John 18:15-16

2) John's family may have supported Jesus financially

(Matthews 27:55-56/Mark 15:40-41)

• Matthew 20:20, Mark 16:1

• John 19:25 vs. Mark 15:40 (John 19:26-27)

"In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there."

— Mark 15:41

3) John wasn't always loving (Mark 3:17)

• Luke 9:51-56 (2 Kings 1:3-17)

"When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" – Luke 9:54

4) John's close relationship to Jesus (John 13:23)

- "The one whom Jesus loved." (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20)
- Part of the "inner three" disciples (James & Peter)

5) John insisted that Jesus is God! (Exodus 3:1-17)

• Greek: "ego eimi" = 21 times in John (4:26, 6:20, 8:24, 8:28, 8:58, 9:9 13:19, 15:1, 18:5)

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am."

– John 8:58

6) John's later ministry and life (John 21:20-23)

- The beginning of the church (e.g. Acts 3-4, 8:14-25)
- Gospel of John (60-90 AD, Ephesus), 1,2&3 John (85-90 AD, Ephesus), Revelation (90-95 AD, Patmos, Domitian)

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." – John 20:31

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

Q1: Whom would you consider your closest human relationship? Why?

Q2: Share about a time Jesus reminded you to watch your temper. What changes did you make in your life as a result of this reminder?

Q3: What does it take to have a close relationship with Jesus like John did?

Q4: Read John 19:25-27. All the disciples had fled, except for John. When it comes to being publicly identified with Jesus, what circumstances might cause you to be afraid and hide?

Q5: Read each of Jesus' "I Am" statements in #5. Is there one that stands out to you? Why?

Q6: Why does Jesus say the disciples are to believe that "I am He" in John 13:19?

Q7: What does Acts 4:13 teach us about the importance of spending time with Jesus? What changes do you need to make in order to do this more?