



Journey Through John

Date written: 85-90 Anno Domini *"In the year of our Lord"*

[A.D. 1, for instance, means the first year after Christ's birth. A.D. does not mean "After Death of Christ" for Jesus is still alive. ☺ B. C. simply means before the birth of Christ.]

I. Introduction

A. John, the author... *"the disciple whom Jesus loved"*. **Jn. 21:20, 24**

1. A Palestinian Jew (Galilean) who was an eye witness of the events of Christ's life.
2. Came from a well-to-do home. **Mark 15:40-41** The youngest of the 12 Disciples.
3. Full brother of James, sons of Zebedee and Salome. This is not James, the half brother of Jesus, the author of the Book of James. – He was a fisherman.
4. Though often painted as effeminate, he was actually known as "son of thunder".

Mark 3:17

B. Most theological of the 4 Gospels. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

1. Presents Christ as: The divine Son of God: Titles? = "the Word was God", **(1:1)**; "the Lamb of God." **(1:29)**; the Messiah **(1:41)**; "the Son of God" and "the King of Israel" **(1:49)**; "the Savior of the world" **(4:42)**; "Lord and ...God" **(20:28)**
2. Many references throughout the book that Jesus says of Himself: "I Am..." **(6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15: 1, 5)** as well as **(4:24, 26; 8:24, 28, 58; 13:19)**

C. John is also known as: **The Book of the Seven Signs** (chose 7 miracles to reveal the person and mission of Jesus)

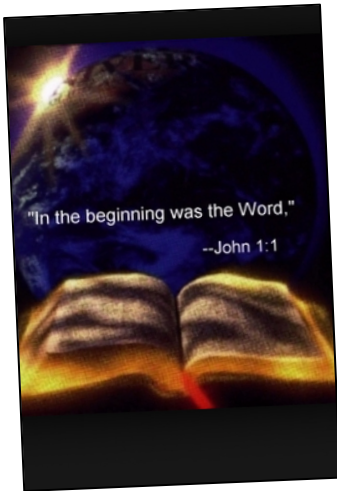
1. The turning of water into wine. **(2:1-11)**
2. The cure of the nobleman's son. **(4:46-54)**
3. The cure of the paralytic. **(5:1-18)**
4. The feeding of the multitude. **(6:6-13)**
5. The walking on the water. **(6:16-21)**
6. The giving of sight to the blind. **(9:1-7)**
7. The raising of Lazarus. **(11:1-45)¹**



¹NIV Ryrie Study Bible, page 1450

²www.blueletterbible.org, David Brown Commentary on John.

*"At the bosom place of Jesus"*²
"at His right side..."



Journey Through John

Chapter 1:1-11

I. The full pageantry and unified tapestry of the 4 Gospels culminates in John.

- A. **Matthew:** Lord as King
- B. **Mark:** Jesus as Servant.
- C. **Luke:** We see His perfection of humanity – Man as God intended Him to be. (Dr. Detail)
- *D. **John:** This One man is God! Deity! I am! He **is** the One, the Promised One, and Messiah (Heb.)
God with us! He is the Christ!

Note: All through the Old Testament there was a sense of expectation:

“Someone is coming! Someone is coming!” (Malachi 3:1)

- E. “He pitched His tent among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of God became man.”
-Ray Stedman¹

II. Read John 1:1-5

- A. Now **read** Genesis 1:1.
- B. What words or phrases in John 1:1-5 jump out at you as significant? Why?

III. Read John 1:6-11

- A. John, the Baptist. What phrase blesses you the most here? (John: “*God is gracious*”)
- B. **Read** Isaiah 40:3
- C. “Step down the truth.” – You don’t give a 2nd grader college level reading.
- D. John’s simple A-B-C’s down to our level for we have been in darkness and are darkness:
-**Admit** your need, darkness! You can’t find your own way out. You can’t solve your own problems. You couldn’t work yourself out of a paper bag if you tried!
-**Believe** in the One who has come and who gives Life and Light.
-**Correct** your behavior. Repent. In this, turn from self and sinful attitudes and lifestyles.²

¹ http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/stedman_ray/Jhn/Messages_from_the_book_of_John_1983_85.cfm#Who_Is_Jesus_John_1_1_4

² Continue to listen to Ray’s next message on John 1:5-13



Journey Through John

Chapter 1 v.11-18

*“The first three Gospels focus more on what Jesus taught and did;
John focuses more on who Jesus is.”¹*



I. Read John 1:11-13

- A. What does verse 11 say about mankind?
- B. Verse 12: Do you sense **Hope** in the word “*Yet*”? Who is the Author of this hope?
- C. Does man contribute anything to this hope?
- D. Verse 12, the word “*received*”...What does it really mean? (*lambanō*: to take in order to carry away, to make one’s own; to associate with one’s self as companion; of that which when taken is not let go...to seize, to lay hold of, to apprehend, not to refuse or reject)²
- E. “...*but born of God*” - You had nothing to do with it. You contributed nothing. Zippo! Zilch! Spiritually, you were a cold corpse, dead, on a stone slab. What’s in us? No good news!
- F. You were bound, blind, completely immersed in utter darkness. THERE WAS NO LIGHT IN YOU! Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and Colossians 2:13-15.

II. Read John 1:14

- A. Why was Jesus unique in all of history? This is the test for Heresy. Read 1John 4:1-4.
- B. “Only the God-man could be an adequate Savior, for He must be human in order to be able to suffer and die, and He must be God to make that death effective as a payment for sin.”³

III. Read John 1:15-18

- A. **Grace**: What God does within you, without you. The generosity of love. God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense. 4 God freely giving to you that which you can never earn or merit.
- B. **Truth**: Revealing what is actually there. The ultimate revelation of what is real, now, and present.

¹ http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide_Jhn/Jhn_1.cfm?a=998012

² Interlinear Greek - www.blueletterbible.org

³ NIV Ryrie Study Bible – notes for v. 1:14 page 1452.

⁴ [http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/stedman_ray/Jhn/Messages_from_the_book_of_John_1983_85.cfm#The_S
tranger of Galilee John 1 14 18](http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/stedman_ray/Jhn/Messages_from_the_book_of_John_1983_85.cfm#The_Stranger_of_Galilee_John_1_14_18)



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Chapter 1 v.19-34

“The voice and the Word.”



I. Read John 1:19-22

- A. Watch John reveal his courage to the questioning priests and Levites.
- B. Let's look at **John 3:30**: John's inner cry which is **gutsy**!
- C. What do you notice about the number of words in each of progressive answers?
- D. Finally, verse 23 is the butter cream frosting in the cream horn. He is really saying, “Jesus is the “Word”, but I am merely a “voice”. *“...declaring the glories of Christ”*.¹

II. Read John 1:23-28

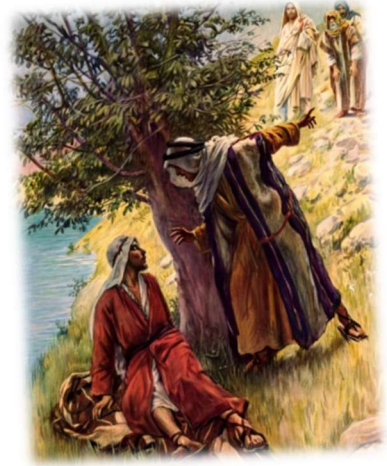
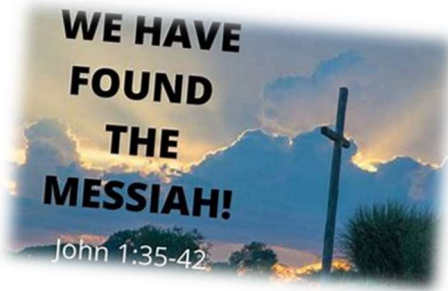
- A. Since Isaiah is in Heaven, John the Baptizer is simply reiterating what Isaiah stated some 700 years prior. Look at: **Isaiah 40:3**
- B. Look at verse 26. How diminished and unworthy was John deep inside his heart? Slaves were expected to untie their master's thongs on their sandals.²

III. Read John 1:29-34

- A. How momentous is John's declaration in v. 29?
- B. Read **Genesis 22:6-8; Isaiah 53:7; 1Peter 1:18-21; Rev. 5:6a;**
[**Rev. 13:8-9 + Rev. 12:17** = Litmus test for the true redeemed and washed.]
Read **John 3:16-21** = Jesus is God's Perfect Lamb that He gave for us. AMAZING!

