

CHAPTER 11: JOHN: THE STORY OF LOVE

GOSPEL READINGS: Mark 10:35–45; Luke 9:49–56; John 13

1. Summarize what you know of the Apostle John's story.

McKnight describes three instances where John experiences failure to love others:

- Failure to love through service/suffering (Mark 10:35-45)
 - Failure to love those who offered freedom through Jesus' name (Luke 9:49–50)
 - Failure to love those who do not respond to Jesus. (Luke 9:51-56)
2. How do these failures (and Jesus' rebuke) help John learn about love *the hard way*?
 3. Why might John have thought he was doing "the right thing" in each of those moments?
 4. How has the statement on page 108 "*to be loved is to know love*" been evident...
 - a. In Jesus' understanding of his Father's love?
 - b. In the life of John? (consider (1) John's self-title: "*the disciple who Jesus loved*" and (2) John's *unique* experience *at the cross*. John 19:25-27)
 - c. In your life (*love from God or by another*)?
 5. John's experiences with Jesus led him to understand, develop, and eventually communicate a *theology of love*. Reading the passages below, how would you summarize this *theology*?
 - 1 John 2:3-6
 - 1 John 3:1, 16, 18
 - 1 John 4:7-12; 15-21
 - Revelation 1:5
 6. How will our understanding of *love* help us practically live out the love of God and love for others?
 7. What is God revealing to you about your love for others?
 8. How would you ask the Spirit of God to help you love with a *fuller understanding* of love – *as defined through his Word*?

Next week: Chapter 12, Women: The Story of Compassion