

The Study of the
GOSPEL
OF
JOHN
(#1)

13 Lessons

Produced by:
PAUL E. CANTRELL

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*Lesson One***“WHY A FOURTH GOSPEL?”****(John 20:24-31)****INTRODUCTION**

1. This 4th gospel is believed to have been written by the Apostle John.
 - a) Matthew, Mark, and Luke’s gospels had already been written (50-65 AD)
 - b) They were already in circulation.
 - c) Why another gospel?
2. John’s gospel is different from the other 3 gospel accounts.
 - a) It is believed to have been written as late as 80-95 AD.
 - b) Christianity was rapidly spreading among Gentile nations.
 - c) The problems would no longer be dealing with the Jewish mindset.
 - d) There were new challenges among the Greek speaking world that needed to be dealt with.
 - e) John’s gospel adds a great deal of Jesus’ teachings that the other gospels do not have.
3. But John states his purpose for writing!
 - a) It was to offer sufficient evidence of Jesus’ Deity to convince a Gentile mind.
 - b) John 20:30-31—***“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”***
 - c) The evidence was overwhelming to John and others of that day.
 - d) Now, it is being written down to preserve this evidence for future generations.
4. For conclusions to be valid, it must have convincing evidences!
 - a) Then, once the evidence is presented....Reason sits in judgment on the evidence.
 - b) Belief is the result of sufficiently strong evidence.
 - c) Disbelief occurs when the evidence is not convincing.
5. Purpose of this lesson:
 - a) It is an introductory lesson to the Gospel of John.
 - b) We will give an overview of the claims made about Jesus in this Gospel account.
 - c) We will then give an overview of the witnesses & evidence to support these claims.

DISCUSSION**I. CLAIMS MADE ABOUT JESUS:*****A. Claims in His relationship to God, the Father:***

- 1) That Jesus was the Son of God.
 - a) Jn. 2:16—***“Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!”***
 - b) Jn. 1:18—***“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”***
 - c) Jn. 10:15—***“As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father...”***
- 2) That Jesus was Deity come in the flesh.
 - a) Jn. 1:1, 14—***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”***
 - b) Jn. 1:4—***“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”***

- c) Jn. 1:3—*“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*
- B. Claims in His relationship to the Messianic Hope promised in the O.T.**
- 1) Jn. 4:24-26
 - 2) Jn. 10:24-27
 - 3) Jn. 20:30-31
- C. Claims in His relationship to Human Needs.**
- 1) The ability to give everlasting life.
 - a) Jn. 3:16—*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*
 - 2) He is THE light unto the world.
 - a) Jn. 8:12—*“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*
 - 3) He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
 - a) Jn. 14:6—*“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*
 - 4) He is the Resurrection unto life.
 - a) Jn. 11:25—*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”*

II. TESTIMONY OR EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THESE CLAIMS.

A. Human Testimony.

- 1) John wrote his gospel as a testimony to Jesus. Jn. 20:30-31
- 2) John the Baptist bore testimony to Jesus.
 - a) Jn. 1:8—*“He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”*
 - b) Jn. 1:32-34
- 3) The Samaritans bore testimony to Jesus.
 - a) Jn. 4:42—*“Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”*
- 4) Martha, the sister to Mary & Lazarus, bore testimony to Jesus.
 - a) Jn. 11:27—*“She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’”*
- 5) Jesus’ close disciples bore testimony to Jesus.
 - a) Jn. 6:66-69
 - b) They gave their lives as their testimony, as well!

B. Divine Testimony.

- 1) The miraculous works that Jesus did bore testimony to Him.
 - a) Jn. 20:30-31
 - b) Jn. 3:2—*“This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’”*
 - c) Jn. 5:36—*“But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.”*

- d) John's Gospel records 7 kinds of miracles:
 - Water to Wine. (2:1-11)
 - Healing of sickness. (4:46-54)
 - Making the cripple to walk. (5:1-9)
 - Feeding of 5,000. (6:1-14)
 - Walking on water. (6:16-21)
 - Making the blind to see. (9:1-12)
 - Raising the dead. (11:1-46)
- 2) Jesus' fulfillment of O.T. prophecies.
 - a) Jn. 5:39—*"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."*
- 3) The Father's testimony. (Jn. 12:27-30)
- 4) The Holy Spirit's witness.
 - a) Jn. 1:32-34
 - b) Jn. 15:26-27
- 5) The Resurrection of Jesus—the supreme sign!
 - a) Jn. 20:26-29
 - b) Rom. 1:4—*"And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*

CONCLUSION

1. These are some of the claims & the evidences given in John's Gospel.
2. They call for a decision to be made about Jesus.
3. Three alternatives are possible:
 - a) **That Jesus never lived.**
 - He is the product of human minds.
 - He is a figment of the imagination of men.
 - b) **or, He lived, but was simply a great teacher.**
 - He was a great philosopher and moralist.
 - He possessed a greater concept of God than those before him.
 - c) **or, He was who He claimed to be.**
 - The Christ, the Son of God!
 - He was God in the flesh.
4. In analyzing these three—the following should be obvious:
 - a) The overwhelming evidence that Jesus lived rules out #1.
 - b) #2 is ruled out on the basis of His claims:
 - He was either who He claimed to be—The Christ, the Son of God!
 - Or, he was an impostor, a blasphemer, and a hypocrite, a deceiver & liar.
 - c) All that is left is—Jesus was who He claimed to be!
5. Points worth mentioning:
 - a) If our minds are open to belief—the evidence is sufficient to convince an honest mind.
 - b) If our minds are not open—there isn't sufficient evidence that can be given to convince such a person.
6. Who is Jesus to you?
 - a) If He is the Christ, the Son of God.... We need to believe in Him,
 - b) But also submit our lives to Him.

*Lesson Two***“THE NATURE & WORK OF THE WORD”****(John 1:1-18)****INTRODUCTION**

1. John’s Gospel is unique among the 4 gospels.
2. While Matthew & Luke give the Earthly genealogy of Jesus, John gives His eternal genealogy.
3. John points out Jesus’ Deity as well as His Fleshly existence!
4. This lesson:
 - a) To show the Nature of the Word.
 - b) To show the Work of the Word.

DISCUSSION**I. THE NATURE OF THE WORD*****A. His Eternal Nature:***

- 1) The Word was in the beginning with God.
 - a) John takes Jesus back before time, before creation, to show His eternal existence.
 - b) John the baptizer stated about Jesus: ***“He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.”*** (1:15)
 - c) At the starting point of all creation, the Word was!
 - d) The Word was not created therefore, but had always existed.
- 2) In the beginning was the Word, Logos.
 - a) The Greeks used this term to mean: **Reason, Logic, and Means of Communicating, Speech, Utterance, and Words.**
 - b) The Jews seem to have used it with reference to the Revealed Will of God.
 - 1) Such expressions as, ***“The Word of the Lord.”***
 - 2) And for some reason had attached a connection with the **Messiah** they were looking for, as well.
 - c) The term was in common use among religious people.
 - d) Unfortunately, false concepts were being attached to the term.
 - e) John’s purpose—to clarify its use & give the true doctrine of the Logos.
 - 1) Jesus is that Logos of God.
 - 2) He is the true Revealer of God.
 - 3) 1:18—***“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”***
 - 4) God has been revealed through Creation, Holy Prophets, and now by His Son becoming incarnate.
 - 5) All of this—to help man see the True & Living God in His glory.

B. His Identity with the Father.

- 1) The Word was in the beginning with God, but was God. (1:1-2)
 - a) If the Word was co-existent with God—He had to be God, Himself.

- 2) Thus, the Word and God have a close relationship, but are distinct from one another.
- 3) He was co-existent with the Father, but equally Deity.
- 4) Two distinct personalities, but not two different gods.
- 5) The Word was not a second, but inferior God.
- 6) He was God in His nature & being.
- 7) He has all the attributes of Deity.
- 8) John's concepts show this:
 - a) 1:18—***"The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father..."***
 - b) 1:18—He alone has seen God, the Father.
 - c) 1:14—He has ***"the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."***

C. *His Identity with Man*

- 1) John said that the Word:
 - a) ***"Was in the world....and the world did not know Him."*** (1:10)
 - b) Even though He made the world....they did not give due recognition to Him.
 - c) ***"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."*** (1:11)
- 2) But John stated clearly that the Word was made flesh. (1:14)
 - a) A unique event in human history.
 - b) God had appeared in human form before this to Abraham.
 - c) But this was a first that God actually was conceived and born as a human being.
- 3) John said that ***"he dwelt among us"***
 - a) He took up His abode among humans.
 - b) He grew as other humans grew.
 - c) He learned as they learned.
 - d) He was tempted as they were tempted.
 - e) He suffered from human frailties & privations as other humans.
 - f) And even died as other humans died.
 - g) He was with God, but came to be with man.
- 4) How was Jesus recognized as God in the flesh?
 - a) In general, the world did not give recognition to Him.
 - b) He was just another man among men that lived and died.
 - c) But to others—He was God in the flesh.
 - d) 1:14—***"And we behold his glory,"***
 - This glory was seen in His character, His actions, and His work among them.
 - It was seen in His absolute moral perfection, holiness, & Love.
 - His great works were evidence of this glory.
 - His transfiguration before their eyes greatly impressed them.
 - e) 1:14—***"full of grace and truth."***
 - He fully revealed God's gracious mercy & love to His creatures.
 - He fully revealed God's Mind & Heart to mankind.
 - He manifested this grace and truth by His life & teachings.
 - All have benefited from the fullness of Jesus (1:16).

II. THE WORK OF THE WORD

A. *The Great revealer of God.*

- 1) The very term, “Logos,” carries with it the idea of communicating a message.
- 2) 1:18—***“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared Him.”***
 - a) In the bosom of the Father—intimate relationship.
 - b) He was with God and was God.
 - c) So, He could fully reveal the Father to mankind to the extent that men can know & understand.