¹http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/mcgee_j_vernon/Jhn/John.cfm#John_1_19_22

²http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/mcgee_j_vernon/Jhn/John.cfm#John_1_23-27



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Chapter 1 v.35-51

I. Read John 1:35-42

- A. What are some insights that you have gained from the above passage? **Discuss** Isaiah 40:3 & Malachi 3:1.
- B. Note: John, the Baptist, never intended or wanted a lasting followership. Why? Again, **Read John 3:30**.
- C. v. 41 = What was the first thing Andrew did? Why? Why do you think some Jewish people were expectantly looking for the **promised Messiah** while the vast multitude of Jewish people either could have cared less or were openly rejecting Jesus as the Christ? Is it any different today for people?
- D. Note: v. 42 = Cephas [pronounced kay-fas'] in the Greek means 'stone' or 'rock'. Simon / Peter / Cephas¹

II. Read John 1:43-46

- A. v. 43 = What do you believe Jesus meant when He commanded Philip to **"Follow Me"**? Have you made the eternally momentous decision to, likewise, follow Jesus no matter the cost... even if it costs you everything? If wondering, go to: **Your Anchor: Don't leave port without Him!**
- B. v. 45 = Why do you think Philip knew what Moses had written about in the Law? Do you agree the two following ingredients must be present?
 - 1) That he was taught and had studied the Law [Old Testament]?
 - 2) That Philip was humble, teachable, and hungry for salvation, forgiveness and **his** promised Messiah? That he was yearning for his Savior?**Read Isaiah 53:1-6** out loud. Discuss



- C. v. 44 = Note: Philip, Andrew, and Peter were all from Bethsaida. See map.

III. Read John 1:47-51

- A. How did Jesus know there was nothing false, arrogant, or deceitful in Nathanael?
- B. Of all the titles given to Jesus in Chapter 1: "Word", "God", "Creator", "Light", "only begotten God", "Lamb of God", "Son of God", "Messiah", "King of Israel", and **"Son of Man"**, why do you think it seems the Lord's favorite was this last title?

¹<http://www.blueletterbible.org> Interlinear Greek G2786 = **Kēphas** John 1:42



Journey through John

Chapter 2

“He Saves the Best for Last.”

“How Dare You!”



I. Read John 2 v1-11

- A. What do you think is the significance of “v.1: “On the third day...”?”
- B. What implications might there be with Jesus’s mother (Mary) turning to her Son and saying, “*They have no more wine.*” –v.3
- C. What is really going on in v. 4?
- D. In verse 5, do you think Mary was proud of her Son? ☺
- E. Ray Stedman did the math and states there were (5 disciples + Jesus) = **6** that came to this ‘Big deal’ wedding (lasts several days up to an entire week!). How many empty stone jars were there? What might be the significance of this?
- F. In what way is Jesus proving quietly that He is the God of and over Nature? – Wine making process?
- G. v. 9- Why the bridegroom? Note: the bridegroom was mum. ☺
- H. v. 11= These **Signs** were **Miracles with Purpose**. What 2 purposes are revealed?¹

II. Read John 2 v12-17

- A. Was Jesus’s anger rude or justified? Why?
- B. What in our culture today would Jesus get equally riled?

III. Read John 2 v18-25

- A. What about this passage intrigues you?
- B. What did Christ know was in man? V. 25 **Look up Isaiah 53:6.**

¹http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/stedman_ray/Jhn/Messages_from_the_book_of_John_1983_85.cfm#Water_to_Wine_John_2_1_11



Journey through John

Chapter 3 v1-15

A Race under Wrath

“You Must Be Born Again.”



I. Read John 3: 1-2

- A. Who was Nicodemus?
- B. Why do you think he came to Jesus at night?
- C. What is this “we know” stuff in verse 2?
- D. Discuss, “*He reminds us of the many people who compliment Jesus so long as He remains just a teacher.*”¹
- E. Why is he like so many people today? {Living moral lives but still blind, bound, and dead.}²

II. Read John 3: 3-8

- A. Nicodemus and no doubt most of the other religious leaders thought because of their moral high ground and excellent obedience, they were obviously pleasing and acceptable to Almighty God. No! They were a sinful, fallen race under the wrath of a Holy God! They were under condemnation! Leon Morris observes, “*In one sentence he (Jesus) sweeps away all that Nicodemus stood for, and demands that he be remade by the power of God.*”³
- B. What does, “unless he is born of **water** and the **Spirit**.” mean? Options?
 - 1. Water baptism is required for salvation. (Well, that is stupid!) **Ephesians 2:8-9**
 - 2. Stands for the act of repentance that John the Baptizer’s baptism signified.
 - 3. When the womb’s water breaks, the baby, thus, comes forth directly.
 - 4. Washed by the Word of God. **John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26**
 - 5. Synonym for the Holy Spirit; may be translated, ‘by water, even the Spirit’.
 - 6. Corresponds to a new birth in **Ezekiel 36:25-27**. (**Bold 2 & 6** most probable)

III. Read John 3:9-16

- A. What was this “snake in the dessert”? v. 14? **Numbers 21:4-9**
- B. What about v. 16 do you love and take hope in?

^{1,3}Jesus, the Evangelist, by Richard D. Phillips, Reformation Trust Publishing, 2007, p. 61.

²http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1698

⁴http://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1699



Journey through John

Chapter 3: 16-36

*Because God en-faithens you,
you choose faith.*

John 6:44; Philippians 1:6



I. Read John 3: 16-21

A. Definitions of Faith:

1. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." -Hebrews 11:1
2. Choosing to live as though the Bible is true regardless of circumstances, emotions, or cultural trends.
3. Obeying God's Word regardless of feelings, logic, or consequences.

B. The Bible's teaching on **faith** includes 3 elements: (Latin)

1. **Notitia** or "knowledge". Christian faith has content. It's not just a feeling or experience.
2. **Assensus** which means "assent". Intellectually we are assured and convicted that a certain proposition is true.
3. **Fiducia** signifies "trust" or "commitment". Not enough to affirm statements and facts are true. No way! "We also must embrace them personally, committing ourselves to what they mean. Leon Morris describes it well. "Christian faith means the abandonment of trust in one's own achievements and a coming to rely on what Christ has done to bring us salvation."¹ –**Reckless, scorn-worthy foolishness to the lost and arrogant.** –and that's an understatement!

II. Read John 3: 22-30

- A. James Montgomery Boice adds: "We turn from trusting in ourselves and instead trust God fully. We see the infinite worth and love of the Son of God, who gave himself for our salvation, and commit ourselves to Him."²
- B. John, the Baptist, has, no doubt, exchanged his will, his plans, and his desires for those of His Savior and Friend, Jesus.
- C. What don't John's disciples get? What is verse 27 saying?

III. Read John 3:31-36

- A. Why is verse 33 important?
- B. What is so powerful, decisive, and simple about verse 36?

