



Key References:

Ephesians 5:31–32 (ESV)

³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

John 1:1–5 (NLT)

¹In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He existed in the beginning with God. ³God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 1:14 (NLT)

¹⁴So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

I believe Jesus is saying; “Come away with me. Get away from the noise and spend time with me. I want to have a relationship with you. A communion and intimacy with you that is deeper have ever imagined.”

– Mark Manfredi

1 – RESOLUTIONS

What new year’s resolutions do you find yourself making every year? Are your resolutions any different for 2020? Are you someone who is good at sticking to your resolutions?

2 – LOVE LETTERS

On Sunday Mark said: “When you’re in love, and a love letter arrives from the person you’re in love with, that’s all that matters to you.” **Is the Word of God a love letter to us? How would you describe the Word of God to someone who didn’t know what it was?**

Read Ephesians 5:31-32. **Why does God use marriage as a picture of himself relating to the church?**

Mark also said; “I cannot believe when I read the word of God how much God wants to communicate to me by His Holy Spirit. Passages that I may have read 50 times before, on a certain morning I’m like; “really? I never saw that before.” **How does what Mark said here match up with Hebrews 4:12? How is the Bible living and active? When have you experienced sweet moment’s like this?**

3 – THE WORD’S REALATIONSHIP WITH US

Read John 1:1-5. **What do you find interesting about this scripture? How closely are God and His Word tied together?**

Read John 1:14. **What does v14 reveal about the word of God? Since we as Christians was to have an active relationship with Jesus, what does v14 reveal about the Bible’s role in this relationship? Can we have relationship with Jesus without having a relationship with the Word of God?**

4 – 20/20

Are you planning on taking the 20/20 Reading Challenge with others at Oceanside? What are your motivations or hesitations? Do you have any questions?

Read the quote from Mark to the left. **If Jesus is saying “come away with me” what does that look like for you for 2020? In what ways can you take noise out of your life to make more space for spending time with Him next year?**