

Introduction to the Bible: Session IV, The Gospel of John

Introduction:

1. Consideration of two texts: John 1:1-5 and 2:13-22: what issues emerge?
2. Some background on John
 - a. John and the Synoptics: how John differs
 - b. the visible landscape and the invisible landscape
 - c. the problem of “the Jews” in John’s gospel
 - d. the evolution of early Christianity: within the synagogue then outside it

Examination of key texts in John’s presentation of Jesus

1. The Prologue: John 1:1-18
2. The wedding at Cana: 2:1-11
3. Contrasting panels in c. 3 and c. 4: whose pedigree leans toward discipleship?
4. Sign followed by discourse: 5:1-18 and 5:19-47: further witnesses to Jesus
5. Sign followed by discourse then by division: 6:1-14 and 6:25-40 and 6:60-71
6. Sign followed by a series of dialogues (Jesus, a minor role!): 9:1-12 and 9:13-41
7. Final and greatest sign, no discourse: 11:1-44; NB the aftermath: 11:45-53
8. A Last Supper without a supper (cc. 13—17)
 - a. 13:1-30: service/hospitality vs. treachery/betrayal
 - b. 15:1-17: the command to love, its uniqueness in the gospels’ tradition
 - c. 16:1-29: the response of the world
 - d. 17:1-5: Jesus prays
9. A return to traditional material: the passion and death of Jesus (18:1—19:42)
 - a. Interrogation by the high priest (18:19-24)
 - b. Interrogation by Pilate (18:33—19:16): 3 acquittals then condemnation
 - c. Death of Jesus (19:23-30)
10. Traditional material in non-traditional garb: the risen Jesus appears (20-21)
 - a. First appearance: to a woman! And first apostolic commission: of a woman! (20:1-18)
 - b. Second appearance: to disciples (20:19-29) with a mandate
 - c. Third appearance: to disciples + one (20:30-31) with a mandate
 - d. Fourth appearance: to seven disciples (21:1-19) and a mandate for Peter

Summary thoughts

John Grega

Homework: Read the first letter to the Corinthians