



Letters of Love

#15 Jesus is God

July 15, 2018

Courage Church, Detroit, MI

scriptures: 1 John 5:6-12, John 4:1-45,
Leviticus 17:11, John 1:29-34, John
19:34

The First letter of John can be summarized this way:

The Apostle John has set out to write a letter that sets the record straight about who Jesus is, and what that means for us.

In John's day, there was a lot of false teaching going around about Jesus, about His deity, about His humanity... and it was undermining the Gospel. It was distracting and it was leading people astray.

and in our world today, the thing that I believe makes this letter so relevant and ring so true in so many of our hearts, is because just like in John's day, our world is filled with things that have sought the place of Christ...

There are a million voices telling us what is right, and what is wrong... what we should believe, what we shouldn't believe...

and I think that a lot of times, what I have been noticing, especially in the last decade or so, is the world has grown more hostile toward the church, and, out of desperation of NOT KNOWING how to respond to that, often, the Christians of our world have fired back in ways that are defensive, and truthfully, just as much anti-christ as the charges are that the world brings against us. Which unfortunately validates some of their claims.

So I think that it is very important that we go back to the foundation of WHO JESUS IS... AND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR US... and what, when that has taken shape IN US, can do for our world.

Today's passage is a bit odd. But ultimately what it really seems to be getting at is WHO JESUS IS. So lets read it together.

1 John 5:6-12

“This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

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One thing that they teach you in Homiletics class, which, for those of you who are unfamiliar, Homiletics is “the art of the sermon” - and there is a class for it... and in it, they say that when you are preparing a sermon, you begin with the text... read the text over and over again, and seek the Holy Spirit as to what He wants to communicate through this text, to the church.

The thought is, that before you study any commentaries, listen to podcasts, or read books or articles about the passage to try and learn other perspectives, first you should start with the simple question of “what do I get out of this, just by reading it? Just by meditating on it and praying about it?”

“what is this saying to me? and what does that mean for us?” -

The only problem with that, was when I did it, for the first several times that I read it, all that I came up with was: nothing.

I read it, and I just had no idea.

My first instinct was: I thought of Jesus’ Baptism, and Jesus death...
Water... Blood.

Which, when studying, I later found *that* to be the traditional, and to this day the most likely accurate view of what it is saying.

But in thinking about it, I thought of several other possibilities... one thought was that of the literal blood and water which a baby passes through in child birth... which makes sense since John is talking so much in this letter about how Jesus came in the flesh.

I also wondered if it was in reference just to Jesus' death, which the Bible talks about how after He died, he was stabbed by a guard and blood and water flowed from Him.

Of course, I wasn't really sure.

But I was consoled some, as I began to read commentaries... thinking that assuredly someone else has sorted this out, and I can act as "teacher" here, even if I can't apply something that feels "original."

But as I got into the commentaries I read things like this: "This is the most perplexing passage in the Epistle, and one of the most perplexing in the New Testament." (A. Plummer) and suddenly I felt better about my limited scope of immediate understanding when it came to this set of scriptures, yet felt blank as to what to with it.

But I just kept thinking on it.

and the second thing that I thought of, was some of the ways we get images of water and images of blood throughout the Bible, that, though not ALL directly connected to the Baptism and the Death of Jesus, do tell us more ABOUT JESUS and what He is like.

So ultimately we are going to land at his baptism and death, water, and blood.

But what I am going to do today, is I am going to just go through some of the first images and stories that came to my head when I heard those words...

There are three things that bear witness concerning Jesus being the Son of God. Three that testify. THREE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED, THAT SHOW US CLEARLY, JESUS IS GOD. The Water. The Blood, and then later we see: the Spirit.

The first thing John mentions is the water:

We have had this leak in our basement for some time... in the winter we had some pipes freeze and IN THE PROCESS of fixing them we accidentally made the problem worse when we put a crack in the main water line coming in from the street, BEFORE the water meter. So it was impossible to fix it without calling the city to come out and turn off our water from the street, because the water shut off valve is, of course, on the other side of the meter.

I finally scheduled a plumber to come and do the repair, but they needed an exact time that they would come, and the city of Detroit refuses to commit to exact times, they give you a 24-48 hour window of when they will come turn your water off... and someone MUST be home when they get there... so basically you are stuck at home until they get there.

