

John 1–4 review

Question: Life now or Jesus?

- John's executive summary in 1:1–18: the LORD God Almighty is here!
- Five days of drumroll in 1:19–51: the long-awaited messiah is here!
- The seventh day in 2:1–12: the bridegroom's wedding feast is here!

THE STRUCTURE OF JOHN 2–4

2:1–12 Sign at Cana (water into wine at wedding).

2:13–3:21 The temple and Nicodemus.

3:22–36 The witness of John the Baptist.

4:1–42 The Samaritan woman and the temple.

4:43–54 Sign at Cana (healing of the official's son).

2:13–3:21 Nicodemus and the Jews

- The need for new birth:
 - **2:13–17** Even the temple must be destroyed and replaced.
 - **3:1–8** Even Nicodemus must be washed and re-born.
- The way to new birth.
 - **2:18–22** Jesus' crucified and risen body will be the new temple.
 - **3:9–17** The Son of Man will be lifted up like the serpent.

Why can't I have life now **and** Jesus?

- The response to new birth:
 - **2:23–25** The Jews like Jesus' signs if they serve life now.
 - But Jesus won't let you come to him and chase life now (2:24–25), because...
 - **3:18–21** The Jews hate Jesus' words if they threaten life now.

3:22–36 John the Baptist

- The issue:
 - **3:22–26** John's disciples reject Jesus for threatening life now.
- The answer:
 - **3:27–30** Rejoice! Jesus is better than anything life now can offer.
- The explanation:
 - **3:31–36** Jesus is better, because he brings God's unique revelation of eternal life.

4:1–42 The Samaritan woman

- The need for new birth:
 - **4:7–15** The woman needs new water.
 - **4:16–18** The woman needs a new husband .
 - **4:19–24** The woman needs a new temple.
- The way to new birth:
 - **4:1–26** Jesus is the true bridegroom, who gives living water in a new temple.
- The response to new birth:
 - **4:27–30** The woman joyfully forgets life now to proclaim eternal life.
 - **4:31–38** Her response is the harvest the prophets laboured for .
 - **4:39–42** Her countrymen accept Jesus' word about eternal life.

4:43–54 Conclusion

- **4:43** Reject Jesus, because he threatens life now.
- **4:48** Accept Jesus, but only because he serves life now.
- **4:53** Accept Jesus, because he gives life in eternity.

Discuss: When might you be tempted to a) choose life now over Jesus, b) come to Jesus but only for life now? How does John 1–4 help you to choose Jesus over life now? Pray in pairs around your tables.