



## The Gospel According to John Video 8

Thoughts from Ryan Plemmons on the Reading for Week of March 2: John 10:1 – 11:44

view the video at [www.vimeo.com/fbcknox/gatjweek8](http://www.vimeo.com/fbcknox/gatjweek8)

Video Transcript:



I think that John is a book that involves a lot of definition: Jesus defining Himself. “I’m the Bread of Life, I’m the Good Shepherd, I’m the Vine, the Branches.” These statements of definition seem easy to understand, at first, but they become a lot more complex as you think about them. John gives you something and forces you to reevaluate and re-understand what the phrase actually is talking about. The most challenging thing about my read-through this time was probably the way that John talks about Pharisees, or the Jews, as

he calls him. It seems like they are sort of these easy villains; they’re kind of just evil and always plotting against Him. Whereas, I think that the other gospels sympathize a little bit more with them, and I think that, as *believers*, we need to empathize more with the Jews, as John calls them. Because they’re *us*. They’re the established tradition, they’re the ones that are trying to keep things the way that they *are*, and Jesus is this sort of force that comes in and *disrupts* the natural order of things.

Also, this time, reading through the book, I found that Jesus is very relational in the book of John. He forms a lot of relationships with people: His mother at the wedding, His best friend Lazarus and that whole family, and then the woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery. All these people, both *inside* His family and friends structure, and *outside* His family and friends structure, are there, and Jesus is having to engage with *all* of them. Which is kind of a challenge to all of *us* to engage *everyone* we meet, to *talk to* everyone we meet, to form relationships, to *see* potential relationships in *everyone*.



I think that it’s *great* to see Jesus as a *human*. At times, I think we often think of Him as superhuman, because we have the doctrine that He was God and man. Sometimes we tend to *forget* about His *humanity*. So it’s nice to see Jesus showing emotion. As Paul said, Jesus emptied Himself, meaning, He was a *man*. He was subject to all the things that all people are subject to, all the emotions, all the feelings. And sometimes we forget that, but in *this* passage, Lazarus kind of brings that to a head and lets us see a more *human* side of Jesus that *feels* the way that *we* feel, and can empathize with *us* in our times of trouble.