¹Jesus, the Evangelist, by Richard D. Phillips, Reformation Trust Publishing, 2007, p. 97.

²Jesus, the Evangelist, by Richard D. Phillips, Reformation Trust Publishing, 2007, p. 97.



Journey through John

Chapter 4:1-15

“Those despised Samaritans!”

Mt. Gerizim

Note: The Samaritans were descendants of colonists whom the Assyrian kings planted in Palestine after the fall of the Northern Kingdom in 721 B.C. They were **despised** by the Jews because of their **mixed** Gentile blood and their different worship, which centered at .¹

“Those lousy, dirty idolatrous half-breeds!” “Those dogs!”

I. Read John 4: 1-15

A. Jesus is crossing 3 boundaries: {Most Jews would avoid Samaria all together!}

1. Jesus crossed the barrier of **ethnic** and **cultural** hatred.

Rabbi Eliezer: *“He that eats the bread of the Samaritans is like to one that eats the flesh of swine.”*

2. Jesus crossed the **gender** barrier. Jewish men would oft pray, *“Blessed art thou, O Lord... who has not made me a woman.”*

3. Jesus overcame a **social** and **religious** taboo. Jews did not share utensils with Samaritans. Doing so risked separation from the fellowship and worship of God's people under the temple rules.²

B. Now again read Chapter 4:4.

1. Why now do you think Jesus **had** to go through Samaria?

2. Ah.....now let us turn this page to the back side. Read and discuss.

¹Ryrie Study Bible, NIV Notes on bottom of page 1423, re: verse 10:33

²**Jesus, the Evangelist**, by Richard D. Phillips, Reformation Trust Publishing, 2007, p. 112-113.



Journey through John

Chapter 4:16-54



I. Read John 4: 16-26

- A. In verse 16, what do think Jesus is doing? Remember His prime directive from Heaven is what?
*“For the Son of Man came to **seek and to save the lost.**”* Luke 19:10 Is He not moving her to conviction?¹
- B. In verse 19, what do you think this Samaritan woman is doing? What is the difference between Mt. Gerizim and Jerusalem in terms of people worshipping God?
- C. In verse 21, how does Jesus elevate, yet deepen to the heart, the discussion of worship?

II. Read John 4: 27-42

- A. Interesting contrast! What do the disciples seem to be concerned about? How does Jesus **redirect them?** Toward what mission? Why is this mission important? Why are social and man-made ‘do’s and don’ts’ less important? Why is eating food, although important...less important than the mission of reaping the harvest of lost souls for Heaven’s sake?
- B. What confidence do we have that the woman at the well became a believer and follower of Jesus? v39
- C. What do verse 42 here and John 1:29 have in common and confirm? He is not just the Savior of Israel.

III. Read John 4: 43-54

- A. What takes place here at Cana in this passage?
- B. What was the first miracle in Cana?
- C. How far is Cana from Capernaum? (20 miles)
- D. What about v50 do you think blessed Jesus?

Note: If you wish to go on a simple pictorial history tour on the “**Jesus Trail**”, just click on the 2nd footnote and then click on the various cities along the trail. Fascinating!



¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12551&rel=focht_joe/Jhn

² <http://jesustrail.com/route-maps/nazareth-to-capernaum>

Journey through John

Chapter 5

"We are ruined for this world, because of Christ." –John Focht



I. Read John 5:1-15

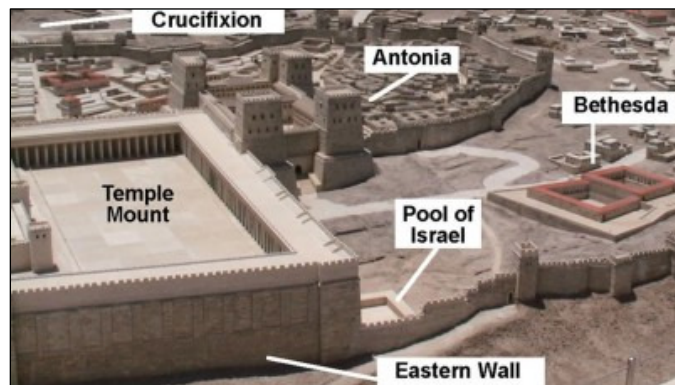
- A. The impotent meets Omnipotence!
- B. Verse 6: What does Jesus' question imply?
- C. What is going on in verse 14? What are the implications for us?

II. Read John 5:16-30

- A. Verse 16: Who was the Sabbath made for? Do you think Jesus healed on the Sabbath on purpose? Why?
- B. Who has God, the Father, made as Judge? Those who honor, cry out to from their sinful desperateness, and believe Him will what? They will escape Judgement.
- C. Why is verse 24 central to Christ's assertion of authority?

III. Read John 5:31-47

- A. The Jewish leaders saw Jesus' miracles, heard about them, and no doubt, discussed Him and His claims. What was their problem then? Why didn't they lunge toward the true Christ Messiah? They had followed other false Messiahs periodically until finally crushed by Rome in A. D. 135.
- B. Let's be reminded: Satan attacks many things, three of which are:
 - 1. The Word of God
 - 2. The Deity of Christ
 - 3. Christ Bearers (God's Children; the Saved, Sainted Ones, 'Christ's Ones'.¹



¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12552&rel=focht_joe/Jhn
https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12553&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Promises of Our Coming King



Micah 5:2-5

700 B.C.

"Who is like Yahweh?"

²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
{*House of bread; fruitful*}
though you are small among the
clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times." {*From Everlasting*}

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in
labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his
flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of
the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then
his greatness
will reach to the ends of the
earth.

⁵And he will be our peace.

Isaiah 9:6-7

740-680 B.C.

"God is salvation."

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on
his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his
government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.



Note: Further study: Dig into Isaiah 53



Journey through John

Chapter 6: 1-21

"I Am the Bread of Life."



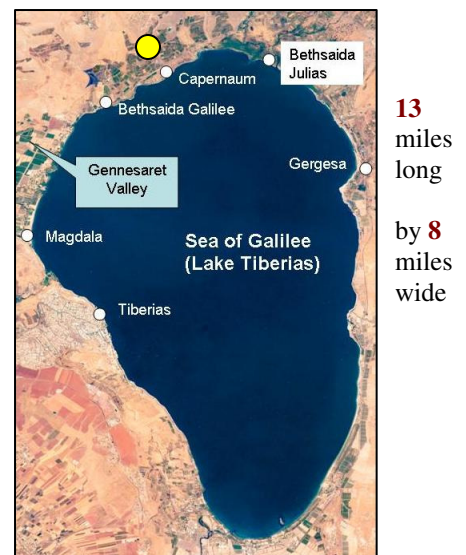
I. Read John 6:1-15 [The 1st Miracle in John 6]

- A. *"When things get into Christ's hands, they are the very focus of miracles."* - C. H. Spurgeon
- B. Why are all these 5000 men (and probably a bunch of women and kids) gathered?
- C. Jesus gives Philip a Mid-Term Exam. What was that exam? When was the last time God tested you in this **School of the Impossible**? When have you faced **no human solution or way out**?¹
- D. Ray Stedman's humor regarding St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland is priceless. v. 8.²

II. Read John 6:16-21 [The 2nd Miracle in John 6]

*"Capernaum was the center of Jesus' activities in Galilee and 'his town' during that time. Jesus taught in the local synagogue. It was also the home town of the apostles Peter, James, Andrew and John, and the tax collector Matthew."*³

- A. The wind, usually from the North, most likely was drifting them south of their destination. It was dark, windy, stormy and they did not have **Jesus**. What? No motor? Have you ever been afraid? When?
- B. Scholars differ on where the Feeding of the 5000 took place.
- C. Why was Jesus' home base Capernaum? **Read Matthew 4:13-16**
- D. V. 21: When was there a time in your life when you repented from fear and worry to a willingness to trust the **Lord of the Impossible**?



