

The Study of the
GOSPEL
OF
JOHN
(#2)

13 Lessons

Produced by:
PAUL E. CANTRELL

2006

The Study of the
GOSPEL
OF
JOHN
(#2)

13 Lessons

Produced by:
PAUL E. CANTRELL
84 Northview Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

pecantrell@juno.com

Table of Contents

“The Study of the Gospel of John” (#2)

LESSONS	TOPICS	PAGE
1 --	“The Value of Miracles” (5:1-18)	1-4
2 --	“Great Claims and Evident Proofs” (5:19-30)	5-8
3 --	“Four-Fold Witness of Jesus” (5:31-47)	9-11
4 --	“Two Great Miracles and Their Lessons” (6:1-21)	12-14
5 --	“The True Bread from Heaven” (6:22-71)	15-18
6 --	“The Will of God” (6:38-40)	19-21
7 --	“Jesus Deals With Unbelief” (7:1-24)	22-26
8 --	“Mixed Reactions to Jesus’ Teaching” (7:25-53)	27-31
9 --	“The Power of Conscience” (8:1-11)	32-35
10--	“Jesus, the Light of the World” (8:12-20)	36-39
11--	“Believe or Die in Your Sins” (8:21-30)	40-42
12--	“The Power of Truth” (8:30-47)	43-47
13--	“Jesus’ Claim of Deity” (8:48-59)	48-51

Lesson One

“The Value of Miracles” **(John 5:1-18)**

INTRODUCTION

1. John 10:25, 37-38
2. Why miracles?
 - a) Obviously to give evidence to Jesus’ Messiahship and Deity.
 - b) John 20:30-31
3. But the study of Jesus’ miracles have other wonderful lessons to be offered to us.
4. This lesson will deal with the healing of an impotent man.

DISCUSSION

I. JOHN RECORDS JESUS’ THIRD MIRACLE (5:1-9)

A. The Setting (1-4)

- 1) *“After This”*
 - a) These events occurred probably at the end of Jesus’ 1st Galilean Tour of cities.
 - b) They took place in Jerusalem, not too far from the Temple.
- 2) *“There was a feast of the Jews”*
 - a) Possibly a Passover Feast.
 - b) A time when people from all over the world would be present.
 - c) It would present opportunities to impact larger numbers of people.
- 3) *“Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.”*
 - a) It was a special pool where many sick and afflicted came.
 - Impotent people (diseased, sick, weak).
 - Blind
 - Halt (lame or crippled)
 - Withered (one or more limbs useless).
 - b) Reason why they were there:
 - They understood that an angel came down at set times and stirred up the waters.....
 - And, whoever got into the water first was healed.
 - c) Jesus walked among these pitiable people.

B. The healing of the Impotent Man (5-9)

- 1) One person caught his attention—an impotent man who had been afflicted for 38 years.
- 2) John doesn’t tell us why Jesus healed this one out of all the others.
- 3) But obviously, it suited His purposes to do so.
- 4) Jesus did not come to heal everyone of physical diseases.
- 5) He asked him, ***“Would you be made whole?”***
 - a) Instead of saying, “YES”.....

- b) He explains why he hadn't been healed up to this time.
- c) Someone else always beats him into the water.
- d) Possibly thinking that Jesus would help him into the water.
- 6) Jesus gives a simple command: ***"Rise, take up your bed, and walk."***
 - a) He did not say, *"If you believe, you can be cured."*
 - b) Just simply, ***"Get up and take your bed with you, walk."***
 - c) The man had to be surprised at what he was told.
- 7) He was healed immediately.
 - a) When the man realized he was healed, he got up.....
 - b) Took his bed and walked away.
 - c) He had not walked in 38 years—now he could.
 - d) Jesus spoke the word and it was done!
- 8) But the man was healed on the Sabbath Day.

II. REACTIONS OF THE JEWISH LEADERS (5:10-16)

A. *They react to the man carrying his bed on the Sabbath Day (10-13)*

- 1) The Sabbath Day was given by God for the Jewish people.
 - a) Deut. 5:12-15
 - b) It was to be a day of rest.
 - c) No work to be done.
 - d) Example: A man caught picking up sticks on the Sabbath was stoned to death (Num. 15:32-36).
- 2) The religious leaders had concluded that carrying one's bed constituted work.
 - a) Therefore, the man had broken the Sabbath.
 - b) The healed man justified his actions by stating: ***"The one who healed me told me to do so."***
 - If he had the power to heal.....
 - He must have the power to command.
- 3) When the leaders asked him who the man was that healed him:
 - a) He did not know who it was by name.
 - b) And Jesus had already left the immediate area.

B. *The Leaders react to Jesus healing on the Sabbath (14-16)*

- 1) Jesus later sees the man in the Temple and speaks to him.
 - a) ***"You have been made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto you."***
 - b) Possibly indicating a condition of previous sin.
 - c) Obviously, do not continue in the way of sin.
 - d) A greater evil could befall you.
- 2) When the man learned it was Jesus who healed him:
 - a) He went and told the Jewish leaders.
 - b) To us, the man would seem to be ungrateful.
 - c) But, he may have felt these Religious Leaders were really interested in learning of this powerful man.
- 3) The reaction of the leaders:
 - a) They began to persecute Jesus and sought to slay him.
 - b) Reason—He did these things on the Sabbath.

c) He had broken the Sabbath Day (in their minds).

C. Observations:

- 1) About these Religious Leaders:
 - a) They completely overlooked this tremendous miracle.
 - b) Instead of wanting to know more about this man that worked such a great miracle.
 - c) They condemned Jesus for breaking the Sabbath.
 - d) They had made the Law of the Sabbath more stringent than God.

III. JESUS' JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS ACTIONS (5:17-18)

A. "My Father works hitherto, and I work."

- 1) Jesus could have given other answers to these leaders.
 - a) He did in other places.
 - b) But John records an unusual answer of Jesus here.
- 2) The Father does not suspend His works of mercy on the Sabbath.
 - a) In fact, God is exempt from such a law that was made for man's benefit, not God's.
 - b) God ceased from His creative work, but not from His governing work.
 - c) The Father works, and I work—both exempt from the law of the Sabbath.
- 3) To the Jewish leaders, this was the same as claiming to be equal with God.
 - a) Thus, they had another reason to kill Him—He blasphemed!
 - b) Their eyes were closed—PREJUDICE ruled their minds!
- 4) Concerning the Sabbath:
 - a) Matt. 12:8—"***For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath Day.***"
 - b) Mk. 2:27—"***The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.***"
 - God did not create man to benefit the Sabbath.
 - But rather—the Sabbath to benefit man.
- 5) And besides—merciful acts were permitted on the Sabbath.
 - a) Matt. 12:11-12—"***What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath Day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath Day.***"
 - b) The mercy and compassion of Jesus was shown to this impotent man!
 - c) But the HYPOCRISY of these leaders was being shown too.

IV. WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

A. There is something worse than being important for 38 years.

- 1) A worse thing can come unto you!
- 2) The punishment for sin is eternal torment (Matt. 25:46).
- 3) Jesus came to take away this punishment.

B. One's sin may bring suffering.

- 1) But sin can be forgiven upon our proper response to God's Will.
- 2) But the consequences may not be removed.
- 3) God's grace can forgive a man.

4) But, it took a miracle to remove the consequences of sin from the impotent man.

5) We may have to suffer the consequence of our sins here.

C. Custom or tradition is not law.

1) There is a difference in what the law teaches and what men teach.

2) Their understanding of God's law did not make allowance for acts of mercy on the Sabbath Day.

3) They had confused their tradition with God's law.

D. The Law may be kept in the letter, but violated in the spirit.

1) These leaders were great on keeping the Sabbath holy.

2) But, their spirits (attitudes) were horrible.

3) They had missed the true spirit of the law!

a) The Sabbath was for man's benefit, not his hurt.

b) Acts of mercy were allowed, which they had missed.

4) They appeared beautiful on the outside, but inside they were full of dead men's bones.

CONCLUSION

1. We have a living example of the mercifulness of God being shown in His Son.

2. But this was not His greatest act of mercy.

3. His death on the cross for our deliverance from the eternal penalty of our sins tops all the merciful acts of God.

4. Have you accepted His mercy yet by submitting to His will?

Lesson Two

“GREAT CLAIMS & EVIDENT PROOFS”

(John 5:19-30)

INTRODUCTION

1. We are looking at John’s account of Jesus’ public ministry.
 - a) His first major efforts were at Jerusalem & in cities of Judea.
 - b) He has gone back up to Galilee where he will put most of his emphasis.
 - c) However, John’s gospel records very little activity in Galilee.
 - d) His emphasis is upon Jesus in Jerusalem.
2. This is Jesus’ attendance to His 2nd Passover of His public ministry.
 - a) While in the city, he had healed an impotent man on the Sabbath.
 - This brought sharp rebukes from the religious leaders.
 - *“You have broken the Sabbath!”*
 - b) In the course of the conversation with them, Jesus said: *“My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”* (v. 17)
 - These leaders could not believe their ears!
 - He is claiming to be equal with God—blasphemy.
3. Let’s get the picture:
 - a) Here were some of the best brains of the Jewish nation.
 - b) Who had devoted their whole lives seemingly to the study of Scripture.
 - c) Who were later called by Jesus, *“sons of the devil.”*
 - d) Why? Because:
 - These men harbored a dreadful hate against a man who had only done good.
 - They completely overlooked the stupendous miracle he performed.
 - And accused Him of breaking the Sabbath—and claiming Deity status.
4. But, in spite of their opposition:
 - a) Jesus gave some of His most profound teachings to these people;
 - b) Made some of His most stupendous claims in their hearing;
 - c) And emphasized the evidences to support these claims!

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS CLAIMED CLOSE IDENTITY WITH THE FATHER.****A. 5:19-20**

- 1) The relationship is a harmonious one.
 - a) *“the Son can do nothing of Himself.”*
 - b) He does not act alone—or on His own.
 - c) He is in full agreement & harmony with the Father’s wishes.
- 2) The relationship is an imitating one.
 - a) *“What the Son sees the Father do, the Son does.”*
 - b) He is in full, continuous, intimate relationship with the Father at all times.
 - c) He is not seeking to set up a rival throne or authority.
 - d) All His actions are tied in with the Father’s actions.
 - e) His Will & Actions are in perfect accord with the Father’s.

- 3) The relationship is a loving one.
 - a) ***“The Father loves the Son”***
 - b) These Jewish leaders hated Jesus.
 - c) But the Father loved Him.
 - d) He has the intimate & affectionate confidence of His Father.
 - e) ***“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”***
- 4) The relationship was one of intimacy.
 - a) ***“Shows Him all things that He Himself does”***
 - b) No secrets withheld from each other.
 - c) Full knowledge—openness with each other.
 - d) The Son is fully acquainted with all that the Father does.
- 5) The relationship was one sharing power.
 - a) ***“He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel”***
 - b) If you think that healing an impotent man is great.....
 - c) Wait and see what greater works are in store for you to see.
 - d) And be amazed at—marvel at.
 - e) The Father will do them thru the Son!

II. PROOF OF HIS CLAIMS TO COME!

A. He will raise the dead back to life.

- 1) ***“For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”*** (v. 21)
- 2) God literally raised people back to life.
 - a) Through the prophet Elijah—a widow’s son was raised back to life. (1 Kgs. 17:22)
 - b) Through the prophet Elisha—the Shunammite woman’s son was raised back to life. (2 Kgs. 4:32-35)
- 3) If Jesus raises people back to life:
 - a) His claims of equality with the Father are valid!
 - b) He raised:
 - Jairus’ daughter. (Lk. 8:41-56)
 - The Son of the Widow of Nain. (Lk. 7:11-18)
 - Lazarus. (John 11:1-44)
- 4) Jesus gave life to whoever He chose.
 - a) He was Sovereign in the exercise of His power.
 - b) Yet, His Will was not independent of—nor contrary to the Father’s.

