
Series: Seeing Jesus in Summer
Jesus Knows Everything

Introduction:

1 John 3:1-24 (ESV)

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Here's the deal, according to John: Jesus really works! If Jesus is in your life as a Savior, then He is in your life as a transforming Savior. When an individual begins trusting in Christ, they're different. They change. The ultimate transformation comes when Jesus returns – we will be like him when we see him as he is! (vv.1-2). In the meantime, you are in the midst of a self-imposed purification process. So...

- Have any of you sinned willfully this week? I mean have you purposefully chosen to do something that you know was sin? (vv.4-10)

- Have any of you been all talk and no walk this week? Have any of you talked up your good intentions but not followed through? (vv.11-15)
- Have any of you given in to bitterness this week? Do you have unresolved conflict that you have just chosen to neglect or refused to deal with? (vv.16-18)

The question is this: Is there any reason for your heart to condemn itself? Does anyone here have any reason to doubt whether or not he/she is in Christ? ... [PAUSE]

Do you need to have your heart reassured? ... [PAUSE]

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, **God is greater than our heart**, and he knows everything.

When our hearts condemn us, we need reassurance. I am a sinner still! Am I sure that I am in Christ? How can be assured that I am?

Answer: Because God is greater than our heart! And the basis of that statement is that God knows everything!

Here is the bedrock truth – God knows my heart!

How does that sentence strike you?

Let's leave this text for a minute and put it in some context then we will return.

This morning we want to pick up our series: *Seeing Jesus in Summer* and address Jesus in his omniscience. Jesus was and is all-knowing.

In order to properly understand a passage of Scripture, one must put it in context.

- **Literary context** – why is the passage here in the flow of thought? How is the passage to be understood given the type of literature. Is it prose or poetry, for example.
- **Historical context** – how was the passage understood to the first readers given their life situation, language, idioms, etc.
- **Theological context** – there are certain “givens” that a text might assume. Given one's belief about the nature or character of God, the passage may bring on new light.

This morning I want to give this passage some theological context so that the point and application of this text will pop.

The Paradox of Two Natures:

Once again, this morning, we come to the paradox of the two natures. We believe that Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He possessed perfectly in ultimate harmony, these two natures. For example:

- The Son was uncreated yet became a human being
- The Son is immutable (unable to change) yet he grew and developed from infancy to adulthood

- The Son is omnipotent yet experienced normal human limitation like fatigue, sleep and even death
- The Son is omnipresent yet moved from place to place like an ordinary human being

His divine attributes are his by virtue of his eternal identity as the Son of God; His finite human limitations are normal human attributes that he has by virtue of becoming a man in the Incarnation.

Thus, by virtue of being the divine Son of God, Jesus was in some sense omniscient; yet, by virtue of the incarnation, Jesus also experienced the limitations of human knowledge.

Harpogmon Grid:

So I introduced the alternative a few weeks ago with Philippians 2:5-11. In order to properly see Jesus, we must first see God. To be God means that you are so utterly ...

self-sufficient,

self-complete,

self-motivated,

self-contained,

self-satisfied,

that everything you do becomes a gracious act of self-sharing.

This is love. **God does not empty himself in terms of taking on a deficit.** There is no subtraction! Instead he empties himself in terms of pouring himself out for the good of others – but he never takes a deficit. He pours himself out and is still totally full. Nothing is lost in the outpouring of his love as he shares himself with his creation.

This means that nothing Jesus does is driven by self-interest as though he lacked anything.

- He has nothing to gain! So there are no motives to be questioned.
- But He also has nothing to lose! So there is no sense of self-protection.

It is all purely and simply the outpouring of all he is for the good of others. This is love.

Thus, even in Jesus' omniscience, he will pour himself out for the good of his people. That is, he will self-impose human limitations upon his divine attributes so as to effectively accomplish his mission. He will take no short-cuts and he will never act out of self-interest or self-protection. Remember that!

Jesus is God – He shares the divine rights

God knows everything – 1 John 3:20; Matt. 10:30 (hairs of your head); Is. 46:9-10; Psalm 139:1-4; 1 Ki 8:39

Isaiah 46:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ ...remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times

things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

Psalm 139:1-4 (ESV)

¹ TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Jesus, as God, possesses all the attributes of deity, including omniscience.