B. *He was the great Creator of all things.*

- 1) God spoke, and it was done!
- 1) Nothing exist, which He has not created!
- 2) 1:3—***“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”***
 - a) Absolute—no exceptions—all things exist because of His creative power.
 - b) His creative power is proof of His Deity. (Heb. 3:4)

C. *He is the Source of Moral & Spiritual order. (1:4-10)*

- 1) He is the source of Life itself that exists everywhere.
 - a) 1:4—***“In Him was life”***
 - b) Life came from God, the Word—creator of it.
 - c) God breathed into Adam’s nostrils the spirit of life. (Gen. 2:7)
 - d) He is the source of both physical & spiritual life. (Jn. 6:33)
 - e) He is the sustainer of life. Acts 17:28
- 2) This Life was the light of men.(1:4)
 - a) All light that men have comes from the Logos.
 - b) The Word is that means of light that men need.
 - c) All truth, all true knowledge that enlightens the minds of men comes from the Word.
- 3) This light came into a world of darkness. (1:5,9)
 - a) God’s efforts to enlighten men have been constant.
 - b) But futile mostly—because mankind (darkness) would not accept the light.
 - c) The light of God strives to penetrate the darkness man is in.
 - He wants to disperse the darkness.
 - To bring men out of darkness.
 - d) But the darkness comprehended it not.
 - Men neither understood nor accepted the light.
 - He despised and rejected the light.
 - Jn. 3:19—***“This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”***
 - The mass of mankind will not receive the light and be saved.

D. *This Light revealed possible life with God.*

- 1) The Word came to offer light & life to mankind.
- 2) But they, as a whole, did not receive or believe in Him.
 - a) 1:11—***“He came to His own, and His own did not receive him.”***

- b) 1:12—“***But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.***”
- 3) John came preaching for the people to repent and confess their sins.
 - a) He stated that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 - b) So, get your life ready—if you want to be a part of it.
 - c) Shortly after this, Jesus, the True Light, came on the scene.
 - d) He was a man like other men.
 - e) He needed to be identified as that Light from above.
 - f) John was the first to identify Him as the Christ, the Savior of men.
- 4) This new life would come from a spiritual birth, not a physical rebirth.
- 5) It would come to those who both received Jesus and believed in Him.
- 6) They would be given the right to become children of God.

CONCLUSION

1. A great event in human history occurred when God was born into this world as a human being!
2. His purpose for coming was to:
 - a) Reveal the Father to us;
 - b) Enlighten the minds & hearts of mankind;
 - c) Offer eternal life to lost mankind.
3. For these things to be possible, we must:
 - a) Believe that God was made flesh & dwelt among us.
 - b) That He was Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God.
 - c) That He is the giver of this new life with God.
4. Great honor & reverence needs to be given to this God-Man, Jesus of Nazareth.
5. We need to listen to Him, believe Him, and obey Him.

*Lesson Three***“JOHN’S WITNESS OF JESUS”****(Jn. 1:19-34)****INTRODUCTION**

1. Read Jn. 1:19-34
2. This lesson—“John’s Witness of Jesus”
3. Clarify which John.
 - a) The Apostle John is writing this Gospel telling of these things.
 - b) He is now recording the witness of John the baptizer.
 - c) He is called “the baptizer” because he was one who baptized people!
4. The apostle John does not give the background of John the Baptizer.
 - a) We want to spend a little time to give this before seeing his witness to Jesus.

DISCUSSION**I. JOHN’S BIRTH & EARLY LIFE.*****A. This can be found primarily in Luke 1-2.******B. His parents:***

- a) Zacharias—a priest, who took his term serving in Temple.
- b) Elizabeth—who was of the lineage of the daughters of Aaron.
- c) Lk. 1:6—“***And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.***”

C. John’s miraculous birth:

- 1) His mother was without any children—barren.
- 2) They both were well advanced in age. (Lk. 1:7)
- 3) An Angel appears to Zacharias while serving in the Temple.
 - a) He announced that his wife would bear him a son in his old age.
 - b) His name was to be “John.”
 - c) Lk. 1:15—“***For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.***”
- 4) Lk. 1:37—“***With God nothing will be impossible.***”
- 5) At six months pregnancy for Elizabeth—Mary visits her.
 - a) Lk. 1:39-45

D. John’s early life before his ministry:

- 1) He grew up in the “hill country of Judea.” (Lk. 1:65)
- 2) Some time before he began his preaching—he went into the desert or wilderness.
 - a) John was about 30 when he began his preaching.
 - b) His parents may have been dead by this time.
 - c) His going into the wilderness may have been preparation time for his work.
 - d) His dress & food may show this also.
 - e) Lk. 1:80—“***So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.***”
 - f) Mark 1:6—“***Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.***”

g) He was like a Nazarite.

II. JOHN'S IDENTITY & PURPOSE.

A. He was a man of promise!

- 1) Mal. 4:5-6—***“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”***
- 2) The angel identifies John to be that man of promise.
- 3) Lk. 1:17—***“He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”***
- 4) Jesus identifies John as that man of promise.
 - a) Matt. 11:13-14—***“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.”***

B. He was a prophet sent of God.

- 1) Jesus identifies John as such.
 - a) Matt. 11:9-10
- 2) But also as the greatest of the prophets sent of God.
 - a) Matt. 11:11
 - b) Lk. 7:28—***“Among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist....”***

C. He was to be a preacher of righteousness.

- 1) He was to turn the people back to God. (Lk. 1:16)
- 2) He called upon them to repent & confess their sins. (Matt. 3:2, 6)
- 3) He commanded baptism of those who were willing to do so.
 - a) Mark 1:4—***“John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”***

D. But his primary purpose was to be a forerunner for Jesus.

- 1) Mark 1:2-3
- 2) He was to prepare the people for the One to come after him—Jesus.
- 3) Jn. 1:6-9
 - a) He was to prepare the people for the coming Messiah.
 - b) And then—point Him out to the people.
 - c) So they could believe.

III. JOHN BEGINS HIS PREACHING.

A. Luke 3:1-3

- 1) The people began to come to John's preaching from all areas.
 - 2) They were touched with his preaching.
 - 3) They were brought to repentance & confession of their sinfulness.
 - 4) They willingly let John baptize them—so their sins could be remitted.
 - 5) John's preaching was at Bethabara beyond the Jordan River. (Jn. 1:28)
- B. This great preaching & great response was causing people to believe that John may be their promised Messiah!

- 1) Even the Pharisees sent priests & levites to question John.
- 2) ***“Who are you? Are you the Messiah?”***
- 3) Jn. 1:19-21
 - a) These people were well aware of the prophecies of: A Messiah, A Great Prophet, and Elijah.
 - b) John denied being all three.
 - c) But John was the “Elijah” that was to come.
 - d) Inspiration clarifies—
 - Not literal Elijah come back to life again;
 - But, one who comes in the spirit & power of Elijah.
- 4) Puzzled, they wanted John to further identify himself.
 - a) Jn. 1:23
- 5) They then ask John, if you are not the Messiah, Elijah, or the prophet—why do you baptize people?
 - a) John does not give a direct answer to their question—but indirect.

IV. JOHN’S TESTIMONY TO JESUS:

A. Why was he baptizing?

- 1) It was not a sign that he was the Messiah.
- 2) But rather—He was baptizing people to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah.
- 3) He shows a contrast between he and the Messiah.
- 4) Jn. 1:26-27
 - a) There is One among you greater than I—He is the Messiah.
 - b) I am very lowly in comparison to Him.
 - c) His shoe-latchets I am not worthy to unloose.
- 5) Lk. 3:15-17
 - a) John could baptize people with water.
 - b) But the Messiah can baptize people with the Holy Spirit.
 - c) Showing the superiority.

B. Jesus was now baptized of John.

- 1) Lk. 3:21-22
- 2) John was very reluctant to baptize Jesus, and said to Him, ***“I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”***
- 3) Jesus encouraged him to do so---***“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”***
- 4) Something very unusual happened. (**Matt. 3:16-17**)
- 5) John evidently saw & heard these things.

C. The next day---John openly points out Jesus the Messiah!

- 1) Jn. 1:29-30
- 2) He identifies Him as the Sacrificial Lamb of God for men’s sin.
 - a) Isa. 53:7, 11—had foretold of the One who would be offered for the sins of the world.
 - b) Jesus was prepared by God to be that sacrifice.

- 3) He identifies Him as the One that was greater than he.
 - a) He is preferred before me.
 - b) But points out even His Deity—He was before me!
- 4) John did not know Jesus was the Messiah until he baptized Him.
 - a) Jn. 1:31-33
 - c) When he saw the Spirit of God descend upon Jesus.....
 - d) He then, knew that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the Son of God.
- 5) Jn. 1:34

CONCLUSION

1. John had not only begun to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah.
2. But now has had the opportunity to know who He was and to witness to the people of Jesus being the Anointed One of God.
3. His work would soon come to a close, but he would have done his job well.
4. John's testimony is that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God.
5. Who is Jesus to you?
6. We show by our response or lack of it!

*Lesson Four***“THE FIRST FIVE DISCIPLES OF JESUS”****(John 1:35-51)****INTRODUCTION**

1. The preaching of John the baptizer had been very effective.
 - a) He had taught and baptized a lot of people.
 - b) Matt. 3:5-6—***“Then, Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.”***
 - c) His work was primarily done at Bethabara, close to the Jordan River.
 - d) This was about 35 miles from Jerusalem.
2. Jesus’ home was at Nazareth of Galilee.
 - a) Nazareth was about 88 miles due north of Jerusalem.
 - b) Jesus had traveled down to where John was baptizing in the Jordan River.
 - c) Matt. 3:13—***“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.”***
 - d) Jesus was about 30 years old. (Lk. 3:23)
3. When John baptized Jesus:
 - a) He saw the heaven’s open up;
 - b) He saw the Spirit of God descend like a dove upon Jesus and remain;
 - c) He heard a voice from heaven say, ***“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*** (Matt. 3:16-17)
 - d) It was then that John realized who Jesus really was.
 - e) Jn. 1:31-34
 - f) When John saw Jesus coming toward him the next day, he openly identified Him as, ***“the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.”***
4. John’s preaching was convincing & convicting!
 - a) He had turned the hearts of many people to God!
 - b) The people were drawn to him because of his remarkable & impressive personality.
 - c) They were greatly impressed with his stern & authoritative preaching.
 - d) John was also preaching a message they had long waited to hear.
 - e) He had them in great expectation of the coming of the Messiah & His kingdom.
 - f) And now, he was able to identify that Messiah as Jesus of Nazareth!
 - g) John now needed to turn his disciples from himself to a greater One than he.
 - h) He was the One that John had been preparing the way for.
 - i) John’s work had made it easier for Jesus to make disciples—which John’s gospel-record shows so clearly.
 - j) This led to Jesus making His first five disciples close to the River Jordan, near Bethabara.
 - k) Discipleship—Follower & Learner!

