

John

Karoline M. Lewis

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Lewis offers a commentary expounding the final form of the text to help preachers connect with John's story of Jesus for discipleship and witness 'for the sake of the world God loves' (p. xiii). Her introduction argues that the long-held designation of John as a 'spiritual' gospel is unhelpful, especially in preaching. For her, the incarnation and the humanity of Jesus are fundamental to understanding the gospel. She identifies eight theological themes that are introduced in the Prologue and 'revisited and unpacked throughout the course of the narrative' (p. 9). She thus devotes a whole chapter to an exposition of the Prologue before addressing the rest of the gospel. Her approach is to offer an informed theological exposition of the text without detailed engagement with scholarly debate. She seeks to make connections with the Revised Common Lectionary to enable preachers to engage with the text as read in many churches. She argues for the 'orality' of the gospel, the need to read significant sections aloud and for preachers constantly to make connections to the whole gospel narrative.

If you want to weigh up different scholarly interpretations of every verse, this commentary is not for you. However, if you are looking for a commentary that offers a thought-provoking exposition of John's gospel with a view to issues the text raises for discipleship, this is an excellent commentary. You are bound not to agree with everything Lewis says, but that is her strength; she engages you in John's narrative of the incarnate Word of God.

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