B. He will give spiritual life.

- 1) ***5:24-26***
- 2) God is the source of all life.
 - a) He is called ***“the living God.”*** (Josh. 3:10)
 - b) He has given life to all creatures.
- 3) The Father has given Jesus that power to give life.
 - a) Both physically & spiritually.
 - b) Sin has brought on spiritual death for all mankind.
 - c) The Father & the Son has made eternal life possible for mankind.

- d) But only for those who:
 - Hear the words of Jesus;
 - And believe in the Father who sent Him.
- e) The time will come when:
 - The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God;
 - Those who hear will live.

C. He will call the dead forth to judgment.

- 1) Jn. 5:22, 27-30
- 2) The Father has entrusted the work of judging mankind to Jesus.
 - a) This is emphasized over and over.
 - b) God will judge through His incarnate Son (God-Man).
 - c) He will be well-qualified.
- 3) This judgment will be universal.
 - a) “**All**” who are in the graves will come forth—to be judged.
 - b) Men may not heed Jesus’ words now—but then, it will be different.
 - c) His voice will be heard and obeyed then!
- 4) This judgment will be just.
 - a) Such implies:
 - An all-knowing being;
 - A perfect and holy being;
 - And perfect decisions.
 - b) The good will be given life.
 - c) The evil will be given condemnation.
 - d) Will be based on their character—their works.
- 5) This judgment will be in perfect harmony with the Father’s judgment.
 - a) Jesus will not go out on His own—contrary to the Father.
 - b) He seeks only to do the Will of His Father in judging mankind.

III. WITH SUCH CREDENTIALS, JESUS SHOULD BE HONORED!

A. Jn. 5:23—“That all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

B. Jesus is on an equality with the Father.

- 1) They act in perfect harmony together.
- 2) They do the same works....even the greater works.

C. Therefore, the son is worthy of honor as God.

- 1) For He is God.
- 2) He deserves worship just like the Father.

D. Jesus went a step further.

- 1) If men do not honor Jesus as they do the Father....
- 2) Then, their claim to honor the Father is made void.
- 3) Cannot worship the Father & dethrone Christ, or detour around Christ.

CONCLUSION

1. What stupendous claims by Jesus:
 - a) What the Father does, He does.
 - b) They work inseparably together.

- c) He can raise the dead back to life—just like the Father.
 - d) He can give eternal life to those who believe in Him.
 - e) He is in charge of all judging.
2. No greater claims to Deity were made by Jesus than these here.
- a) And even though these Jewish Leaders did not accept His claims at the time. . . .
 - b) They still had to deal with them in their minds & hearts.
3. These claims of Jesus have been placed before you.
- a) Do you believe them?
 - b) Are you willing to put your trust in who He claimed to be?
 - c) If you reject Him—to whom else will you turn?

Lesson Three

“FOUR-FOLD WITNESS OF JESUS”

(John 5:31-47)

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus is in Jerusalem during another feast—Possible Passover.
2. In speaking before the people—He had made some stupendous claims:
 - a) That God is His Father—equality with the Father.
 - b) That the Son does what the Father does—Same Power.
 - c) That the Son knows all the Father knows—no secrets—all-knowing.
 - d) That the Son raises the dead & gives life—Creative powers.
 - e) That all judgment has been committed to the Son—Totally Just & Holy.
3. Jesus now points out the four-fold witnesses to back up His claims!
 - a) These are not idle claims.
 - b) They are not the claims of a deranged person.
 - c) They are legitimate claims that are fully witnessed to!
4. Jesus wanted to reach these religious leaders.
 - a) They were not indifferent to religion.
 - b) In their minds, they had been devoted to God’s Word.
 - c) But their prejudicial attitudes were blinding their seeing the Truth about Jesus.
 - d) Jesus did not despise these people—but wanted to save them.
 - e) He was calling for them to look at the witnesses to His claims.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS’ WITNESS OF HIMSELF. (5:31)*****A. “If I bear witness of myself...”***

- 1) He has made some astounding claims about Himself.
- 2) In reality, he is bearing testimony to Himself—who He is!
- 3) But Jesus could envision these religious leaders saying:
 - a) *“He is making these outlandish claims about Himself....”*
 - b) *“And He expects us just to accept His word for such!”*
- 4) So, Jesus deals with their objection.
- 5) He freely admits that such claims need more than just His Word at this point.

B. “My witness is not true.”

- 1) Contrast—John 8:13-14
- 2) ***“If I alone testify concerning Myself, My testimony is not to be regarded.”***
- 3) It alone, by itself, would not be enough to create faith.
- 4) ***“My witness is not to be accepted by itself.”***

II. JESUS NOW POINTS OUT THE FOUR WITNESSES. (5:32-41)***A. The Witness of John the Baptizer. (5:33-35)***

- 1) John was sent by God to give witness to Jesus.
 - a) Jn. 1:8-9, 15, 29-34
- 2) When the religious leaders sent to inquire of John...He told them plainly:
 - a) He was not the Messiah, nor the Prophet, Nor Elijah return to earth.

- b) But, that He was the forerunner of the Messiah coming after him.
- 3) And you rejoiced for a time in John's message of hope.
- 4) All John said about Jesus was true.
- 5) Yet, there is greater testimony than John to Jesus.

B. *The witness of His Works. (5:36)*

- 1) John worked no miracles, but declared a greater is coming.
- 2) Jesus came working miracles—and some believed. (Jn. 3:2)
- 3) That was the purpose of miracles—to back up the claims of the one speaking.
- 4) To authenticate His claims.

C. *The Witness of the Father. (5:32, 37-38)*

- 1) V. 32 probably has reference to the Father's witness of Jesus.
- 2) On more than one occasion the Father bore direct witness to Jesus.
 - a) The Angels singing at Jesus' birth.
 - b) The Father's spoken approval at His baptism.
 - c) The H.S. descending on Him like a dove.
 - d) At His transfiguration.
 - e) After the Resurrection of Lazarus.
- 3) Yet, all that Jesus said & did, miracles & otherwise, came from the Father.
- 4) Their reaction:
 - a) They could have seen & heard the Father in all of this.....
 - b) But their minds were closed....
 - c) They rejected Him & His Words!
- 5) Jesus not only claimed to have seen the Father, but also was trying to reveal Him unto them.
- 6) They would not listen.
- 7) So, they really didn't have God's Word abiding in them as they thought!

D. *The Witness of Scripture. (5:39-41)*

- 1) These Jewish leaders missed the whole point of the need of a Redeemer.
 - a) They thought redemption was to be found in Law keeping.
 - b) They didn't see a need of a Redeemer to come to save them.
 - c) They thought they had eternal life already.
- 2) All the prophecies about the coming messiah had been perverted to have reference to an earthly king that would deliver them from Roman domination.
- 3) Gal. 3:21-25
- 4) The O.T. as a whole was pointing to the need of a Redeemer for all mankind.
- 5) These leaders had missed the whole message of Scripture.
 - a) They would not believe the teachings of Jesus.
 - b) They refused to come to Jesus to have life.
 - c) They would not believe in Him, nor Honor Him as God & Redeemer.

III. REASONS FOR THEIR UNBELIEF. (5:42-47)

A. They did not possess the love of God. (42)

- 1) "I know you, I understand you, the way you think & act."
- 2) "Everything indicates that you do not really love God."
- 3) Matt. 15:7-9

B. They were more concerned for the approval of men than God. (43-44)

- 1) Jesus came in His Father name:
 - a) He said only what the Father gave Him to speak.
 - b) The works He did were from the Father.
 - c) All He did was to glorify His Father.
 - d) And they rejected Him.
- 2) But, if some mere man came along in his own name—him you would receive.
 - a) Yet, this man has no approval of God—nor the Works of God—Nor the desire to honor God!
 - b) The Jewish people had received some 64 false Christs during about 30-40 year history.
- 3) You enjoy the praises of one another.
 - a) But, you are not concerned with the praise or approval or acceptance of God.
 - b) Jn. 12:42-43

C. They did not believe the writing of Moses. (5:45-47)

- 1) Jesus.... *"I don't need to accuse you of your wrong actions... Why?"*
- 2) Because Moses accuses you.
 - a) He whom you profess to believe in....
 - b) He whom you studiously study after...
 - c) It is he that accuses and condemns you.
- 3) Moses wrote clearly of Jesus.
 - a) As a Redeemer for mankind.
 - b) As a prophet greater than Moses to come to speak to the people.
 - c) But, they refused to believe what Moses wrote.
- 4) Since they disbelieve Moses—they could not believe in Christ.

CONCLUSION

1. The evidence to support the claims of Jesus has now been clearly pointed out.
 - a) The real test of a person's open-mindedness is shown by what he does about examining this evidence.
 - b) At that time...these people rejected Jesus.
 - c) Not because of a lack of evidence—but because of their closed-mindedness.
2. Final proof of His claims would be given in His death, burial, and resurrection.
 - a) Rom. 1:1-4
3. Today:
 - a) We have the full benefit of both Divine Revelation written down & preserved.
 - b) We have access to all the witnesses---evidences.
 - c) We have seen the benefits of the influence of Jesus on the world.
4. What have we done with the evidence?
5. How open-minded are we?
6. If you are convinced from the evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God:
 - a) Then, why not surrender your life to His Will!
 - b) And why not strive to tell others of this wonderful Savior?

Lesson Four

“TWO GREAT MIRACLES & THEIR LESSONS”

(John 6:1-21)

INTRODUCTION

1. Jn. 6:1-4
 - a) These verses indicate that possibly a year has passed from the end of Ch. 5 to the beginning of Ch. 6.
 - b) In Ch. 5—Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of a Feast (Possibly a Passover).
 - c) In Ch. 6—He is back in Galilee with the next Passover approaching.
2. Background:
 - a) News of John’s death had reached Jesus.
 - Matt. 14:10-13
 - This news was naturally upsetting to Jesus & the apostles.
 - b) The rigorous work that they all had been doing demanded a time of rest.
 - c) So they went by boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum.
 - Mark 6:27-31
 - But it didn’t work...the people followed by the hundreds.
3. These events laid the foundation for these two miracles recorded by John.

DISCUSSION**I. THE FIRST MIRACLE—FEEDING OF 5000*****A. 6:1-4***

- 1) Multitudes were following after Jesus.
 - a) They had witnessed the powerful miracles of healing.
 - b) Jesus took advantage and taught them along with the miracles.
- 2) They had hurriedly followed Jesus for some distance.
 - a) No food or provisions had been taken by them for the day.
 - b) Mark 6:31-34
- 3) It was getting late in the afternoon by now.
 - a) Mark 6:35-36
 - b) The people were hungry.

B. 6:5-13

- 1) Jesus tested Philip by asking, ***“Where can we buy bread for so many people?”***
- 2) Jesus knew what He would do—but He wanted to see what Philip would say.
- 3) His reply—Why, it would take more than 200 days’ wages to feed this crowd.
- 4) Andrew was trying to help by telling about a lad that had 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish.
- 5) With this—Jesus performs His miracle.
 - a) All ate & filled.
 - b) And there were 12 basketful left-over.

C. The results. (6:14-15)

- 1) After witnessing such a sight, they concluded Jesus must be the Prophet that Moses spoke about.
- 2) Their reaction—***“Let’s make Him king...even if we have to force Him.”***

- a) They could avenge John's death.
- b) They could throw off the Roman yoke.
- c) They could be free again as a nation under God.
- 3) But this is not what Jesus came for or wanted.
 - a) Mark 6:45-46
 - b) So, after dismissing the crowd, Jesus went into a place of privacy & prayer.

