

Word From the Beginning | John 1:1-18

Words create worlds. Jesus is the Word that existed before the beginning.

1. Jesus is the word of creation (v. 1-3)

God is a creating God, and his word is a creating word. The creation account in Genesis is marked by the repetition of “and God said.” In Psalm 33:6 we see that “By the word of the LORD all the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.” God speaks and his word creates. Jesus is that living word, and “by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him” (Colossians 1:16).

2. Jesus is the word of revelation (v. 4-9)

He is the agent of light, the one who brings light, and “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (v. 5). The darkness does not know what to do with the light. How do we handle darkness? We look to the light. When Jesus steps into the world (v. 14), the light comes into the world (v. 9). God came to dwell, to tabernacle, with his people. He brought light into the world, and as the Father sent the Son, so we are also sent (John 20:21).

3. Jesus is the word of salvation (v. 10-18)

Jesus Christ is God and the only way to salvation. He alone gives “the right to become children of God” (v. 12). We must accept what the word says about him—there is no other name by which men can be saved (Acts 4:12). We must submit to him. Jesus is “full of grace and truth” (v. 13). We cannot have just grace or just truth. We must receive both from the one who calls us to a life of worship and witness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to remember the role that Jesus has in creation?
2. In what way are we sent to be light? Consider Matthew 5: 14-16.
3. What does it look like to lean too far into either grace and truth? Why must we have both?