

# *John's impact throughout history*



*“John’s Gospel is deep enough  
for an elephant to swim in  
and shallow enough  
for a child not to drown.”*

~Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD)

# *John's impact throughout history*



*“This is the unique, tender, genuine chief Gospel... Should a tyrant succeed in destroying the Holy Scriptures and only a single copy of the Epistle to the Romans and the Gospel according to John escape him, Christianity would be saved.”*

~ Martin Luther (1482-1546)

# *John's impact throughout history*



*“The Gospel of John has been a source of blessing to untold generations of God’s people. It has probably been the means by which more persons have come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord than any other single portion of Scripture.”*

~ James Boice (1938-2000)

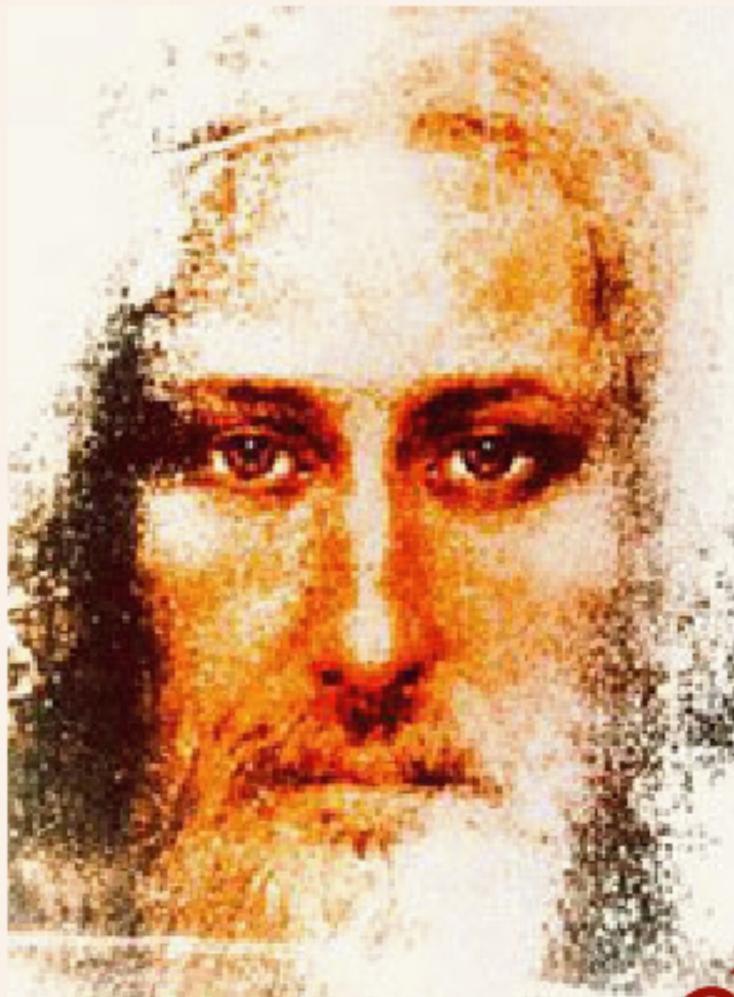
# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN



**PART ONE ~ THE WORD BECAME FLESH  
AND MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

# The Gospel of John ~ Part Two:

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"Who do you say that I am?"

Meeting  
Jesus Christ  
through  
His signs  
and ministry  
~ John 1:19-12:50

# **Suffering and Glory: *Jesus Christ's Procession to the Cross***



*John 13:1 to 21:25*

# *“Peter restored to Jesus”*

## **John 21:15**

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup>Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” <sup>17</sup>The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”



# *“Peter restored to Jesus”*

## **John 21:15**

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”



