

person. Studying the Bible involves more than just reading it; especially in a language in which it was not originally written (Hebrew in the Old Testament, Greek for the New). We need to understand the original context in which the scripture was written, the meaning of words used within that context and society, etc. Certainly, it is meant to honor John when his name is connected with this body of work. What your thoughts about the authorship of scripture in general and these books specifically? Why does this matter? Do each of these books have the same weight in terms of their validity and meaning? Record your ideas here.

### Thursday, August 10

Read John 19:16b-27. John, once called a son of thunder became the disciple whom Jesus loved. John was the only disciple at the cross where Jesus died. He was the man with whom Jesus entrusted his mother, Mary. That seems like an amazing transformation and it's for certain that it didn't happen overnight but rather over the three years John spent with Jesus as part of his inner circle. John's transformation may have continued after Jesus left this world! How has your life been transformed by Jesus? How is your life different because of your faith? How long did it take for the difference to be recognized? Meditate on these questions and write your ideas here.

### Friday, August 11

John's love was real, tough and a little gritty – evidenced by his presence at the cross. John, the youngest disciple who was beloved by Jesus, returned Jesus' love with loyalty, determination and diligence to the ministry and mission of Jesus. You've heard of how John started churches in Judea and Turkey and all because he loved Jesus. How do you demonstrate your love for Jesus? How would people describe your love for Jesus the Christ? What words and actions of yours would demonstrate you love for Jesus? Meditate on these questions and write your thoughts here.

## Message Notes – August 6, 2023

### *The Twelve – John the Beloved\**

- I. To James and John Jesus bestowed the nickname “sons of \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - A. Last week we recognized James as the \_\_\_\_\_ brother since John was later called “the disciple whom Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - B. John was likely the \_\_\_\_\_ of The Twelve.
  - C. John was part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' apostles.
- II. Part of being a son of thunder is an \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward others.
  - A. John said, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to \_\_\_\_\_ him, because he was not following us.”
  - B. Jesus rebuked John saying, “Whoever is not \_\_\_\_\_ us is for us.”
  - C. Leslie Flynn, writes, “John's \_\_\_\_\_ was really an extension of his ambition to be top dog.
  - D. Such divisiveness is not only counter-productive but is a waste of \_\_\_\_\_ energy.
- III. If you look in your Bibles, you will find that there is a Gospel of John, then there are three little \_\_\_\_\_ – First, Second and Third John and then “The \_\_\_\_\_ to John.”
  - A. There is a definite reason they all are either attributed to John or were written and designated as John's writing as a \_\_\_\_\_ to John.
  - B. John lived a long life estimated to be 88 to 98 years old when he died in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. A long life but it was a \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- IV. While John is often portrayed in classic art as a young man without a beard, his face is cherubic with a certain

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\*John 19:16b-27

glow, his mutual love of Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ and little \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. John returned Jesus' love with \_\_\_\_\_, determination and \_\_\_\_\_ to the ministry and mission of Jesus.
- B. John lived in Ephesus in what is now \_\_\_\_\_ where John started many churches after beginning the Johannine Churches in Judea.
- C. Tradition says that an attempt was made to \_\_\_\_\_ John through communion wine but that God spared him.
- D. It was recorded by the early Christian writer, Tertullian, that John was \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ as were many early Christians, Tertullian further said John survived that punishment.
- E. John is the patron saint of \_\_\_\_\_, loyalty, \_\_\_\_\_, and authors.
- F. From a son of thunder to possessing a thunderous love for Jesus, John was fiercely \_\_\_\_\_ to the mission and ministry of Jesus the Christ

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, August 7**

Read Luke 9:51-56. It has been mentioned several times that James and John were nicknamed by Jesus as "sons of thunder." No doubt the scripture passage for today contributes to that identity for these two brothers. As mentioned in the message from July 30, anger along with a vengeful zeal is never a good combination. Several people in response to that same message shared that their concern about their own anger and anger that seems so prevalent in our society. What are your thoughts about the ever-present anger that seems to fuel a lot of rage in our country and even the world? Do you have personal concerns

about your own anger? What do you believe could be done to stop people from acting on their anger? Perhaps you don't see a problem with anger in our world or country? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

### **Tuesday, August 8**

Read Mark 9:33-41. Yesterday we considered the thought that anger is a world-wide problem. Today, let's consider the underlying cause or the root of anger. For John in addition to a vengeful zeal and the ambitious desire to occupy a place of honor beside Jesus, he also seems to be dealing with bigotry. That means he is prejudice against anyone who is not a part of those who specifically followed Jesus. In the passage you just read, John tried to stop a healer from healing in Jesus' name. Jesus rebuked John saying that if that man isn't saying anything foul or untrue about Jesus, then leave him be. If he is not against Jesus and his followers, then he is for them. What do you believe fuels anger in others? What causes you to be angry? Bigotry, racism, sexism, fear of the unknown, not understanding others can all lead to anger that is all too often acted out in violence. Is it ever alright to be angry? Take a moment to think about the underlying causes of anger and write your thoughts here. Read Ephesians 4:26-27 to shed some more light on these questions.

### **Wednesday, August 9**

There are five books of the Bible that bear the name of John as their author: The Gospel of John, First, Second and Third John and The Revelation to John. Were you surprised to hear that theories about the authorship of these books have shifted over the past 2000 years since they were written? Rest assured that there is no malice when the authorship of a Biblical book is questioned or even when an ancient author attributes their work to another