

Jesus, the only Begotten September 27th, 2020

Read John 1: 1-18

This gospel introduces Jesus a little differently than the other gospel writers. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all introduce Jesus at the time of his birth.

John introduces Jesus from the “beginning”, the same beginning that we find in Genesis 1:1. Throughout the first chapter John affirms the fact that Jesus was present at creation with God and the Holy Spirit. John describes Jesus as “The Word” and vs. 14 clearly states that the Word became flesh and dwelt among the people. Jesus clearly was God in the flesh, and his ministry on earth demonstrated that, specifically in the fact that he had the power to forgive sins.

Verse 18 caught my attention during our Wed evening bible study.

“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him”

I find it interesting that John describes Jesus as the only “begotten” God. Later, in chapter 3:16 John states that God gave His only “begotten” son. He was and is the only one sent to us from Heaven. Receiving Him is the only way to have peace with the Father.

Understanding this fact about Jesus helps us understand the words in Hebrews 13:8.

“Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and yes forever”.

This eternity of Jesus is reflected in a contemporary song I have heard in recent months, called “A God who stays”. Jesus’ promise to stay with us is true. We give up on ourselves sometimes, and we walk away from Him, but He is always there, ready for us to turn back to Him. Jesus is the only way to God, now and forever. This reunion and fellowship made possible only by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Before we partake of the communion together, I would like you to listen to the lyrics of this song.

The God Who Stays Lyrics by Matthew West

If I were you
I would've given up on me by now
I would've labeled me a lost cause
Cause I feel just like a lost cause
If I were you
I would've turned around and walked away
I would've labeled me beyond repair
Cause I feel like I'm beyond repair
Oh but somehow you don't see me like I do
Somehow you're still here

[Chorus]
You're the God who stays
You're the God who stays
You're the one who runs in my direction
When the whole world walks away

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You're the God who stands
With wide open arms
And you tell me nothing I have ever done
Could separate my heart from the God who stays

I used to hide
Every time I thought I let you down
Always thought I had to earn my way
But I'm learning you don't work that way
Cause somehow you don't see me like I do
Somehow you're still here

My shame can't separate
My guilt can't separate
My past can't separate
I'm yours forever

No enemy can separate
No power of hell can take away
Your love for me will never change
I'm yours forever

You're the God who stays
You're the one who runs in my direction
When the whole world walks away
You're the God who stands
With wide open arms
And you tell me nothing I have ever done
Could separate my heart from the God who stays

Prayer:

God in Heaven, we are so thankful for your grace and mercy. We thank you for sending Jesus to earth, your only begotten Son, to show us how to live. Thank you for his death on the cross, that paid the penalty for our sin. Please bless the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine as we partake today. We ask your forgiveness of our sins, and we thank you for the peace that comes through Jesus.

In His name we pray, Amen.