So we scheduled it a day before the plumber was supposed to come, and of course, they were there within like an hour of me calling. So all day Monday we had no water... the plumber came Tuesday morning, fixed it right away, and I called the city RIGHT BACK to get them to come out and turn it back on... but of course, it was not only an hour on Tuesday... they didn't come back to turn it back on until much later in the day.

And again, someone has to be there... so we couldn't load up and go to a place where the water flowed... we had to live in the drought of our house.

And Dawn and I's nieces were also staying with us so it was 8 people with no running water for two days.

Which in theory doesn't seem so bad. I mean, some people in other countries don't have running water *ever*. But this was really hard for me. It made me very grouchy. Add to it the fact that it is summer and we don't have A.C. yet, water is a precious commodity, and without it the house got

very disgusting very fast. You can't do dishes, you can't wipe down tables, you can't mop floors, you can't take showers, you can't flush toilets,...

you get the idea.

After not even a day I felt so disgusting. I could barely function.

Maybe you remember a movie (cartoon) made about 7 years ago called Rango.

So this Rango guy goes into this town called DIRT... and there is a HUGE drought going on in the town... and somehow Rango, a chameleon, becomes SHERIFF OF THIS TOWN and eventually finds out that there is no drought after all... there is plenty of water, but the Mayor of Dirt is actually limiting the water supply so that he can control the people. There is a very powerful quote in there, when the Mayor says this to Rango:

“Water, Mr Rango. Water. Without it, there's nothing but dust and decay. But with water, there's life. Look at them. So desperate to live, that they'll follow it anywhere. That's the immutable law in the desert. You control the water and you control everything.”

Water is the lifeline.

Water... by it flows life, and without it, nothing can live. And if you are in drought, and you think that there is barely any water, then *when you do* come into some, you don't drink freely do you? You would preserve what you have as much as possible to make it go as far as possible.

Which leads me to a story in the Gospel of John about a Samaritan woman who went to draw water from a well. Jacob's well to be exact, but nobody is keeping track of the names of wells.

And Jesus had just finished a long journey and the Bible says that Jesus was very tired, the Greek word is “*kopiaō*” (copy-ah-oh) and it literally means **exhausted**. Which is actually HUGELY significant, and demonstrates the point John makes in his epistle, which we will get too.

Here Jesus is, in the middle of His earthly ministry... Fully God... yet fully human... is fully exhausted. Out of breath... needs a break...

has anybody ever been there?

Jesus doesn't have much left to give, when he gets to this well.

and He asked the woman if *she would get Him* some water.

And she, being a Samaritan asked Jesus how it is that He, a Jew, would ask her for water? for Jews have NO DEALINGS with Samaritans.

But how many of you know: *this* particular Jew does not follow the cultural rules that tell us who we can and cannot talk to, or be in community with. He is not bound by the prejudices and the discriminatory nature of our world... He knows that He can help this woman who needs help, and though He himself is tired, He gives everything in Him to this moment.

now... Jesus does NOT answer her question, and instead, essentially responds by saying:

“you are asking the wrong question.”

He tells her, if you had known who it is that had asked you for a drink... then you would have asked me to give YOU... “LIVING WATER.”

And Jesus goes on to explain to the Samaritan that everyone who drinks from Jacob's well will one day come back thirsty again.

Everyone who tries to fill the emptiness in their lives with the things of this world, will in the end return to them, once again empty. Once again thirsty.

But Jesus says that He offers something different. He says that He offers living water, in which anyone who drinks of it will never thirst again, but rather, inside of that person will be a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (John 4:14)

There will be this water inside of you that is just filling and filling and filling up and its the very life that you need ALL THE TIME.

We have talked about eternal life a lot this series... how its NOT about Heaven someday... it is ABOUT NOW UNTIL SOMEDAY. If we only look ahead, we will miss our whole purpose... we will miss the woman at the well... we will miss the person on the side of the road... we may even miss our own families.

In 1 John 5:11, we read it at the very beginning, John says “God **gave us** eternal life” - thats pretty cut and dry... we have it now. It does not say “God will give us eternal life when we die” - we have it now. And we need to walk in it, now.

And so this woman at the well hears about this amazing, cleansing, life changing water that will never ever leave her empty or thirsty or any of the things that she has felt her entire life... always trying to fill voids with things that fall right through them... as we find out next.

and she asks for it. She asks for the water.

And do you know what Jesus does?

