

## **Finding The Messiah - That Life!**

**Focal Text: John 1:4**

**Full Text: John Chapter 1**

**August 2, 2020**

### **Sermon Summary**

This message transitions us from our study of the Old Testament to our study of The New Testament, specifically the Gospels. The sermon seeks to set up the coming 7 weeks of study based on the Gospels. The readings for this week include the beginning of each of the four Gospels. I chose to focus only on John Chapter 1 because it in many ways set's the doctrinal foundation for Christianity. The first part of the message gives the practical reasoning as to why having the correct doctrinal understanding of who Jesus was as Messiah is so important to our daily lives as Christ followers. Using some of the words the Apostle John would later pen in 1 John. After this practical foundation is laid, an examination of John 1 is made and 12 observations are made concerning the life Jesus lived, which is referred to as "That Life" from the main text for today, John 1:4 In him was life, and THAT LIFE was the light of men.

### **Full Sermon Notes**

Did you pay attention to those lyrics? "I am not alone, You will go before me, You will never leave me! In the midst of deep sorrow, I see Your light is breaking through. The dark of night will not overtake me, I am pressing into You Lord, You fight my every battle, and I will not fear." Today we're going to talk about how finding Jesus as the Messiah in our personal lives makes the lyrics of that song and many other worship songs possible! Had Jesus not been the Messiah, had He not been God in the flesh, then we would have just had another good moral teacher to add to a list of good teachers. But Jesus was different. He was the prophesied Messiah and as a result, the life He lived, "That Life" is the light of God, the glory of God, the revelation of God, and "That Life" is the life that makes salvation possible for all who will believe in Him. Let's pray and I'll tell you why! Pray!

Didn't Andrew do an awesome job the last two Sunday's? I'm so grateful for our staff team at Northshore Church! God has been so good to us. One of our goals this year was to begin transitioning to more of a team approach with our preaching ministry. We desire to do more collaborative work together in the planning of our sermon series and our messages. With that in mind, we chose the 260 reading plan as a foundation for our preaching this year. We developed our goal of Revival around a three pronged approach! Invest, Identify, Impact. Investing in God as our One priority! Identifying One person we could reach out to with the Gospel! Impacting God's Kingdom work by pursuing the use of One of our God-given gifts!

We've just finished an overview of the Old Testament and with Investing, Identifying, and Impacting in mind we discovered how God's promises' prevail through His Covenant with the Israelites right on down to us today. And along with the Hebrew Children of God we learned about Finding Freedom, Finding the Promised Land, Finding Victory and Finding Courage! Man

I sure believe God led us to do this Bible reading plan, given the circumstances we are currently facing in our world. I have personally discovered so many relevant and powerful applications to my own life. But let me tell you this: God's Word in The Old Testament revelation was building up to the ultimate revelation of God to Humankind in the New Testament!

Over the coming 7 weeks we will be unpacking the gospels. We will discover how we find the Messiah in the life and teachings of Jesus. The Messiah was the Deliverer and Savior promised to the Israelites in the Old Testament! We will see how "That Life" Jesus lived and the teachings Jesus taught can help us live lives which will help others find the Messiah as their Savior and Deliverer! I keep saying "That Life," the title of our message. Here's the main verse for our message today from the Gospel of John chapter one verse 4...

John 1:4 In him was life, and THAT LIFE was the light of men.

This week you will be reading the beginning of each of the four gospels. The writers of each gospel had distinct purposes and audiences which influenced the way they told the story of the life of Jesus. I had to choose one. I chose the Gospel of John Chapter One, because the Gospel of John lays a strong foundation for our Christian Theology. And while it's never been more important or critical for us to have strong Biblical foundations for our theology, and doctrines, and we'll lay that theological foundation today, I want to share with you a few verses from the book of 1John 4 that lays a practical foundation for this series. I thought about calling this Lifeology! Thought I had an original idea, but when my spell check didn't flag the word I did a search and found that a psychotherapist in Florida has trademarked the term. Lifeology is already a thing! Oh well, let's just say the following is the practical application of our theology in our life! The Apostle John who wrote the Gospel of John would later pen these words...

### **1 John 4:9-16**

<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

<sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

<sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

<sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

So the practical application of finding the Messiah is this: If Jesus was the Messiah, lived a perfect life, and gave the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and we accept Jesus as the Messiah into our hearts and lives then people should be able to find the Messiah in the way we live our lives.

They should be able to see Jesus in us! In fact the word Christian means “Belonging to Christ,” “Of Christ,” “Slaves of Christ, “Little Christ!” In other words, people should get glimpses of the Messiah in the way we Invest in our relationship with God, in the way we Identify someone we can build a relationship with to share the Gospel, and in the way we Impact God’s Kingdom by using our gifts and talents!