D. Lessons to be learned:

- 1) God's care & compassion for people was made obvious.
 - a) By healing so many sick people.
 - b) By teaching them about God and His will.
 - c) By providing food for them.
- 2) That care is also promised to us. Matt. 6:33
 - a) Not by a miracle—but by His providential ways.
 - b) He has promised—He has the power to carry it out.
- 3) God does not want us to be wasteful.
 - a) Gather up the fragments—not garbage—but what is still useful.
 - b) Wastefulness in this country is a shame
 - c) God wants his people to be thrifty.

II. 2ND MIRACLE—WALKING ON WATER.

A. 6:15-18

- 1) The multitude wanted to make Jesus their king.
 - a) They had missed the point of the need of a Redeemer for mankind.
 - b) The religious world is still making this same mistake about an earthly kingdom to come.
- 2) Jesus now insisted on his apostles getting into the boat.
 - a) They all got in and starting rowing to the other side.

B. 6:19-21

- 1) This miracle was for the benefit of the 12 only—they alone saw it.
- 2) A storm had arisen while they were rowing across.
- 3) Then, all of a sudden, they saw Jesus coming towards them—walking on the sea.
- 4) Mark 6:47-51
- 5) Three unusual events occurred:
 - a) Jesus walking toward them on the water.
 - b) When He got in the boat, the wind died down.
 - c) They were immediately to the other shore.
- 6) Another unusual event also occurred—not recorded by John.
 - a) Matt. 14:27-33

C. Lessons to be learned:

- 1) True obedience may require doing something we do not fully understand the reason for doing it.
 - a) The disciples did not want to leave Jesus, but He insisted.
 - b) He had His reasons.
 - c) Mark 6:51-52
 - d) After the 2nd miracle—they understood things better.

- e) They worshipped Him, saying, ***“Truly you are the Son of God.”***
- 2) Jesus is aware of & concerned for us in the storms of life.
 - a) Jesus does not promise a miracle to deliver us.
 - b) But He does promise His concern—***“He careth for you.”*** (1 Pet. 5:7)
 - c) He also promises to work out all things for our good. (Rom. 8:28)
- 3) The need to deal with fear in our lives.
 - a) Jesus said: ***“Fear not, it is I; be of good cheer.”***
 - b) That same reassurance is given to us as well.
 - c) Heb. 13:5—***“For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”***
 - d) It is this voice of Jesus above the storms of life that gives us the assurance & hope we need.
 - e) Therefore:
 - We should not fear failure. (Phil. 4:13)
 - We should not fear death. (1 Cor. 15:57)
 - We should not fear the future. (Rom. 8:31)

CONCLUSION

1. Which would Jesus say to us:
 - a) ***“I have not seen so great faith....”***
 - b) Or, ***“O you of little faith.”***
2. Miracles have a purpose of teaching us of God’s care for His people.
3. Do you trust Jesus’ promise of Salvation? Mk. 16:15-16

Lesson Five

“The True Bread From Heaven”

(John 6:22-71)

INTRODUCTION

1. Since man is both physical & spiritual in make up:
 - a) He obviously needs food for both.
 - b) During Jesus’ temptation, He told Satan: **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”** (Matt. 4:4).
 - c) Yes, man has need for food for his physical body!
 - d) But, even more importantly, he needs food for his spiritual being!
 - e) Jesus makes this very clear in the verses we will be looking at next.
2. Background:
 - a) The crowd tries to find Jesus and His disciples.
 - b) They had gone back to Capernaum.
 - c) Verse 59 indicates that He was teaching in the Synagogue in Capernaum at this time.

DISCUSSION**I. THE SHALLOW REASONS FOR THE CROWD OF PEOPLE (26-27)*****A. Crowds were following Jesus, but how shallow were their reasons.***

- 1) They were more interested in the miracles and what they could do for them, than in the real purpose—to help them believe in Jesus.
- 2) They were seeking Jesus for selfish and worldly ends.
 - a) They wanted to be healed.
 - b) They wanted their physical hunger satisfied.
 - c) They wanted an earthly king that would throw off the Roman yoke.
- 3) But where was their thirst or hunger for food for the soul?
 - a) They were not following Jesus to secure eternal life.
 - b) They were so wrapped up in the physical that the spiritual went begging.

B. Man needs to primarily deal with his supreme need—saving his soul.

- 1) Jesus is obviously not prohibiting working for a living, but where to put our priorities. (Matt. 6:33).
- 2) We need to labor or work for that which gives us everlasting life.
- 3) Jesus had given them physical bread, but He can also give them eternal life with the Father.

II. ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION IS IMPORTANT! (28-29)***A. “What shall we do that we may work the works of God?”***

- 1) When Peter preached to the people on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), they asked a similar question—**“What shall we do?”**
- 2) To ask the right question is important, but you also want to receive the right answer. (Acts 2:38).

B. Jesus’ answer:

- 1) Believe in Him who the Father has sent!

- 2) God had sent messengers and messages to the Jewish Nation in the past!
 - a) He expected them to believe them, receive them, listen to them, and do what they say.
 - b) The same is true with Jesus—believe in Him! He is God’s greatest messenger!
- 3) Believing is a continued action verb.
 - a) Keep on believing in the one God has sent.
 - b) This faith is shown by obedience to whatever God requires (James 2:24; Acts 2:38, 41).

III. THE JEWS REQUEST A SPECIAL SIGN OR MIRACLE (30-47)

A. These people had already witnessed many miracles already.

- 1) At least, they could have heard from eye-witnesses to the miracles.
- 2) What more do they want?
- 3) They evidently wanted a special sign like God did for their forefathers in the wilderness—He fed them manna for 40 years!
- 4) Feeding 5000 for one time was a drop in the bucket to feeding millions for 40 years.
- 5) *“Can you show us something as great or greater—so we can believe!”*

B. Observations about their request:

- 1) They forgot to mention about the grumbling and complaining of the people in spite of the miracle of manna.
- 2) The miracle was worthless (as well as all the others that God performed)... Why?
 - a) Because that whole generation (20 years and over) did not get to go into the promise land.
 - b) Heb. 3:18-19
- 3) So the real question is—*“Would these people believe even if Jesus were to give them a similar sign like Manna?”*

C. Jesus’ answer and their response.

- 1) *“Yes, God gave your forefathers manna to feed their physical bodies.”*
- 2) But Moses did not give “THE BREAD” that is able to sustain their soul.
- 3) This is the true bread that Jesus could give—that gives eternal life.
 - a) The Father has sent the true bread from heaven—His own Son!
 - b) So that we may eat of Him and live eternally.
- 4) The Jews’ reply was: *“Evermore give us their bread!”*
- 5) Were they sincere or hypocritical?

D. Jesus now makes a clear statement of who He was!

- 1) *“I am that true bread sent down from heaven to give life to mankind.”*
- 2) *“I am that life-giving bread you need to partake of.”*
- 3) *“You must come to Me and believe on Me to obtain this life.”*
- 4) *“Those who do, will never hunger or thirst again—I will completely satisfy their spiritual hunger.”*
- 5) Jesus is God’s GREAT SIGN to mankind.
 - a) He is the miracle greater than the Manna.
 - b) He is God in the flesh!

E. Jesus' indictment of these unbelievers!

- 1) He sadly points out that they have seen God's great sign and do not believe.
 - a) He had been in their midst: teaching, healing, and performing miracles.
 - b) They had witnessed the greatest miracle of all, and did not recognize who He was.
- 2) He points out that they didn't believe, but some will.
 - a) Those who believe will come to Jesus for eternal life.
 - b) Those who will not believe will be cast out.
- 3) His purpose for coming was to do the Father's will—to seek and save the lost.
 - a) Those who believe will be raised up to everlasting life.
 - b) The Father must draw people—this is done by hearing and learning the message from the Father.

IV. JESUS IS THE BREAD SENT DOWN FROM HEAVEN (48-59)***A. Contrast between breads:***

- 1) Your fathers ate manna from God and yet died.
- 2) But those who eat this true bread from heaven will never die.
- 3) He states a 3rd time that He is that true bread that came down from heaven.
- 4) To eat of Him (partake of His death) will live forever.

B. The necessity to eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood.

- 1) His flesh is food and his blood is drink.
- 2) Those who eat and drink of Him will be raised up to eternal life.

C. The crowd's reaction—how can this man literally give us his flesh and blood?

- 1) They didn't understand.
- 2) They were so earth bound that they had trouble seeing their need to believe in Jesus as the Christ.

V. THE OUTCOME OF JESUS' TEACHINGS (60-71)***A. Among the general disciples (60-66)***

- 1) ***"This is a hard saying, who can hear it?"***
- 2) They had not conceived of a Messiah who would die.
- 3) Jesus' reply to them—***"Does this offend you?"***
 - a) What trouble will you then have when you see me ascend back to heaven?
 - b) You can't literally eat of my flesh & blood.
 - c) It is the spirit that gives life to the body.
 - d) The body without the spirit is lifeless.
 - e) The words that I am speaking to you can give life—but only to those who believe them.
- 4) Jesus knew from the beginning:
 - a) Not only those who would not believe Him;
 - b) But also who would betray Him.
- 5) Jesus re-emphasized again that people had to believe in Him as Savior.
 - a) But it seemed that they did not want the real Jesus or Messiah.
 - b) They were disillusioned and disenchanted with Jesus' teachings.

6) Results:

- a) Many walked no more with him.
- b) They returned to the guidance from the Scribes and Pharisees.
- c) They no longer attended the Lord's ministry.
- d) They ceased to follow Him from place to place.

B. Among the twelve:

- 1) Jesus turns to the twelve and asked if they also would leave Him.
- 2) Peter's answer strikes home: ***“Lord to whom else can we go, you have the words of eternal life. We believe and are sure that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”***
- 3) Then, sadly Jesus states:
 - a) I have chosen you twelve, but one of you is a devil.
 - b) He was referring to Judas' betrayal of Him.

CONCLUSION

- 1. The physical so easily illustrates the spiritual.
- 2. We eat physical food to keep life in our physical bodies.
- 3. We also need, more importantly, to eat spiritual food to have eternal life.
- 4. ***“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”***
- 5. Have you turned to Jesus to spiritually feast on Him to the satisfaction of your soul?

Lesson Six

“THE WILL OF GOD”

(John 6:38-40)

INTRODUCTION

1. Read John 6:38-40
2. Jesus stressed over and over—He came to do the Will of the Father!
 - a) That Will had been revealed to Him.
 - b) And He was busy carrying out that Will!
3. He points out 2 things in particular here that was His Father’s Will:
 - a) V. 39—**“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”**
 - Those whom the Father has redeemed through Me.....
 - None of these will be lost.
 - They will be raised up at the last day.
 - The Power to carry out His promises.
 - b) V. 40—**“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”**
 - The eternal security depends upon men beholding Jesus...seeing Him fully;
 - And continually believing in Him.
 - We are kept by the power of God through faith. (1 Pet. 1:5)
4. It was also the Father’s Will that Jesus die for the sins of the people.
 - a) Lk. 22:39-42
 - The terrible ordeal Jesus faced caused His flesh to cry out.
 - There was anguish and agony.
 - But there was also Surrender—to the Father’s Will.
 - b) Because He submitted to the Father’s Will, we can have everlasting life.
 - c) He set the perfect example for all of us.
5. We need to see the importance of our submitting to the Will of the Father.
 - a) Matt. 7:21—**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”**
 - b) Matt. 6:10—**“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**
 - c) 1 Jn. 2:17—**“...but he who does the will of God abides forever.”**
 - d) What this involves:
 - We must die to self.
 - Self must be crucified.
 - Our will must submit to God’s Will!