¹https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1713&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn

²https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1714&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn

³<http://www.biblewalks.com/Sites/capernaum.html>



Journey through John

Chapter 6: 22-40

"I Am the Bread of Life."



I. Read John 6: 22-29

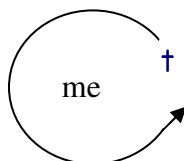
- A. *"The crowd...always the crowd!"* Do you ever get sucked in and swayed by **The Crowd**?
 - B. What two different planes are the crowd and Jesus on? V. 25-26
 - C. V. 28-29: Two approaches: Discuss the difference.
 1. What do we have to **do** to please God, and win and maintain approval? **Performance**.
 2. What has Christ already done for us? Gratitude --- receive by humble **Faith**.
- *Note: All other religions, more or less, gravitate to #1 above. The Flesh loves Satan's plan!

II. Read John 6: 30-31

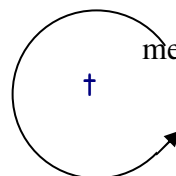
- A. Dah!!! How **blind** can unrepentance be?
- B. **Pride** says, *"I can please God by my own efforts, in my own strength, and as a result of my fairly good track record. That is enough."* This is a one way ticket to Hell! Much of the world is on this doomed bus.
- C. What does God-initiated repentance look like? **Read** Psalm 23:3a. **Read** Matthew 5:1-10 Note: The Beatitudes describes the heart of the repentant Jew, and thus the true, broken, humble, faith-minded, gratitude-embracing child of God.
- D. Remember: This work of repentance and salvation always is initiated by God. **Read** Matthew 11:27. Integrating **Predestination** and **Free Will**: Repentance which is a result of Salvation or the direct work of the Good Shepherd, in an imperfect sense, is **Elective Surgery**. ☺

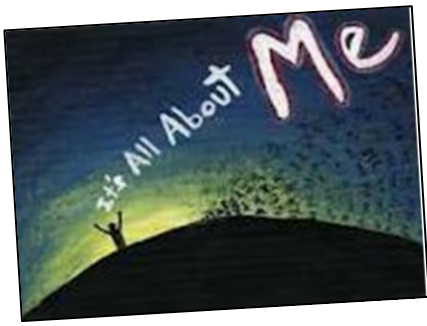
III. Read John 6: 32-40

- A. Only the Holy Spirit can break through the reinforced barrier of the hardened heart.
- B. What eternal hope do you possess? Why? **What is your motivation?**



Vs.





Journey through John

Chapter 6: 41-71

“Down from Heaven...Are you nuts?”



I. Read John 6:41-59

A. Three reasons why the listeners grumbled and were puzzled.

1. They **did not know** and, thus, could not fully embrace the full redemptive, Messianic Story. Also in this group there may have been some legalists with fleshly hearts who wanted to stone any and everyone who spoke what they thought was blasphemy. Also **Read Mark 6:4**
2. The Father (via the Holy Spirit) **has not drawn** them. These listeners possessed *inadequate enlightenment*. God must first cause an “inner opening of the eyes, the ears, and the soul” so the full meaning of what Jesus said may take root. **Read v. 44 He chooses us! Discuss. Read v. 39** Remember Saul’s conversion on that Damascus Road?
 - a. Our choices are the result of God's drawing. We can never take credit for choosing Jesus or living rightly. We must be compelled to come. Otherwise we’d default to Hell.
 - b. **Discuss:** We each have different testimonies. Why?
3. These listeners **have not yet individually received** Him. Once drawn, we must individually ‘believe in, choose, embrace, call on, receive’ Him as the only hope and way for our salvation from our wrath-doomed, sin stained, Hell-deserving condition and horrific destiny.

B. **Read v. 40; Joel 2:32; Isaiah 45:22; John 1:12-13; John 15:5; John 12:23-26¹**

II. Read John 6: 60-71

- A. **Discuss:** Thinning of the ranks in ministry. God is not interested in quantity, but, rather quality.
- B. They were bothered by difficult teaching. Many left. **Read v. 66.** What are some that you struggle with? Do you get offended at doctrinal difficulties? Are you repulsed? **Read v. 62-63**
- C. Neither cannibalism nor vampirism: But rather we are to feed on and focus on the deeper, spiritual truths, the person of Jesus, His Words, His Ways, and the fact that He is Truth. We are to surrender fully to Him as personal Lord, Savior, and Shepherd. He is our Guide, our Hope, our Protector, our Provider, and His Righteousness is our life. We belong to Him. There is hope in no other.
- D. Peter: “Lord, you are hard to follow but you are Messiah. You have the words of eternal life.” The truly saved cannot leave. The saved have staying power. They will finish to the end. **Can’t quit!**
- E. **3 kinds of people:** 1) Those who can’t stay. 2) Those that can’t leave. 3) One who has never come but won’t leave.²

¹https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1716&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn

²https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/stedman_ray/Jhn/Messages_from_the_book_of_John_1983_85.cfm#Life_with_God_John_6_41_59



Journey through John

Chapter 7

“Which side of the Grand Canyon are you on?”

“Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.” v. 43



I. Read John 7:1-20

A. Note: there is forming a great divide or split: Accusers and Followers.

1. **Read** verse 12. Billy Sunday, the great evangelist, said, *The sinner can't find his Savior just as a criminal can't find a policeman.*”

2. Sometimes trying to convince or enlighten a spiritually dead, but religious person is like talking to a bag of wheat. –Frustrating, but why?

B. **Read** verse 17. Genuine ‘God-bestowed’ faith causes the person to choose to do God's will. He will choose to believe. She will choose to follow and eventually, over time perhaps, follow hard after the Savior. He will choose to hate sin and repent. She will choose to obey God's Word at all cost.

II. Read John 7:21-29

A. Jesus is saying to these Jewish leaders something like “So it is OK to cut away flesh on the Sabbath but it is not OK to add flesh?” - Circumcision is ok but healing a man is not??? Crazy!

B. Note: 25-29, the doubters are dancing around in indecision. They should have known the Messiah would come from the House of David through Bethlehem. I wonder how many church goers don't know this.

III. Read John 7: 30-39

A. V. 30- How come the accusers did not seize Jesus?

B. Read again vs. 37-38. Why are these powerful words so amazing? Why is this Jesus's beloved declaration that the Messiah promised in the Old testament is **FINALLY HERE!**

VI. Read John 7: 40-53

A. What were the scoffers confused over?

B. How does ‘Follower Nicodemus’ calm the agitated, angry Jewish leaders? ¹

¹https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12556&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 8:1-11

“Caught in the Act”