I had a phone call this week from someone who was impacted by our church in a powerful way! If I had known what she was going to say, I would have asked permission to record it. This person lives in another state and had come to Louisiana for medical care for their husband who had to be under 24/7 assistance for ALS. A family member contacted Northshore. You all stepped up big-time. One of our church members actually gave the wife a place to stay when she was in town to see her husband. Her husband has since gone on to be with the Lord! She told me that our church gave her the encouragement and the strength she needed to get through one of the toughest times in her life, and that we helped her hold on to her faith and not give up. She came to worship on Sunday mornings when she could! She indicated to me that she had seen the Lord in the way we responded to her in her time of need! She said she wants to be the same kind of light of Jesus where she lives! She said she will never forget us and that she has told all her family and friends about the genuine ministry and love she received when she attended Northshore Church during her husband’s illness. What a powerful testimony of you all being the church, the Body of Christ, and allowing someone to find the Messiah at Northshore Church!

You see, it’s “that life,” the life of Jesus that motivates us in all that we do. You may not know this, but we once had a church motivation statement, in addition to our purpose, mission and vision statements. It says...

“We are motivated by the supreme example of Jesus in His life, and the extreme sacrifice of Jesus in His death!”

The result of this kind of motivation is found in 1 John 4:12-13

1 John 4:12 ... if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

And we’ll read in a few weeks these words from Jesus...

John 13:34-35

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Folks this is all made possible when we find The Messiah personally and realize Jesus was that Messiah, and the life He lived was the life that redeems us and reconciles us to our Creator God! As we study "That Life" and His teachings, over the coming weeks, we will discover some of the things that set Christianity apart from the other religions in the world. One big thing is the fact we don't just have a book, we have a person! A person who showed us the way, the truth, the life! In many religions you have person's who wrote books! With Christianity you have people who wrote books and letters about a person! These were gathered together to make up the book we know as our New Testament, but Jesus never wrote a book! Mohamed wrote the Koran. And with Confucius, it's Confucius says, as found in the Analects, a collection of writings based on the sayings of Confucius. But Christianity is based on the testimony of others, many who were eyewitnesses of the life of Jesus. As a result we have a book written by others about Jesus, His life and His teachings, so we find things like this: Jesus said, Jesus taught, Jesus replied, Jesus explained, Jesus instructed, Jesus prayed, Jesus fed, Jesus served, Jesus showed, Jesus touched the leper, Jesus washed the disciples feet, Jesus healed, Jesus lived, Jesus gave, Jesus suffered, Jesus died, Jesus rose! We know all of this because others wrote down their testimonies about Him! Jesus' life, "That Life" was what empowered His teachings! He lived what He taught, like no other teacher before or after. In fact, we find these words spoken by others about Jesus...

Mat 7:28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

Mat 7:29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

His authority was not only found in Who He was, but in the Way He lived! While many of the spiritual leaders of Jesus' day were prideful, power hungry, hypocritical and desiring glory, Jesus lived a very humble life! In fact He once told the religious leaders....

John 8:50 I am not seeking glory for myself!

Andrew read this verse last week, but this sums up Jesus' life in a powerful way...

Phil 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Phil 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Phil 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

Phil 2:9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

Phil 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Phil 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus had told His disciples this...

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

And Jesus had not come to build an earthly kingdom! He said this...

John 18:36 ... "My kingdom is not of this world.

Here's an amazing thing: The Pharisees, Saducees and teachers of the law were looking for a worldly kingdom that would give them power and prestige. But Jesus was very clear to them that they were looking in the wrong places for the Kingdom of God.

Luke 17:20 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation,  
Luke 17:21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

The Kingdom of God is where God rules and the most important place God wants to rule is in your heart! If He is the ruler and Lord of your heart then your life will reflect that. Just like Jesus! His life was an exact reflection of who He was and what He was, and Why He had come to live "That Life!" Now let's look at the underlying theology that backs up what I just told you about "That Life" and why we should seek to follow the example of the "That Life!" "That Life" was so powerful, and such an example, in so many ways, not four points, not ten points, not even 100 points could sum it up or encapsulate the impact of Jesus' life! So let me read to you John 1 and just make some points about the theology of what John wrote about the Jesus who lived "That Life!"

Our Text

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

**"That Life" was Divine!**

Jesus was fully man, but He was also fully God! God incarnate! God in human form. Jesus began His earthly life when He was born of the Virgin Mary, but not His existence. Let's go back to the beginning and I'll show you...

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

The language "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness" is indicative of the Holy Trinity. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the beginning was the Word!

Paul would later write...

Col 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

Col 2:10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Our Text

John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

### **"That Life" was Creative!**

If you needed further proof that the "Us" in Genesis was speaking of the Holy Trinity, and that Jesus was actually involved in the creation, listen to these words Paul would later write about Jesus...

Col 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

This is why the winds and the seas obeyed Jesus and why He was able to heal the sick and raise the dead! He's the Lord of Creation, because He and the Father are One, as we'll see.