DISCUSSION**I. THE FIRST TWO DISCIPLES. (1:35-40)**

- A. ***“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”***
 - 1) John’s words identifying Jesus struck home to two of his disciples.
 - 2) The preaching of John could awaken:

- a) A sense of sin in people's hearts;
 - b) A sense of peril, shame, and fear in their hearts;
 - 3) But only Deity could make atonement for the sins of mankind.
 - 4) These words cause these two to want to find out more about Jesus.
- B. *Jesus realized that they were following Him.***
- 1) He asked them what they were seeking for.
 - 2) The answer was obvious—they wanted to learn more about Him.
 - 3) So, they asked Jesus, where they could go to talk to Him.
 - 4) They had sufficient time with Jesus to be fully convinced of His Messiahship.
- C. *Who were these two men?***
- 1) The Scriptures tell us that one was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.
 - 2) The other was probably John, the brother of James.
 - a) This is the way John treats himself throughout the book.
 - b) Peter, Andrew, James, and John were in the fishing business together—which could indicate it was John.

II. THE THIRD DISCIPLE. (1:40-42)

- A. *Andrew was convicted that Jesus was the Christ.***
- 1) That conviction was accompanied by concern for others.
 - 2) He went first to find his brother, Simon.
 - 3) ***“Simon, we have found the Christ that God had promised to send.”***
 - 4) Simon went with his brother:
 - a) Maybe because Andrew was his brother;
 - b) But probably also because of his excitement about Jesus.
 - c) He convinced him to go meet Jesus for himself.
- B. *Jesus' reaction to Simon.***
- 1) He looked on him and gave him a new name.
 - 2) Your name will now be Cephas—which means a stone.
 - a) Cephas is Aramaic.
 - b) Peter is from Petros in the Greek.
 - 3) Jesus had the foresight of the strength of character that Simon would later have.
 - 4) Even in Luke 22:31-32
 - 5) What potential does God see in us???

III. JESUS' FOURTH DISCIPLE. (1:43-44)

- A. *After spending the night where Jesus was staying:***
- 1) The four of them started towards Galilee.
 - 2) On the way, Jesus saw Philip, and called him to discipleship.
 - 3) Philip was from the same city as Andrew and Simon.
 - 4) Bethsaida was near the Sea of Galilee—Due north of where John was preaching--some 90 miles.
 - a) He may have been in the group that was from Galilee listening to John the baptizer.
 - b) This may have made it easier for Philip to be convinced that Jesus was the Messiah.

B. What was Philip taught?

- 1) It doesn't say.
- 2) It doesn't even say that he was a disciple of John.
- 3) But we know that he was convicted by what he did.

IV. JESUS MAKES HIS FIFTH DISCIPLE. (1:45-51)**A. Philip, like Andrew could not contain this good news.**

- 1) He goes and finds Nathanael (Bartholomew).
- 2) He tells him that he is convinced that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah.
- 3) He is the one that Moses and the prophets prophesied of.

B. Nathanael's reaction to Nazareth was not favorable.

- 1) **"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"**
- 2) You would expect the Messiah to come out of Jerusalem or Bethlehem, not Nazareth!
- 3) Besides, no prophecies spoke of Nazareth in this connection that he knew of.
 - a) Showed that he was knowledgeable of the Scriptures.
 - b) So, he was not impressed.

C. Philip did not give up that easily.

- 1) He told him, to come and see for yourself.
- 2) To meet and talk with Jesus would be enough to prove who He was.
- 3) The evidence would be sufficient to bring faith.
- 4) Do we give up too easily with people??

D. Nathanael's reaction to Jesus.

- 1) When Nathanael was close enough for Jesus to greet him, he said:
 - a) Behold—look at who is coming!
 - b) A true Israelite—Not just fleshly, but spiritually.
 - c) In whom is no guile—honest—not a put on—no desire to deceive.
 - d) An ideal child of God under the O.T. system.
- 2) Nathanael was taken back by Jesus' ability to know about him.
 - a) How did you come to know me?
 - b) Jesus gave him an answer he didn't expect again!
 - c) **"I knew you before Philip called you, while you were under the fig tree."**
- 3) Nathanael's acknowledgment of Jesus:
 - a) **"Rabbi, You are the Son of God, the King of Israel."**
 - b) Why was he so impressed & convicted?
 - **Only Deity could do what Jesus did.**
 - c) So, Jesus of Nazareth truly is the One we are looking for.

E. Jesus' promise to Nathanael:

- 1) How wonderful that you believe in me on such little evidence!
- 2) Just wait and you will see even greater things than these.
 - a) You will have a greater understanding, greater insights about me.
 - b) You will have greater proofs of my personage.
- 3) You will even see heaven open and angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

CONCLUSION

1. This first Chapter is rich in designations given to Jesus!
 - a) There are some 21 names & titles in this chapter alone.
 - b) But possibly none more identifying with us than, “Son of man.”
2. All men today need to be open-minded—and come and see Jesus!
 - a) He ever seeks for sincere searchers to come to Him. (Mt. 11:28-30)
 - b) When they come to see Jesus:
 - They will come into contact with a Being altogether unrivaled in human history;
 - A Being of spiritual qualities, moral teachings, and of self-sacrificing benevolence;
 - See One likened unto the Pearl of Great Price, in which a man sells all that he has to possess it;
3. To look closely at Jesus’ character, His claims, the Works that He did is to be convinced of His Divine Nature & Authority.
4. They need to come and see what Jesus is able to do for them:
 - a) To give them a sense of peace in their conscience;
 - b) A sense of forgiveness for all past wrongs;
 - c) A sense of comfort when trials of life sweep down upon us;
 - d) A sense of victory over death with a hope of immortality.
5. Have you come to see Jesus?
6. And how fortunate you are if you have a friend who insist for you to come and see Jesus for yourself.

*Lesson Five***“JESUS’ FIRST MIRACLE & ITS RESULTS”****(John 2:1-11)****INTRODUCTION**

1. John’s Gospel had recorded some outstanding claims about Jesus:
 - a) That He was in the beginning with God & was God—Eternal.
 - b) That He was the Creator of all things.
 - c) That He is the source of all life & light.
 - d) That He was made flesh and dwelt among mankind.
 - e) And to those who will believe on Him, they can become children of God.
2. But—where is the evidence to support such claims?
 - a) John the Baptist bore testimony to Jesus:
 - He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. (1:29)
 - He is the Son of God. (1:34)
 - b) The first 5 disciples of Jesus had sufficient evidence given to them of Jesus:
 - That He was the Messiah (the Christ) (the anointed One of God). (1:41)
 - That He was the Son of God, the King of Israel. (1:49)
3. Up to this point in John’s Gospel—no great miracle had been performed by Jesus.
4. John now records the first manifestation of His great power.
 - a) Jesus and His new disciples had returned home to Galilee.
 - b) John now pictures them attending a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee.

DISCUSSION**I. THE WEDDING FEAST. (2:1-5)*****A. Who was present:***

- 1) Jesus and His mother.
 - a) She may have been either related to the wedding couple or a close friend of the family.
 - b) She was involved with helping in the wedding feast.
- 2) Jesus’ new disciples.
 - a) Jesus had spent some 30 years living an ordinary life among these people.
 - b) His attendance at this wedding feast would be a normal thing for Him.
 - c) Since marriage is ordained by God—why wouldn’t He be there?

B. A problem arose:

- 1) The host ran out of wine.
 - a) This could be an embarrassment to the host—since they put much stress on hospitality.
- 2) So Mary turned to Jesus to help.
 - a) She just announced the problem—and expected Him to do something.

C. Jesus’ reaction to His mother.

- 1) “Woman”
 - a) No disrespect intended by the term—it was used at the cross also.
 - b) May have been a reminder that He was more than her son—Her Lord.

- 2) “What does your concern have to do with Me”
 - a) This remark may indicate that Mary expected Jesus to perform a miracle.
 - b) If so, Jesus is reminding her that His work is under the direction of His heavenly Father, not her.
 - c) His miracles had to have a purpose.
- 3) “My hour has not yet come.”
 - a) His full manifestation to the people is not yet ready.
 - He had chosen disciples.
 - He had already been identified by John as the Messiah.
 - This would be a good time to show the people here who He was.
 - b) His work was to gradually develop among the people.
 - c) What He would do here would be only a small manifestation of His power.
 - d) Only his disciples & the servants of the host were aware of the miracle.
- 4) His mother’s answer.
 - a) “Whatever He says to you, do it.”
 - b) Mary knew Jesus well enough over 30 years to know He would not act in some unconcerned way.
 - c) She knew His great heart.
 - d) She had faith & confidence in His ability to help the situation.
 - e) So, respect Him and do what He says.

II. THE MIRACLE. (2:6-10)

A. “Fill the waterpots with water”

- 1) They were not wine jars, but water pots used for purification purposes.
- 2) Each of the six water pots would hold 20 to 30 gallons of water.

B. “They filled them up to the brim.”

- 1) These servants seemed to have caught Mary’s confidence in Jesus.
- 2) They were obedient—to the fullest extent.

