



In the Beginning.../The Word

11th Confirmation Class Handout

Genesis 1:1-5

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a breath/spirit/wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

John 1.1-4, 10-13

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

NOTES:

- The word, "Christ" simply means "anointed."
- The Israelites had a tradition of anointing their kings as a way to signify to the people and the king that the king was ready to lead.
- The origin of anointing for the Israelites comes from a practice by the shepherds. Lice and other insects would often get into the wool of sheep, and when they got near the sheep's head, they would burrow into the sheep's ears and kill the sheep. So, ancient shepherds poured oil on the sheep's head. This made the wool slippery, making it impossible for insects to get near the sheep's ears because when they did, they would just slide off.
- So literally: To anoint a person is, for the Israelites, a symbol of that person's ears being protected from harmful things (like words)...
- This might for you, give more meaning to the imagery of Jesus saying he is the Good Shepherd. Here is that scripture:

John 10:11-16

11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

CHALLENGE of the Week: Choose a song – any song – and listen very closely to the lyrics. Write down what you think you hear. Did the careful listening change how you thought of the song?