Catalog of omniscience:

- Jesus displayed knowledge of past events of which he could not (humanly speaking) have had any knowledge, as well as knowledge of future actions.
- He knew that the Samaritan woman at the well, whom he had never met, had been married to five men and that the man she was now with was not her husband (John 4:16-18)
- He knew that Lazarus had died before they received any word of his passing (John 11:11-15)
- He knew Judas Iscariot would betray him, even before Judas tipped his hand – probably even before Judas knew it (Matt 26:20-25; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:21-23; John 6:70-71; 13:10-11, 21-29)
- He warned Peter that he would betray him three times, and despite protesting his loyalty, Peter did just that (Matt 26:21; 17:9-12, 22-23, 20:18-19; 26:1-2)
- He knew that the Romans were going to destroy the temple before the current generation passed away (Matt 23:36-39; 24:2), which the Romans did in A.D. 70 (30-40 years later)

Jesus is Man – He shares human limitations

- These limitations are not tied to humanity since now he exists as a human but has no limitations.
- These limitations were self-imposed for the sake of His mission.
- Jesus willingly chose to not know the day or hour because he was committed to a mission (cf. Matt 24.34-36). He had not come to judge the world, but to save the world. But a day is coming when the Father will send the Son to come as judge. Jesus does know the day. He did not come to vindicate himself during his first advent. This lack of knowledge is a commitment to the mission. It is not a statement of his attributes.
- He came first as Savior, then as Judge...

In order for Jesus to be judge, Jesus must be omniscient:

1. He is the judge at the end

He has eyes like fire (Rev. 1:14; 2:18; 19:12; cf. Heb. 4:13). But what does he see?

He knows the hearts of men. Jesus sees your heart.

1 Kings 8:39 (ESV)

³⁹ then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind),

1st recorded prayer, the apostle's confessed in Acts 1:24, "Lord, you know everyone's heart."

He knew what people were thinking (Matt. 9:4; 12:25; Mark 2:6-8; Luke 6:8)

He knew what the ancient people of Tyre and Sidon would have done under different circumstances (Matt. 11:21-33)

He would have to know people this way in order to sit in judgment over all humanity (Matt. 25:31-46; John 5:22-23; Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:21)

➤ Revelation 2:23 (ESV)

²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

➤ 1 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV)

⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Here is where our hearts start to go astray.

We know that Jesus sees our hearts with his eyes of fire. We know that Jesus is coming as the judge and we get scared!

Jesus knows my heart as a judge and I run from him.

NO! John says, when your heart condemns you, you need to know this – Jesus, the judge knows your heart! **You need not look to your condemnation but to your commendation.**

Did you see the last phrase of 1 Cor. 4:5?

Transition:

It is true that Jesus must be omniscient in order to be the judge; but he is omniscient in order to receive the prayers of his people. The all-knowing, all-seeing eyes of Jesus are meant to compel you toward him.

Hebrews 4:11-16 (ESV)

¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of

disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus as Judge is also Jesus as High Priest. He represents God to the world but he also represents his people before God.

The result is that you are to run to him, not away from him.

2. Jesus, as the omniscient God, receives prayers

Jesus is the primary recipient of our prayers. Without his omniscience, we have little hope in the efficacy of our prayers.

- He knows all potential events, past and present.
- He knows the heart motives of his people.
- He willingly receives our prayers and carries them before the Father's throne.

Jesus' disciples confessed on two different occasions that Jesus knew everything:

- John 16:30 (ESV)
³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.”
- John 21:17 (ESV)
¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

If we truly believe that Jesus knows everything, we ought to love him and trust him.

- Jesus knows my heart as the judge (“he sees my sin”) – I run from Him
- Jesus knows my heart as the Savior (“he forgives my sin”) – I run to Him.

So return to the text and notice how John finishes...

1 John 3:21-24

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

You will lose confidence before God when you live in a state of guilt and shame.

You will run from God when you see only your sin.

But when you see the Savior, you will be able to run to him

The all-knowing, all-seeing eyes of Jesus that penetrate to the depths of your heart are meant to draw you toward him, not to drive you from him.

The omniscience of Jesus is fuel for coming to him in prayer.