C. “Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.”

- 1) The master or governor was evidently a special guest at the feast.
- 2) When he tasted of the water turned to wine—he was impressed.
- 3) The natural process:
 - a) The Vine combines water with other substances from the air and the ground to make grapes.
 - b) The grapes are then pressed out into juice.
 - c) If the juice is left for a period of time—it can become fermented.
- 4) Jesus by-passed the natural process completely.
 - a) He turned water into wine.
 - b) He added all the necessary ingredients to the water to make wine.
 - c) The time nature takes—Jesus did instantly.

III. THE RESULTS OF THE MIRACLE. (2:11)

A. “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee.”

- 1) Greek word here is Semeion.
 - a) Translated: “Miracle” or “Sign”

- b) Term was used to indicate Authority of the spokesman.
 - c) It was also used to indicate supernatural demonstration of power.
 - d) Jesus did what no ordinary man could do.
- 2) This was the beginning of a long line of miracles or signs by Jesus.
- a) John only deals with a few chosen ones.
 - b) But they are representative of all areas of Jesus' powers.
- B. “And manifested His glory”**
- 1) The miracle showed primarily to His apostles who He was.
 - 2) It brought wonder & reverence on the part of the beholders.
 - 3) These powers were intended to make clear who He was.
- C. *The results.***
- 1) “His disciples believed on Him.”
 - 2) They already believed—in the basic sense of the word.
 - 3) They were His disciples—following & learning from Him.
 - 4) But, to fully believe that God was in human flesh as a man:
 - a) Needed all the evidence they could get.
 - b) This was evidence that would make their faith stronger in Jesus.
 - 5) But this was only the beginning of the many signs they were to see.
 - 6) Their faith needed to be strong enough to follow Jesus even into death.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Belief in Jesus demands the greatest of faith.
 - a) But this kind of faith demands the greatest of evidences.
 - b) Thus, the beginning of the great series of evidences to build faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.
- 2. Our faith in Him needs to also be strong.
 - a) It is built the same way—by seeing the abundance of evidence.
 - b) Our faith comes from the Word of God. (Rom. 10:17)
- 3. Who is Jesus to you?
 - a) A great philosopher and teacher;
 - b) A fraud, a deceiver, a self-deluded man;
 - c) Or, the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- 4. What we believe about Jesus will make a world of difference in our lives.

*Lesson Six***“RESPECTING THE SACRED”****(John 2:12-25)****INTRODUCTION**

1. The Public Ministry of Jesus is divided into 4 sections:
 - a) The early Judean Ministry (John 1-4)
 - Jesus went back & forth from Galilee to Judea.
 - This was especially at feast days.
 - Most of John’s Gospel revolves around the feast days in Jerusalem.
 - He also preaches among the cities in Judea.
 - b) The 3 Galilean Tours (John 4-6)
 - Jesus spends a lot of time preaching among the cities of Galilee.
 - Breaks up these tours by going to Jerusalem for a feast day.
 - c) The 3 Perea Tours (John 7-11)
 - Jesus does not go all the way back to Galilee towards the end.
 - He preaches in the cities on the East Side of Jordan (Perea)
 - d) The Last Week in Jerusalem (John 12-21)

2. Before Jesus goes to Jerusalem:
 - a) He & His family & disciples attend a wedding at Cana. (2:1-11)
 - b) John 2:12
 - Notice the absence of Joseph—possibly dead.
 - As the eldest—Jesus had a big responsibility.
 - The others are old enough now to help take care of Mary.
 - They evidently moved to Capernaum—38 miles from Nazareth.

3. John 2:13
 - a) The Jewish Passover was at hand.
 - This was an historic feast for the Jews.
 - It was started in about B.C. 1491—Exodus 12
 - It celebrated the passing over of the death angel of Israel’s firstborn.
 - And possibly involved with that—their deliverance from bondage.
 - b) Jews from all over Palestine & other countries usually attended.
 - All males were required.
 - Women and children could come—but not required.
 - Estimated attendance at this time—500,000 up to 1,000,000 people.
 - c) It is possible that Jesus could have attended this feast every year since his 12th birthday (Lk. 2:41).
 - But this is the first one of His public ministry.
 - His hour had come to work among the people.
 - And what a fitting place to begin—the great city of Jerusalem.
 - At the great & beautiful Temple of God.

- With hundreds of thousands of people present.
- And he started it with a strong spiritual statement—His relationship to the Father!

DISCUSSION

I. 1ST CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE. (2:14-16)

A. The Layout of the Temple:

- 1) The Temple building was divided into two compartments:
 - a) Holy Place—where the Levitical Priest took their turn to serve.
 - b) Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies)—where only the High Priest could enter.
- 2) The Temple building was inside of two courts.
 - a) The Outer Court for Gentile Proselytes and the women.
 - b) The inner Court for the men—and the sacrifices to take place.
 - c) All was considered sacred.

B. The profaning of the Temple:

- 1) They had made the Temple a house of merchandise!
 - a) All of this took place in the Outer Court.
 - b) They showed disregard for the sacredness of the Temple.
 - c) What had been designed as a house of worship had been corrupted.
 - d) The leaders, as well as the people, were guilty.
- 2) They sold oxen, sheep, & doves in the Temple area.
 - a) These things were necessary for sacrifices of the people.
 - b) They were merely making it convenient for the people.
 - c) They didn't have to transport their sacrifices to the Temple.
 - It was done for them.
 - It was at the place of worship for them.
 - d) It was not wrong to help people—but good!
 - But—they took advantage of the people—exorbitant prices.
 - They were doing it in the wrong place!
- 3) There were also money changes in the Temple area.
 - a) The Temple tax was a half-shekel.
 - Coins that had Caesar's image on them were not acceptable.
 - Someone had to change money for the people.
 - b) What was so wrong about helping people?
 - It was how much they charged that was wrong.
 - And, where they were doing it—was wrong!

C. The Cleansing of the Temple.

- 1) Jesus reacted to what He saw.
 - a) The noise, odor, general confusion in the Temple bothered Him.
 - b) The people had made it like a carnival or country fair atmosphere.
 - c) So different from what God had designed for it to be.
- 2) He drove them out of the Temple.
 - a) Such desecration awakened indignation in Jesus.
 - b) He quickly made a small whip out of what was handy.
 - c) Drove out the animals—and the merchandisers.
 - d) The whip was more of a symbol than punishment.
 - e) His indignation was obvious.

- f) He showed He meant to be obeyed.
- g) ***“Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!”***
- h) He upheld the sanctity of His Father’s House by purging it of the wrong.
 - He went against something that the public supported.
 - He did it because it needed to be done.
 - God’s honor needed to be upheld.
 - Mal. 3:3—***“He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.”***
- i) The consciences of the merchandisers & leaders were obviously stirred.
- j) His message was clear to the crowd!
 - This is My Father’s House.
 - Not, “Our Father’s House,” but My Father’s House.
 - This is where Jehovah had placed His Name & manifested His presence.
 - And I am identified with Him.
 - This house is to be respected as a House of Worship—not merchandising.
 - True worship was to be given here. (Jn. 4:24)
 - Respect for God’s arrangement must be upheld.
 - It is a great crime to pass on a degraded view of God.
- k) Jesus’ emotions were obvious & strong.
 - But under complete control.
 - He embodied the wrath of God.
 - But no cruel violence was done to any.
- l) Men needed to see this.
 - That God is infinite & holy.
 - But He is a reasonable & ethical God in His demands.
 - That He is a loving God in his attitude towards His creatures.
 - That repentance & obedience were required of all men.
 - God’s mercy & forgiveness came through such.
 - His Temple & Sacrifices were to be respected.

II. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLEANSING. (2:17-22)

A. The effect upon His disciples.

- 1) They remembered a statement that was connected with the Messiah.
- 2) ***“The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.”*** (Ps. 69:9)

B. Upon the people.

- 1) After they recovered from Jesus’ daring act:
 - a) They faced Him with a question—an obvious one.
 - b) They demanded that Jesus give some evidence to show why He had taken such authority upon Himself.
 - c) They actually wanted a sign to authenticate a sign!
- 2) Jesus’ reply:
 - a) He did not get into a discussion with this kind of people.

- b) The statement that He gave them was misunderstood.
 - Shown by their reaction.
 - It took 46 years to build this Temple.
 - And you are going to rebuild it in 3 days....HA!
- c) But His disciples remembered later on—and understood.
- d) ***“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”***
- e) He had reference to His bodily resurrection.
- f) “You want to see My Authority—See my Resurrection after you kill me.”
- g) Rom. 1:4—***“And declared to be the Son of God with power....by the resurrection from the dead.”***
- h) The Supreme Sign—Power—Authority behind Jesus!

III. ADDITIONAL MIRACLES TO HELP WITH BELIEF. (2:23-25)

A. He evidently performed other miracles while at the Passover.

- 1) They are not recorded....only stated that such was done.
- 2) Signs are to help people to accept the messenger & His message.

B. It stated that many believed in His Name.

- 1) They believed that He was the Messiah.
- 2) It was a shallow faith at this point—needed to be deepened.
- 3) If they stayed with Jesus and watched & listened—faith would grow.

C. But at this time—Jesus would not give Himself to them as their Messiah.

- 1) He knew what was in man.
- 2) He knows their thoughts, character, and shallowness of faith.
- 3) He also knew of the Jewish people’s desire for an earthly king.
- 4) He knows what is in the heart of man.
 - He cannot be deceived.
 - He fully knows man inside & out.
 - He knows his goodness & his weaknesses.

CONCLUSION

1. God’s Temple today is made up of His Redeemed People.
2. He warns us to:
 - a) Keep it clean from defilement and away from immorality.
 - b) But also keep away from false teachings.
 - c) And watch out for the dangers of indifference.
3. Jesus’ zeal for God’s Temple should also be our Zeal for the Church.
4. The Lord knows us—we can’t deceive Him.
 - a) So approach Him with a pure & true heart of service.
 - b) Show respect for Him and His Worship.