DISCUSSION**I. HOW CAN I KNOW GOD’S WILL TO DO IT?**

A. God has revealed His Will to mankind—so we can know & do it!

- 1) It was revealed through His Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:9-13
- 2) It was revealed to His holy Apostles & Prophets. Eph. 3:3-5
- 3) This revelation can completely furnish us to all good works. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

B. Needed Admonition:

- 1) We must seek to know God's Will.
 - a) John 7:17—*"If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority."*
- 2) We must be filled with the knowledge of His Will.
 - b) Col. 1:9—*"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."*
- 3) We must allow His Will to transform us.
 - a) Rom. 12:1-2

II. PROBLEM QUESTIONS:**A. How can we know God's Will beyond His Revealed Will?**

- 1) **Example:**
 - a) *"Our son was killed in an auto accident.....is this the Will of God that I must accept?"*
 - b) Was it the Will of God for the son to be killed?
 - c) How can you know that—if it is not revealed by God Himself?
- 2) **Example:**
 - a) A terrible earthquake hit Los Angeles—a lot of damage & death occurred.
 - b) *"It was the Will of God....so I must accept it."*
 - c) Was it the Will of God?
 - d) How can we know—it is not revealed by God Himself?
- 3) **Example:**
 - a) We pray for people to get well.
 - b) Then we add, *"If it be Your Will, O God."*
 - c) So, we do not know what God's will is concerning that person!
 - d) We do not desire to go against God's Will.....
 - e) So we say, *"Your will be done."*
 - f) Thus:
 - If they live, it is God's Will!
 - Or, if they die, it is God's Will!

B. Mankind has a tendency to blame God for any bad in their lives.

- 1) We say...*"It is God's will, so I must meekly accept such... as His Will."*
- 2) But how do we know such is the will of God?
- 3) Does the Word of God say it was His Will?
- 4) Did God reveal such by inspiration to you or me?
- 5) Then, why do people say it is the Will of God that I must accept?
- 6) 1 Peter 4:15-19

III. CONTRAST BETWEEN GOD'S INTENTIONAL WILL & HIS ALLOWED WILL.**A. Illustrated by the Prodigal Son:**

- 1) Was it the father's will that his younger son leave home?
 - a) I think all would say, "NO!"
 - b) But he allowed him to leave.

- 2) It would be one thing for the father to intentionally send him away;
- 3) And quite another to allow him to leave.

B. Is it God's Will that Evil be in the world?

- 1) If you say yes—then, how do you know that?
 - a) Well, God is in complete control of all things.
 - b) Therefore, it must be His Will that evil be in the world.
- 2) But did God **INTEND** to place evil in the world or did He allow it?
 - a) We know God wants JOY for His creatures. (Jas. 1:17)
 - b) He certainly doesn't want mankind to be lost. (2 Pet. 3:9)
- 3) It is also obvious that God created man with power of choice.
 - a) The risk was that man would chose to disobey.
 - b) And evil would come as a results of that choice.
- 4) We might therefore conclude:
 - a) Evil was not God's Intentional Will—He did not create Evil!
 - b) But He allowed Evil to come as a result of man's choice!

C. Is it God's Will that there be suffering in the world?

- 1) If you say, Yes—How would you know that?
 - a) Well, suffering is here and God is in complete control.
 - b) So, it must be His will that suffering be in the world.
- 2) But, doesn't suffering come as a results of man's choice?
 - a) Both physical & spiritual death resulted from man's disobedience.
 - b) Did God create man to suffer—or to live in perfect bless in the garden?
- 3) It would seem:
 - a) That suffering is not God's intentional Will,
 - b) But His allowed Will!

D. Is everything that happens to me, God's Will?

- 1) Isn't it obvious that most things that happen is because of the Will of man, not the Will of God?
- 2) So, such may be within God's allowed Will, but not His Intentional Will.
- 3) We can know this—All things work together for good for Christians.
- 4) How do you know this?
- 5) God said so. (Rom. 8:28)

CONCLUSION

1. One thing we all need to learn well:
 - a) Stop blaming God for our mistakes and our predicaments.
 - b) And start taking responsibility for our actions.
2. Most of what we suffer and experience comes from disobedience to God on the part of myself or others—as well as ignorance of God's Revealed Will.
 - a) The more we know of His revealed Will....
 - b) The better we can cope with what God allows to happen to us in this life.
3. Non-Christians need to take responsibility for their sins & disobedience to God.

*Lesson Seven***“Jesus Deals With Unbelief”****(John 7:1-24)****INTRODUCTION**

1. John’s Gospel skips about another six months from chapter six.
2. During this time some important events took place:
 - a) He had ended His Tours of the Galilean Cities when he went to the Passover Feast.
 - b) Upon His return from Jerusalem into Galilee, opposition followed him.
 - c) He makes two excursions north to get away from His adversaries.
 - d) Peter makes his confession of belief in Jesus as the Son of God.
 - e) Jesus foretells his death and resurrection.
 - f) Jesus is transfigured before the Apostles.
3. It is now time for the feast of Tabernacles.
 - a) This was one of the three main feasts of the Jews.
 - b) It occurred in our October and lasted about eight days.
 - c) It was a remembrance of their wilderness wanderings.
 - d) It was also tied in with their harvesting of their crops.
 - e) Everyone lived in booths or tents during this time.
 - f) It was a very festive time.
4. In chapter seven, Jesus has to deal with unbelief of his own brothers, the Religious Leaders, and many of the people.

DISCUSSION**I. DEALING WITH UNBELIEF OF HIS OWN BROTHERS (7:3-9)*****A. His brothers’ advice to Him (3-5).***

- 1) Jesus did have fleshly brothers and sisters.
 - a) His brothers were: James, Joses, Simon, Judas (Matt. 13:55).
 - b) His sisters are unnamed.
- 2) They advised Him to go up to Jerusalem during this feast time and do the works that he had done in Galilee.
 - a) If you want a following—be more open with your efforts—especially in Jerusalem (the heart of Judaism).
 - b) Also, those who are best fit to judge you will be at this feast.

B. Their unbelief (5).

- 1) They did not believe in Him as the Messiah at this time.
 - a) They had all the evidence that others had.
 - b) They surely had witnessed His works, healings, and teachings.
 - c) Why didn’t they believe as His Apostles did?
 - d) We are not told!
 - e) They did not openly hate him, but were unconvinced of His Deity.
- 2) However, they did later come to believe in Him—to their credit!
 - a) Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:5
 - b) Both James and Jude wrote by inspiration their books.

C. Jesus' reply to his brothers (6-9).

- 1) **"My time is not yet come."**
 - a) The strong animosity stirred up the last trip to Jerusalem made it hard to go back without great opposition.
 - b) He knew that such confrontation would lead to His pre-mature death.
 - c) The time was not ready for that to take place yet.
 - d) There were still things to be done and said—to be accomplished.
- 2) **"But your time is always ready"**
 - a) You can do what you want because your life is not threatened.
 - b) You have nothing to risk in going.
- 3) **"The world cannot hate you."**
 - a) This is the first time John has used the term "world."
 - Reference to those who are in rebellion or opposition to God's will.
 - Those who are not true believers or followers.
 - b) The world loves its own generally.
 - c) They will not hate you because you are in agreement with their thinking.
 - d) But cross them, and you will feel their hatred.
- 4) **"But me it hates"**
 - a) The religious leaders already hated Jesus.
 - b) Given enough time and opportunity and they would kill Him.
 - c) Why did they hate Him so?
 - He told them the truth about themselves.
 - He told them what was wrong with them.
 - d) People still don't like to be shown they are wrong today, either.
- 5) **"You go ahead, I am not ready to go up yet."**
 - a) His time for the triumphal entry and acclaim is not yet.
 - b) Go without me, I am not ready as yet.

II. DEALING WITH UNBELIEF OF THE PEOPLE (7:10-24)**A. Jesus goes up to Jerusalem to the feast. (10-13)**

- 1) He goes up secretly, as it were.
 - a) He does not go down with the large crowds of pilgrims.
 - b) Luke's account indicates He went through Samaria.
 - The Samaritans want Him to leave because He was going to Jerusalem.
 - James and John want to call down fire from heaven upon them.
 - Jesus cures 10 lepers on the way—one returns to give thanks.
 - c) He comes to the home of Mary & Martha and stays here during His time in Jerusalem.
- 2) The people were puzzled because they could not find Jesus.
 - a) They just knew He would be there.
 - b) Everyone was looking for Him among His relatives, friends, and the caravans from Galilee....Where is He?
 - c) This shows the reputation Jesus was getting.

- d) They were anxiously awaiting to hear Him speak in Jerusalem.
- 3) Mixed views of the people towards Jesus.
 - a) *“He is a good man”*
 - b) *“He deceives the people”*
 - He is misleading them.
 - He is a deceiver.
 - Here is the world’s greatest character—and He couldn’t please everyone.
 - c) No man spoke openly of Him.
 - The Jewish leaders had not given recognition to Jesus’ claims.
 - In fact, they denied his works, were against Him, and wanted Him stopped.
 - So, those who did believe in Him or were favorable to Him were afraid to openly speak up about Jesus.

B. Jesus now goes into the Temple area to teach (14-15).

- 1) It was about the 4th day of the Feast.
- 2) He taught the people.
- 3) No healing or feeding of the people was done.
- 4) It is not recorded by John what He taught.
- 5) The people marveled at His ability to know Scriptures and to speak.
 - a) Jesus impressed them.
 - b) They knew He was not one of their educated Rabbis.
 - c) Then, how did this man come to know so much.
 - d) They were more impressed with His learning than His spiritual message.

C. Jesus’ remarks about His teachings (16-18).

- 1) He explained how He could so teach.
 - a) ***“My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me.”***
 - b) He was not a self-taught man, but one sent with a message that was given to Him by God.
- 2) Jesus gives two tests in order to know if He was teaching God’s message.
 - a) A person must be willing to be obedient to God.
 - A rebellious heart will reject any message from God.
 - But an open, willing heart can discern if the message is from God.
 - Men often over-estimate Intellect, Scholarship, and Abilities.
 - But it is the trusting, willing heart, and the obedient heart that will know & accept the message from God.
 - b) Look to see whose glory is being sought.
 - If one speaks from his own thoughts, he is seeking self-glory.
 - He is exalting himself by his own self-originated message.
 - But Jesus’ message was not self self-originated.
 - Rather, it came from the Father.
 - His sole purpose was to glorify God, the Father.
 - He had no desire to deceive the people.

D. Jesus brings up the real hot issue (19-20).

- 1) “*Why do you seek to kill me?*”
 - a) The leaders were openly hostile to Jesus.
 - b) So, Jesus faces them head on with the question...Why?
 - c) What he is about to bring up dealt with accusation of breaking the Sabbath.
 - d) He points out: “*You do not keep the Law of the Sabbath in special situations of mercy.*”
 - e) Then, “*Why do you seek to condemn me and kill me for doing the same thing you do?*”
- 2) The people’s reaction: “*Who is trying to kill you?*”
 - a) Notice that the people, not the Jewish leaders, reacted this way.
 - b) Are you paranoid, do you have a demon within you?
 - c) It is possible that the people did not suspect what the leaders wanted to do.
 - d) Jesus ignores this remark and continues on with His argument.

E. Jesus justifies His healing on the Sabbath (21-24).

- 1) Jesus claims consistency with their interpretation or understanding of the law.
 - a) They recognized that the law made provisions for mercy on the Sabbath
 - b) They also recognized the need to do what the law taught them to do at a set time, even if it were on the Sabbath.
 - c) He illustrates His point.
 - Circumcision was to be performed on the 8th day of a male child.
 - Even if the 8th day was the Sabbath, it was till to be done.
 - The Jewish leaders understood and practiced this.
- 2) Then, Jesus asked, “*Why be angry with me when I heal a man on the Sabbath.*”
 - a) What He did was an act of mercy to make a man whole.
 - b) To release him from the hold of Satan was obviously merciful.
- 3) Learn to be righteous in your judgments.
 - a) Don’t let your judgment be superficial, outward appearance only.
 - b) Look within, look at all the facts.
 - c) Be like a righteous judge—make decisions after all the facts are in.
 - d) I have shown you all the facts—now make a just, righteous judgment.