Our Text

John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

### **"That Life" was Illuminating!**

Hey Kids, it's like a flashlight physically lights up the night, and you can see things that you would not be able to see without the light! Doesn't it make you feel better to have a flashlight in the dark so you can see what's out there? Sometimes a light can help us not hurt ourselves at night because we can see where we're going and avoid things that might trip us up. Jesus' life shined a light on things in this old world. His life shined a spotlight on the bad things of the world which could hurt us, and His life was like a lighthouse that guides ships. His life shined the light on the way life should be lived, in righteousness and holiness! Jesus would later say...

John 8:12 ... "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

#### Our Text

John 1:6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.

John 1:7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

John 1:8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

#### **“That Life” was Verified!**

John the Baptist, was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus by verifying and pointing out that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. You see, God wanted people to find the Messiah. How many of you have ever read the books, Finding Waldo? Or maybe you've seen the Facebook post from our church where you would have to pick a staff member out of a big picture. Dr. Nave mentioned that this week. You see, God did not want it to be a hard thing for people to find the Messiah. So he gave many, many clues that Jesus was the Messiah. And John the Baptist spoke of those clues. More on this in a moment...

#### Our Text

John 1:9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

John 1:11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

John 1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

#### **“That Life” was Accessible!**

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

Rom 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

And speaking of the Word of Christ, we've already read that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God! What happens next is nothing short of a miracle and is the very reason we are able to find the Messiah...

#### Our Text

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **“That Life” was the Personification of God and His Truth!**

There was no longer any need to wonder what God was really like, or what the most important principles of God were, or the greatest commandments, Jesus was the Word become Flesh. His life and teachings said it all and showed it all! Jesus had come to show the disciples the very heart of God in His teachings and in the way He lived His life! I guess you could say that Jesus' life was the Book of Life come to life! Listen to this discourse between Jesus and Philip...

John 14:8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

John 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

### Our Text

John 1:15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

John 1:16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

John 1:19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

John 1:20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

John 1:21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

John 1:22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John 1:23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

## **“That Life” was Prophesied!**

So with Jesus, it was not just His contemporaries who testified about Him, it was the witness of the ancient Hebrew prophets! What other religion in the world has a leader or founder who had thousands of years of prophecies foretelling details about their life before it was ever lived? Like I said earlier about finding Waldo, God didn't want it to be a hard thing to find the Messiah so He made it clear through Prophecy. Lee Strobel, in his book "Case for Christ" stated this...

"In the Jewish Scriptures, which Christians call the Old Testament, there are several dozen major prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, who would be sent by God to redeem His people. In effect, these predictions formed a figurative fingerprint that only the Anointed One

would be able to match. This way, the Israelites could rule out any impostors and validate the credentials of the authentic Messiah.”

Our Text

John 1:24 Now some Pharisees who had been sent

John 1:25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

John 1:26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

John 1:27 He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

John 1:28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

### **“That Life” was Sacrificial!**

John knew that his baptism with water could not wash away sin! While John preached repentance, He knew without a Savior the people had no hope! John recognized and realized Jesus was the sacrificial lamb of God who had come to be that Savior! Paul would later express it this way...

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

And Peter said this...

1 Pet 2:23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

John the Baptist continued...

Our Text

John 1:30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

John 1:31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

### **“That Life” Was Exemplary!**

John realized He had met the One who was purely righteous and holy! The One whose life would surely set the standards for right living for all humanity!

Heb 7:27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Heb 7:28 For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect

Our Text

John 1:32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

John 1:33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

John 1:34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

### **"That Life" was Anointed!**

The literal meaning of the Hebrew word Messiah is "Anointed One" or "the one anointed with oil." Peter would later give this testimony about Jesus to Cornelius a Centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment...

Acts 10:34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism

Acts 10:35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

Acts 10:36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Acts 10:37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached--

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Our Text

John 1:35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

John 1:36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

John 1:37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

John 1:38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

John 1:39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

John 1:40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

John 1:41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

### **“That Life” was Inspirational!**

One day with Jesus was all it took, and Andrew tells his brother Simon, “we have found the Messiah!”

Do you remember when you first met Jesus and the desire you had to share Him with the whole world? If not, it may be time for a little revival in your life!

#### Our Text

John 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

John 1:43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

John 1:44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 1:46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

John 1:47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

John 1:48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

John 1:49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

John 1:50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that."

John 1:51 He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

### **“That Life” was Transformational!**

And because That Life is transformational, real Christianity is not just a religion to believe in, but a way of life to be lived! And we'll be unpacking what that life looks like in the coming weeks as we are finding The Messiah. Many, if not most of you who are here or are online with us, have already found Jesus the Messiah as the Savior of your soul. If not, I pray you will give Jesus a chance to show you that He is indeed the Messiah! You can be honest with Him. Just talk to Him and tell Him about your doubts, your questions, your hurts, your disappointments, failures and struggles. You'll find that the Messiah cares about you and will offer forgiveness and the

help you need to begin a new life in Him! In the coming weeks I hope we will all find Jesus the Messiah in many other ways as well. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus and are disciplined in the Word, we discover how the Messiah's life and message has practical application to every single area of our lives!

Eph 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

Eph 3:21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.