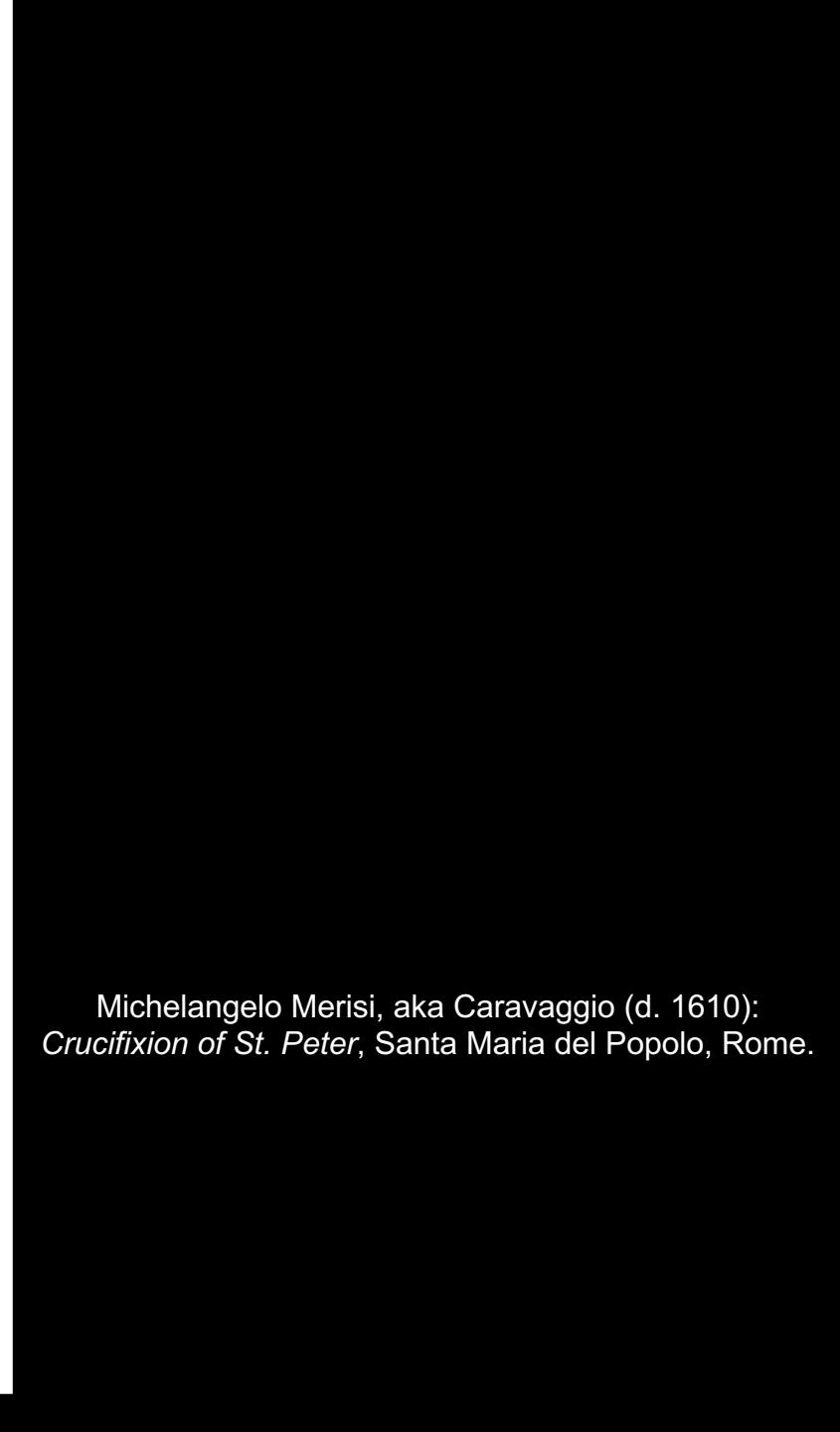
# *“Peter restored to Jesus”*

## **John 21:15**

18“I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then he said to him, “Follow me!”





Michelangelo Merisi, aka Caravaggio (d. 1610):  
*Crucifixion of St. Peter*, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome.