CONCLUSION

1. A sharp contrast is being drawn between:
 - a) People of the world who are guided by their own will and wishes;
 - b) People of God who are guided by God’s word in their lives.
2. Leaders of opinion and authority over people have a grave responsibility.
 - a) Not to be unrighteous in their decision making.
 - b) Too much is at stake.
 - c) They need to make decisions, judgments, according to truth and all the facts.
3. It is very important that we judge our motives for our actions.
 - a) Jesus showed how that His actions were according to their understanding of the law.
 - b) Yet, they still wanted to kill Him.

- c) Why? What was their real motive for their opposition?
- 4. Why do some people believe Jesus and others do not?
 - a) They all have access to the same information, facts, and evidences.
 - b) Is the answer found in one's motives?
 - c) Jesus said: *"You can know if I speak from God if you have a strong desire to do the will of God."*
- 5. Do we have a strong will to do the will of God?

Lesson Eight

“Mixed Reactions to Jesus’ Teaching in the Temple”

(John 7:25-53)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Place of this lesson is in the City of Jerusalem—in the Temple area.
2. The time is during the last part of the Feast of Tabernacles.
 - a) Jesus had begun teaching publicly in the Temple during the Feast.
 - b) He preached to a huge crowd with mixed reactions.
 - c) Some saying that He was a good man.
 - d) Others—that He was a deceiver.
 - e) Jesus did not fear the crowd, but preached with boldness & earnestness.
3. This lesson will deal with the varied reactions to Jesus’ teachings.

DISCUSSION

I. 1ST REACTION TO JESUS’ TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE (7:25-32)

A. The people’s reaction in general (25-29)

- 1) “Isn’t this the man they are wanting to kill?”
 - a) The rulers’ plot to kill Jesus had been brought out into the open.
 - b) If true, why hadn’t they arrested Him?
 - c) Here He is speaking boldly and openly in the Temple.
 - d) And, the leaders are saying nothing.
 - Of course, when they did, they got trapped in their own words.
 - Their terrible attitude towards Jesus could become more obvious to the people.
 - It would be best to remain silent for now.
 - We will have to find another means to deal with Him.
- 2) “Have the rulers indeed concluded that Jesus is the Christ?”
 - a) Have they altered their thinking about Him?
 - b) Are they now convinced of His claims?
 - c) Has He successfully refuted their charge of Sabbath breaking?
- 3) “We know where Jesus comes from.”
 - a) They knew He was from Galilee (Nazareth).
 - b) They knew His parents, brothers, sisters.
 - c) So, He may not be the true Messiah because—no one will know where the true Messiah will come from...He will just appear on the scene.

B. Clarification by Jesus about their knowing Him.

- 1) “Yes, you know Me and know I am from Galilee.”
 - a) They thought they knew all about Jesus.
 - b) But they only knew of his earthly background—and that not fully.
 - c) But they did not know Him in truth and reality who He was and where He was from.

d) And...for sure, Jesus did not meet their pre-conceived ideas of their Messiah.

2) "But, you do not know the One who sent Me."

a) I know Him, for I came from Him—He is the One who sent Me.

- In the true sense of knowing—intimate, close, fellowship.
- He has the true knowledge of the true and living God.
- Their knowledge of God was warped, inferior, incorrect.

b) Jesus could reveal the full truth about the Father.

C. The Rulers' reaction (30-32).

1) They sought to take Him.

a) They were plotting His death—trying to figure out how to stop Him.

b) Why had these leaders sunk so low to suppose that they did God a service by hating Jesus?

c) Answer!

- They were filled with arrogant pride.
- They were pitiless in their intolerance.

d) Their example is one to be avoided by mankind.

2) They sent officers to take Him by force.

a) They saw that many of the people were convinced of Jesus' claims.

b) They overheard them saying—"would the Messiah do any more miracles than what Jesus has done?"

c) Has not Jesus sufficiently satisfied His claims?

d) Upon hearing this, they knew they had to act quickly.

- So, they sent hand-picked officers to arrest Jesus.
- Intimates that a decision had already been made by the council.

II. JESUS' REACTION & TEACHINGS (7:33-39)

A. Jesus' reaction to the Pharisees & leaders (33-36).

1) "I will be with you, but for a little while."

a) Within 6 months, Jesus would be put to death.

b) He knew that His time was drawing near.

2) "Then, I will go back to Him that sent me."

a) Go back to the Father—ascend up on high.

b) His challenge to them—"You need to make the best use of the time I am with you."

3) "You shall seek me, but not find me."

a) Their rejection of Jesus brought upon them terrible destruction as a nation.

b) Then, they would look back and wish they had made better use of their time to have Jesus in their midst.

c) And in addition—where I go, you cannot go!

d) Their rejection of Jesus barred their way to the Father.

4) Their reasoning on Jesus' statement:

a) Where can He go that we cannot find Him?

b) Would He go elsewhere to preach to others?

c) Will He go to the Jewish dispersion and the Gentiles?

- d) They made no connection with His death?
- e) But how prophetic they were about going to the Jewish Dispersion and the Gentiles.

B. Jesus again states He can satisfy man's thirst (37-39).

- 1) This teaching took place on the last day of the Feast.
 - a) There was a water ceremony that reminded them of getting water from the rock during the wilderness wanderings.
 - b) God provided water to satisfy their thirst.
- 2) Jesus took advantage of this to say that He is that "God-sent Water" from heaven that satisfies men's thirst.
 - a) All men have a deep-seated thirst for righteousness.
 - b) The world is powerless to satisfy this thirst—with all its glitter.
 - c) Man needs God's approval and fellowship—not at peace until he finds it.
 - d) Only Jesus can satisfy this thirst.
 - e) He is that rock in the wilderness that gives living water.
 - f) If men recognize this thirst and come to Him and drink—they can be satisfied.
 - g) This involves believing in Him and surrender to His will.
- 3) Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
 - a) Not only will the one who believes be blessed, but....
 - b) He in turn will become a blessing to others.
 - c) When one finds the soul satisfying waters of life, he must point others to this same fount of every blessing.
- 4) This spake He of the Spirit.
 - a) The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and early Christians to guide them into all truth would be a great blessing to the world.
 - b) But the Holy Spirit could not come with that message until Jesus had been put to death, raised, and glorified on high.
 - c) Then, He would be sent to bless mankind.

III. THE SECOND GROUP OF REACTIONS TO JESUS' TEACHINGS (7:40-53)

A. This last teachings brought varied reactions (40-44).

- 1) Some concluded, He must be that Prophet Moses spoke about.
 - a) He just had to be a prophet from God—there was no other answer to what they had witnessed.
 - b) A prophet, but not necessarily the MESSIAH.
- 2) Others concluded, He has to be the Messiah.
 - a) They had heard Jesus' claims and His teachings.
 - b) They had observed His life and His miracles.
 - c) All was in perfect harmony.
 - d) He had to be the Messiah.
- 3) Still others were puzzled about Jesus.
 - a) They knew that the Messiah would be of the seed of David.
 - b) That He would come from Bethlehem.
 - c) But they questioned whether He would come out of Galilee.

- d) And Jesus was from Galilee!
- e) Of course, they had not taken time to find out that He was born in Bethlehem.
- f) Nor, looked carefully at the prophecy about Galilee in Isa. 9:1-2.
- 4) Others still would have taken Him by force to stop His teaching.
 - a) Officers had already been sent to take Him—arrest Him.
 - b) But they failed to do so—because of their impression of Jesus.

B. The Officers' reaction to Jesus (7:45-49)

- 1) The officers report to the priests and Pharisees.
 - a) They came empty-handed.
 - b) *"Why did you not arrest Him and bring Him to us?"*
- 2) "Never man spake like this man."
 - a) Here was an unsolicited and unbiased testimony about Jesus.
 - Jesus had disarmed them.
 - They came under the spell of His wisdom, grace, and demeanor.
 - It was an experience that over-whelmed them.
 - b) This man, Jesus:
 - Spake with such authority;
 - With such a grasp of Divine Truth;
 - With such practical force and persuasion;
 - With such disregard for traditional ideas of Jewish leaders.....
 - c) They were almost His converts!
- 3) "Are you also deceived by this man?"
 - a) The Pharisees considered themselves the Guardians of Orthodoxy.
 - b) Have any of us or rulers of the people been convinced of this man's claims?
 - c) Their great assumption was:
 - Only the learned and rulers will be right on religious matters.
 - The uneducated are always wrong!
 - d) Are you going to let this man deceive you like this uneducated mass?
 - e) Pharisees were facing a new problem—their own hand-picked officers were paying tribute to Jesus.

C. Nicodemus speaks up in behalf of Jesus (7:50-52)

- 1) Some of the rulers believed, but not openly.
 - a) Nicodemus was one of them (Ch. 3)
 - b) Reminded them of the Law that they claim to follow—need to follow it.
 - c) Not to judge a man before he has been given his chance in court to defend himself.
- 2) Their reply—"Are you also a Galilean?"
 - a) Are you from Galilee and show your prejudice for Galilee.
 - b) Are you saying that this man is the Messiah?
 - c) Look in the Law and see if you can find where the prophet is to come out of Galilee—NONE—But, they were wrong!

D. This scene ends with no further action being taken at this time (7:53)

CONCLUSION

1. Even though the intensity is growing stronger to stop Jesus by the rulers:
 - a) He does not change His message, nor His claims.
 - b) And He continues to come face to face with His adversaries.
2. What is **YOUR** decision about Jesus?
 - a) Is He an imposter?
 - b) Or, is He truly the Messiah, the Anointed One sent from God—the Son of God?

Lesson Nine

“The Power of Conscience”

(John 8:1-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Feast of Tabernacles is over, but Jesus does not leave Jerusalem yet.
2. The next morning:
 - a) He comes to the Temple area and again teaches the people.
 - b) Again, Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees and Scribes.
 - c) But they had a trap set for Jesus—using an adulterous woman.
 - d) This incident clearly shows the kind of hearts these religious leaders had.

DISCUSSION**I. AN ADULTERIOUS WOMAN IS BROUGHT TO JESUS TO BE JUDGED (8:3-6)*****A. The woman was taken in the very act of adultery.***

- 1) Need to see the difference in terms: “adultery” and “fornication.”
 - a) Fornication is a general and all-inclusive term—all kinds of sexual uncleanness.
 - b) Adultery is generally more specific with reference to a married person having sexual relations with another person—not their mate.
 - c) Jesus used Adultery in the sense of two people who are married, but their marriage was not acceptable in the sight of God.
 - d) Adultery is used in the Old Testament with reference to Israel’s unfaithfulness to God—worshipping idols.
- 2) Questions:
 - a) How did they catch her in the very act of adultery?
 - b) Was she just a loose woman that everyone knew about?
 - c) But if this was known—why hadn’t something been done about it before?
 - d) Where was the man and who was he?
 - e) Why did they bring only the woman?
 - f) Why didn’t these brave rulers bring both to be judged?

B. They quoted Moses Law that said such should be stoned—BOTH!

- 1) They reminded Jesus before the crowd of what Moses said.
- 2) The fact that they only had the woman showed Jesus their true intent.
 - a) They were strict teachers of the Law.....
 - b) But were very poor in practice! (Matt. 23).
- 3) They had long lost the right to put anyone to death.
 - a) The Romans would not allow it—without punishment.
 - b) They knew it and Jesus knew it.
- 4) “Jesus, you are a teacher, what do you say?”
 - a) Their reason for bringing the woman was not to uphold the Law.
 - If it had been they would have had the man also.
 - And they would have taken them before the proper authorities.
 - They wanted to embarrass Jesus before the crowd—to lose face!