This is a huge plot twist. Because we would think that Jesus would give her the water... but in fact, nowhere in the passage does it say that he “gives her the living water” - now, I certainly believe that she left that day with living water... but I want you to see what Jesus does because its very different than handing her a cup of cold water and saying “there you go, now you will never thirst again.”

Jesus shows her that, in the same way that she has come to this well to get a drink, she is trying to fill her life... satisfy her life... with things that will always leave her having to come back for more.

He says, “okay, you want living water? Go get your husband and come back.” - to which she replies.. “well, I can’t do that, because I don’t have a husband.”

Then Jesus says “you are right that you don’t have a husband. In fact, you have had five of them, and every marriage failed. And every time one failed, you tried to fill what you thought you lost in the first marriage, by a second one. And when that didn’t fill you... there was a third... and a fourth... and a fifth...”

and after the fifth didn’t fill you, now you are just living with a man who is not even your husband. In other words: YOU HAVE GIVEN UP ON THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE, and are trying your own way.

and the conversation goes on... and she tells Jesus that she perceives Him to be a prophet... and Jesus tells her that GOD IS SPIRIT... which, again... the Spirit is the third that testifies about Jesus. The Water... The Blood... The Spirit... and Jesus tells her that God must be worshipped in Spirit and in Truth.

And then that He is the Messiah.

But watch this... when the Disciples find Jesus talking to the woman, the Bible says that the woman LEFT HER JAR OF WATER... went into town, and started recruiting people saying:

“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did.” -

This line tells it all!

Let me explain:

In the beatitudes, Jesus begins by saying “blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” - in other words... Blessed are you, woman at the well... when you realize that everything that you have ever done has only lead you to a place that is MORE BROKEN.

Blessed are you, woman at the well, when you realize that you can’t create your own path, even on your best day... and still find your way to God. You need another.

Then a few sentences later, Jesus says “blessed are you who HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS” - and get this... we did a study on this a few years ago. The word “thirst” in in Strong’s concordance is said to often be used figuratively, as in those who are said to thirst, who “painfully feel their want of, and eagerly long for, those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, strengthened.”

But Jesus actually says “you are blessed when you HAVE that void, because that means that HE CAN FILL IT WITH THE RIGHT THING, when we have tried our whole lives to fill it WITH OUR OWN THINGS.

So by Jesus showing the woman that He knew all that she ever did... He wasn’t holding it over her... He was showing her that she did the wrong thing because she believed the wrong thing. She thought that she could make herself happy. She thought that a relationship could make her happy. She thought she could fix something that no human being is capable of fixing.

He got her to see the void, and only when she recognized it was she ready to truly fill it.

See, this is a moment that we all need to have in our lives... “a moment at the well...” a moment when we realize that all of the things that we think give us value, really aren’t worth anything at all.

if your think that your worth is wrapped up in the house that you have built, or the car that you drive, or the way you have succeeded in your job and are climbing the ranks every day... it will leave you empty.

if your hope is in your accomplishments... and what you can make of your life, you will be let down.

if your hope is in your marriage... it will just leave you thirsty. Marriage is a good thing but it was not created to be what fills you, it was created to be a reflection of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is only one thing that will give you what you ultimately are seeking, and that is the living water of Jesus Christ... and it is WHEN and ONLY WHEN you come to the end of yourself LIKE THAT... when you see, AS SHE DID, that THIS IS WHAT MATTERS... that is when you will be able to actually step IN TO WHAT GOD TRULY HAS FOR YOU, and make the impact that can only be made WHEN HIS HAND IS ON YOUR LIFE.

THIS WOMAN LEFT WITHOUT WATER AND YET SHE LEFT SATISFIED...

but the result is what matters most. She left proclaiming Jesus, and it drew the town to Jesus so that they could see for themselves, and the Bible says that when people from the town heard for themselves, they believed: THIS IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

That is the result of living water.

But 1 John's water is not about living water, its about the baptism of Jesus... yes... absolutely right...

But first of all, there is more than one kind of Baptism... we will talk about water in a moment... but there is also Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and get this... Jesus at the well tells the woman "I will give you living water, and you will never thirst again, and life will bubble up inside of you welling up to eternal life" -

fast forward three chapters, and in John 7 you have Jesus at the feast of booths, and on the last day of the feast, Jesus stands up and cries out:

(John 7:37-38) "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Then we get a little side note from John that explains everything:

In verse 39, John, explaining Jesus' words, says:

“Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

The Living Water IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.

