

May 22, 2016

## Heroes of Faith, Part Two

*A series on Heroes of the Old and New Testament  
"The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors,  
set them above the crowd," Hebrews 11:3 The Message*

### "John: (Pastor Mike)

#### A Life of Love and Loyalty"

*"Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—" John 21:20a*

*"When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, 'Dear woman, here is your son'." John 19:26*

#### A. John's early life...

1. John worked in the successful, family business as a fisherman with his brother James and their father was Zebedee. Their mother was Salome and known as Mary's sister, making them cousins to Jesus.

*"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene." John 19:25*

2. The fisherman's life was not for the lazy or the weak. Generally speaking, they were crude and rough in their speech and in their treatment of others. They were hardy and fearless. They practiced a cooperative effort as some had to row, some had to pull rope and nets, while some kept the fish in the nets, and others had to sort the fish.
3. John was about 23 when Jesus called him to follow.
4. It was believed, according to John 1, that John and James first followed John the Baptist till Jesus called them to follow Him.

#### B. John's life with Jesus...

1. Jesus called James and John to follow Him and they left their father's business and followed!
2. James and John were in the inner circle of the closest friends and confidants of Jesus, along with Peter. They witnessed the Transfiguration, the prayer at Gethsemane, and many separate outings.
3. His mom requested a special place with Jesus and he and his brother were quick to say, "We can!"

*"You don't know what you are asking,' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?' 'We can,' they answered." Matthew 20:22*

4. They were called the "Sons of Thunder" for a reason as they wanted to call down fire from heaven.

*"When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?'" Luke 9:54*

5. John was the disciple reclining next to Jesus at the Last Supper.

*"Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?'" John 13:25*

6. But John followed Jesus to the cross.

*"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby..." John 19:26*

7. John was given the responsibility of caring for Jesus' mother, Mary.

*"and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." John 19:27*

8. And John was the first one to the tomb after the resurrection.

*"Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first." John 20:4*

#### C. John's life after Jesus...

1. John's maturity developed to a new level after Pentecost as we see on three occasions that Peter and John shared ministry together. (Acts 3, 4, 8)
2. John witnessed the unconditional love of Jesus toward Nicodemus, toward the Samaritan woman, and each of his disciples. John witnessed Jesus' servant leadership as he washed their feet as an example. That example gave John the basis for his writings and maturity in his spiritual life.

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1a*

*"This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another." 1 John 3:11*

*"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister<sup>d</sup> in need but shows no compassion — how can God's love be in that person?"*

*Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God." 1 John 3:16-19*

3. John was the second-largest writer of the New Testament next to Paul, with 5 books to his credit.
4. John's gospel was written differently than the other three. Matthew to a Jewish audience, Mark to a Roman audience, Luke to a Greek audience, and John to everybody!
5. John knew what it was to live with loneliness and suffering while living in a cave exiled on Patmos.
6. John was believed to be the oldest disciple and died around the age of 90.

*"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13*

#### D. How is your life with Jesus growing?

1. Is your spiritual life growing? Can you see spiritual development taking place?
2. Can you see instances where your unconditional love is being tested...but you can see it growing and developing?
3. Are you committed to loving those in your world? Are you committed to love those beyond your friends and family?
4. Would those in your world characterize your life by your loyalty? Are you willing to sacrifice to be faithful to your word?
5. Do you let your feelings and circumstances dictate your love and loyalty?

Next week...

**May 29- "Joseph: (Pastor Ryan) – The Circuitous Journey to the Top"**

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." Genesis 50:20*