

## **John** *the beloved disciple*

While Peter and Andrew could be considered opposites in temperament, James and John were considered similar (Sons of Thunder)

Part of the “inner three”

### **The original calling**

- Matthew 4:18-22 – Peter & Andrew, then James & John
- Mark 1:14-20 – Peter & Andrew, then James & John
- Luke 5:1-11 – Peter, then James & John
- John 1:35-51 – Andrew & an unnamed apostle of John the Baptist, then Peter

Shares with James in Samaritan town and “who is the greatest” episodes

### **Without James:**

- Mark 9:38-41 (p. 1569)
- John 13:22-25 (p. 1674)
- John 19:25-27 (p. 1684)

“The disciple whom Jesus loved”

### **Two dichotomies**



How can telling the truth be unloving?  
How can love twist or destroy the truth?

How does one with blind ambition deal with others?  
How does one with absolute humility go about accomplishing a mission?

What does middle ground look like?

John uses the word “truth” 25 times in his Gospel; 20 in the 3 epistles  
3 John 4 (p. 1907)  
1 John 1:8 (p. 1899)

But John is known as the Apostle of *Love* (word used 80+ times in writings)  
In his epistles he writes to “dear children” (1 John 2:28, p. 1900)  
1 John 4:7-12 (p. 1902)

What role does truth have in love?

1 John 4:19-21 (p. 1903)

How else is truth important to John? False prophets. Antichrists.

“Love and truth must be maintained in perfect balance. Truth is never to be abandoned in the name of love. But love is not to be deposed in the name of truth.” – *John MacArthur, Twelve Ordinary Men*

John’s ambition

John’s humility

Never says his own name in his Gospel

“Witness” – uses the word nearly 70 times in his writings

The turning point?

Another avenue of humility: Last man standing

In Acts often mentioned being with Peter

Paul recognized him among the pillars of the church (Galatians 2:9, p. 1811)

Thought to be head of church in Ephesus as an old man. Believed buried there.

Exiled to Isle of Patmos in Aegean Sea. Possibly lived in a cave.

Tertullian – Story of being boiled in oil

Death around 100AD, thought to be in his 90s

Did he write those books of the NT?

“The Acts of John” – set of stories about John from 2<sup>nd</sup> century