I. Read John 8: 1-7

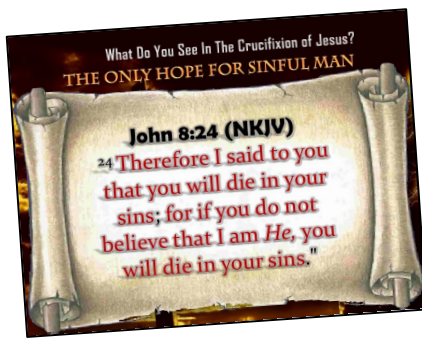
- A. Note: The Feast of Tabernacles is now over. The men went home. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Now John is working up to introduce Jesus, the Messiah, as **The Light of the World**. v. 12. Verse 2: *“At dawn...”*
- B. The Jewish leaders are making trouble for Jesus with this interruption during His teaching!
1. He may now lose his listeners.
 2. Stoning her was against Roman law.
 3. If he called for mercy, he'd be challenging Moses and the Law of the Scriptures.
 4. Yet, being a Capital Crime, what could he do to get out of their set trap so as to accuse Him?
- C. In this culture, it was OK for a man to have intimacy with a concubine or a harlot. He's off the hook. Jesus says intimacy is reserved only for marriage.
- D. **God takes marriage seriously.**
1. If both sex partners are married to other people, the Jews would stand both in a wooden box in the town square filled up 3 feet with cow manure. They would be strangled, and then heads pulled down deep into the manure and left. Eventually, a tree would be planted. – 1 every 7 years or so.
 2. If single, not married sex partners: Strangle and stone them.
 3. If sex with a Levite's wife, she and you would be manure boxed and then set afire in the Valley of Gei-Hinnom (Gehenna) – like Hell.
- E. Have you ever been **caught in the act** of something sinful? We're all guilty. **Read Romans 3:23.**
Note: The KFC Couple and the gas thief stories. ☺
- F. V. 6 Using finger to write on the ground. Where else do we see hand written things in the Bible?
Read Exodus 31:18; Daniel 5: 5; 25-31; Jeremiah 17:13; Rev. 20:15



II. Read John 8:8-11

- A. Here is the perfect balance of **Mercy** and **Truth**. **Read Proverbs 3:3.** Apostate churches will fail this.
“³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:” KJV
- B. V. 10 “*Woman*” is a term of endearment. Jesus used the same word in referring to his mother.
11. “*Sir*” means lord or master due much respect-to the Messiah: **Kyrios pronounced ‘Ku’re-os’ -Greek**
- C. In just 6 short months, Jesus will carry her adultery to the Cross for her.¹

¹https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/focht_joe/Jhn/John_Expositional.cfm#John_8_1_8_11



Journey through John

Chapter 8:12-59

“You will die in your sins.”



I. **Read** John 8: 12-24 The Discourse Continues from v. 1-11

A. How many witnesses does Jesus have to testify about Himself? 2 = His Heavenly Father + Himself.

B. **Read** v. 19, 21, 22, 23. I believe Jesus is not horse whipping the Jewish leaders with condemnation and sentencing. Rather, as Joe Focht says, “He is attempting to shed rescuing, loving, saving, eye-opening, and heart-softening light” into their dead, proud, self-sufficient, dark souls. Remember: John 3:17 says,

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

C. **Read** v. 24 again. What could be plainer than this statement of fact? Who is the great **I AM**?

Read John 18:4-5. Now **read** Genesis 15:7 and then **read** Exodus 3:6. Finally **read** Exodus 3:14.

II. **Read** John 8:25-40 The Discourse Heats Up.

A. What claim to deity does Jesus again share with the crowd in verse 28?

B. V. 31: “if you continue in my Word, you reveal to me and the world that you are my loyal followers and students. You will then know me and then since I am guiding and protecting you, you will no longer be intimidated by men (the world).

C. V. 37: How are genetic descendants different from spiritual children?

III. **Read** John 8:41-59 The Discourse Gets Down and Dirty!

A. V. 41: Note: The Talmud (the central teaching / study text of Rabbinic Judaism) says that Jesus was the illegitimate child of Mary.

B. Jesus calls a spade a spade: He hopes to awaken their dead, stubborn, flesh-driven, performance-based hearts. V. 44 says it all. What would you feel and want to do if someone said not only that your father was a lying murderer but that you will die in your sins and go to hell for ever if you don’t repent and believe in Him?

C. V. 47 really gets them mad! Why?

D. V. 48: They fire back with “You’re a half-breed dog b-stard who is filled with demons!” Samaritan: Half Jew + half pagan gentile. Jews treated them as scum of the earth (like dogs).

E. **Read** v. 56-59 again. Note: V. 58 Jesus hits the grand slam! Then, a miracle! He slips away from stoning.¹

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12559&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 9:1-41

“Thrown Out by Man, Found by God!”



I. Read John 9:1-12

- A. V. 1. The real answer as to who sinned? **Adam!** The Pharisees believed you could sin in the womb! They also embraced ancestral sin. Can you imagine the guilt, shame, and terrible self image he carried?
- B. V. 3. In addition to being born into a sin-tainted world, what was Jesus's answer as to why this man was born blind?
- C. The most common miracle in the Gospels was healing blindness.
- D. This man's life is a living sermon. Why?
- E. V. 5. I am the spiritual light for all mankind. I am only here for a limited time. If you believe in Me, you will be saved. If not, you will be damned forever in darkness. You will die in your sins.

II. Read John 9:13-29

- A. Notice in this story, Jesus never promises the blind man sight. **Obedience leads to Sight. ; Faith leads to Salvation and Lordship.**
- B. Now the Pharisees were having an apoplectic hissy fit! From 10 Commandments, the Jews created 613 rules for living including 39 subdivisions about just the Sabbath! On the Sabbath, you could spit on a rock but **never on the dirt!!!!** Why? Because that might cause a furrow and that would be like farming and that would constitute work!
- C. Jesus was confronting the Jewish leader's pride and self-righteousness. **Jesus knew exactly what He was doing!**
- D. Vs. 22-23. Why did the blind man's parents weasel out of answering by deferring to their son? What happened to you if you were put out of the synagogue? (**Excommunication**)
- E. **Irony!** The man can now see but nobody wants to “recognize” him.

III. Read John 9:30-41

- A. The Pharisees could not recognize or celebrate the works and very presence of God because to do so trampled on their traditions.
- B. The Lord will confront man's prideful, self-righteous rules and traditions but **He will never contradict His Word.**
- C. AMAZING GRACE: *“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see.”*¹ (by John Newton)

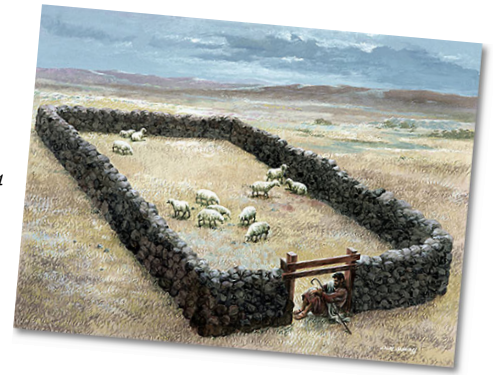
¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/focht_joe/Jhn/John_Expositional.cfm#John_9_1_9_41



Journey through John

Chapter 10:1-21

“...and His sheep follow Him.” –v.4



I. Read John 10:1-6

- A. What is the difference between *entering* and *climbing*? v. 1-2
- B. Why do His sheep follow Him? v. 4
- C. V. 6. They still did not understand what He was telling them. **Why?**

II. Read John 10:7-13

- A. Jesus clarifies for these blind, heard-hearted Jewish leaders. v. 7.
- B. Jesus, the gate or **Door**, bids you to enter. It **divides** those who enter from those who refuse.
- C. People choose Hell and the Lake of Fire when they choose to reject Jesus for the rest of their lives.

III. Read John 10:14-21

- A. What kind of Shepherd is Jesus? v. 14
- B. He voluntarily lays His life down for His sheep. (Us) **Read Psalm 23**
- C. V. 16. Jesus is the Great Uniter between Messianic (saved) Jews and Saved Gentiles. **TJCH**
- D. V. 19. **Truth** is a great divider. The Jews are still divided and so are many gentiles.¹ (North Carolina)

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12561&rel=focht_joe/Jhn





Journey through John

Chapter 10:22-42

Mad Man or God-Man?



