



Take5 for the Week of December 28-January 1, 2016

## First Revelation

By Pastor Steve Hobbs

MONDAY

### The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-18

The opening verses of the Gospel of John set the stage for something new. The scope is epic, the first words "In the beginning..." recalling the first words of Genesis. However, in John 1:1-18 there is a change in the focus of what happened in the beginning. God, who was in the beginning, is now doing something long awaited and long needed. The Word (Jesus) became flesh.

Calvary is a church that seeks to live and love like Jesus. Of all the descriptions of Jesus, verse 14, arguably, distills His character in the clearest way possible. He became flesh, showed us His glory, and is full of grace and truth. As Christ's followers, we are called to do the same. In the flesh, helps to reveal the glory of God to others by living in a way that is full of grace and truth.

**FOR TODAY:** Are you hesitant to reveal God's glory to others?

TUESDAY

### Make Straight the Way for the Lord

John 1:19-34

The first public revelation of the Savior's coming was not about the Savior Himself, but rather the one who prepared the way for the Lord, Jesus' cousin, John. Often called John the Baptist because he baptized people as a part of their turning their hearts toward the things of God, John openly told others that he was not the one on which to focus. He recalled the words of Isaiah chapter 40: "A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God....And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.'"

It is also our calling to join God in preparing others to come to faith. Few of us will or should baptize and exhort in the way John did. However, the way we interact with others can help to soften hearts and open minds to new perspectives.

**FOR TODAY:** Based on your interactions with people, are others more or less likely to have hearts softened and minds opened to God?

WEDNESDAY

### First Followers

John 1:35-51

The first followers of Jesus did not respond to Him out of fear, or even awe. As Jesus would later say in John 2:4, "My time has not yet come." They heard the invitations to "Come," and "Follow me," and they went. The invitation to something new was enough at first. Jesus provided a glimpse of His divine power by revealing to the disciples that he had "seen" Nathanael under the fig tree before he received his invitation. Jesus invited them again by promising that they would "see greater things than that." One way to consider this slow revelation of divinity is that Jesus desired His followers to have free will in their choice. Had he revealed His full power immediately, they would have been overwhelmed with fear. They would have been compelled; as it was, they had real choice.

**FOR TODAY:** What sign are you waiting for to take the next step of faith?

THURSDAY

### Patiently Anticipating God's Action

John 2:1-10

Mary, perhaps more than anyone else, had reason to anticipate something. Her child had been foretold by an angel, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and called "the Son of God." Miracles had preceded and accompanied His birth. Nearly 30 years later, we have no record that the miracles continued. Mary might have wondered if she remembered it correctly, or if God had changed His mind. Apparently not, because even at this wedding, Mary is prompting others to anticipate something wonderful. Do whatever He tells you," she instructs the servants of the wedding. Indeed, she is not disappointed, and her son cultivates further celebration for the wedding and further certainty that her faith was not in vain.

**FOR TODAY:** Where are you feeling God's guiding hand of growth through patient anticipation?

FRIDAY

### Public Introduction for Private Purposes

John 2:11

The miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana was Jesus' first public miracle that showed He was the Son of God. Interestingly, the goal was not to convince the bride and groom, their families, or the large crowd of friends. Instead, it was done so "His disciples (would) put their faith in Him." This miracle was meant to solidify the faith of His followers, those who would see all He would do, so they could bring testimony to others. In this way, testimony and not spectacle would be the basis of faith, and would transcend the bounds of space and time necessary for a gospel that was meant for all people.

**FOR TODAY:** Pray that God would focus your heart on His good news that builds lasting faith.