*Lesson Seven***“THE NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH”****(John 3:1-10)****INTRODUCTION**

1. After Jesus was baptized and chose his first 5 disciples—He went up to Galilee.
 - a) He was invited to a wedding feast—where he performed the first of many miracles.
 - b) After moving his family to Capernaum—it was time for the Passover Feast.
 - c) He went up to Jerusalem.
 - d) His first act recorded was the cleansing of the Temple.
 - e) He evidently does some teaching and performing of miracles while in Jerusalem.
 - f) Many came to believe on Him because of the signs or miracles.
 - g) A man by the name of Nicodemus was one who believed because of the signs.
 - h) He seeks Jesus out privately so that he might discuss religious matters with Him.
2. This conversation with Nicodemus is one of eleven discourses Jesus has with Jewish leaders (and or the people).
 - a) This conversation is about what it takes to get into this kingdom of heaven that John the Baptizer and now Jesus is preaching about.
 - b) Nicodemus, as well as most Jewish people, were looking for an earthly kingdom.

DISCUSSION**I. THE MAN—NICODEMUS. (3:1-2)****A. *This man is mentioned 3 times in John’s Gospel:***

- 1) Here in John 3
- 2) John 7:50:
 - a) As a secret follower.
 - b) He took up for Jesus without revealing his interest.
- 3) John 19:39-42:
 - a) He and Joseph of Arimathea sought the body of Jesus.
 - b) Help to bury him.

B. *He was a ruler of the Jews.*

- 1) He was a member of the council of 70—the Sanhedrin.
- 2) They ruled politically & religiously over the Jews—Subject to the Romans.
- 3) He would have been a man of some stature in the community.

C. *He was a Pharisee like the apostle Paul was.*

- 1) They were the leading, more numerous sect, among the Jews.
- 2) They were known for their learning and ability to teach the Law.
- 3) But unfortunately they were more concerned about outward forms than purity & sincerity of heart—according to Jesus!
- 4) Nicodemus may have been one of the exceptions—like Paul was.

D. *His expressed belief in Jesus.*

- 1) He came to Jesus by night.
 - a) He did not ask Jesus to come to him—but he went to Jesus.
 - b) At night—when the crowds would not be there.
 - c) So they could talk more freely.

- d) He may not have been ready to become a full-fledged follower of Jesus as yet.
- 2) He addresses Jesus courteously—"Rabbi"—Teacher.
 - a) Teachers had respect of the people.
 - b) But here was a teacher coming to be taught!
 - c) Here was a ruler coming to a poor peasant to be instructed.
- 3) Nicodemus identifies Jesus!
 - a) ***"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."***
 - b) The miracles Jesus had performed were sufficient to bring about this statement.
 - c) Signs are to open the hearts of people to be taught the message of God.
 - d) Nicodemus was aware of:
 - John the Baptizer preaching of Repentance, Confession, and Baptism to get ready for the coming Kingdom.
 - Now Jesus had begun to preach this—and performed miracles to lend credence to his preaching.
 - e) He wanted to know more about this kingdom.

II. JESUS IDENTIFIES THE KIND OF KINGDOM & HOW TO GET INTO IT. (3:3-6)

A. Nicodemus, this is a spiritual kingdom—not a physical one.

- 1) When a Jew was born physically—he automatically became a part of the Jewish Kingdom & Covenant.
- 2) As he grew up he had to be taught to know the God of Israel.
- 3) This new kingdom will be different!
- 4) It is not a fleshly, material kingdom like you have been a part of.
- 5) It will be identified spiritually.
- 6) And those who enter it must experience a spiritual birth.
 - a) ***"Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."***
 - b) This birth has no connection with the physical birth.
 - c) ***"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."***
 - d) These are two different kingdoms.
 - e) This old material kingdom will be replaced by a new spiritual one.
 - f) The old way of entering the kingdom is no longer valid.
 - g) Those who enter this new kingdom must be born again.

B. How does one get into this new kingdom of heaven?

- 1) One MUST be born again.
- 2) Emphasizes the necessity of this birth.
- 3) Not a choice—if you want in this kingdom.
- 4) ***"Unless (except) one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."***

C. What is the birth process?

- 1) Jesus often illustrated spiritual truths by comparing it to the physical.
- 2) This seems to be what He is doing here
- 3) ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."***
- 4) This new birth is initiated by the Spirit of God and completed in water.

- 5) Let's look at the comparison of the two births:
- a) There must be a begetting.
 - 1--Begetting is brought about by seed being implanted in the body of the woman.
 - 2--The Spiritual seed—God's Word—must be planted in our hearts.
 - This Word is what the Spirit uses to bring about our spiritual birth.
 - James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:22-23
 - b) There must be an acceptance of the seed & development.
 - 1--The body of the woman must accept the seed implanted.
 - This is called conception.
 - The seed then develops within the body of the woman until it is ready for delivery.
 - 2—Spiritually—men's hearts must receive the Word & allow it to development in them.
 - This is called belief or faith at its beginning point.
 - John 1:12-13
 - This faith must develop until it becomes Conviction & ready to make a commitment to follow Jesus.
 - c) There must be a delivery or coming forth.
 - 1—At delivery—the birth process is complete.
 - A new child is brought forth to live in this world.
 - 2—Spiritually—there is also a delivery.
 - This is the water's part.
 - When a person is buried in water & brought forth—he becomes a new creature. (Rom. 6:4)
 - Mark 16:16
 - Without faith—baptism is worthless!
 - Gal. 3:26-27

III. CAN HUMAN EFFORT SAVE MAN—GET HIM IN THE KINGDOM? (3:7-10)

A. John 1:13—“Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

- 1) Man, in himself, has no power to bring about this birth.
- 2) It is a birth brought about by the Spirit of God.
- 3) But, it is not done against man's will or his choice in the matter.
- 4) He must put his faith in the one who is the giver of life—Jesus.
- 5) He must become obedient in water baptism to bring his birth to a climax.

B. This new birth is like the wind.

- 1) You can hear it, but not see it.
- 2) But you can see the results of it.
- 3) When one is born of the Spirit—the results are there!
- 4) 1 John 3:9—“***Whoever has been born of God does not sin (continue in the way of sin), for His seed remains in him....***”
- 5) The evidence is a changed life!

CONCLUSION

1. Who is in the Kingdom of God?
 - a) Only those who have been born of the water & the Spirit.
 - b) This is a necessity!
2. Have you allowed the Word of God to come into your heart & develop to the point that you are ready to make your commitment to Christ?
3. If so, come confessing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.
4. Come and be immersed, buried, with Christ in a watery grave and be raised a new creature.

*Lesson Eight***“THE IMPORTANCE & NECESSITY OF FAITH”****(John 3:11-21)****INTRODUCTION**

1. Jesus has made His first trip to Jerusalem of His public ministry.
 - a) He has attended the Passover Feast.
 - b) He jealously cleansed the Temple of the wrong practices.
 - c) And continued to teach publicly & privately in the city for a short time.
2. One of His private conversations was with Nicodemus.
 - a) Our last lesson covered the first part of that conversation—on the Necessity of the New Birth to enter the Kingdom of God.
 - b) This lesson—Jesus continues his teaching to Nicodemus.
 - c) In these verses great stress is laid upon the necessity of faith!

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS CHALLENGES NICODEMUS TO BELIEVE (3:10-13)**

- A. *“You are a teacher in Israel and do not know these things?”*
 - 1) These are critical and serious matters that all men need to know.
 - 2) If you are a teacher—you need to understand these things.
- B. **As a teacher, Jesus spoke that which He knew!**
 - 1) It was not conjecture.
 - 2) He was an eyewitness to what He was saying.
 - 3) He speaks from experience—first-hand experience.
- C. *Jesus was in heaven with the Father.*
 - 1) Jn. 1:1—*“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*
 - 2) Jesus affirms His Deity to Nicodemus.
 - 3) No mere man has ever ascended to heaven to bring back a message from God.
 - 4) But Jesus had been there from the beginning with the Father.
 - 5) He knows about heavenly (spiritual) things.
- D. *And...He came down to earth as a witness to man.*
 - 1) Jn. 1:14—*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
 - 2) The one who came down from heaven has revealed all we know about heaven.
 - 3) All men are called upon to believe His message, therefore.
- E. *Again, He issues a rebuke to Nicodemus.*
 - 1) If you do not believe what I tell you about earthly truths, then how can you believe the higher truths?
 - 2) If you do not understand about the new birth that men must experience, how can I get you to understand about heaven itself?
 - 3) Understanding of heavenly things is dependent upon understanding earthly things.

II. THE NECESSITY OF JESUS’ DEATH (3:14-15)

- A. *The Brazen Serpent in the Wilderness pre-figures Jesus’ death.*

- 1) The People had spoken against God & Moses because of the hardness of their journey.
- 2) So God sent fiery serpents among them.
- 3) Much people of Israel died. (Num. 21:1-6)
- 4) The people repented & asked Moses to pray to God for them.
- 5) God told Moses to make a brazen serpent & put it on a poll.
- 6) When anyone was bit:
 - a) They were to come & look upon the brazen serpent.....
 - b) And they would be healed.
- 7) This took faith in God's promise!
- 8) The power to heal was not in the Brazen Serpent—but in God!

B. In like manner, Jesus must be lifted up in death upon a tree.

- 1) Jn. 8:28—*“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”*
- 2) Jn. 12:32-33—*“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”*
- 3) The Justice of God demanded a perfect sacrifice to atone for sin.
- 4) Jesus came as that perfect sacrificial offering.
- 5) He is God's remedy for sin.

C. The Necessity for man to believe in Jesus.

- 1) Man can partake in the benefits of Jesus' death through Faith.
- 2) It is “Believe or Perish.”

D. The Necessity of an obedient faith.

- 1) Jas. 2:17—*“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*
- 2) Jas. 2:24—*“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”*
- 3) A dead, unsubmitive faith cannot save or justify.
- 4) Real belief is shown by obedience to God.

III. GOD'S LOVE EXEMPLIFIED (3:16)

A. How do we know God loves us?

- 1) By His actions.
- 2) By the gift He has given to mankind.
- 3) A gift that lets man escape his just punishment for sin.
- 4) A gift that was given—even though man was in rebellion to God.

B. Man's responsibility is to respond to God's love.

- 1) To believe in what God has done through Jesus.
- 2) So we will not perish.