In Mark 1 and in John 1, John the Baptist explains how He baptizes people WITH WATER, which is good... but Jesus will actually baptize them WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

There are two different Baptisms. Which ultimately has to lead us to the question:

But what is the purpose of Baptism?

Baptism is a testimony... a public display of your love and devotion TO JESUS and your commitment TO HIS MISSION.

You are publicly confessing to EVERYBODY that Jesus is Lord of your life... and that you may be going into the water one way, but you will come up ANOTHER WAY and you will NEVER TURN BACK.

It is a “making all things new” moment in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ.

Even the account that Mark gives us of Jesus’ baptism, which is believed to be the earliest written Gospel that we have, so its the first account... and in it we have Jesus and He is in the water... and the sky opens up, and the Holy Spirit coming down and hovering over him like a dove... and then we have God’s audible voice speaking life into Him...

Actually the language used to describe what is going on surrounding Jesus’ baptism is very similar to the description we get of what is going on in Genesis when God is creating everything, and the Spirit is hovering over the creation... When God is forming NEW LIFE by SPEAKING THEM INTO EXISTENCE...

Because that is what Baptism is about... its about new life.

It is about stepping in to something new.

I found this to be fascinating... Jewish Rabbi Rashi (Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac), when giving commentary on Genesis 1 says this: "The throne of Divine Glory was standing in space, hovering over the face of the waters by the breath of the mouth of the Holy One, blessed be He, and by His command, even as a dove hovers over its nest."

Now, even though he lived around 1,000 years after Jesus lived and was baptized, this is significant because Jewish Rabbi's aren't out to prove Jesus... yet the way that he describes the creation story is almost an exact parallel to Jesus being baptized. (not to mention the 40 days Jesus then spent in the wilderness, compared to the 40 days Israel wandered after the Exodus)

Its right in front of us. God is doing something new.

It is a proclamation that Jesus is Lord, and it is a commitment that you are now on MISSION FOR HIM... Just like the woman who left that well, and went on a mission for Jesus bringing her whole town back to him.

The essence of Baptism is newness and MISSION.

It is dedicating yourself to a new way.

We focus on the water... and the water is powerful... but the water is ONLY powerful because of what it represents and the message that it communicates to the world.

When Jesus was baptized, it was an empowerment for the mission that He had always had... the Spirit came down on Him, and reminded Him that He is not alone on that mission. But even without being baptized in that moment, the Samaritan Woman at the well left that place changed... she left that place full... She left the water, and joined the movement.

I've known a whole lot of people who have been dunked in the water, but never truly joined the movement.

If you are here and you have never been baptized... LET US BAPTIZE YOU... BUT KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU ARE BEING BAPTIZED INTO... IT IS A MISSION.

Traditions... symbols... sacraments... They are only worth as much as you actually mean them in your heart and are willing to fulfill them WITH YOUR LIFE. The Pharisees said all the right things, but their lives didn't reflect it. Yet this woman at the well wasn't even a Jew... she wasn't even Baptized, and yet she left on a mission and it changed a whole town.

AND THAT IS A LOT OF FRUIT!

We, like the Samaritan woman, no matter where we are today or what we did yesterday... we can drink from the water of life and never thirst again in Christ.

But then John says: BUT NOT BY WATER ONLY! But by water and blood.

Now, most scholars agree that ultimately what John is referring to here is Jesus' death.

When His blood was Poured out for us on the cross. Which is pretty self explanatory. But it is important to understand that, in the same way that water is something that we rely on for life... Blood, according to the Bible, really is the ESSENCE OF LIFE. It is what keeps us alive.

Dawn and I have a friend named Matt who is a youth Pastor in Dallas, TX, at an absolutely enormous church, one of the biggest in the nation. Gateway church. And their pastor, a few months ago was literally a couple minutes from death, had he not gotten the help that he needed... he was airlifted to a hospital... and given several blood transfusions... and it was the blood of donors that saved his life... it kept him alive.

And I was reading just yesterday, that their church RESPONDED (because that is what churches should do... when God does something amazing for you to prove His faithfulness, like sparing the life of your pastor) - and they responded by having a blood drive.

The donation center that they partnered with, Carter Blood care, said this:

“We have been able to help some other community blood centers, when we’re usually at the point of asking others.” -

THAT IS HOW THE CHURCH SHOULD REACT, EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT IT HAS TO REACT.

they said that from this one church’s response alone, over 4,600 lives will potentially be saved. It was the biggest blood drive that they have ever had, with the biggest response ever... AND IT WAS ALL FROM ONE CHURCH.

