

## Lost in Translation

That You May Believe, John 1:1-18

### Introduction

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- We've gotten to the point in our technology where we can use an app on our smartphone to translate our words into another language. This is extremely cool, but I wonder how you would know that your message was accurate?
  - It was a couple of years ago now, but I heard about a guy who set out to test the accuracy of one of the translation machines. He translated the words to Take Me Out to the Ballgame, into German and then translated them back into English to see if anything was lost. The results were odd: "Execute me to the ball play. Execute me with the masses. Buy me certain groundnuts and cracker-stack-fusig. I'm not interested if I never receive back. Let me root, root, root for the main team. If they do not win, it is dishonor. For there are 1, 2, 3 impacts on you at the old ball play."
  - It's not exactly what you expect to hear on opening day."
- Jesus Christ is God translated into human flesh & John wrote to make sure his readers had an accurate understanding of that translation.
  - John, the son of Zebedee, stated his thesis near the end of His Gospel in 20:30-31 - that his readers would believe in Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of the world.
  - John also began His Gospel with this idea by referring to Jesus as *the logos*, or "the Word."
    - In the OT, God's word is powerful, authoritative, & decisive. God uses it to bring about creation, reveal His nature, & guide His people.
    - The Scriptures are the Written Word & JC is the Living Word of God.
- John 1:1-18 form a prologue (introduction) to the whole Gospel (Read passage)
- John's prologue introduces many of the themes that He uses to talk about Jesus's life and ministry (like the contribution of John the Baptist), but it also has a main point within itself - that **Jesus is the Son of God, who came into the world to reveal God to us**.
  - The incarnation of Christ was a watershed moment in human history.
  - The God who created the world, stepped into the world, to save the world.
  - As we look at this passage together, I want to show you 2 reasons for the revelation, or translation, of Jesus Christ.

### Body

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#### I. JESUS CAME SO THAT YOU CAN KNOW ABOUT GOD.

##### A. He is a divine person (1:1-2).

1. John is describing a person, not an idea or an impersonal force.
2. This description fits with what we know about the trinity of God.
  - a. There is one God
  - b. God is three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - c. The HF, JC, and the HS are all fully God.
3. This is foundational - Jesus is in sync w/ the HF & the Holy Spirit.

##### B. He was present at creation (1:3-5).

1. John connects his Gospel all the way back to Genesis by starting it out the same way "in the beginning."
2. You might miss Jesus in the creation account, but He's there!
  - a. Gen 1:26 records God's conversation with himself about creating mankind in his image: "Let us create man in our image."
  - b. Jesus has always existed and "all things were created through Him and for Him." (Col. 1:16)
3. John also calls Jesus "The Light" in reference to his presence at creation.

##### C. He is the power of redemption (1:6-13).

1. In verse 10/11 we read about the problem with Christ's coming.
  - a. Although he created humans and became a human Himself, He was dismissed and rejected by humanity.
  - b. Here's the problem - Everyone is a sinner born with a disposition to reject God. We need Him to come to us.
2. But - some people do respond in faith and belief.
  - a. Those are the ones who are redeemed & adopted as children of God.
  - b. This "rebirth" is spiritual & happens in response to God's initiative.

##### D. He is a picture of God (1:14-18).

1. John returns to his description of Jesus as the "Word."
2. Jesus has a special relationship with the HF as the "only begotten" one.
3. God revealed the Law thru Moses & revealed grace & truth thru JC.
4. The 2nd of the 10 Commandments prohibits God's people from making a "graven image or likeness" of God as a part of their worship.
  - a. This was to keep the Hebrews from worshipping false idols.
  - b. It was also to keep from settling for a disappointing substitute.

- J.I Packer once said, "There's a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have the energy to serve Him, boldness to share, and contentment in Him."

#### II. JESUS CAME SO THAT YOU CAN KNOW GOD

##### A. Personally, believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son.

1. That He is God, that He was present at creation, and that he did what was necessary for you to be forgiven of your sin and rebellion against God.
2. This will require you to admit that you are a sinner in the first place - a sinner worthy of punishment and death.
3. There is no way to have a relationship with God apart from JC.
  - a. People imagine a native in a dark jungle or a sincere Buddhist in a foreign country & suggest that there must be some other way.
  - b. Jesus himself said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but through Me." (John 14:6)

##### B. Personally, accept Jesus Christ's offer of new life.

1. Jesus came all the way from heaven to earth to show us God, but also to shepherd us into God's family.
2. He offers us a new life complete with the ability to overcome our sinful habits and walk and talk with God.
3. Relationships are always started with a decision.
  - a. If you make a new friend, you have to choose to spend time with that friend and talk to them, or the friendship fades away.
  - b. When you marry a spouse, you stand in front of your family and friends and make a public decision to commit yourselves to each other.
4. God has been working since the fall in Genesis to bring people back into His family.
  - a. The Father worked out all the plans from the beginning.
  - b. The Son executed those plans flawlessly.
  - c. The Spirit empowered those plans & enables sinners to respond.

#### Conclusion

- **My aim this morning includes two goals & I pray that nothing has been lost in the translation.**
  - First, I hope you learned something about Jesus.
    - Our whole service is aimed at exalting JC, God's son.
      - It's not about our comfort, preferences, or egos - it's not about us.
      - It's not about filling a requirement or checking a box.
      - It's about worshiping Jesus Christ.
    - We have to know at least a little bit about our subject to be able to worship. Our subject is supremely worthy – we must learn more than the least amount.
    - Make a note – what did you learn today about Jesus Christ?
  - Second, I hope that you know God, or that you come to know him today.
    - You can begin that relationship right now from where you are seated.
    - God would love to hear from you in your own word, but if you would like to help you can pray along with me.
- John, the Beloved Disciple, started off His Gospel about Jesus Christ with an emphatic introduction - **Jesus is the Son of God, who came into the world to reveal God to us.**
  - Jesus is so much more than a myth or a legend.
  - He suffered more than anyone would for a delusion or a lie.
- “If our greatest need was economic, he would have sent a banker. If our greatest need was entertainment, he would have sent us a comedian. If our greatest need was political stability, he would have sent us a politician. If our greatest need was health, he would have sent us a doctor. But God knew that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death; so He sent us a Savior.”