

Seeing God Through Jesus

John 14: 8-9

John's Gospel was, as best we know written about the close of the first century. The conditions surrounding John were some what similar to many conditions in the world to-day. It was a day of religious unsettlement throughout the Greco-Roman world. Once the gods had been real - Zeus was real to them and the temple of Delphi had been a place of real worship. But destructive critics arose and ridiculed the old faith and various religions came in. The mystery religions from East and West from Persia and Arabia and Egypt and Greece. As the old religion broke down there was offered an orgy of mystic cults, imitations of theosophy, spiritualism, and new thought. The old religion goes, the people felt the need of God and from every hand came suggestions as to how He might be found.

In such conditions came the fallowing of Jesus in the first century.

This perhaps accounts for the difference between the Gospel of John as compared with the Gospels of Matt, Mark, and Luke. Matt starts with genealogy of Jesus leading up to His birth, Luke gives us the Bethlehem picture of His birth, and Mark begins at His baptism. But John uses the whole universe as a back ground. "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God."

John begins thus because first of all Jesus own teaching that

and second because he knew the needs of the people. you may say what you please about pagan religions but the people devoutly believed in them got some comfort. But now Jesus is taken away and they need something real to worship. Jno. knew that when he preached Jesus he must preach Him as the revelation of the Father, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" and "He that believeth on me believeth not on me but on Him that sent me."

This is the accent that runs through the book. "My Father sent me." In this one Gospel Jesus says 40 times that His Father sent Him. In speaking of Philip when he said "Show us the Father and it sufficeth us" Jno. is bring out the thought of the Ephesians. "They want God, and Jesus is the revelation of God and this is what Jno. must get across to them and what we must get across to-day."

No other Christ is adequate for our times. For say what we may about it there is a wave of skepticism in the land to-day and people are uncertain about God. The God as taught to childhood in years ago has been taken down by new thought by modernism and people are at sea. Ritualism in the church, unrighteousness in the church, indifference in the church floods our streets at the preaching hour with boys and young and old men who do not enter our Church doors. we have hidden Christ as the revelation of God. In their hearts there may be a readiness for Christ but not as they see Him in us.

We should strive to bring out as a church the new testament emphasis of Jesus as the revelation of God so that Jesus will be in our lives and people seeing Him in us will realize that they are also seeing the Father.

Much has been done to humanize Jesus, and to make us think of Him as a man who lived 2000 years ago. It is well for us to see His human side if we do not ever look His divine side. Say Jesus to Medea's man and he saw a King on a throne. Say Jesus to day and we see a figure going about doing good. It should be that when we say Jesus we will at once see the supernatural combination of God coming through the virgin birth into the world and the humble worker of good while here but new Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

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There are two kinds of greatness among men:

1. Napoleon whose greatness did not abide.
2. Galileo, Newton who made a discovery which abides.

But the greatest greatness is the discovery of spiritual ideals. But Jesus revealed God.

There is some thing above nature and human in Christ. They are telling us now that every thing in the universe is made from 82 chemical elements. Everything from the brain of a newton to a thought from brain of a saint is that of a tiger.

the revelation of God in Jesus is the only way to the Father

Everything formed from these elements
just as every thing written is an arrange-
ment or rearrangement of the alphabet.
Like anything can be played on the keys of
that piano. But you can't make a normal person
believe that some carbon and hydrogen get
together on Calvary and died for

us or losing Jesus the revelation of God
not only by recollection of Him as historical figure
but making Him ethical teacher.

Jesus the revelation of God for centuries
has been hidden behind ritualism, and
Church pride and people are craving Jesus
as the ethical teacher. For 20 centuries
you have many ways to Jesus etc but hatred
regime, child labor, gas, etc. But we must
not stress Him too much as ethical teacher
and lose the picture of Him as the revelation
of God.