Guys, that is the result of a church that has been BAPTIZED INTO THE MISSION OF JESUS.

but it comes to show you... Blood matters. It is a matter of life and death.

look at this: if you turn your Bibles back all the way to Leviticus 17, you get this in verse 11 -

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for **it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.**

The LIFE OF FLESH is in the blood... okay? And Moses here writes that because of our sins, in order to receive atonement, blood must be spilled... The sacred flow of life itself must be poured out because the wages of sin is death. So what they would do as a sin offering, is they would select a lamb, a perfect, spotless lamb, and they would sacrifice the perfect lamb, as the payment for the sins of the people.

So when the Bible talks about Jesus once and for all being that atonement... being that sacrifice... when it talks about Jesus’ blood being poured out... it is not just about a guy who was murdered.

It is about God himself... becoming a man, who relied on blood as the very essence of His humanity just like you and I do... just like Pastor Robert Morris in Texas does... just like everyone who has ever lived does...

and then HAD THAT TAKEN FROM HIM.

So the Spirit testifies... The Holy Spirit... the one who always points to Jesus.

The water testifies... Baptism... cleansing... preparing and empowering for mission...

and the Blood testifies... the Essence of life.

We see the importance of these images throughout the Bible as they relate to themselves... but what does it mean here in 1 John 5, and does any of the imagery have any significance *to this*?

Turn back with me to John chapter 1... and this is where it gets really interesting.

Three chapters before the story of the woman at the well. Picking up in verse 29, John the Baptist had been baptizing people in Bethany in the Jordan, and Jesus approaches him... and this is what John says: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world."

John the Baptist sees Jesus, and he, right then and there, prophesies: "this is the lamb of God... this is the one who will be sacrificed... whose blood will be shed, because the wages of sin is death... and without the shedding of blood, there would be no forgiveness of sins... and He is it... The one who will take your place. The one who will take MY place..."

Here He comes...

and then do you know what happened next?

The Bible says that John himself bore witness that WHEN HE BAPTIZED JESUS... when he dipped Jesus in the water and pulled Him up... The Holy SPIRIT descended onto Jesus... and he REMAINED on Jesus.

So this one passage gives us all three... Water... Baptism.

Blood... Death. and a prophesy of what was to come.

Spirit... Life. And life abundantly... a life of power. A life that can overcome the world.

There really is not a lot of doubt, that though there is a lot loaded behind the significance of water and the significance of blood... ultimately it is referring to this event... Jesus' Baptism... and The event John prophesied about... that Jesus would be the lamb of God who would take away our sins...

But the question is, WHY? Why does John write this? What is he trying to say to his church who had all of these voices trying to tell them all of these false things about Jesus?

The heresy that was most likely active in the church John was writing to was a form of Gnosticism that taught that Jesus was JUST A MAN... born like any other man... but AT HIS BAPTISM... He stepped INTO BEING GOD... The Spirit came down on Him, and that is what gave Him His deity... and then, *before* He died he submitted His Spirit, as in, He then GAVE UP His Deity BEFORE DYING... because in their view: God's can't die.

and so of course, they were using these stories to prove their point... the Spirit came on Jesus AT HIS BAPTISM... and just before Jesus died He SUBMITTED HIS SPIRIT back to God, so they were saying that before the baptism and after the submission of the Spirit, Jesus was not God anymore... the "Spirit of God" left Him.

So let me show you what John does, then I will tell you why it matters, and then we will close.

We need to look at the very first verse in this passage again, verse 6 of chapter 5...

“This is he who came **by** water and blood—Jesus Christ; not **by** the water only but **by** the water and the blood.”

one of the words that you probably would not expect to be a game changer here, but it really is, is the word: “by”

We read the word “by” - but IN Greek, the “by” in the first part of the sentence, and the two times we read “by” in the second part of the sentence, ARE DIFFERENT WORDS.

the second and third “by” is the Greek word “*en*” - which could definitely mean “by” or it could mean “in” as in Jesus came “in the flesh” “in the water” - “in” and “by” there are basically saying the same thing.

but the first time we get the word “by” it is the Greek word: “*dia*” - which is actually much more accurately translated as “through”

“This is He who came *through* water and blood” -

Which makes the case for the possibility of John referring to Jesus’ literal birth... he came through water, and through blood... and even though that really tells the same story and makes the same point, I believe it is meant to be read a bit differently.

