

GROWING Together

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A TAKE-HOME BIBLE STUDY OF JOHN'S GOSPEL



Where is Jesus today? This is a question the author of John's Gospel wants us to ask. In a unique way, it leaps out of the pages as we go through the text. Let's see how.

Read chapter 1. Notice in v. 26, John the Baptist says, "Among you stands one whom you do not know." In vv. 37 and 38, two disciples follow Jesus. He turns around and asks, "What are you looking for?" "*Where do you live?*" they answer. Jesus replies with an invitation and a promise, "Come and you will see." (v. 39) **How do we hear his call today?**

Where is Jesus? In 2:1-6, Jesus' mother is concerned about the wine running out. Suddenly fine wine is served. The steward has no idea "*where the wine came from.*" (v. 9) Only the servants who had drawn the water knew and they weren't telling. The Gospel leaves us pondering: **Is there any new wine in our lives?**

Where is Jesus? In 4:10 Jesus is present to the Samaritan woman. Even when he tries to help her she does not understand. She asks, "*Where will you get this water?*" (v. 11) She is concerned about buckets. She misses the point entirely. The woman doesn't realize who Jesus is, even when he is sitting beside her. However, when she sees with the eyes of faith, she runs, tells her friends, and issues Jesus' invitation to 'come and see.' **Are we open to change our idea of God?**

Where is Jesus? In chapter 9 Jesus gives sight to a blind man. The neighbours and Pharisees keep asking "*Who did this?*" "*Where is he?*" and "*Where does he come from?*" (vv. 12, 20, 29) Everyone avoids the answer. The man replies, "Now this is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes,

and *you don't know where he comes from!*" (v. 31) The man grows in faith, from darkness into light. In v. 11 he first refers to Jesus as "the man called Jesus." Later, in v. 17, he calls Jesus "a prophet," and in v. 33, he says Jesus "must be from God." Finally in v. 38, the man sees in faith and says, "Lord, I believe". **Do we see God today?**

Where is Jesus? Go to chapter 18. In vv. 5 and 7, notice how, when the soldiers come to arrest him, Jesus asks, "*Whom are you looking for?*" The author asks us the same question. How ironic that the soldiers come with torches and lanterns looking for the Light of the world. **Can we find Jesus in the darkness of our lives?**

Where is Jesus? Later Pilate, who will determine Jesus' fate, asks "*Where do you come from?*" (19:9)

Finally, in chapter 20, it is still dark and Mary Magdalene, weeping, comes looking for Jesus. She anxiously wonders, "*Where have they put him?*" (vv. 2, 13, 15) Jesus is present but Mary does not recognize him. She clings to the Jesus she knew in the past. Only when he calls her by name does she know him. The disciples and soldiers could not keep Jesus in the tomb. We cannot keep him in a box. The risen Jesus is at the heart of Mary's faith, and ours today.

Where is the risen Jesus for you?

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