

## **John – The Other Son of Zebedee “Thunder”**

**John (The Man)** – The majority of our information about John comes from the key Scriptures we looked at last week when we discussed his brother James. Because these fishermen, the “Sons of thunder” are mentioned together in the gospels, we will not repeat that information other than to remind that we are talking about the younger of the two brothers, the other son of Zebedee. We also know that John, along with James and Peter had a special relationship with Jesus. Because of this, he is mentioned in Scripture more than most of the other Apostles. As we looked at last week, John was present at the mount of transfiguration, which can be found in Matthew 17:1-13 and Luke 9:27-36. Mark 5:37 informs us that this group of three along with Andrew observed Jesus’s healing of Jairus’ daughter. And as you know from our Matthew study, the three were present at the Garden of Gethsemane just before Jesus’ death. Remember, they are the ones who couldn’t stay awake while Jesus prayed.

What else does Scripture tell us about John? It’s interesting to note that the only gospel not to mention John is the one he wrote, except for the five places where he refers to himself as *“the disciple whom Jesus loved.”* (13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20) Why do you think John referred to himself in this manner? In ancient writings it was common for writers to omit themselves from an account or use third person descriptions to disguise their identity. Another interesting fact about this title is that it’s always in contrast to Peter.

Jesus, while on the cross, asked John to look after his mother.

James and John were cousins of Jesus because their mother Salome was the sister of Mary, Jesus’ mother. **Read Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40.**

**Read Galatians 2:9** – What does this tell us about John? He was one of the “pillars” of the early church.

How did John die? Biblically and traditionally, it is known that John did not die as a martyr like the other 11. **Read John 21:19-23.** This was not a promise that John would live until the Lord returned, but it does seem to indicate that the Lord knew John would live a long time. It is believed he died in Ephesus sometime after 98 AD.

Tertullian, a Christian writer from the late second and early third century, wrote that before the Romans banished John, they brought him into a coliseum and dunked him in a vat of boiling oil. When he emerged unharmed, the entire coliseum converted to Christianity.

**John (The Author)** – How many books of the Bible does John get credit for writing?

- The Gospel According to John: AD 80 to 98
- First, Second and Third John: AD 90 to 95
- The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ: AD 94 to 98