I. Read John 10:22-30

- A. v. 22- The Feast of Dedication (Feast of Lights / Hanukkah) instituted in 165 B. C. by Judas Maccabeus, the great Jewish, heroic conqueror commemorating the cleansing and reopening of the Temple after its desecration by the pagan Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 B. C. (Ryrie Study Bible notes, p. 1471)
- B. v. 24 – Notice the Jews gathered around Jesus. (They circled Him. **Why?**)
- C. Why don't these Jewish men believe that this Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God?
1. It's not due to a lack of information. To them, He did not fit into the man-made mold of what they were expecting. They wanted a **"Conquering Hero"** like Judas Maccabeus. They hated Roman oppression! They weren't looking for a **"Suffering, Substitutionary, Sacrificial Servant"** **Read Isaiah 53:1-5**
 2. They rejected His signs and claims. Have you ever defended the Scriptures and been rejected? **Hurts!**
 3. v. 26: They were not His sheep. They were, in effect, eternally dead, condemned, wrath receivers.
- D. What is so reassuring about vs. 27-29?
- E. v. 27. How do you know if someone is a true born again child of God verses a mere fake professor?
1. *"My sheep listen to My voice."* They long to hear the Word of God.
 2. *"I know them."* True sheep feel welcomed and warmed by their saving, keeping Shepherd. They are His children / His sheep of His pasture. They sense their Father's love and presence.
 3. *"...they follow me."* They obey. They don't follow the world even if it hurts and much loss occurs.

II. Read John 10:31-42

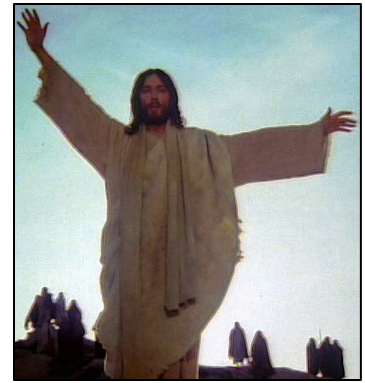
- A. The rulers / judges referred to in Psalm 82 were, in a sense, called "gods". They were imperfect, mortal men. They were not charged with blasphemy! Jesus is saying, "Look! I existed in eternity past and was given by Father God to come to earth to seek and to save the lost. I am God's Son. I am therefore God. And yet you want to stone me?"
- B. Why should we never give up even though we get weary and we face much barren dessert and battle?
Read v. 42.

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1726&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn

Journey through John

Chapter 11

“From Religion to Relationship”



I. Read John 11:1-16

- A. Why do you think Jesus took 4 days to go to Bethany and Lazareth's tomb?
- B. What are some evidences here of man's wisdom clashing with God's wisdom?
- C. In what way is doubting Thomas a **Debby Downer** or **Eor**? –v. 16



II. Read John 11:17-27

- A. What is additional evidence of man's wisdom vs. God's wisdom?
- B. V. 25. The Lord's 7th **I am** statement. Do we sometimes forget who we are having devotionals with?

III. Read John 11:28-44

- A. V. 28. What might have been a better Title to use than **“The Teacher”**?
- B. V. 32. I guess Mary had been bitten by the same “man's wisdom” bug. Right?
- C. V. 33. The words, “deeply moved” mean **Groan. (to be troubled, disquieted, even angered)** Yes, there was compassion, but also hurting with His friends over the disgust with sin and death?
- D. This whole story refutes the **Prosperity Gospel** and the **Health Gospel**. – **How?**

IV. Read John 11:45-57

- A. What evidence is there that the Tares will almost always crop up with the Wheat?
- B. Have you ever experienced both blessing and betrayal when you have obeyed the Lord or stood for His principles found in Scripture?
- C. Vs. 49-50. In what way were High Priest Caiaphas's words prophetic?¹

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12563&rel=focht_joe/Jhn





Journey through John

Chapter 11:55 – 12:19

*“Worship: The preoccupation of the soul,
not with our needs
or God's blessings...but with God Himself.”*



I. Read John 11:55 – 12:1-11

- A. Wow! A nice, private, friendly dinner at Simon, the Leper's Home... Busy Martha serving, Contemplative Mary anointing, Lazareth reclining in fellowship, Judas greedily grumbling. Who amongst these were worshipping? What is odd about this scene? **Read v. 11:57.**
–What faith, loyalty, and guts! True worship pays no attention to threat or circumstance.
- B. Passover is approaching. Roughly 3,000,000 Jews camped, tented, and housed around Jerusalem: **The Great Swelling!** Why did they come to Jerusalem? **Read v. 11:55.**
- C. Again, 3 kinds of people are interested in this notorious, famous Jesus!
 1. **The Curious People.** **Read v. 11:56.**
 - Have you ever known a groupie, a Grateful Dead Head... An Elvis, Beatles, or Donald trump seeker. Have you ever gotten an autograph or seen someone famous? Did you gawk? ☺ *bet ya did!*
 2. **The Counterfeit People.**
 - Two types here: 1 individual & an evil group. Who?
 3. **The Committed People.** Genuine selfless worshippers. **“Gratitudeners!”**
 - Who? Are you so lovingly committed to Jesus that you are willing to be arrested or threatened by government or the police?

Remind yourself how important He is to you.

II. Read John 12:12-19

- A. What was the **Triumphal Entry**?
- B. Why was it important to Jesus and why should it have been important to His sheep?
- C. What did his followers miss that they discovered after He died, rose, and ascended? V. 15.
- D. Finally, what two groups of people were swarming over this. Why?

Gladly pursue opportunities to express gratitude to Jesus!

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1730&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 12:20-32

“What are you looking for?”



I. Read John 12:20-26

- A. What were the Greeks looking for?
- B. What are you looking for? For the empty, fed up, lost, desperate, seeking sinner without hope... the question should be: Who are you looking for **and why**?
- C. Why do you think most of Jesus's followers and trusted friends did not understand this *“kernel of wheat and ‘must die’”* talk? Were they looking for a Leader, Champion, King who was just days away from dying?

“Who is your Master?”



II. Read John 12:27-32

- A. V. 27 - In what way is Jesus being real, honest, and authentic here with His Father?
- B. V. 28 - **The Voice from Heaven**: 3rd time in the New Testament. What were the first 2 times?
- C. Note: Jesus did not come to impress. Nor did He come to deliver the Jews from their Oppressors (**The Romans**... and centuries earlier... **The Egyptians**)
- D. His main purpose was **not** to heal, to relieve suffering, to prosper the needy, or to give power over demons. His main purpose...**was to die**.
- E. V. 32 – What does Jesus mean when he says, *“I will draw all men to Myself.”*
 - Without distinction: _____
 - Not without exception: _____
- F. Note: This is a great time to not be ashamed of the Gospel. You will be reviled and persecuted.¹

¹https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12565&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 12:27-50

“Faithful Belief vs. Fatal Unbelief”

Light vs. Darkness



I. **Read John 12:27-29**

A. V. 27-29- Many refer to this as **“The Little Gethsemane”**. Why?

B. **Read Matthew 26:36-39**

II. **Read John 12:30-33**

A. Do you hear it? The Crescendo building of the Tympani? **Read v. 23**

B. This is perhaps 2 days before His Thursday night arrest in the Garden. He is almost finished with His public ministry. Soon there will be no more speaking to the crowd.

III. **Read John 12:34-41** **Unbelief! Drinking this cup is like a slow, constant sip of Hemlock into your soul.**

A. V. 34- Selective faith leads to death and darkness. **Trail Mix!!!** “I will like and pick out the raisins and the almonds but not select, like, or embrace the rest.”

B. V. 35-How sad! These members of the last crowd missed the last hour of opportunity to receive Him as their Light, their Shepherd, their Redeemer, their King. (Isaiah 9:6-7) and (Isaiah 53:1-5).

