

## **John the Beloved: A Man of Truth and Love (Luke 6:12-14)**

**(12) In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: (14) Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John... (Luke 6:12-14)**

1. God chooses who He wants to lead according to His sovereign will.
2. God gives His leaders new identity, new authority, new destiny, and new purpose.
3. John and the others would not make themselves, they would be made by Jesus.
4. John was called and named before he was changed. He was given a new identity before he lived out any new actions.
5. John was a disciple and a business man who would become an apostle, pastor, missionary, theologian, leader, and writer.

**(13) And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. (14) And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach (15) and have authority to cast out demons. (16) He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); (17) James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); (Mark 3:13-17)**

1. Jesus wanted John to be a part of His leadership team. Jesus wanted John to be a part of His inner circle. Jesus wanted to spend more time with John.
2. Jesus' development of John was personal, close, and intimate. Jesus taught John through His words and His actions, day by day, over 3 years. They spent a lot of time together.
3. Once Jesus prepared John He sent him out with authority to preach and bring people freedom from spiritual darkness.
4. John was a thunderous man, a "son of thunder." Before Jesus transformed him he could be quite rash, harsh, overly aggressive, intolerant, brash, and arrogant (among other things).

**(38) John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." (39) But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. (40) For the one who is not against us is for us. (Mark 9:38-40)**

1. John was a pridefully factional man. He was not initially wise and loving toward others, nor was he very compassionate and merciful toward the hurting.
2. God has put us on a big team and He wants us to work together in unity and love.

**(51) When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. (52) And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. (53) But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. (54) And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" (55) But he turned and rebuked them. (Luke 9:51-55)**

1. Jesus was focused on His Father and His Father's will. This should be our focus as well.
2. John was a prejudiced man who lacked patience and love. John was sometimes intolerant, harsh, brutal, and cold. But the loving rebukes, encouragements, and patience of Jesus would change him more and more over time. What if God is preparing you right now for a ministry you will live out 20 years from now?

**(14) Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, (15) who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, (16) for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (17) Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-17)**

**(35) And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." (36) And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" (37) And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." (38) Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" (39) And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, (40) but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." (41) And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. (42) And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (43) But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, (44) and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. (45) For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:35-45)**

1. John initially had a pridefully ambitious desire for glory instead of big heart of humility and ambitious service.
2. He wanted a place of honor, power, and prestige, but his motives were impure in some ways.

**(23) One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, (Jn 13:23)**

1. John was personally loved by Jesus. John was given special access to be close to Jesus.
2. John was changed by Jesus relationally. Relationships change us, especially and above all our relationship with Christ.

**(5) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (Jn 15:5)**

1. Jesus wants John, and us, to be close, near, and connected, with nothing between us. Our goal is to stay connected to Christ because apart from Him and His power we can do absolutely nothing.
2. A fruitful life and ministry comes from being close with Christ relationally. A fruitful family, fruitful work, and fruitful relationships come from being close with Christ. The nutrients and sap of love, truth, mercy, forgiveness, grace, perseverance, and trust come from Christ working in and through us.

**(26) When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (27) Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (Jn 19:26-27)**

1. Jesus loved John and His mother Mary, and He trusted John to care for His mother. John had already grown so much since he first started following Jesus.
2. It was Jesus' love for John that changed him from the inside out, from the heart.
3. Jesus loved His mother faithfully and well.

**(1) Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (2) So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." (3) So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. (4) Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. (5) And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he**

*did not go in. (6) Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, (7) and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. (8) Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; (Jn 20:1-8)*

1. The resurrection changed things for John. Once he knew Jesus was alive and that He had overcome death, John grew more and more.
2. John was a man of deep faith and conviction, and that continued to grow the longer he was with Jesus.

*(13) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)*

1. Time with Jesus gives boldness in the truth and real love for Him and others.
2. John was not well educated when he first began following Jesus. He was not extraordinary, particularly gifted, or brilliant.
3. John was a common and ordinary man that God chose to use for His glory.

*(9) ...when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars... (Gal 2:9)*

1. John was a pillar in the early church because of his conviction, stability, power, and love. All of this was given to him by God and refined by Jesus.

*(16) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (17) But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (18) Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1Jn 3:16-18)*

1. Jesus loved us with action from the heart. We are to love from the heart too with deeds and with truth. This is much more than just talk.

*(7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (8) Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (9) In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (10) In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (13) By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (14) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (16) So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (19) We love because he first loved us. (20) If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. (21) And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1Jn 4:7-21)*

1. Love is the mark of the true Christian. Jesus loves us before we love Him.
2. Truth is a mark of a true Christian. John loved truth, and so should we.
3. Over time John learned that he could love people without compromising the truth and that he could stand for the truth without unnecessarily excluding people or hurting people with unmerciful harshness.

*(1) The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, (2) because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: (3) Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. (4) I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. (5) And now I ask you, dear lady--not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning--that we love one another. (6) And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments... (2Jn 1:1-6)*

1. John became a man of love and truth. He had personal love for real people with real names. His love was not just generic, but specific. Ours should be also.

*(1) The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. (2) Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. (3) For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. (4) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3Jn 1:1-4)*

1. Following Jesus led John to a healthy balance of truth and love, a healthy equilibrium.
2. John cared for people's body and soul, and so should we.

*(15) ...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (Eph 4:15)*

1. Truth is to be spoken in love and love is to be lived out in truth.
2. We grow when both truth and love become more evident in our lives and hearts.

*(14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:14)*

1. Jesus is the perfect model of truth and love. The fullness of truth and love was seen in Him. This is where John learned it.

*(36) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:34-40)*

1. The greatest command is to love God love people. This is God's desire for our lives.

*(9) I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. (Rev 1:9)*

1. Love Jesus no matter what it brings, love people no matter what it costs.

*(1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Rev 21:1-5)*

1. John saw eternity. John saw Jesus.
2. John had hope and seeks for us to have hope also.
3. John had many tears, but he knew they would not last forever. Jesus is making all things new.

**(20) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (21) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. (Rev 22:20-21)**

*(35) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, (36) and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (37) The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (38) Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" (39) He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (Jn 1:35-40)*

*(21) And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. (22) Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. (Matt 4:21-22)*

*(10) ...James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (11) And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:10-11)*

*(20) Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" (Jn 21:20)*

*(20) Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. (21) And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." (22) Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." (23) He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." (Matt 20:20-23)*

*(15) Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, (16) but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. (Jn 18:15-16)*

*(35) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (Jn 6:35)*

*(12) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ... (58) Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." (Jn 8:12, 58)*

*(9) I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ... (11) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (Jn 10:9, 11)*

*(25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (Jn 11:25)*

*(6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (Jn 14:6)*