The way that the Greek is written, what this seems to be saying, is that of a constant flow... Jesus is God... and He was God from the very beginning... and even though He did not *start* His earthly PUBLIC ministry UNTIL He was baptized and empowered by the Spirit, He was God even before that... and through His Baptism, He continued being God... and then came death... and right THROUGH DEATH He kept on BEING GOD.

Through death... He was still alive. He never stopped being God.

And even though that all sounds like just a bunch of confusing INFORMATION... stuff that you may not think matters... let me show you

why that does matter TODAY... Because a lot of us, even though we would not call ourselves Gnostics, do have a view of God that is similar to this.

a lot of us view Jesus as someone who, because He lived perfectly, He just could not possibly relate to us. In fact, a lot of times, when we think of Jesus, even as a child and growing up, we just assume that in the back of his mind was this "I am better than everyone else, Deity mindset" - like he was just pretending to be human and so he didn't go through the things that we "mere humans" go through. Like he didn't go through the teenage angst years... or through puberty... like emotion was something that HE DIDN'T actually have to deal with...

But He was just a boy. A kid. And at the same time, He was always God. He felt things... He got angry like we read about in Mark 11 in the Temple... He got tired, like we read about at Jacob's well.

and at His Baptism He was empowered by the Spirit which means that He was Fully God, yet Fully Man, and FULLY RELIANT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT here on earth... the same Holy Spirit that is with us today, and that we can trust and rely on, today.

but the Spirit did not make Him God any more than the Spirit does not MAKE YOU GOD, but it does make you more powerful.

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Jesus lived his whole life fully God, yet going through all of the motions, AND EMOTIONS and life struggles that you and I face... that is what makes the Gospel message so powerful. JESUS CAN RELATE.

The pinnacle events are important, but John isn't giving them to us TO LIMIT JESUS WITHIN THAT TIMELINE... He is giving them to us to SEE THAT JESUS WAS NOT LIMITED TO THAT TIMELINE. He was God before... He was God during, and he was God after.

And He is God today... IF HE HAD GIVEN UP HIS DEITY BEFORE HE DIED, THEN HE WOULD NOT BE GOD TODAY... HE WOULD BE DEAD

TODAY. But Jesus is ALIVE... and that matters, because it means that today, you can seek Him, and you will still find Him.

Jesus could be broken... just like you may be broken right now... and He will sit with you, and comfort you... and love you, and give you living water, filling the voids in a way that only He can because everything in the world that we ever seek to fill us will always leave us empty.

So Jesus, when He is with the woman at the well offering her water by which she will never thirst again... He is God, and able to perceive what is going on in the depths of her heart...

but at the same time, He is man, flesh and blood, emotions even... and He is moved to compassion by the fact that He lives in the middle of a world that is so broken, that people go through five marriages before finally GIVING UP ON MARRIAGE, because two broken people can't seem to figure out how they fit together... but none of those husbands will ever fill her... Only Jesus can do that.

Jesus had to interact with people, and build friendships with people, and walk people through things that, though He never gave into, He clearly understood... Hebrews makes it very clear... Jesus was tempted and tried JUST AS WE ARE... yet He overcame every temptation, and lived without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus was not unbreakable. If He was, He would not have been broken. But yet they beat Him, mocked Him, tore Him apart. He was betrayed, abandoned, mocked, beaten, hung on a cross to be killed, so that you could live.

and the passage ends by saying:

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

We could summarize it this way:

Jesus is everything.

When the world feels like it is falling apart, and nothing seems to make sense... look to Jesus.

when you feel alone...

He is there.

He has always been there.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever... He has always loved you... He always will love you.

You know, we have spent this entire letter learning about who Jesus is. Who God is, and what He is like. God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all... Jesus is our advocate... our *parakletos*, the one who stands by our side and pleads our cause before the judge...

we read that God is our Father and we are part of his family, EVEN RIGHT NOW... we read that God is love, and how love is the transforming power that will change the world... but today's passage, though a bit obscure in its method, tells us that Jesus is God.

There is no doubt. It is Jesus.

and you can spend your whole life trying to fill the voids with a bunch of things that may make you feel good for a moment, but in the end will leave you just as thirsty as you were when you started. Just as empty... Just as LOST.

or you can fill it with Jesus... true, living water... and you can have life.

You were meant to have life.