

Entering Our Chaos
The I Am and the Logos: The Gospel of John #2
John 1:1-5; 9-14

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among people. He will be their God, and they will be his people."

I once heard the story of a young mother watching her 4-year-old industriously drawing a picture. She was hard at work at it. There was determination in her face and grit in her will. So, the mother asked, "Amy, what are you drawing?" To which Amy responded, "I'm drawing a picture of God," with all the authority that a 4-year-old can project. The mother replies, "But Amy, nobody knows what God looks like." 4-year-old Amy didn't miss a beat, replying "Well, mom. They are certainly going to know when I'm finished!"

Our world and lives seem defined by chaos and disorder at every turn. On a Monday, we read the report that a hurricane is on the way. On a Tuesday, we read the report that another crisis in Israel is on the way. On a Wednesday, we receive the news from the doctor that surgery is going to be required. On a Thursday, our neighbor calls to tell us that he also received news from the doctor that surgery in his case is going to be required. And on a Friday, our spouse calls to inform us that the air conditioner has gone out in the middle of summer heat. Consequently, we pray like we've never prayed before, asking God to bring some semblance of peace, order, and rest to our lives in the midst of the chaos. But when he doesn't seem to be answering on the other end of the line, we realize we can't draw a picture of God's hand navigating the events of our lives. The only thing we are sure of is we are well qualified to draw a picture of the chaos. And we haven't even gotten into the weekend.

The ancient Greek speaking world of John's day believed their world and lives were defined by chaos too. The thunder they heard from the clouds sounded like chaos was coming to their lives. The lightning they saw protruding out of them was proof that it had. Civil Wars from within their ranks was further proof that chaos had come to their doorstep. And ailments and illnesses inside their bodies was the final confirmation that chaos had now come inside to dwell. Consequently, they longed for a divine logos — a divine word — that would bring order to their chaos and give them peace. When that answer didn't come from their pantheon of false "g"ods, they had no inspirational material from which to draw a provident picture. But they were well qualified to draw chaos.

But there is a man in the Bible who did draw an accurate picture of the only One well-qualified to bring peace and order to our chaos. He was Jesus' best friend. His name was John. According to John, Jesus isn't just well-qualified to bring peace and order to chaos. He entered our world just to do that very thing. For the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

I don't know about you, friend. But I have much chaos in my life right now. And I sure could use a glimpse of just how Jesus enters my world to bring peace and order to my chaos. If that's your heart this morning too, then we are both in luck. The great prologue of John's Gospel does just that. It tells us how Jesus goes about entering our world to bring peace and order to our chaos. (1) He enters our chaos to make us new creations In the beginning, was the Word. And the Word Incarnate uses your chaos to make something new and special out of it. (2) He enters our chaos to give us light. Jesus isn't just the light at the end of the tunnel of your chaos. He is the light in the tunnel of your chaos. In Him was life and the life was the light of mankind. (3) He enters our chaos to share our chaos. Jesus isn't distant and obscure. He's close and personal because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Turn with me to the most glorious chapter of Scripture in the whole Bible: John 1. We'll read v1-5 and 9-14.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. . . ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus Enters Our Chaos

1. To Make Us New Creations (1-3)

- **Have You a New Sheet for Me, Dear Teacher?** (1) He came to my desk with a quivering lip. The lesson was done. "Have you a new sheet for me, dear teacher? I've soiled this one." He took my sheet all soiled and blotted. And gave me a new one all unspotted. And into his tired heart he cried: "Do better now my child." (2) I came to the throne with a quivering lip. My life was done. "Have you a new life for me, dear master? I've soiled this one. He took my life all soiled and blotted. And gave me a new one all unspotted. And into my tired heart he cried "do better now, my child."
- **Main Idea:** Only the teacher is qualified to give the student a new sheet. Only the master of life is qualified to give us new life. Only Jesus — the Incarnate Word — is qualified to take all of the chaos and create something completely new and for His glory.
- **Why Jesus is Qualified to Create from Chaos.** John tells us why with one phrase that used twice in these verses: In the beginning. If this phrase reminds you of the first verse in the Bible, Genesis 1:1, then you are onto something: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." He didn't create from chaos. He didn't have to. He created from what was formless. But very soon after this, our world is introduced to chaos in the Garden of Eden: "has God really said?" The rest of the story of the OT is the story of why we are not qualified to create something new out of the chaos. (a) all of Jacob's sons not named Joseph tried and they ended up in Egypt; (b) Moses tried after he sinned against God. As a result, he dies

on the plains of Moab, overlooking the Promised Land. (c) David tried better than anyone else after he had Uriah the Hittite killed in battle. He even sang “create in me a clean heart.” Yet his whole family was thrown into disarray even while David was on His death bed. Only Jesus can. Why? Because He was the Creator in the beginning: “the Word was with God and the Word was God.” “Through him all things were made.” “In him was life, and that life was the light of mankind.” Jesus created the world before chaos that we introduced. Therefore, only the original creator can create something new out of the chaos that we introduced. That’s Jesus. As the Word Incarnate, he entered our chaotic world to do just that.