# *Peter and Jesus take a walk...*

## **John 21:20-21**

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

# *The ugly reality of comparison*

## **John 21:20-21**

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## **John 13:5-9**

<sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." <sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

# *Was there a little 'one-upsmanship' between Peter and John?*

## **John 18:15, 16**

<sup>15</sup>Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, <sup>16</sup>but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

# *Was there a little ‘one-upsmanship’ between Peter and John?*

## **John 20:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup>So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” <sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

# *Was there a little 'one-upsmanship' between Peter and John?*

## **John 21:7, 8**

7Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

# *Was there a little 'one-upsmanship' between Peter and John?*

## **John 21:20-25**

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”)

Jealousy

*What's the harm in a little jealousy/envy?*

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# *What's the harm in a little jealousy?*

## **2 Corinthians 10:12**

<sup>12</sup>We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

# *What's the harm in a little jealousy?*

## **Luke 18:11**

<sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector...’

# *What's the harm in a little jealousy?*

## **Proverbs 25:27**

<sup>2</sup>Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;  
someone else, and not your own lips.

*What's the harm in a little jealousy?*

**Proverbs 27:2**

<sup>27</sup>It is not good to eat too much honey,  
nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.

*Jesus answer to Jealolusy -->*

*“That's none of your business... you follow me!”*

**John 21:22**

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

Jesus' blunt words—"None of your business, follow me"—are sweet to my ears. They are liberating from the depressing bondage of fatal comparing. Sometimes when I scan the ads in *Christianity Today* (all ten thousand of them), I get discouraged. Not as much as I used to twenty-five years ago. But still I find this avalanche of ministry suggestions oppressing.

Book after book, conference after conference, DVD after DVD—telling me how to succeed in ministry. And all of them quietly delivering the message that I am not making it. Worship could be better. Preaching could be better. Evangelism could be better. Pastoral care could be better. Youth ministry could be better. Missions could be better. And here is what works. Buy this. Go here. Go there. Do it this way. And adding to the burden—some of these books and conferences are *mine!*

So I was refreshed by Jesus' blunt word to me (and you): "What is that to you? You follow me!" Peter had just heard a very hard word. You will die—painfully. His first thought was comparison. What about John? If I have to suffer, will he have to suffer? If my ministry ends like that, will his end like that? If I don't get to live a long life of fruitful ministry, will he get to?

That's the way we sinners are wired. Compare. Compare. Compare. We crave to know how we stack up in comparison to others. There is some kind of high if we can just find someone less effective than we are. Ouch. To this day, I recall the little note posted by my Resident Assistant in Elliot Hall my senior year at Wheaton: "To love is to stop comparing."

What is that to you, Piper? Follow me.

1. What is it to you that David Wells has such a comprehensive grasp of the pervasive effects of postmodernism? You follow me.
2. What is it to you that Voddie Baucham speaks the gospel so powerfully *without notes*? You follow me.
3. What is it to you that Tim Keller sees gospel connections with professional life so clearly? You follow me.
4. What is it to you that Mark Driscoll has the language and the folly of pop culture at his fingertips? You follow me.
5. What is it to you that Don Carson reads five hundred books a year and combines pastoral insight with the scholar's depth and comprehensiveness? You follow me.

That word landed on me with great joy. Jesus will not judge me according to my superiority or inferiority over anybody. No preacher. No church. No ministry. These are not the standard. Jesus has a work for *me* to do (and a different one for you). It is not what he has given anyone else to do. There is a grace to do it. Will I trust him for that grace and do what he has given me to do? That is the question. O the liberty that comes when Jesus gets tough!

I hope you find encouragement and freedom today when you hear Jesus say to all your fretting comparisons: “What is that to you? You follow me!”

~ "What Is That to You? You Follow Me!"

*Freed from Comparing by Blunt Words*  
By John Piper October 6, 2006

# *An adventure in missing the point!*

## **John 21:23**

<sup>23</sup>Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

*John finally reveals himself as the author...*

**John 21:24**

<sup>24</sup>This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

# *The Preeminence of Jesus*

## **John 21:20-25**

<sup>25</sup>Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.