

April 30, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Gospel of John // S1 E4 The Work of a Witness
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

John 1:9-13

9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1 begins with three paragraphs that harken the reader back to the book of Genesis and speak to: Creation—Witness—Choice

Creation: “In the beginning” is used in both Genesis 1 and John 1

Witness: “Let there be light” is used in Genesis to speak of light being the original witness of God. In John 1 that witness, which was light, has now been replaced by John the Baptist who was, “a witness to the light”. (Jn 1:8)

Choice: In Genesis 3 we see that God is rejected, causing mankind to enter into a form of darkness. John 1 picks up on this theme in (Jn 1:11) stating that “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”

Making Jesus Recognizable

Vs. 9-10 *The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not **recognize** Him.*

- **The work of a witness is to make Jesus recognizable.**

Vs. 11-13 *He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.¹² Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

- **While we testify to God as witnesses, it is his job to ultimately make himself known to the hearts of others.**

“Knowledge is in the end based on acknowledgement.” — Ludwig Wittgenstein

Small Group Questions:

1. Do you think there are more people who recognize Jesus and reject him or just don't recognize him?
2. How can we make Jesus more recognizable?
3. Pastor Adam stated that it is God's job to make the final appeal to a person's heart not us. How does this affect your approach to making Jesus recognizable?
4. According to Jn. 12, God gave us rights to become “children”. Why would he use the word children and not “adults”?
5. John's gospel is a lot about light in the darkness. How can we shine brighter in the darkness?