IV. JESUS CAME AS SAVIOR, NOT AS A JUDGE (3:17)

A. Jesus did not come for the purpose of passing judgment on mankind.

- 1) Even though deserved.
 - a) Rom. 6:23
 - b) Wages—what one deserves—just dues.

- 2) That is not the reason He came to earth.
- B. He came to offer salvation, not condemnation.**
- 1) Luke 19:10—*“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*
 - 2) He did not wait for us to come to Him—He came to us.
 - 3) Man is not lost because he rejects Christ, but because of sin in his life.
 - 4) Jesus came to offer salvation from the punishment of that sin.
 - 5) If Christ is rejected—there is no other sacrifice for sin.

V. MAN’S GREAT CHOICE (3:18-21)

A. To believe or not to believe!

- 1) If one believes:
 - a) He can escape condemnation for his sins;
 - b) He can be saved;
 - c) He can enter the kingdom of God;
 - d) He can have eternal life with God.
- 2) But if one disbelieves:
 - a) He will continue on in his condemned condition because of sin.
- 3) His disbelief reveals:
 - a) He has no desire for truth.
 - b) He has no receptivity to enlightenment from God.
 - c) He wants to persist in his moral perversity.
 - d) He is blinded and hardened of heart.
 - e) He is judged already.

B. To desire light or darkness.

- 1) Light
 - a) To be enlightened, informed, instructed in truth.
 - b) It is to desire to live in righteousness & purity.
 - c) To love light shows the condition of one’s heart.
 - They are sincere, honest, and want to learn from God.
 - They do not want to remain in ignorance & condemnation.
 - They love righteousness.
 - They love Christ who brings light to all men.
- 2) Darkness
 - a) To remain in ignorance, iniquity, error, lies, superstition.
 - b) It is to desire to live in unrighteousness & wrong doing.
 - c) To love darkness shows the condition of one’s heart.
 - They love their own ignorance & condemned condition.
 - They love sensual gratification, rather than virtue, chastity, and purity.
 - They revolt at the idea of repentance—change of mind, habit, and character.
 - They may even hate the person that shows up their evil deeds.
 - It is the light, in truth, that shows up their wrong doing.

CONCLUSION

1. Is our mind open to the evidence about Jesus—that leads to belief?
2. Do we love:
 - a) Light or Darkness?
 - b) Truth or Error?
 - c) Righteousness or Unrighteousness?
 - d) Salvation or Condemnation?
3. Jesus is man's only hope of Eternal Life.
4. What choice have you made about Jesus?

*Lesson Nine****“The Decline of John the Baptizer”*****(3:22-36)****INTRODUCTION**

1. This lesson deals with a contrast of two men:
 - a) One that had enjoyed much acclaim, but was now waning in popularity.
 - b) The other that was overshadowing the first.
2. Questions:
 - a) How would you like for your work to be put into a decline by another?
 - b) Especially when you were at your prime.
 - c) How would you handle it?
 - d) Would you be resentful, jealous, envious, or angry?
 - e) Would your pride be hurt?
 - f) What kind of heart do we have?
 - g) John the Baptizer was being put to the test at this time.
3. Let's see how John handled his situation.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS MINISTRY NOW TURNS TO THE CITIES OF JUDEA. (3:22-24)*****A. The Early Judean Ministry.***

- 1) Jesus had been in Jerusalem where he attended the Passover Feast.
- 2) He had cleansed the Temple.
- 3) And taught publicly and privately in the city of Jerusalem.
- 4) He now turns to go into the small villages in the province of Judea.
 - a) The Jewish leaders were becoming more antagonistic.
 - b) So, he left and turned to the more common people.
- 5) Jesus had begun to preach what John had preached!
 - a) The people needed to repent, confess their sins, be baptized to be right with God.
 - b) Jesus and His disciples were showing success in reaching the minds and hearts of the people.
- 6) Even though John had identified Jesus—He still continued to preach to the people and make disciples.
 - a) During this time he was teaching and baptizing at a small village called, Aenon (which was close to Salim).
 - b) A reason given for his being there—there was much water there.
 - Much water was needed to do his baptizing.
 - Lends credence to the fact that Baptizo means to immerse.
- 7) John's work was soon to end—He has about fulfilled God's plan.
 - a) He would soon be imprisoned & beheaded after a short time.
 - b) We do not rightly know why John continued preaching.
 - c) For Jesus was now following up John's work and enlarging on it.

II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JOHN & JESUS MADE CLEAR AGAIN (3:25-30)

A. *A dispute or controversy led to John's clarification.*

- 1) Both John and Jesus were advocating Baptism in water in order to receive remission of sins (Purification).
- 2) Jesus was beginning to over-shadow John's efforts.
 - a) He was making & baptizing more disciples than John.
 - b) Jesus Himself did not do the baptizing, but his disciples. (4:2)
- 3) In the midst of their dispute with the Jews, John's disciples were faced with this fact—Jesus is overshadowing your teacher (John the B.).
- 4) This caused them to come to John to pose the question to him:
 - a) Did you know that the One that you testified of as being the Messiah...
 - b) That He is now preaching and baptizing people...
 - c) And the crowds are going to hear him, not you.
 - d) He seems to be taking over your work!
 - e) What are your feelings about this?

B. *John states clearly what was causing Jesus' success.*

- 1) It was God—He is behind what is happening with Jesus.
 - a) Neither John nor Jesus took it upon themselves to teach & baptize.
 - b) It was given for them to do by the Father.
 - c) Jesus' commission was from above, just like John's had been.
 - d) Jn. 5:30—***"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."***
- 2) John also reminds them of what he had said before!
 - a) Many of you here heard me clearly state—**I am not the Christ!**
 - b) Jesus is the Christ, I am merely the forerunner!
 - c) The one who prepares the way for the Messiah.
 - d) My job is to get the people ready for Him & His kingdom.
- 3) Also, I am not the Bridegroom, but just the friend of the Bridegroom.
 - a) The Kingdom is His—that is His Bride!
 - b) I am a friend who helps get the two together.
 - c) I am the one who promotes the honor of the Bridegroom.
 - d) It is now my joy to hear him speak His message.
- 4) Jesus must increase, I must decrease!
 - a) What humility!
 - b) What grace!
 - c) John had been in the height of popularity with the people.
 - d) Now, He is being slighted for another—Jesus!
 - e) He must go more and more into the background.
 - f) **Can we be like John if the occasion called for it?**

III. REASONS WHY JESUS MUST INCREASE! (3:31-36)

A. *Because of His origin!*

- 1) He is from above, I am from beneath!
- 2) He is from the heavenly, I am from the earthy.

- 3) Jn. 1:1—“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
 - 4) Jn. 1:14—“*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us....*”
- B. Because of His teachings!**
- 1) His teachings are from first hand knowledge!
 - 2) John’s teachings were given to Him by Deity.
 - 3) He was in the bosom of the Father (1:18) and can declare Him fully.
 - 4) He can speak what He both has seen and heard!
- C. Because Jesus’ understanding is unlimited!**
- 1) He is speaking the Words of God, the Father.
 - 2) There is no limit placed upon His ability to reveal God’s full message.
 - a) He was full of grace and truth. (1:14)
 - b) In Him all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge abide (Col. 2:3).
 - 3) Unfortunately, there were those that rejected this teaching from God.
 - 4) But fortunately, there are those who do receive His testimony.
 - 5) Such people bear testimony to the concept of the Truthfulness of God.
 - 6) He has certified (set his seal) to the fact that God is True.
- D. Because of Jesus’ relationship with the Father!**
- 1) There is an eternal love between them—true, unselfish love!
 - 2) The Father trusts the Son implicitly.
 - 3) He has shown it by giving all things into His hands.
 - 4) The Father has granted unto the Son—the power to give eternal life to those who believe in the Son.
 - 5) But as well has granted the power to pour out wrath upon the unbeliever.
 - a) Some versions say—the disobedient.
 - b) Apistein & Apeithein—used inter-changeable.
 - c) Rom. 11:30—“*For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience.*”
 - d) Rom. 1:18—God’s wrath will come to the ungodly & unrighteous.

CONCLUSION

1. When John was facing a strong trial of his faith in God—he responded well!
2. No wonder Jesus said of Him—“*Among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist...*” (Matt. 11:11)
3. What a great example for us to follow in our lives.
4. Have you recognized your true position before Jesus?

*Lesson Ten***“JESUS’ METHOD OF EVANGELISM”****(John 4:1-19)****INTRODUCTION**

1. Jesus is in the first phase of His public ministry—“Early Judean Ministry.”
 - a) While in Jerusalem:
 - He cleansed and taught in the Temple;
 - Taught in the city of Jerusalem and performed miracles.
 - b) Then, he turned to preach in the villages of Judea.
 - Such efforts were very successful—making more disciples than John.
 - Which led to John’s humble evaluation of Himself & Jesus.
2. Jesus now turns to go back home to Galilee.
 - a) Jn. 4:1-4
 - b) On His trip through Samaria, Jesus was able to teach a Samaritan woman.
 - c) It should help us to understand & copy His methods of Evangelism.

DISCUSSION**I. 1st, HE WENT WHERE OTHERS WOULD NOT GO!*****A. He went through the despised province of Samaria. (4:4-6)***

- 1) To get from Judea to Galilee—a person had two choices:
 - a) Go straight North through Samaria;
 - b) Or, go across the Jordan and up through Perea.
 - c) Most Jews went this 2nd way.
- 2) Jesus stopped & rested at Sychar—a small village close to the capital.
 - a) He stayed at a well (called Jacob’s well) in order to get a drink.
 - b) And sent the apostles into town to secure food—it was noon-time.
 - c) He had no means of drawing water, so He waited for help.

II. 2ND, HE ASKED HELP OF A SAMARITAN WOMAN!***A. Prejudice between Jew & Gentile was great!***

- 1) The woman reflected this when she said that Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.
- 2) Someone had to break the cycle—so Jesus did!
- 3) His approach was not harsh, cold, superior, or condemning.
- 4) Rather, it was courteous, gentle, respectful, and with openness.
- 5) And, of all things, he asked her for help!