- They wanted to ensnare Him—to turn the people against Him!
- b) They really were not interested in His decision, as such.
 - They were showing their depraved condition.
 - They showed their self-righteous, hard heartedness!
- 5) Jesus' attitude toward adultery & fornication:
 - a) It is a sin against the body (1 Cor. 6:18-20).
 - b) It undermines the sanctity of the home.
 - c) It is the only sin that permits divorce & re-marriage (Matt. 19:8-9).
 - d) Those who continue in such cannot inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).
 - e) Fornication & Adultery is never right—whether legalized by society or not.

C. Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground.

- 1) He acted as if He was ignoring them—knowing their evil purposes.
- 2) They hated Jesus and He knew this and knew also that they wanted to ensnare Him.
- 3) They sought grounds for accusing Him—to destroy His influence with people, and to be able to put Him to death without strong resentment from the people.
- 4) The Trap:
 - a) If he said “stone her”—they could have stoned her and blamed the whole affair on Jesus before the Roman Governor.
 - b) If He said “don't stone her”—they could accuse Him of ignoring the Law of Moses.
 - c) They thought they had Him!

II. JESUS' ANSWER (8:7-8)

A. They continued pressing Him for an answer.

- 1) They insisted on His answer.
- 2) Jesus allowed them to press Him—acting as though He didn't hear them.
- 3) But, in reality:
 - a) He was showing His displeasure at their proceedings.
 - b) He was letting them know He knew what they were up to.
 - c) He gave them time to back off and re-consider.

B. Jesus then said: “He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone.”

- 1) Jesus' statement gave recognition to what the Law taught (Deut. 17:6-7).
 - a) Witnesses of the sin were to cast the first stone.
 - b) So, you are witnesses—so, you start the stoning.
- 2) But first—be sure that you are not guilty of the same or similar sins.
 - a) Jesus knew their wicked hearts.
 - b) He knew they needed to face up to their own sins.
 - c) Jesus called them a “wicked and adulterous” generation (Matt. 16:4).
- 3) His answer:
 - a) Did not detract from the Authority of the Law.
 - b) Nor did it satisfy the Pharisees' desire to trap Him.
- 4) Jesus refused to be put into the position of a civil judge.
 - a) He also refused to have any part with their murderous passion.

III. THE EFFECT ON THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES (8:9)***A. Jesus stopped down again and wrote on the ground.***

- 1) It was like silent contempt for their shameless actions.
- 2) Yet, His actions were very considerate of them as people.
- 3) And His words—an effort to get them to see themselves, repent, and believe.

B. Convicted by their own consciences.

- 1) Their defeat was obvious.
- 2) Jesus saw through their scheme so clearly.
- 3) Now, He tries to convince these morally hardened and insensible people to admit their sinfulness.
- 4) Their consciences were aroused and it made cowards of them all.
 - a) How did they know about this woman?
 - b) Had they been guilty of adultery with her also?
- 5) Jesus' actions & words made it obvious that they were hypocrites!

C. They all began to leave.

- 1) From the oldest (most learned among them) to the youngest.
- 2) They got caught by their own trap.

D. Only Jesus and the woman were left of the group that came with her.**IV. JESUS' CONVERSATION WITH THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN (8:10-11)*****A. Jesus looks up and questions the woman:***

- 1) Where are all of your accusers that were so eager to put you to death?
 - a) Jesus was not a civil judge and didn't want the role.
 - b) Yet, he knew she was guilty.
 - c) Without witnesses, such a person could not lawfully be put to death.
 - d) Needed two or more witnesses.
- 2) All of her accusers had left—no one to condemn her.

B. Jesus showed His great wisdom and mercy to the woman.

- 1) Wisdom shown by evading their trap.
 - a) Put them on the defense to think about their own sinfulness.
 - b) His popularity with the people was not hurt.
 - c) Nor did He go against God's Law.
- 2) His mercy was shown to the woman.
 - a) Even though guilty—no accusers—no penalty!
 - b) Jesus' statement—***“Neither do I condemn you.”***
 - c) He showed a merciful spirit toward this guilty woman.
 - d) Jesus loves mankind, but hates and condemns their sinfulness.
 - e) But, He also is willing to forgive all who repent!
- 3) Thus, the statement: ***“Go, and sin no more.”***
 - a) Turn from your sinfulness.
 - b) Turn back to submission to God's will.
 - c) He expressed hope for and confidence in the woman to change.
 - d) He did not condone her sin, but offered hope for her if she changed.

CONCLUSION

1. What an example this story is for us.
 - a) To know that God is patient and long-suffering to us, not wanting us to perish.
 - b) To know of His willingness to work out a plan, so He could forgive us.
 - c) And to know that He believes in us and gives us hope for our future.

Lesson Ten

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

(John 8:12-20)

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus is still teaching in the Temple area.
2. It took place close to the treasury.
3. These people needed God.
 - a) Their leaders’ teachings were twisted about God.
 - b) Jesus was trying to give them an accurate knowledge of God.
 - c) They also needed to understand that Jesus came from God, the Father.
 - d) And, that He came to offer to mankind the solution to their spiritual needs.
4. Jesus used many different metaphors to describe Himself and His value to mankind.
 - a) He has already discussed His offer of “living water” that gives eternal life.
 - b) He has discussed His offer of “bread” that totally satisfies man’s spiritual hunger.
 - c) Now, he says: **“I am the Light of the world.”**
 - d) He is light to a world groping in darkness.
5. But there was one other thing that the people needed.
 - a) They needed help to believe in Jesus—for many were wanting to.
 - b) They needed help to openly follow Him in the face of being unpopular, ostracized, and even persecuted.
6. In the following verses—Jesus is dealing with these needs of mankind.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS IS LIGHT TO A WORLD WALKING IN DARKNESS (8:12)*****A. The value of light to our physical existence.***

- 1) Man’s physical life is “dependant” upon light for survival.
- 2) What a blessing light is to the human race—a blessing easily taken for granted.
- 3) When the sun arises in the morning—every thing seems to come to life.

B. But man needs spiritual light for his soul also.

- 1) Like the Sun for our world, so Jesus is light for our soul.
- 2) He is that light that gives life to man’s soul.
- 3) Physically, man needs light so he will not have to walk in darkness.
- 4) Spiritually, man needs spiritual light so that he will not have to walk in spiritual darkness.
- 5) The world gropes in darkness—Jesus is the way out of that darkness.
- 6) Poets, Philosophers, Wise men have spoken and wrote many things, but none have professed to be the “light of the world.”
- 7) But here is a carpenter’s son, in a small village in Galilee:
 - a) Claiming with great confidence and naturalness;
 - b) That He was the world’s needed light spiritually!
 - c) And the evidence is on His side, ever since making that statement!

C. Man needs to know God:

- 1) To know of His love, mercy, and kindness.
- 2) To know what the future holds after death.

- 3) To know how to deal with fear, guilt, and sin.
- 4) To know that there is an escape from the just punishment of our sins.
- 5) Jesus can give us this knowledge!
- 6) He lights the way back to the Father.
- 7) We no longer need to walk in darkness: error, ignorance, and superstition.
- 8) When we follow Jesus, believe His message:
 - a) We no longer have to walk incorrectly;
 - b) Because we have been given light to walk by!

D. To walk in this light gives us:

- 1) Fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:7).
- 2) The continual cleansing of our sins (1 Jn. 1:7).
- 3) The assurance that we are God's children (John 12:36).
- 4) Direction for our lives (John 12:35).
- 5) The assurance that our obedience is acceptable to God (John 3:21).

E. We shall have the "Light of Life."

- 1) Have the light that gives life.
- 2) Or, have that life that comes out of light.
- 3) A similar expression to this is "rivers of water."
- 4) We become light reflectors to others.
- 5) We are blessed—and we in turn help to bless others.
- 6) "***You are the light of the world***"—in a secondary sense obviously—as reflectors.

II. THE PHARISEE'S REACTION TO JESUS' STATEMENT (8:13-18)

A. They refused to accept His claims about Himself (8:13)

- 1) To bear witness of yourself alone is unreliable and unacceptable.
- 2) Jesus had already granted the force of this argument in John 5:31).
- 3) But His Word alone was not all the testimony that He had of His claims.

B. Jesus gives proof again of His claims.

- 1) His testimony is true because of His heavenly origin & destination (8:14).
 - a) From experience, He knew—but they did not know.
 - b) He was sent by the Father to tell the world of the Father.
 - c) He told them that He came from the Father.
 - d) He pointed out that the works He did confirmed this fact.
 - e) But they would not believe in Him.
 - f) His very nature should have been evident to them—as they confronted Him.
- 2) His intimate relationship with the Father showed His testimony was true (8:15-16).
 - a) You are judging me by your earthly reasonings & outward appearance.
 - You look at my humanity and conclude—He is not telling the truth.
 - You need to look beyond the flesh to what I am saying and doing.
 - b) Jesus did not come as a judge of mankind, but as a savior.
 - The world was already under condemnation.
 - They didn't need to be told they were wrong—already knew that.

- They needed a savior to save them from their sinful activities.
- They needed repentance—not to hurry sinners to their doom.
- c) Yes, if Jesus did judge:
 - His judgment was not only true and accurate.....
 - But in full agreement with the Father's judgment.
- 3) His testimony is true because He has a 2nd witness (8:17-18).
 - a) The Law requires 2 or more witnesses to establish truthfulness of someone (Deut. 19:15).
 - b) God has also borne witness to Him.
 - The voice from heaven at His baptism (Matt. 3:17).
 - The voice from heaven at His transfiguration (Matt. 17:5).
 - And the voice from heaven, yet to be spoken, at Lazarus' resurrection (Jn. 12:28).
 - Plus, all the works (miracles) that He had performed in the past.

III. THE PHARISEE'S AGAIN REACTE TO JESUS' WORDS (8:19)

A. Their statement: "Where is your Father?"

- 1) Bring Him forth—let Him come and stand before us.
- 2) And let him bear testimony with you as to who you are.

B. Jesus' remark to them:

- 1) Given with patience, but with distress at their willing blindness.
 - a) The people were wanting to believe, but.....
 - b) But, the leaders were determined not to believe.
- 2) You neither know Me, nor My Father.
 - a) Jesus ties Himself inseparably with the Father.
 - b) To know one is to know the other.
 - c) Not to know one is not to know the other.
- 3) So, since you do not know Me, you do not know the Father.
 - a) They were ignorant of Jesus' Deity.
 - b) His teachings, His life, His works all attested to the truthfulness of His claims.
 - c) But they refused to see it.
 - d) So, Jesus said: ***"You may think you know God, but you really do not!"***
 - e) You may think you are saved—but you really are not!

CONCLUSION

1. These are not idle claims Jesus was making that mankind can take or leave without consequences.
2. Rather—dire consequences will follow those who reject Jesus.
 - a) For He is man's only hope of coming to know the Father.
 - b) He is man's only hope of life eternal.
 - c) He is truly the light to a world in darkness.
3. But He can only be that light to those who:
 - a) Believe in Him;
 - b) Follow Him,
 - c) And, submit their lives to Him.

*Lesson Eleven****“Believe or Die in Your Sins”*****(John 8:21-30)****INTRODUCTION**

1. This lesson is a continuation of Jesus’ teachings to the multitude of people at the Temple.
 - a) The time is about six months before His death.
 - b) The crowd was mixed:
 - Those who were open-minded, listening, and trying to understand and wanting to believe in Him as the Messiah.
 - The religious leaders who were resentful, hard-hearted, and determined not to believe.
2. Jesus emphasized four great and vital truths in this chapter:
 - a) That He was the Light of the World.
 - b) The Necessity of Belief in Him.
 - c) The Power of Truth.
 - d) His Deity is stressed.
3. Other vital truths about Himself are revealed by simple, yet profound statements that He gives about Himself.

