

## *Motif of Misunderstanding*

### *The Gospel of John*

| Jesus Makes a Pronouncement                                                                                                                                                                                    | Listeners Over-Literalize                                                                                                                                                           | Jesus / John Explains                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”<br>(2:19)                                                                                                                    | The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”<br>(2:20)                                                          | But he was speaking about the temple of his body.<br>(2:21)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”<br>(3:3)                                                                                          | Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”<br>(3:4)                                              | Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”<br>(3:5)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”<br>(4:10)                       | The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”<br>(4:11)                                              | <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”<br>(4:13-14) |
| <sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<br>(4:31-32)                                  | So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”<br>(4:33)                                                                                          | <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. <sup>35</sup> ... Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”<br>(4:34, 35b)                                                                        |
| “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”<br>(6:51)                        | The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”<br>(6:52)                                                                             | <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you ... <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.<br>(6:53a, 54)                                                                                               |
| <sup>33</sup> Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. <sup>34</sup> You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.”<br>(7:33-34) | The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?”<br>(7:35) | <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.” ...<br><sup>27</sup> They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.<br>(8:23, 27)                                                                      |
| So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me ... Where I am going, you cannot come.”<br>(8:21)                                                                                             | So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”<br>(8:22)                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”</p> <p><b>(8:31-32)</b></p> | <p>They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”</p> <p><b>(8:33)</b></p>                                                                             | <p><sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin ... <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.</p> <p><b>(8:34, 36)</b></p>                                                                                                 |
| <p>“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”</p> <p><b>(8:56)</b></p>                                                                                                                    | <p>So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”</p> <p><b>(8:57)</b></p>                                                                                                                               | <p>Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”</p> <p><b>(8:58)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.”</p> <p><b>(11:11)</b></p>                                                                                        | <p>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”</p> <p><b>(11:12)</b></p>                                                                                                                                        | <p><sup>13</sup> Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”</p> <p><b>(11:13-15)</b></p> |
| <p>“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”</p> <p><b>(12:32)</b></p>                                                                                                                       | <p>So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”</p> <p><b>(12:34)</b></p>                                             | <p><sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer ... <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”</p> <p><b>(12:35a, 36)</b></p>                                                                                       |
| <p><sup>3</sup> “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.”</p> <p><b>(14:3-4)</b></p>    | <p>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”</p> <p><b>(14:5)</b></p>                                                                                                                             | <p>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”</p> <p><b>(14:6)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.</p> <p><b>(16:16)</b></p>                                                                                                      | <p>So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?”</p> <p><b>(16:17)</b></p> | <p>Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.</p> <p><b>(16:20)</b></p>                                                                                                                                            |