B. Jesus saw this woman as one made in the image of God”!

- 1) He came to seek and save the lost! **She was lost!**
- 2) She was also an immoral woman (vs. 16-18)
- 3) But Jesus saw her as one worth saving—and one who would change!
 - a) Rom. 1:16
 - b) All men are being called to repentance.
 - c) One soul is worth the whole world. (Matt. 16:26)

C. His method here:

- 1) He used the physical situation to lead into a spiritual discussion.
- 2) He offered to help her in the way she needed help.

III. 3RD, HE OFFERED HER ETERNAL LIFE! (Jn. 4:10-15)**A. All people need physical water to survive.**

- 1) Next to air, water is the second important requisite of physical life.
- 2) Humans cannot go long without water.
- 3) Unquenched thirst can be terrible & terminal!
- 4) We drink because we are thirsty and want to live.

B. But humans have need also of spiritual water!

- 1) Because we are more than just flesh—we are also spirit.
- 2) Jesus got her attention by telling her He could give her living water.

C. She did not make the full carry-over from physical to spiritual.

- 1) How can you give such water without the means of drawing water?
- 2) Are you greater than Jacob—who gave us this physical water?

D. Jesus, now challenges her further!

- 1) I am not talking about water that temporarily satisfies your thirst.
- 2) I am talking about the kind of water that is eternally satisfying.

E. The woman's remark shows she has not yet made the transition!

- 1) Sir, I would very much like this water.
- 2) Reasons:
 - a) I won't thirst anymore.
 - b) I won't have to come and draw water each day.
 - c) What a burden this would have lifted off of her.
- 3) Further insight is needed to help her make the transition.

IV. 4TH, JESUS HELPED HER TO SEE BETTER WHO HE WAS! (4:16-19)**A. Jesus had miraculous insight to her life.**

- 1) He knew she did not have a husband—but was in a live-in situation.
- 2) She had had 5 husbands before that!
- 3) While we cannot have miraculous insight to a person's life—we may be able to have normal insight that may open up study opportunities.

B. She realized that Jesus had to be a prophet.

- 1) His insight about her personal life—immoral actions—did the job!
- 2) She made no attempt to deceive, deny, conceal, or self-justification.
- 3) Thus, there was hope for her now!
- 4) She is ready—open to learning God's will for her life.

C. A great asset we can have—solid understanding and how to use Scriptures to teach others!

- 1) When this is perceived by those we talk to—it often opens the door.
- 2) If they feel they know more than we do—no chance!
- 3) Illustrate with Paul at Antioch of Pisidia:
 - a) Preached a beautiful sermon to both Jews and Gentiles.
 - b) The Gentiles wanted to hear more—They were open to learn.

- c) Great crowds gathered the next Sabbath to hear his preaching.
- d) The Jews were filled with envy—contradicting and speaking against Paul’s message.
- e) Paul’s reaction to these Jews: ***“It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.”*** (Acts 13:46)
- f) The Gentiles were open to one who had the greater knowledge.

CONCLUSION

1. This incident provides us with 4 basic principles in reaching out to others:
 - a) Be willing to go where others may not go.
 - b) Be willing to let others help us where we have need.
 - c) Offer people something they do not possess, but should want!
 - d) Let people see that we know whereof we speak.
2. Look at this situation yourself—see what additional insights you can gain.
3. Jesus offers to all men—living water that gives eternal life!
4. Illustration:
 - a) Small boy from Chicago slums was taken to hospital with a broken leg.
 - b) He was one of 7 children—hunger often went unsatisfied.
 - c) Even a glass of milk had to be shared.
 - d) They would mark with their fingers how far each could drink.
 - e) During hospital stay—nurse brought a large glass of milk.
 - f) The boy asked, wishfully, “How deep can I drink?”
 - g) The nurse realized the situation and said, “As deep as you desire!”
5. How thirsty are we for this living water?

*Lesson Eleven***“TRUE WORSHIP FROM TRUE WORSHIPPERS”****(John 4:19-26)****INTRODUCTION**

1. Jesus had finished His first public ministry in Judea.
2. On His way back up to Galilee, He goes through Samaria.
3. He had stopped to rest by Jacob’s well, where He had started a conversation with a Samaritan woman.
 - a) He had offered her living water so she would never thirst again.
 - b) She didn’t understand exactly what Jesus was getting at.
 - c) So, Jesus showed that He knew all about her.
 - d) He knew she had had 5 husbands, and was just living in with the 6th one.
4. This got her attention!
 - a) She did not begin to deny such, but realized that Jesus had to be a prophet.
 - b) The Jews, as well as the Samaritans, were looking for this prophet.
5. Her first question was over an age-long controversy between Jew & Samaritan.
 - a) John 4:19-20
 - b) The Jews obviously said “Jerusalem.”
 - c) The Samaritans said “Mt. Gerizim.”
 - The Samaritans erected a temple here in which to worship God.
 - Even though destroyed in 130 BC—it was still a sacred place.
 - It was believed to have been the place where Abraham & Jacob raised an altar in worship to God. (Deut. 11:26; 27:3-13)
 - d) So, both were adamant in their beliefs passed down to them.
 - e) And maybe this prophet can solve the question.
6. Jesus did not deal directly with her question.
 - a) He challenged her with the New things about ready to be set up.
 - b) He talked about True Worship from True Worshippers!

DISCUSSION**I. TRUE WORSHIP WILL SOON NOT DEPEND ON A HOLY PLACE!****A. Jn. 4:21**

- 1) Jesus seems to accept the acknowledgment of being the Prophet.
- 2) “Believe Me”—put your trust in what I am saying to you from God.
- 3) The time is near at hand for a New System to be set up.
- 4) True worship will not depend upon a holy place.
- 5) But God can be worshipped wherever men are.

B. This building is not a holy place.

- 1) What takes place as worship to God is holy.
- 2) There is nothing sacred about this building.
- 3) We can worship God anywhere in the world.

II. TRUE WORSHIP WILL NOT BE IN IGNORANCE.

A. Jn. 4:22

- 1) The Samaritans' worship was ignorant worship—they did not really know God.
- 2) While they accepted the first 5 books of Moses, they rejected the revelation by the Prophets—which more fully revealed God.
- 3) True worship calls for a knowledge of the True & Living God.
 - a) About His greatness and superiority over all creation.
 - b) About His Majesty, His Love, His Holiness, and His worthiness.
 - c) About His Law, Commands, precepts, and His Justness.
- 4) The Jews were knowledgeable of God.
- 5) They worshipped God in the proper place—in the proper way.
- 6) Salvation will come through the Jewish nation, not the Samaritans.

B. Just any kind of worship is not true worship!

- 1) Ignorance of God & His requirements make worship unacceptable.
- 2) Worship needs to come out of a heart of understanding, not a heart of ignorance.

III. TRUE WORSHIP WILL BE IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.

A. Jn. 4:23-24

- 1) God has always prescribed worship as being more than a mechanical response to Himself.
- 2) Deut. 10:12-13—*“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul..”*
- 3) Man's heart must be in his worship activities.
- 4) True worship flows from a heart fully conscious of God's worthiness.
 - a) Outward correctness alone is not enough.
 - b) The heart must be there also.

B. God desires worship from His creatures.

- 1) As Spirit, he desires worship from spirit beings.
- 2) Our worship should be full of reverence, respect, adoration, praise, honor, and thanksgiving.
- 3) And what a privilege to offer such to a God of love, mercy, and long-suffering.
- 4) And what an honor that He will accept our meager efforts of worship.
- 5) In heaven:
 - a) Motivation to worship God will be greater, broader, & stronger.
 - b) For we will see Him and experience His presence.

C. God has always desired correct worship from His creatures.

- 1) That is, worship that He prescribes!
- 2) Worship activities that are authorized by Him.
- 3) Cain learned the hard way in this matter.
- 4) Under the New Covenant system, God has prescribed the following:
 - a) Singing from a heart full of grace;
 - b) Praying in faith to a giving God;
 - c) Giving of possessions He has blessed us with;
 - d) Remembering the Lord's death each Lord's day;

- e) Allowing the Word of God to exhort us, rebuke, us, instruct us, and correct us.
- 5) When these things are done from our hearts—sincerely, humbly, & gratefully:
 - a) God is glorified;
 - b) His people are built up in the most Holy Faith.

IV. TRUE WORSHIP IS THROUGH JESUS

I. A. Jn. 4:25-26

- 1) The Samaritan woman knew that a Messiah had been promised.
- 2) She did not fully understand what that meant.
- 3) But obviously, we do today.
- 4) Without Jesus—All worship would be in vain.

B. Jesus openly admitted being the Messiah to this woman.

- 1) He had not done this openly to others as of yet.
- 2) All that Jesus did and said were to lead people to this conclusion!
- 3) Peter on Pentecost made this truth clear:
 - a) Acts 2:36—*“Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

CONCLUSION

- 1. The Samaritan woman had been brought from:
 - a) Drinking & talking about physical water and man’s need of it....
 - b) To...man’s need of “Living Water”—or His need of Christ.
 - c) And to His identifying Himself as the Messiah.
- 2. We must not only become Christians in the right way;
- 3. But, we must then worship God in His appointed way.

*Lesson Twelve***“SOWING AND REAPING”****(John 4:27-42)****INTRODUCTION**

1. In Chapter 4:
 - a) We have seen Jesus’ method of evangelism with the Samaritan woman;
 - b) We heard the Lesson that Jesus taught her on True Worship;
 - c) Now we are ready to see the results of teaching one person.
2. Jesus had told her about “living water” that He could give her.
 - a) She wanted that water, but did not rightly understand what Jesus was offering at first.
 - b) But when He showed her that He knew about her marital situation:
 - She did not try to cover up her immorality;
 - But, rather, realized that He had to be a Prophet.
 - c) Jesus admitted being the Messiah—**“I who speak to you am He.”** (v. 26).
3. Her reaction was to tell others about Jesus.
 - a) Jn. 4:28-30
 - b) In her excitement—she left her waterpots and went into the city.
 - c) **“Come and see a Man who has told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”**
 - d) While she was gone—Jesus teaches His disciples some important lessons.

