

# Snapshots of the Apostle John from the Divine Photo Album



## 1. He was apparently the youngest, but surely the closest to Jesus of the 12. [John 13:1, 21-25; 19:25-27]

- At the Passover Table *NOT seated at a long banquet table a la Leonardo da Vinci, but reclining on cushions or couches at a low table*
- At the Bosom of Jesus *John was located next to Jesus*
- At the Foot of the Cross *James Tissot – The View from the Cross. Although the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested; and Peter followed afar off and then was in the courtyard warming himself, and there denied Jesus 3 times, then went out and wept bitterly; John was at the cross and Jesus committed His mother's care to John.  
*The disciple whom Jesus loved.**

➤ **A LIFE LESSON:** *Strive to be as close to Jesus as you can possibly be on this side of Glory.*

*Can you be closer to Him than you now are?*



## 2. He was originally a disciple of John the Baptist, but was drawn to the Lamb of God. [John 1:35-40]

- The No-nonsense Wilderness Preacher *The divinely-prophesied Forerunner; “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand;” when many Pharisees & Sadducees came, he said, “You brood of vipers...”*

➤ The Announcement of the Lamb of God *When he saw Jesus coming, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Two days in a row...*

➤ The Immediate Transfer of Loyalties *Andrew and John followed Jesus; stayed with Him for the day; found and brought their own brothers*

➔ **A LIFE LESSON:** Change is one of the most difficult things that we have to deal with in life, but when God is in it, it will be for our good.



### 3. A doting mother and the desire to be the greatest in the kingdom. [Mk 9:33-37; Mt 20:20-28; Lk 22:24]

➤ The Frequency of This Discussion *Not just once, or even twice! Even at the final Passover table.*

➤ The Foolishness of This Discussion *It revealed their pride and self-seeking.*

➤ The Focus of True Greatness. *Humbly serving others.*

➔ **Beware of seeking something that will not endear us to others nor tend to God's glory.**



### 4. The "sons of thunder" and the sin that lurks under the surface. [Lk 9:49-56; Gal 4:18]

➤ Zeal running out of control. *James and John were not pleased with the Samaritans.*

➤ Zapping was their solution. *An extreme solution to be done with them once and for all. [You don't know what manner of spirit you are of!]*

➤ Zeal harnessed to the truth. *Paul is a supreme example.*

➔ ***Even the most shy among us have a spirit that may flare up on occasion. Free yourself of this tendency with the Spirit's help.***

*Your spirit needs to be submitted to God's Spirit!*



## 5. The innermost circle of the disciples and the recognition of their important role in the church.

[Mk 5:37; 9:2; 14:33; Gal 2:9]

➤ Eyewitnesses of amazing things.

➔ House of Jairus *Witnessing the raising of his 12 y/o daughter*

➔ Mount of Transfiguration *Seeing the majesty of Jesus in His future glory.*

➔ Garden of Gethsemane *Through sleepy eyes seeing the extreme agony of Jesus and hearing His complete submission to the Father*

➤ Exemplary leadership recognized.

*Who seemed to be **pillars**... Important supporting roles.*

[NOTE: This is a different James.]

➔ ***Even if you have a privileged part of the ministry, the most important thing you can do is support the work of the church.***



## 6. The two close friends who were different but the same.

[Jn 21:15-19]

*A breakfast on the beach prepared by the risen Jesus.*

➤ Peter's public reinstatement. *Do you love me more...? Feed My sheep.*

➤ Peter's predicted death. *Foretelling how Peter would die.*

➤ Peter's probing inquiry. *What about my friend John?*

➤ Peter's personal focus. *NYB! You follow Me! That'll keep you busy*

➡ **Following Jesus faithfully and diligently is one of the most important things you will ever do.** *This is a full-time job!*



## 7. A man of ripe old age is overwhelmed when he sees an old Friend. [Rev 1:9-18]

➤ The intimate disciple of Jesus. *disciple whom Jesus loved*

➤ The interim of 65 years. *Crucifixion – 30 AD  
Revelation written – 95 AD*

➤ The immediate fall at His feet. *A breath-taking symbolic description of the glorified Jesus. Falling in reverential fear and absolute worship.*

➡ ***Oh for the day when we too will fall at the feet of Jesus.  
Until then...***



**In closing:**

**What kind of snapshots are there in the  
Divine Album of your life?**