C. They failed by choice to act on Truth (Jesus, the Promised Messiah) right in front of them. They violated the eternal truth (v. 40):

“What you persist in, you will become.” **Read Galatians 6:7**

D. If you **act** on Truth you now know, you will **become** a truthful person. – a lover of Truth!

IV. **Read John 12:42-50**

A. What was the false god (evil idol) they were worshipping and decrying allegiance to? V. 43.

B. V. 47. What is Jesus’ heart and mission toward all of earth and to this last crowd?¹ (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8)

¹https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/stedman_ray/Jhn/Messages_from_the_book_of_John_1983_85.cfm#Faithful_Belief_and_Fatal_Unbelief_John_12_27_50



Journey through John

Chapter 13:1-20

We are to model who?



I. **Read** John 13:1-5 (12) **Note: The Symbolism**

- A. “he got up” _____
- B. “took off his outer clothing” _____
- C. “wrapped a towel around his waist.” _____
- D. “poured water into a basin” _____
- E. “began to wash the disciple’s feet” _____
- F. Verse 12- he “returned to his place.” _____

II. **Read** John 13:6-11

- A. Peter’s problem is often our problem. What was Peter’s problem?
- B. If our sins are all forgiven forever, why do we need 1John 1:9?

III. **Read** John 13:12-20

- A. So what is Jesus really saying here about forgiveness? **Read** Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:32
- B. V. 17- What is John saying here?¹

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1686&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 13: 21-38

“As I have loved you”



I. Read John 13: 21-30

- A. Jesus was directing His own path and flow of unfolding events.
- B. Judas, the Trusted, gradually became Judas, the Treacherous. He was given the place of honor and toast.
- C. In what way is Judas' **betrayal different** from Peter's **denial**?
- D. Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus? Note: In **Dante's Inferno** (14th century), the 9th and lowest Circle of Hell was for **treachery**.
- E. Jesus, being 100% human and 100% God could relate to you. Describe a time when someone acted treacherously toward or betrayed you. Was your heart troubled? In what way?

II. Read John 13: 31-33

- A. What is going on in verses 31-32? Jesus is talking eternally again as if the torment on the Cross is already done. Here is the recognition of who Jesus really is. God saving His sons and daughters!
- B. V. 33. What is Jesus saying here?

III. Read John 13: 34-38

- A. V. 34. Here is a central message of the New Testament. Why? **Read 1John 4:11**
- B. Let's discuss the lantern (upper right photo).
- C. Sadly, there is a **Great Disconnect**. Another way to say it is, “There is black opaque paint on the inside of the lantern glass with many Christians. What is it? How can the love light of Christ shine through?”
- D. Jesus closes here with the prediction of Peter's denial. **Read John 13:10.** ¹

¹https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1687&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn

Journey through John

Chapter 14:1-7

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”



I. Read John 14:1

- A. If you were one of Jesus' disciples that night in the upper room, what might give your heart cause to be troubled?
1. They thought the Messiah would establish His Immediate Kingdom on earth. Nope!
 2. They have their own doubts and sin battles. Maybe even family tensions plus the Romans!
 3. There is a crescendo of troubling events leading to a fevered pitch especially this last week!
Imagine: Your promising President you thought would be elected to office to help turn things around is now going to jail and the electric chair!
- B. The disciples were clearly unnerved, a bit confused, and frightened. This world is awash in **TROUBLE!** Sound familiar?

II. Read John 14:2-5

- A. What is Jesus doing here?
- B. What does comfort look like to you?
- C. He says, “You know the way to the place”? What way and what place?
- D. **Read 1Thessalonians 4:13-18** Why are these encouraging words to us brothers and sisters?

III. Read John 14: 6-7

- A. Look at verse 6. Now read verse 4. What do they have in common?
- B. But isn't verse 6 haughty, and exclusive to the fine people in other religions and faiths? What about Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chrislam? What about Social Justice and the worldly hope of Tolerance, Cultural Relativism, and “Judge not, lest ye be judged”?
- C. Jesus wants them and us to **Believe = Faith = Trust alloyed with Hope.**¹

Faith Definition: Choosing to live as though the Bible is true regardless of circumstances, emotions, or cultural trends.

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12568&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 14:8-26

“My Head is Spinning!”



I. Read John 14:8-14

- A. Why do you think Jesus refers to God as Father (Patár) and not just God?
- B. V. 12-14: “What did Jesus mean by saying, the one “who has faith in Me...will do even greater things...”?”
- C. The Comforter (Helper, Counselor, Teacher, Guide, ‘pä-rä’-klā-tos) in each child of Father God will enable a vastly, greater scope in ministry. Now there are millions of **Temples** of the Holy Spirit shining.

II. Read John 14:15-21

- A. V. 15: Just as a believer’s good works [James 2:17] reveal a genuine faith, so a believer’s obedience reveals the degree to which he/she loves Jesus and has matured in his/her walk.
 - **Oswald Chambers:** *“Christian performance is not perfection of performance but perfection of relationship.”* - Grace and mercy abound! **Read 1Thessalonians 5:24**
 - We do not obey His commands perfectly but, by His Spirit empowering us, that is what we embrace and aim for.
- B. V. 16: How many Counselors are there?
- C. V. 17 & 20: Refers to the great transition from the **Old** to the **New Covenant**.
 - The Old Covenant (Old Testament): God: *“I am near you.”*
 - The New Covenant (unfolding in the New Testament) God: *“I am in you.”*
“You are now a guest in my house.” –Wow!
- D. V. 18: He will not leave us as orphans. He is a great Abba Daddy, Father. If led, please share about your relationship with your earthly dad.

III. Read John 14:22-26

- A. Let’s chat about our world disintegrating right before our eyes. *“When we look at the world disintegrating, we will hang on to God’s Word just as if we were clinging to Christ’s garment.”*¹
- B. Jesus: *“I am going to prepare a mansion for you in Heaven, I want you to prepare a mansion for me and Abba with the help of the Comforter (Helper: One who comes along side of you and lives already in you.”*

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Journey through John

Chapter 14:27 - 15:6



I. Read John 14:27-31

A. The men could smell trouble in the air. Ominous events were afoot! They needed comfort for sure.

- Peace with God: To the Believer, it is **Judicial**. Read **Romans 8:1-2**
- Peace of God: This refers to the **Experiential**. Read **Philippians 4:4-9**

B. V. 28: What I am telling you is more valuable, precious, and outstanding than you can presently imagine. If you really understood the sheer magnificence of our Heavenly Father and His Sovereign authority, you could not stop rejoicing!!!

C. V. 30: Fear not! Satan has **“no hold on Me.”** Brothers, I do this voluntarily. I am utterly in control.



II. Read John 15:1-6

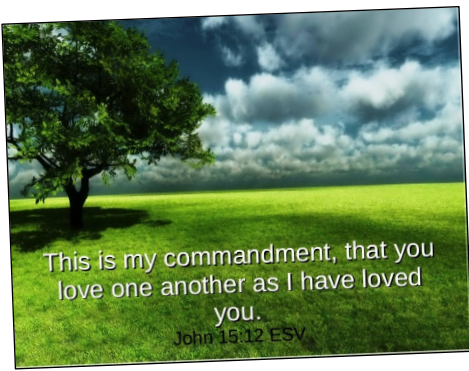
A. Vs 1-2: Cuts off? Prunes? What do these words conjure up?

- **Cuts off:** Means “takes away”- could mean physical death of fruitless Christians. Or it man mean “lift up” (picked up) which would indicate the vinedresser encourages and makes it easier for the fruitless believer, hoping he will respond and begin to bear fruit. I like the latter. ☺
- **Prunes:** “*kathairo*” Means “he cleans from filthy impurity”. (Life long process)

B. A major passage: What does **remain** mean? –abide, dwell, stay, “just settle down on this here front porch with me, have some cool lemonade and let’s sit a spell together & feel at home.” Also the geranium plant roots cling to the soil in the pot. They remain, abide...draw their very life from. Utterly dependent upon.

