



The Gospel according to John

Good to know

1. Nicodemus was one of the leaders of the Pharisees, a group fiercely opposed to Jesus. That is why he came at night to talk with Jesus. Two other references to Nicodemus show that he was strongly influenced by Jesus. For instance, in the council of the Jews he jumped to Jesus' defense of (Jn. 7 :50-53) and after the death of Jesus he helped to prepare His body for burial (Jn.19 :38-40).
2. Of all the healing miracles of Jesus reported in the Gospels, only these two occurred at a distance: the healing of the officer's son (Jn. 4:50) and that of the centurion's servant (Lk. 7:2-10; Mt. 8:5-13).
3. John is the only evangelist whose brother was also a disciple of Jesus (Mt. 4:21). He, his brother James, and Peter were the closest disciples of Jesus. In addition, John and James are the only disciples whose mother was mentioned as making a request to Jesus on behalf of her sons (Mt. 20:20).
4. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet because, usually, it was the slaves who washed the feet of the guests at dinner. Here, Jesus, the guest of honor, wanted to teach them a lesson of humility and love. He dressed as a slave, wrapped a towel around his waist, to wash the feet of His disciples (Jn. 13:3-15). In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul wrote about the servant heart of Jesus.
5. Soldiers broke the legs of the prisoners who were crucified to hasten their death, so that their bodies could be taken down before the Sabbath. But since Jesus was already dead, His legs were not broken (Jn.19:33), so that the prophecies of the Old Testament would be fulfilled that the bones of the Messiah would not be broken but that He would be pierced (Ex. 12:46; Zech. 12:10), because His side was pierced with a spear (Jn.19:34).
6. At the end of the Gospel according to John (Jn. 21:15-17), Jesus asked Peter the same question three times, which perhaps reminded him of the painful memory of his triple denial (Jn. 18:15-27). This reintegration and new mission that Jesus entrusted to him gave courage to Peter who became one of the most fearless preachers of the Early Church.
7. Among the evangelists, John alone reported, just like Luke, three of the seven words spoken by Jesus on the cross: the first (Jn. 19:26-27), the second (Jn. 19:28) and the seventh (Jn. 19:30). The words Jesus spoke on the cross as reported by John were all different from those reported by Luke. Thus, Luke and John alone reported six of the seven words spoken by Jesus on the cross.



8. In his gospel, John identified himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved or «the beloved disciple» (Jn. 13:23-24; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 24). At the cross, Jesus entrusted Mary, His mother, to him. And from that moment John took her into his home (Jn. 19:27).
9. John is the most prolific author of the New Testament, after Luke and the Apostle Paul. He wrote the Gospel according to John, 1, 2 and 3 John, and the book of Revelation which is the last book of the New Testament and the Bible.
10. John, in his gospel, reports almost none of the parables of Jesus. He alone mentions the repeatedly « I am » statements of Christ (Jn. 6:35; 8:12; 10:7; 11, etc.). Furthermore, he reports twenty-five statements of Christ preceded by the solemn expression: «Very truly... » (Jn. 1 :51; 5:19, 24, 25, etc.).
11. John is the only one in his gospel, at the time of Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, to mention the name of Peter drawing the sword and cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant, Malchus (Jn. 18:10). The other accounts also related the fact, but without mentioning names (Mt. 26:51; Mk. 14:47; Lk. 22:50).
12. John's life was profoundly transformed by the love of Jesus. In the beginning, John, to whom Jesus gave the name Boanerges, which means son of thunder (Mk. 3:17), was called the apostle of love later in his life.
13. John likely lived longer than the other disciples of Jesus. He was over 95 years old when he wrote the book of Revelation on the island of Patmos where he was living in exile.
14. Among the four gospels, John is the only one who does not write about Jesus' baptism, the temptation, the transfiguration, the institution of the Lord's Supper, or Jesus' agony in Gethsemane. All these facts are well reported in the Synoptic Gospels such as: Matthew (Mt. 3 :13-17 ; 4 :1-11 ; 17 :1-13 ; 26 :17-35 ; 26 :36-46), Mark (Mk. 1 :9-11 ; 1 :12-13 ; 14 :12-31 ; 14 :32-42) and Luke (Lk. 3 :21-22; 4 :1-13; 9 :28-36; 22 :7-38; 22 :39-46).
15. The Gospel of John presents only seven miracles as signs that confirm the deity of Christ and describe His ministry. Of the seven, five are mentioned only by John: water turning into wine (Jn 2:1-12); healing of the royal official's son (Jn. 4:43-54); Healing of a Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5:1-16); healing of the blind man (Jn. 9:1-41); and the raising of Lazarus of Bethany (Jn. 11:1-46). The other two are found in the synoptics: The multiplication of the loaves for the five thousand (Jn. 6:15, Mt. 14:21; Mk. 6:44; Lk. 9:14) and walking on the waters (Jn. 6:16-21; Mt. 14:26; Mk. 6:48-49).