DISCUSSION**I. THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF BELIEF IN HIM (8:21-24)*****A. Without faith in Him, they will die in their sins.***

- 1) “I go away”
 - a) Jesus used this expression several times.
 - b) It was misunderstood by his enemies.
 - c) But perplexing to His close disciples and followers.
 - d) They could not reconcile Him being the Messiah and going away.
 - e) Jesus had reference to His coming death, burial, resurrection, and returning to His Father.
- 2) “You shall seek me”
 - a) You will seek to find me, but you will not and cannot.
 - b) Unbelief has closed your eyes to seeing who I really am.
- 3) “You shall die in your sins”
 - a) “In”—denotes the condition in which they would die.
 - b) They would die vainly and hopelessly looking for their Messiah who would save them.
 - c) They will pass through the gates of death with no deliverance from sin.
 - d) You will die unatoned for—unreconciled to God—unforgiven, and no pardon.

B. Without faith in Him, you cannot go where He was going.

- 1) Jesus was going back to the Father.
 - a) You cannot go to heaven where the Father and Son are.
 - b) Without faith in Jesus, you will die in a lost condition.

- 2) Why the emphasis upon faith?
 - a) John 20:30-31
 - b) Faith in Jesus is man's only hope of heaven and escaping eternal death.
 - c) Faith is basic—all hinges on it.
 - d) It is the driving force of submission to God (Jas. 2:17).
- 3) "Will He kill Himself?"
 - a) Believed to be said in harsh mockery.
 - b) They certainly did not want to believe He was going back to heaven.
 - c) "Will He commit suicide?"

C. Origins compared by Jesus:

- 1) "You are from beneath."
 - a) In contrast to that which is from above.
 - b) You are from this world.
 - c) Your conclusions and decisions are based on your earthly, worldly outlook.
 - d) You are having grave trouble seeing beyond this earth.
 - e) Your thinking is too earthbound.
- 2) "I am from above."
 - a) He did not originate when He came to this earth—this world.
 - b) He came from above—from the Father.
 - c) Don't judge Him by your earthly standards.

II. WHAT WERE THEY TO BELIEVE? (8:25-29)

A. They asked Him again to tell them plainly who He was.

- 1) Make your claim clear—give a direct answer.
- 2) Jesus often refused to answer in terms that they wanted.
- 3) His reply here was: **"I have been telling you from the beginning who I am."**
 - a) All of His statements are very revealing of His Nature & Mission.
 - b) But it was so different from what they expected, they could not or refused to accept them.

B. Jesus also had many other things to say that would help them.

- 1) They kept interrupting Him.
- 2) They needed to be patient—keep thinking about His statements He has made.
- 3) Don't close your mind to the things I am giving to you.
- 4) But He also had more to say about them & their attitudes & actions.
 - a) More about their moral conditions—their spiritual condition.
 - b) Their pride & their hypocrisy (Matt. 23).

C. He repeats again: "He that sent Me is true."

- 1) I have been sent to do this work among you.
- 2) Meaning the Father had sent Him.
- 3) And His message is reliable.

D. "I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him."

- 1) Jesus spoke what the Father gave Him—even though it would cost Him his life.
- 2) Jesus' message was not His, but the One who sent Him.
- 3) But they did not understand that He was speaking of the Father.

E. Believe that I must be lifted up.

- 1) This phrase definitely has reference to His death.
- 2) His audience probably understood the terminology as well.
- 3) It signified His death on the cross.
- 4) Once He was put to death:
 - a) They would then realize that His claims were true.
 - b) The process of proof will be entirely given.
 - c) His death, burial, and resurrection will be the final sign to the world.
 - d) So, be patient to the end.
 - e) The proof that they wanted was:
 - That He was sent of God;
 - And that He was the Messiah.
 - The coming evidence will show this clearly.
- 5) But know:
 - a) That what I have been doing was what the Father wanted done.
 - b) That what I have been speaking was what the Father wanted spoken.

F. Believe—that He who sent me is with Me.

- 1) Not far-off, away, unconcerned about events.
- 2) But that the Father is with Me—guiding and teaching Him what to say and do.
- 3) He has not been left alone at any time by the Father.
 - a) Some feel that this refers to Jesus' consciousness of His Deity.
 - b) He is man, but also Deity—There is a great debate over how conscious He was of His Deity.

G. Believe—that I always do what pleases the Father.

- 1) In order words—He is sinless.
- 2) These are all claims of the greatest heights!
- 3) No mere man alone could make such statements rationally.

III. RESULTS (8:30)**A. Many believed.**

- 1) They had a willingness to listen and be taught.
- 2) They were convinced that He had to be someone sent of God.
- 3) That He had to be the Messiah.
- 4) So, they identified with Him—willing to be a follower.

B. Amazed:

- 1) Jesus had just claimed:
 - a) An inner consciousness of His Deity (God's constant presence with Him).
 - b) His supernatural aid in speaking His message.
 - c) A spotless, sinless character—always pleasing to the Father.
- 2) Yet, they believed in Him—in some sense.

C. Kinds of Faith:

- 1) A dead faith—no works—no obedience—no following (Jas. 2:17-24).
- 2) Little or weak faith that can be increased (Luke 17:5).
- 3) Strong or great faith (Matt. 8:11).
- 4) Grounded faith (Col. 1:23).

D. Their faith was genuine, but only a beginning faith.

- 1) They needed to be developed into a deep & strong faith—adequate for life.
- 2) It would be deepened later when Jesus was raised from the dead.

CONCLUSION

1. But the same words that caused many to believe also caused others to become more obstinate and hardened.
2. The same Sun that hardens the clay—also can soften the wax!
3. Are you clay or wax?
4. Do you believe in Jesus?
5. What kind of faith do you have?

Lesson Twelve

“The Power of Truth”

(John 8:30-47)

INTRODUCTION

1. Our last lesson ended with the outcome of Jesus teaching so far—Many believed on Him!
2. We also pointed out that four great concepts are presented in this chapter:
 - a) That Jesus is the Light of the World.
 - b) The absolute necessity of Belief in Jesus.
 - c) The Power of Truth.
 - d) The Deity of Christ .
3. This lesson is on “The Power of Truth.”
4. Today, we are dealing with a society that seems unconcerned about truth, honesty, and integrity.
 - a) People change churches:
 - Not because of conviction of truth; but seeking a place that pleases what they want.
 - A church has a special program, music program, teenage program, etc.
 - A choir, an organ, or a beautiful building, etc.
 - They are not really concerned about whether Truth is taught.
 - b) I hear of preachers:
 - Where one church no longer wants him to preach for them.
 - So, He goes to a different denominational church and preaches for them.
 - Showing very little conviction of truth.
 - c) When people make a change religiously because of conviction of truth—they are to be respected.

DISCUSSION**I. A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS (8:31)*****A. He is speaking to those who have believed on Him.***

- 1) They had a beginning faith, but it needs to be enlarged.
- 2) They needed to become committed followers.

B. To be a true disciple just continue in Jesus’ words.

- 1) To follow—to walk after—to be obedient.
- 2) Continue in—to abide in—permanence as a disciple.
- 3) Jesus is the teacher—we are the pupils, disciples, learners.

II. THE POWER OF TRUTH (8:32)***A. A true disciple will come to know (understand) the truth.***

- 1) What is truth?
 - a) Pilate asked Jesus this question (John 18:38).
 - b) Jesus tells us what truth is in John 17:17—God’s Word!
 - c) Jesus, Himself, is truth (John 14:6).
 - d) The truth obeyed is what saves or cleanses us (1 Peter 1:22).

- 2) Truth is only learned when we are willing to listen.
 - a) A true disciple is a learner—one willing to be taught.
 - b) Jesus can teach men truth.

B. Truth can make men free.

- 1) Free from what?
 - a) It sets men's minds free from ignorance, prejudices, and wickedness.
 - b) It also sets men free from the bondage & hold of sin.
 - c) It sets men free from the penalty of sin (its guilt & condemnation).
- 2) Its power comes from its origination point.
 - a) It comes from Him who is truth incarnate....not mere men!
 - b) 1 Cor. 1:18-21
 - c) The power is God's through His truth to man.

C. How can I be sure that I have, believe, and practice truth?

- 1) Since only truth, not a lie or error, can set me free—I want to be sure that I have truth.
- 2) How can I know for sure?
 - a) One basic way is the concept of harmony of truth.
 - b) Truth is in harmony with itself.
 - c) A lie contradicts truth.
- 3) Illustrate:
 - a) The doctrine of “faith only” salvation.
 - b) It is often based on such passages as John 3:16.
 - c) But many other passages contradict that understanding of such passages.
- 4) Questions:
 - a) Does a person have to repent to be saved? If you answer yes, then it is not by faith only.
 - b) Does a person have to confess Christ to be saved? If you answer yes, then it is not by faith only.
 - c) Does a person have to be baptized to be saved? If you answer yes, then it is not by faith only.
 - d) Does a person have to live a faithful, godly life? If you answer yes, then it is not by faith only.
- 5) If a doctrine contradicts other plain Scriptures, it must be an erroneous belief.
 - a) The teaching of “faith only” is a lie and not truth!
 - b) Salvation is not by “faith alone” but by an obedient faith (James 2:24).
 - c) “Faith only” is a dead faith and worthless to save (James 2:17-26).

III. THE JEWS' MISCONCEPTION OF THEIR TRUE CONDITION (8:33-36)

A. They resented the inference that they were in bondage to anyone.

- 1) They had been in bondage to different peoples in the past: Egyptians, Syrians, Babylonians, and now Romans.
- 2) But they considered themselves free because they were Abraham's descendants.
 - a) Because of their special relationship as a Nation to God.

- b) Because of the Great Law that had been given them that freed them from idolatry and all its dark superstitions.
- 3) But Jesus inferred—you are in bondage!
 - a) What did he have in mind?
 - b) The worse slavery
 - c) Those who think they are free, but are not!

B. Jesus was introducing them to the concept of spiritual slavery to sin.

- 1) “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).
 - a) Without the removing of sin—man will suffer its penalty—death!
 - b) The Law, nor its sacrifices, could literally take away sin.
 - c) This they needed to learn.
- 2) Jesus’ approach emphasized another concept of spiritual slavery.
 - a) Those who continue in the practice of sin are the slave of sin.
 - b) Those who give themselves to sin and its pleasures are in slavery.
 - c) Rom. 6:16—***“Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”***
 - d) Such a slave is to be pitied who is under the bondage of sin.

C. Jesus came to show that pity to man and set him free.

- 1) His illustration:
 - a) A slave does not necessarily remain on in the house of His master.
 - b) He can be sold to another.
 - c) He is not an heir, nor has any legal rights.
 - d) But a Son does remain, is an heir, and has legal rights.
- 2) Jesus is that Son, the Son of God, who has the power to set men truly free.

IV. THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT WHO THEIR FATHER WAS (8:37-44)

A. Jesus admitted they were physical descendants of Abraham.

- 1) They kept a close accounting of genealogies.
- 2) But there is another side of that picture to see.
- 3) Rom. 2:28-29

B. They were not the spiritual descendants of Abraham.

- 1) Because they sought to kill Jesus.
 - a) Abraham would not do this.
 - b) He respected the messengers sent from God to Him.
- 2) Because Jesus told the truth, and they would not believe Him.
 - a) Abraham was not this way (Gen. 22:18—believed it).
 - b) He was eager to hear God’s message—and was called the “father of the faithful.”
 - c) He told the truth that He heard from the Father.
 - d) He spoke what He had seen with the Father.
 - e) His message was not His, but the Father’s that sent Him.
 - f) He came forth from the Father.
- 3) Because Jesus’ words found no lodgment in their hearts.
 - a) Why can’t you understand my speech?
 - b) Simply because you do not care too.

