

# Sunday, February 18, 2018 – First Sunday of Lent

## Sermon: John – The Beloved Disciple

### Read Mark 1:14-20

As we travel through Lent remembering Jesus trip to Jerusalem where He would be crucified think about the people who traveled with Him. Today let us think about John.



John was one of the first disciples Jesus called. (Mark 1) John and his brother James were fishermen. When Jesus started calling disciples He began with two sets of brothers. Peter and his brother Andrew and James and John. Jesus had been preaching in the area so the four of them would have heard Him. We read that Jesus called them to follow Him. There is no discussion recorded. It seems that Jesus called them and they went. They were ready to make a change in their lives and when Jesus came and offered them the chance to follow Him they went with Him.



James and John did not always understand what Jesus was doing. He and his brother wanted power. (Mark 10) They went to Jesus and asked to be able to sit at His right and left hand when He came to power. They were thinking that Jesus was going to become a king and they would be important people. They were looking for a political kingdom, not a spiritual one. There was a time that they saw someone casting out demons in Jesus name and they stopped them. (Luke 9) They went and bragged to Jesus about it. They thought He would have commended them for doing it. The people doing this were not part of the disciples that traveled with Jesus and so they wanted to stop them. Instead of commending them, Jesus told them they should not do that. It did not matter that they were not part of the twelve. What was important is they were serving Jesus.



One more example was that they wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan village when the people of the village would not welcome Jesus. (Luke 9) Because Jesus was going to Jerusalem the people did not want Him in their town. There was an animosity between the Jews and Samaritans. This caused the Samaritans not to want Jesus in their town since He was going to the Jewish capital. The animosity caused James and John to want to destroy the Samaritans. They let their personal feelings get in the way of what they were doing for the Kingdom of God.

Despite these failures John was one of the closest of Jesus disciples. He is called the disciple that Jesus loved. He was a part of the inner circle who traveled with Jesus when the others did not.

When a leader of the synagogue, Jairus, came to Jesus because his daughter was sick, Jesus went to heal her. (Mark 5) On the way they received the news that the girl had died. Jesus continued to the house. When He got there He only took with Him inside the parents of the girl and Peter, James and John. Jesus raised the girl and told those with Him not to tell anyone. John was one of the few people who saw this miracle.

Another miracle they saw was the Transfiguration. (Mark 9) Jesus went up on a mountain and took Peter, James and John with Him and left the others behind. This was an honor for the three of them. While they

were there Jesus was changed. We read that He glowed and Moses and Elijah came to talk to Him. This is a major event. When they come down from the mountain Jesus heads for Jerusalem. Peter had made the confession that Jesus was the Messiah, and now they have seen the glory of Jesus. Jesus tells them not to say anything until after the Resurrection. They did not understand what He was talking about, but they had that experience.

In the time just before the crucifixion it was John and Peter that Jesus asked to prepare the Upper Room. (Luke 22) The Passover was an important meal, and Peter who had become the leader of the disciples worked with John to get everything ready. This was an important job they were given.



After the meal when Jesus went to pray it was Peter, James and John who were closest to Jesus in the garden. (Mark 14) These were the friends Jesus wanted closest to Him at this difficult time. They went with Him, but fell asleep. He wanted to help Jesus but sometimes it was just too much for Him.

As Jesus was dying He entrusted His mother to John. (John 19) It was one of the last things Jesus did before His death. He wanted to make sure His mother was taken care of. It shows the importance Jesus had in fulfilling His responsibilities and the trust that He had in John.



John was one of the first to discover the Resurrection. (John 20-21) When the women who had gone to the Tomb discovered it was empty and was told Jesus had risen from the dead they ran and found Peter and John. We read that John outran Peter to the Tomb. He saw and believed. This is the fact on which we base our faith. Jesus died and has defeated death by His resurrection. It is our hope and John was one of the first to find this.

What does this mean for us today. John is a model to us of someone who wanted something more in life than what he had before He met Jesus. Even though he messed up at times, John loved Jesus and was used by Jesus. We can be like John.