- **How He Does That:** (1) He takes all the chaotic threads of our lives and weaves them together to bring us to a decision: Consider, for example, the invalid man who had come to the pool of Bethesda in John 5 every day for 38 years in hopes of being healed. Jesus asked him one question: “do you want to get well?” This man didn’t get well by having Jesus help him being the first one in the water for the first time in 38 years. He got well by believing. All his chaotic threads were woven together by Jesus to bring him to a decision: will you believe? Not just intellectually acknowledge Jesus as the Word Incarnate and the Great I Am. But will you believe him with all your heart, soul, and mind? (2) And our response to that decision he brings us to has an impact on the chaos: “These things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (Jn 20:31)
- **App:** In what areas of your life is there chaos? Those are the areas of your life the Spirit of God is telling you where you need to believe the most! If you don’t, you’ll never see the purpose of the chaos. If you do, you’ll see he weaves your circumstances to get you to trust him.

2. To Give Us Light (4-5; 9-13)

- **Light at the End of the Tunnel:** In the old coalmines of West Virginia, there was a phrase familiar to colliers and pitmen who had to work in dark mine shafts for hours upon end: “there is a light at the end of the tunnel.”
- **Main Idea:** Jesus isn’t just the light at the end of the tunnel, for us the people of God. He is the light in the tunnel. He shines in the darkness.
- **Light vs Darkness in the Bible:** Is one of the more “illuminating” studies you can do. Do it and you’ll find: (1) Without God doing something to the darkness, the darkness would have remained: (a) at creation— God spoke and said “let there be light and behold there was light.” (b) in the Gospel of John— Jesus puts mud on the eyes of the man born blind and tells him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. (2) Even though God did something about the darkness, most people in the world choose to live in darkness. They love darkness more than light. They love living in the chaos the cover of darkness provides more than they love living in light and seeing their chaos from God’s perspective. That’s why John says: “the world did not recognize him” and “his own did not receive him.”
- **Consequently, While Light in the Tunnel is Available to Everyone, It Isn’t Experienced by Everyone:** Only those who receive him and believe — “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
- **But for Those Who Do Receive Him and Believe:** (1) Light does what it designed to do: It illuminates in the tunnel because Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto by and because Jesus is the Light of the World. (2) Light overcomes anything darkness can throw at you: “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”
- **App:** When you say “Jesus is the light at the end of the tunnel,” it implies that Jesus is distant. But when you say: “Jesus is the light in the tunnel,” it implies that Jesus is God Incarnate. He’s personal. He’s in the tunnel with me. And the chaos can’t overcome the Light of the World.

3. To Share Our Chaos

- **Last Supper Pictures** — (1) Hang on the center wall just above eye level all over the world. Everyone gathered at the table glances at it often. Some around that table might even secretly say to themselves: “Lord, I sure wish you’d come out of that picture and take a seat right here at our table. We sure have a lot of needs, problems, fears, worries we’d like some direction on. (3) That is exactly what he has done. He has come out of the picture. He resides at the table with us to share our chaos
- **Main Idea:** The greatest practical news of the Gospel is that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He is present, dwells, and shares. because he dwells among us.
- **Dwelling Then:** (1) The word “dwelling” is an important word. It means to “set up a tent/tabernacle.” (2) Setting up a tent/tabernacle was very important for the ancient Israelites. (3) God commanded it for the people of God when they left Egypt — They were on the way to the Promised Land. They could no longer sleep in their homes Goshen because they had to leave them. So they set up tents/tabernacles at every place they stopped in their journey. (4) It was a hard command that felt distant — Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. That’s a lot of nights with little food, without being settled, and wondering if God would ever get them to their final destination. (5) It was a hard command that impacted two generations — a generation is 40 years in the Bible. One generation lived this way for nearly their whole lives. The 2nd generation would have had not God led them into the Promised Land.
- **Dwelling Now:** (1) The people of God no longer live in tents. The tent/tabernacle lives among us. He’s come out of the picture.
- **Consequently:** (1) We can’t tell Jesus that He doesn’t know how we feel. He knows exactly how we feel. He became flesh and dwelt among us to share in it. (2) We can’t tell the Father in Heaven “I don’t know what you are like.” Yes. You do. He became flesh and dwelt among us. (3) We can’t tell Jesus that it seems like he doesn’t care — Yes. He does. He became flesh and dwelt among us. (4) We can’t tell Jesus that He’s incapable of turning our chaos into a new creation — He can. He became flesh and dwelt among us to do just that.
- **App:** I came to Jesus with a quivering lip. The chaos was too much. Have you any peace for me, Dear Master? I haven’t had much. He took my chaos all soiled and blotted. And tabernacled with me all unspotted. And into my weary heart he cried: “I am with you, my child.” Amen. Amen. And Amen.