- c) This was not the spirit of Abraham.
- 4) Because you do the deeds of your father, not Abraham.
 - a) The real proof of Fatherhood is not physical, but spiritual.
 - b) How do you treat God, His Word, His Messengers, His Son?
 - c) In other words, your attitudes and actions.
 - d) If Abraham were your father, you would do the deeds, works of Abraham.
 - e) If you are a child of God—act like it!

C. Jesus clearly states who their father was.

- 1) They reacted to Jesus' inference of another father for them.
 - a) We be not born of fornication!
 - b) We don't have another father—only God is our Father.
 - c) We are not idol worshippers.
- 2) Jesus plainly states—your father is the Devil!
 - a) Because they would not hear Jesus' words—and even perverted them.
 - b) They hated Him, tried to trap Him, and wanted to kill Him.
 - c) They would rather believe a lie, error, false teaching, rather than truth.
 - d) Their pride, vanity, and wickedness hardened their hearts.
 - e) You have the disposition or spirit of the Devil.
 - f) You do his desires, you imitate him, and do what pleases him.
- 3) Jesus' portrait of the Devil:
 - a) He was a murderer from the beginning—you want to kill me!
 - b) He abode not in the truth—he lied to Mother Eve.
 - He does not stand in or abide in the sphere of truth.
 - He does not love truth, want truth, or seek truth.
 - He is an enemy of truth—in the same way you are!
 - c) There is no truth in him.
 - He departed from the way of truth.
 - His decision was not to tell the truth, but a lie.
 - He was not in sympathy with truth—as you are!
 - d) He speaks a lie on his own.
 - He makes his statements up—from his own mind.
 - He is very creative—in devising lies.
 - He is a liar—his nature and work is to deceive.
 - He is the father of lies—lies originated with him.
 - So are you. You had rather mislead people.

V. WHO IS GOD REALLY THE FATHER OF? (8:45-47)

A. The one who believes that Jesus speaks the truth.

- 1) Jesus was not speaking a lie, but truth.
- 2) They didn't believe Him.
- 3) So, they preferred a lie to the truth.
- 4) If he had spoken lies they would have readily received Him.

B. The one who is convinced of Jesus' perfection.

- 1) They could not show where Jesus had sinned.
- 2) If He were an imposter—they should be able to show the evidence of such.

- 3) “Show where I speak or act contrary to God’s will.”
- 4) “If you cannot, then why won’t you believe me?”
- 5) Because God is not your father.

C. The one who hears God’s words.

- 1) As His children, they respect Him and readily receive His instructions.
- 2) But these Jews had shown their unwillingness to hear and do God’s Word.
 - a) Even the Law of Moses;
 - b) Much less Jesus’ Words from the Father.
- 3) So, they were not of God.

CONCLUSION

1. Why be so concerned about truth?
 - a) Because it determines who our Father is.
 - b) If we love, seek, walk, and obey truth—we are of God.
 - c) If we love, seek, walk, and obey a lie—we are of the Devil.
2. Whose child are you?
 - a) Who is your Father?
 - b) The Devil or God?

*Lesson Thirteen***“Jesus’ Claim of Deity”****(John 8:48-59)****INTRODUCTION**

1. Jesus had told these people at the Temple:
 - a) I am the Light of the World;
 - b) You must believe in me or die in your sins;
 - c) I can give you the truth that can set you free from your bondage of sin;
 - d) And now—He concludes this great discourse with an outright claim to Deity!
2. The crowd to which Jesus was speaking was mixed:
 - a) Many believed on Him.
 - b) But there were also the religious leaders who did not believe and who were desirous of stopping Him.
3. Jesus had just finished stating:
 - a) That those who did not believe in Him were not of God.
 - b) That they showed by their spirit and actions that they were of the Devil.
 - c) He strongly indicated that they really didn’t listen to the Word of God.
4. All of this was not easy to take—so they struck back—reacted in a very unkind & ungodly manner.

DISCUSSION**I. THE JEWISH LEADERS’ REACTION AND JESUS’ REPLY (8:48-51)*****A. Their accusation:***

- 1) “You are a Samaritan”
 - a) A term of contempt.
 - b) The same as being a heretic or false teacher.
 - c) You are siding with the Samaritan who claim they worship God also.
- 2) “You have a demon”
 - a) Be like saying—“You are crazy in the head.”
 - b) You are all mixed up.
 - c) you are being influenced by an evil spirit in what you are saying.

B. Jesus’ reply.

- 1) “I have not a demon”
 - a) Jesus did not reply to the first—pure insult.
 - b) When He was reviled, He reviled not again (1 Pet. 2:23).
 - c) But He did deal with the concept of being demon-possessed.
 - d) He assured them that He knew exactly what He was saying—fully!
 - e) He was conscious of His words.
 - f) He was not being controlled by demons.
- 2) “I honor My Father”
 - a) What Jesus was doing & saying was to give honor to His Father.
 - b) He taught what exalted God.
 - c) He taught love and obedience to God.
 - d) An evil spirit would not do this.

- 3) “You do dishonor to Me”
 - a) By your false accusations and slurs—you cast reproaches upon Me.
 - b) You refuse my offer of mercy, freedom, and life.
 - c) You withhold honor that should be given to Me.
- 4) “I seek not my own glory”
 - a) But being honored by you is not what I am seeking.
 - b) I am not seeking to exalt Myself, or even to vindicate Myself.
 - c) God will take care of that in due time.
 - d) He is the one who will make things right in due time.
- 5) “If a man keeps my sayings, he shall never see death”
 - a) This concept needed to be added to the list of statements that Jesus had been making—to be complete.
 - He is light.
 - He can free man from the hold of sin.
 - But He can also give spiritual life for those who are dead.
 - b) He was not talking about physical death obviously.
 - Spiritual death was the penalty for sin in the beginning.
 - Christ came to give man spiritual life again.
 - c) The life is conditional upon man keeping my sayings.
 - I must be governed by them.
 - I must follow what Jesus taught and I will never die.
 - d) This statement shows: Revelation, Authority, and Power.

II. THE JEWISH LEADERS REACTE AGAIN & JESUS REPLIES AGAIN (8:52-56)

A. Accusation:

- 1) “Now we know you have a demon”
 - a) You are not making sense—you are deranged.
 - b) You are under some bewildering hallucination.
 - c) Because Abraham & all the Prophets of God kept His word and are dead.
 - d) So your very words show your utter self-delusion.
- 2) “Are you greater than our father, Abraham?”
 - a) Yes, He obviously was greater—if they believed what He was teaching.
 - b) But they refused to regard Jesus as the Messiah, or the Son of God, or a Divinely sent Prophet.
 - c) Jesus’ words were inferring that He was greater than Abraham.
- 3) “Who makes you yourself?”
 - a) Who do you think you are?
 - b) Who would you have us believe you are?
 - c) All these other greater people have died, but you can keep us from dying?—Contemptible!

B. Jesus’ reply:

- 1) “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing”
 - a) If all I am trying to do is to receive honor of men—then I am wrong.
 - b) Whether Jesus is greater than Abraham was not the issue here.
 - c) But it was important that the Father honors Jesus.

- d) This was shown by the miracles, statements from heavens, and the care over Him.
- 2) “Yet you have not known Him”
 - a) This God you claim is your Father—you really don’t know Him.
 - b) You think you do, but you don’t.
 - c) Your claims are disproved by your mean spirit, your dishonoring language, and your over-all conduct.
- 3) “But I know Him”
 - a) He had been with God from the beginning (1:1-2).
 - b) He knew the mind of God (10:15).
 - c) His whole demeanor showed that He knew the Father.
 - d) And for Him to deny knowing the Father would make Him a liar like they were.
 - e) He showed that he knows the Father by His obedient life.
- 4) But speaking of Abraham—“Your father, Abraham, rejoiced to see my day and was glad.”
 - a) God promised a seed of Abraham to bless all nations (Gen. 12:3; 22:18)
 - b) Paul said that that seed was Christ (Gal. 3:16).
 - c) Abraham believed God’s promise and rejoiced in its future fulfillment.
 - d) Abraham rejoiced to see My day, but you have rejected and hated Me.

III. JESUS DEALS WITH A PUZZLING QUESTION BY THE JEWISH LEADERS

(8:57-59)

A. The Question: “You are not 50, and you claim you have seen Abraham?”

- 1) They perverted Jesus’ words.
 - a) He did not say that He had seen Abraham.
 - b) But that Abraham had seen His Day through the eye of faith.
- 2) They were determined not to try to understand His language.

B. Jesus’ reply: “Before Abraham was, I am.”

- 1) There was a time when Abraham was not.
- 2) But there was not time when Jesus was not—He is timeless.
- 3) He did not say, “Before Abraham, I was.”
 - a) That would have placed Him among the created beings of God.
- 4) But He said: “Before Abraham was, I am.”
 - a) Making Him the creator of all.
 - b) The ever-existing One.
- 5) The expression is used by God in Exo. 3:14—as the name of God!

C. Their reaction to this—“They took up stones to stone Him”

- 1) They knew exactly what Jesus was saying—that He was claiming Deity.
- 2) But they had no way to deal with Him—to refute Him before the crowd.
- 3) So, when you can’t refute—start throwing stones.
- 4) Jesus had brought them to the point of showing their true colors.

D. Jesus escaped from them.

- 1) He hid Himself in the midst of the crowd.
 - a) Miraculous deliverance—because His hour was not yet.

- b) Or, He went into the midst of the crowd making it hard for them to find Him and stone Him.
- 2) The leaders were ready to kill Him, but it would be yet six months before God would allow them to take Him.

CONCLUSION

1. The claims of Jesus had to be dealt with by the Jewish people.
 - a) These were astounding claims—far beyond what they were expecting.
 - b) It challenged them to believe in Him—as to whom He claimed to be.
 - c) But the religious leaders totally rejected all of His claims without considering the evidences to support them.
2. Jesus was either a lunatic, a liar, or Lord—a decision is called for.
3. Which is He to you?

Reading & Studying Through The

GOSPEL OF JOHN

In a Year's Time!

QUARTERLY ASSIGNMENTS FOR READING

(1st Quarter)

- 1 -- John 20:24-31
- 2 -- John 1:1-18
- 3 -- John 1:19-34
- 4 -- John 1:35-51
- 5 -- John 2:1-11
- 6 -- John 2:12-25
- 7 -- John 3:1-10
- 8 -- John 3:11-21
- 9 -- John 3:22-26
- 10-- John 4:1-19
- 11-- John 4:19-26
- 12-- John 4:27-42
- 13-- John 4:43-54

(2nd Quarter)

- 1 -- John 5:1-18
- 2 -- John 5:19-30
- 3 -- John 5:31-47
- 4 -- John 6:1-21
- 5 -- John 6:22-34; 41-71
- 6 -- John 6:35-40
- 7 -- John 7:1-24
- 8 -- John 7:25-53
- 9 -- John 8:1-11
- 10-- John 8:12-20
- 11-- John 8:21-30
- 12-- John 8:30-47
- 13-- John 8:48-59

(3rd Quarter)

- 1 -- John 9:1-41
- 2 -- John 10:1-21
- 3 -- John 10:22-42
- 4 -- John 11:1-27
- 5 -- John 11:28-54
- 6 -- John 11:55-12:11
- 7 -- John 12:12-19
- 8 -- John 12:20-36
- 9 -- John 12:37-50
- 10-- John 13:1-17
- 11-- John 13:18-38
- 12-- John 14:1-11
- 13-- John 14:12-31

(4th Quarter)

- 1 -- John 15:1-8
- 2 -- John 15:9-27
- 3 -- John 16:1-15
- 4 -- John 16:16-33
- 5 -- John 17:1-26
- 6 -- John 18:1-12, 15-18, 25-27
- 7 -- John 18:12-14, 19-24
- 8 -- John 18:28-19:16
- 9 -- John 19:16-42
- 10-- John 20:1-18
- 11-- John 20:19-21:14
- 12-- John 21:15-25

