

Johannine Writings for Our Biblical Journey

Misunderstandings from Jesus' words in the Fourth Gospel

Passage	Ambiguity	Partner	Theme	Explanation
2:19-21	"this temple"	the Jews	death and resurrection	by narrator
3:3-5	"born anew"	Nicodemus	how one becomes one of the children of God	restatement in other terms
4:10-15	"living water"	the Samaritan woman	the revelation or spirit which comes from Jesus	deferred (cf. 7:38)
4:31-34	"food"	the disciples	Jesus' relation to the Father	by Jesus
6:32-35	"the bread from heaven"	the crowd	Jesus' origin, identity, and mission	by Jesus
6:51-53	"my flesh"	the Jews	Jesus' death	by Jesus
7:33-36	"I go . . . where I am you cannot come"	the Jews	Jesus' glorification	no explanation
8:21-22	"I go away . . ."	the Jews	Jesus' glorification	no explanation
8:31-35	"make you free"	the Jews	the freedom conferred by Jesus to those who receive him	implied by contrast of "son" and "servant"
8:51-53	"death"	the Jews	eternal life	no explanation
8:56-58	"to see my day"	the Jews	Jesus as the fulfillment of God's redemptive activity (?)	no explanation
11:11-15	"sleep"	the disciples	death and eternal life	by the narrator then by Jesus
11:23-25	"your brother will rise again"	Martha	Jesus as the source of resurrection and eternal life	by Jesus
12:32-34	"lifted up"	the crowd	Jesus' death and glorification	no explanation

13:36-38	"I am going"	Peter	Jesus' glorification	no explanation
14:4-6	"Where I am going"	Thomas	Jesus' glorification	metaphorical explanation
14:7-9	"you . . . have seen him"	Philip	Jesus' revelation of the Father	by Jesus
16:16-19	"a little while . . ."	the disciples	Jesus' death and return to the disciples	metaphorical explanation by Jesus