



LENT IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

SACRIFICE

SOW

SURRENDER



G3 Devotional Week 1
Supplier AND Substance!
(John chapters 1-6)

It's all about Jesus, and it should be! This week we will discover through John's gospel that Jesus is the Word of God from the beginning, a miracle worker, the source, and steward of eternal life, the well of water that never runs dry, one who will invade the sabbath to heal, and the bread of life! Whew!

Now what is the connection between all these things? I want to offer that John aims to place Jesus at the center of human need to reveal that Jesus is not just a man, He is not only as the greater supplier but as the great substance of all we need. Seeing Jesus as both supplier and substance is critical to understanding the revelation of who he really is because so often Jesus is limited to what he can do for us. None of us want to be limited to what we do, but we often limit Jesus to what He can do. If we desire to be seen for our being, it behooves us to grant Christ that same respect. Each chapter this week will display necessary tension – that place where we must broaden our perspective beyond our mere need of Him.

Eugene Peterson, editor of the Message Bible, once stated the following:

“Christian spirituality, the contemplative life, is not about us. It is about God. The great weakness of American spirituality is that it is all about us: fulfilling our potential, getting the blessings of God, expanding our influence, finding our gifts, getting a handle on principles by which we can get an edge over the competition. The more there is of us, the less there is of God.”

We must emerge from the seat of making relationship with Jesus about us! Yes, we need what we need from the Lord, but I challenge us this week to place our need for Jesus as the priority – to see Jesus as both source and substance of everything.

Regarding Lent, Alicia Britt Chole once wrote, “The purpose of Lent is not to force on us a few formal obligations, but to ‘soften’ our heart so that it may open itself to the realities of the spirit, to experience the hidden ‘thirst and hunger’ for communion with God.” Make this your aim this Lent, as you give up, give out, and give in. Ask God for a softer heart to see Jesus for all of whom Jesus is and can be in our lives. He is supplier and substance because he is the source. Make it about Jesus, not about yourself! I promise that your journey will be much more rewarding that way.

Happy Lent!