DISCUSSION**I. THE DISCIPLES’ REACTION TO WHAT THEY SAW*****A. They showed their prejudice (4:27).***

- 1) Jesus had sent them into the city to buy food.
- 2) Upon returning, they saw a sight that surprised them.
 - a) They saw Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman.
 - b) According to their leaders—this was not acceptable.
 - c) And especially—someone so great as their Master should not condescend to converse with such a person.
- 3) Fortunately, they held their peace.
- 4) Jesus’ actions would help to break down misconceptions about the place of women.
- 5) Women were among the most devoted followers of Jesus.

B. When the woman left, they encouraged Jesus to eat (4:31-34).

- 1) They knew that He had to be famished.
- 2) They urged Him to eat—entreated Him.
- 3) But Jesus turned the conversation from the physical to the spiritual.
 - a) The soul needs to have spiritual food to keep it healthy.
 - b) And Jesus had just partaken of such food!
 - c) **“I have food to eat that you know not of.”**
 - d) When we do the Father’s Will—it feeds our soul.
 - e) He was in the process of seeking and saving the lost!

- 4) The idea behind “fasting and prayer” is obviously food for the soul!
 - a) It is emphasizing that the spiritual is more important than the physical.
 - b) That man needs to cultivate a spiritual appetite (Matt. 5:6).
 - c) Imagine the effect that such could have upon one’s spiritual life.
- 5) Now look at the disciples’ reaction:
 - a) “*Has somebody brought him food before we got here?*”
 - b) Still fleshly bound!
 - c) They did not catch the spiritual impact of Jesus’ statement.
 - d) They were still too wrapped up in the physical outlook.
 - e) Their spiritual life was slow in developing.

II. JESUS TEACHES A MUCH NEEDED LESSON TO THE DISCIPLES

A. Lift your sights to a higher level than the physical (4:35)

- 1) Harvest time for their grain was in April.
 - a) The disciples knew this.
 - b) The grain was just beginning to come up in the fields.
 - c) This conversation would have been in December.
- 2) But, the spiritual harvest of souls was ready right then.
 - a) Men from the city of Sychar were coming out in large numbers.
 - b) They had believed the word of the woman.
 - c) They were now coming to hear Jesus themselves.
- 3) Souls are ripe for harvesting when they show genuine interest in spiritual things.

B. Before a harvest—you must sow the seed! (4:36-38).

- 1) The Rewards of sowing & reaping are great!
 - a) Sowing alone is not enough—must reap when ripe.
 - b) Jesus said—“***The angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents.***”
 - c) The rewards are:
 - A soul is saved from the penalty of his sins.
 - He is brought into the kingdom of God.
 - He has the promise of eternal life.
 - And I had a part to play in these great things.
 - It is a time of rejoicing for both the sower & reaper.
- 2) Sowing must be done in order to reap.
 - a) There can be no harvest otherwise.
 - b) Sowing is a toilsome job (clearing ground, breaking it up, preparing it, and then planting the seed).
 - c) Spiritually—it is also a toilsome job.
 - It requires work, suffering, disappointment, and apparent failure at times.
 - But one must keep on sowing if there is to be a harvest.
 - d) If you want a great harvest—must do more sowing of the seed!
 - e) It is often the endless efforts of others that prepares the soul for harvesting.
 - A kind word, a concern shown, a tract, an invitation, and an example.

- So many have gone before to help prepare the minds & hearts of people to receive the gospel.
- f) Jesus had done the final sowing of seed in the Samaritans' hearts.
- g) Now, they are ready for harvesting.
- h) Example in India—local men teach and teach—American comes—reap the harvest.

C. The need to train the Disciples is shown.

- 1) Jesus was teaching others—but the disciples needed to be trained to do the same.
- 2) They went with Him, heard Him, observed Him—and even got their feet wet.
- 3) Jesus wanted His disciples to be dominated by the same vision & purpose that He had—The Harvesting of Souls for Eternity!

III. OUTCOME OF JESUS' TEACHING THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

A. John 4:39-42

- 1) This showed clearly that teaching one person was not a waste!
- 2) Why teach only one when you could teach hundreds, etc.???
- 3) Because—through her many became believers!
- 4) Never under-estimate the value of reaching one soul.

B. The Samaritans' request of Jesus:

- 1) “Tarry with us”—teach us some more.
- 2) Jesus gave in to their request—but only for 2 days.
- 3) This was sufficient to convince them that Jesus was truly the Christ, the Savior of the world.

CONCLUSION

1. The one great secret of numerical growth—sowing the seed of the kingdom!
2. When it finds lodgment in good and honest hearts—a harvest will come!
3. Let's not grow weary in sowing the seed.
4. And let's continue to grow in our ability to effectively present it to others.
5. Our mission—to seek and save the lost!

*Lesson Thirteen***“TRUSTING AND OBEYING”****(John 4:43-54)****INTRODUCTION**

1. John 4:43—**“Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee.”**
 - a) The public Ministry of Jesus is divided into 4 sections:
 - The Early Judean Ministry
 - The Three Tours throughout Galilee
 - The Three Tours throughout Perea
 - The Last Week of Jesus’ Life
 - b) Jn. 4:43 indicates He has finished the Early Judean Ministry.
 - c) Matthew’s account also indicates such.
 - Matthew 4:12-17
 - Jesus had preached in Jerusalem and the cities of Judea.
 - When He heard of John the baptizer’s imprisonment, He returns to Galilee.
 - He had gone through Samaria—where He taught many Samaritans.
2. Jesus now comes into Galilee to teach and work for a while.
 - a) He makes three tours of the cities of Galilee.
 - b) During this time we know He attended two Passover Feasts at Jerusalem (According to John’s Gospel).
 - c) He also makes two excursions North of Galilee after the 3rd tour.
 - d) But John’s Gospel records very little about the Galilean Ministry.
 - e) Most of his Gospel deals with Jesus at Jerusalem.
3. It is upon His return to Galilee sometime during the 1st tour that he heals the Nobleman’s son.
4. The other three Gospels do not record this—it is peculiar to John’s Gospel.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS’ RECEPTION IN GALILEE**

A. Jn. 4:45—“So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.”

- 1) The Gospel of Matthew indicates the same (Matt. 4:23-25).
- 2) His fame spread rapidly—even into Syria.
- 3) Great multitudes followed Him.

B. There was receptivity by many, but rejection by some.

- 1) Jn. 4:44—**“For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.”**
- 2) This could have reference to His visit to Nazareth and their efforts to stone Him (Luke 4:16-30).
- 3) May have been prophetic—popularity now—rejection later.
- 4) It is obvious:
 - a) That the very ones that should have appreciated His efforts.....
 - b) Were the very ones that least appreciated Him.
- 5) But generally speaking—the Galilean Ministry drew great crowds.

II. AN EXAMPLE OF ONE WHO TRUSTED & OBEYED (4:46-50).

A. He was a Nobleman.

- 1) He is believed to have been Chuza—Herod Antipas' Steward.
- 2) This Herod ruled over Galilee under the Romans.

B. He had a need!

- 1) His Son was at the point of death with a high fever.
- 2) He was gravely concerned.

C. The Need caused him to seek for Jesus.

- 1) He had heard about Jesus' power to heal others.
- 2) He was not afraid nor ashamed to approach Jesus with his request.
 - a) A sick Son or Daughter can help parents overcome inhibitions or pride.
 - b) It is often the same way for spiritual help!
- 3) He made a passionate appeal for Jesus to come and heal his son.

D. Jesus' rebuke of the people in General.

- 1) The Jewish people were clamoring for signs & miracles.
- 2) The large crowds were mostly out of selfish reasons.
- 3) They were not that interested in Who He Was, or What He Taught!
- 4) This Nobleman was concerned for his son—not himself.

E. He kept insisting for Jesus to come with him.

- 1) He was like the father whose son was troubled by an evil spirit.
 - a) Jesus put the burden on the father to believe.
 - b) He said: ***“Lord, I believe; help mine unbelief.”***
- 2) Or, like the Syrophonecian woman whose daughter was grievously vex with a demon.
 - a) Her reply to Jesus' remark was so humbling.
 - b) She said: ***“Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.”***
 - c) Jesus' reply: ***“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.”***
- 3) The Nobleman showed a similar spirit that Jesus appreciated.
 - a) He told him: ***“Go your way, your son lives.”***
 - b) ***“So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.”***
 - c) Trust and obey... for there is no other way!
 - d) The man did not question Jesus, but immediately obeyed.
 - e) He accepted the promise as true.
 - f) His faith was shown by his actions.
 - g) He started for home (some 20-25 miles away).

III. CONFIRMATION OF JESUS' PROMISE & ITS RESULTS (4:51-54)

A. Confirmation:

- 1) As the man journeyed home—his servants met him.
- 2) He was told his son lives.
- 3) When he ask when the son began to improve—he was told a certain time.
- 4) He realized—it was the same time Jesus told him his son lived.

B. Results:

- 1) His faith was made stronger.
- 2) But now—his household came to the point of believing in Jesus.

C. Points to notice:

- 1) The miracle showed Jesus' compassion on the man's condition.
- 2) It showed His power to make well even at a distance.
- 3) The miracle helped people to believe in Him as the Messiah.
- 4) Jesus helped the man's faith to grow.
- 5) Miracles can help to confirm and strengthen faith.

D. Side note:

- 1) If Chuza was the Nobleman.....
- 2) Then, Joanna, his wife showed her appreciation by helping to minister to Jesus' physical needs (Luke 8:1-3).

CONCLUSION

1. What about our faith?
 - a) Is it weak, growing, or strong?
 - b) Is it strong enough to believe in a promise we cannot see at the moment?
 - Like forgiveness of sins—no longer feel guilty within.
 - Like physical security—we no longer worry about things.
 - Like putting the kingdom first before all else.
2. Do we need to say, ***“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief?”***
3. Faith is dead and worthless—unless put into action.

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 10:1-2
- 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