C. V. 6: Burned? Refers to a believer’s works. If she does not abide (Flesh- Galatians 5) then all apparent works will burn at the Judgment Seat of Christ though she, herself, will be saved. Read **1Corinthians 3:11-15**.¹

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12570&rel=focht_joe/Jhn + Ryrie NIV Study Bible Notes p. 1479



Journey through John

Chapter 15:7-27

*Ready for Rejection?
Testify of Me Anyway.*



I. Read John 15:7-17

- A. This Upper Room Discourse by Jesus is not just His final coaching before the Cross; rather, it is an outcry from His heart.
- B. V. 7: When you pray abidingly so, yielded to the Father's Will, He will not be answering prayers to get what **you** want or to get **your** things done. He will be getting what **He** wants done. **Read: Psalm 37:4**
- C. Prayer changes from a list oriented monolog to a give and take dialog...almost a badminton game back and forth.
- D. V. 8: Fruit? Remember: Fruit is not for the branch. It is for somebody else.
- E. Why is the topic of **Love** constantly emphasized and taught by Jesus to His inner circle?
- F. V. 16: Spurgeon: *"I know God chose me before I was born because He never would have chosen me after I was born."* ☺ Note: *"We did not enlist. We were drafted."* – Joe Focht Jesus found and called you!

II. Read John 15:18-27

- A. You are less than a 2nd class citizens on earth. Why...you're not even a citizen here! You are an Ambassador passing through, being pruned, and conformed into Christ's Image for Citizenry of Heaven.
- B. The world hates you. Why? The battle is not Republican verse Democrat or Conservative verse Liberal. The Battle is over righteousness verses unrighteousness. We speak of morality, accountability, Jesus as the **ONLY WAY** to receive salvation, forgiveness, and entrance into Heaven. The world hates all this! ¹



¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/focht_joe/Jhn/John_Expositional.cfm#John_15_7_15_27

Journey through John

Chapter 16:1-15

“The Comforter is coming for your good...”



I. Read John 16:1-6

- A. Mind Boggling! Horror is just hours away for Jesus and He is concerned for the disciple's welfare!
- B. Jesus will soon be alienated from His Father and, yet, He is comforting them!
- C. What does "...so that you will not **go astray**." Mean? Gk: Skandalizo (a verb)
 - 1. be enticed to sin;
 - 2. To cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey.
 - 3. make to offend.

II. Read John 16:7-15

- A. Jesus is going so the Holy Spirit can come. God with us: Roughly 3 stages before His 2nd Coming:
 - 1. Old Testament: God **near** us; special anointing.
 - 2. Early New Testament: God **with** us: Immanuel. He walks, laughs, and eats among us.
 - 3. V. 7: God **in** us by the Holy Spirit. Much better! Jesus' **presence** was limiting. The Holy Spirit's **omnipresence** is not. Jesus was telling them their effectiveness will vastly increase.
- B. Heptadic Structure: God uses the **number 7** hundreds of times in scripture. 7 and 3 are "of God". The Holy Spirit is involved in 7 major missions according to Missler.¹

- 1. The Holy Spirit quickens us. **Read John 3:6**
- 2. He dwells in us. **Read 1Corinthians 3:16**
- 3. He loves us. **Read Romans 15:13**
- 4. He leads us. **Read Romans 8:14**
- 5. He gives us assurance of son-ship. **Read Romans 8:15-16**
- 6. He helps us in our infirmities with intercession. **Read Romans 8:26**
- 7. He has sealed us for the Day of Redemption. **Read Ephesians 4:30**



- C. V. 13. Also..."He will guide you into "The Truth" **completely**. = Affirmation of Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authority **Read 2Timothy 3:16-17.**
- D. V. 13. He will never draw attention to Himself. He draws all to Jesus, not Mary, not us, not talent, not numbers.

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=3518&rel=missler_chuck/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 16:16-33

“The Great Ways of God.”



1

I. Read John 16:16-24

- A. Have you ever been confused? Have you ever felt like you’ve lost your way? I have. Can you relate to the troubled confusion of the disciples in the Upper Room?
- B. **V. 20.** What is Jesus talking about here? How is this totally relevant to what we are experiencing in our world, our culture, and our individual lives?
- C. Have you ever met a mother who enjoyed actual child birth?
- D. **Discuss:** What initially causes sorrow and pain will be the cause of great joy.
- E. The joy of the Holy Spirit is always springing up. This is His plan and desire for us.



II. Read John 16:25-33

- A. **V. 26. “In my name”** Three aspects:
 1. Ask in line with the Lord’s objectives...as though you were Him. You have His Power of Attorney. You are His trusted Ambassador. In a sense, you speak for Him- His Spokesperson.
 2. This is an acceptance of the way God works. **Read Isaiah 55:8-9 [i.e.: Cross & Resurrection]**
 3. You agree that you utterly depend on His performance. **Read 1Thessalonians 5:24**
- B. This is a **Key Passage!**
 1. Jesus is saying to them: ‘You are no longer to look upon yourself as separated from the Father. You don’t need a Catholic Priest. You don’t need to go through Mother Mary. And you don’t need me as some type of “stench cleaner” to make you somewhat acceptable to God, your Father. You’ve had enough of that here on earth!!! No! Now you are full fledged adopted sons, fully holy, fully loved, fully prized, fully accepted. You can run into His lap and be ever so near to Him just like I can. This is good news, my brothers!’ **There is no barrier! Run to Him!**
 2. God, your Father, loves you not because you **behave!** He loves you because you **believe!**

A MIND at Perfect Peace with God

by Catesby Paget (19th Century)
sung to Evan
by W. H. Havergal (1793-1870)
(C.M.)

*So nigh, so very nigh to God,
I cannot nearer be;
For in the person of His Son,
I am as near as He.*

So dear, so very dear to God,

More dear I cannot be;

The love wherewith He loves
the Son,
Such is His love to me. ²

¹ Note: The **horse + colt** and **Dad + Daughter** Photos are just a dim idea of how we can run safely into our Heavenly Dad’s Arms!

² https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1694&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 17:1-5

“The Time Has Come.”



I. Read John 17:1-5

A. What does Jesus mean here when He declares in V. 1, “The time has come.”?

1. All the promises of God, all the purposes of God, and all the plans of God **meet**.

2. Eternity has a **midpoint**.



Read John 19:30; Matthew 28:6

3. The Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Everything in History and the Universe points to these.

4. The Prophets and Saints of the Old Testament looked **forward** to this time. The Saints after the Crucifixion and the Resurrection look **back** to this time.

5. V. 2. What do you think the word “**glorify**” means here?

- a) Greek = “doxazo” ‘To cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged.’
- b) ‘To praise, extol, magnify, celebrate. To make renowned or render illustrious. Clothe with splendour.’
- c) The word “**give**” strongly implies permanence. Read the verse again with that word in front of ‘give’.¹

B. In Chapter 17, I found at least 9 key Prayers and Objectives of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

1. The first: V. 3. Jesus defines **Eternal Life**. **Read John 3:15-18; John 3:36; 5:24; 6:40; 6:47; 10:28-29; Romans 6:23; 1Timothy 1:16; 1John 2:24-25; 1John 5:11, 13, 19-20.**

2. Do you know you have Eternal Life? How do you know? **Answer:** The Word of God says you do because you believe. = Saved by grace, Washed in the Blood, Rescued from eternal damnation and darkness, Redeemed forever, Jesus paid your ransom. Romans 5:8 “*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12574&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 17:6-19

“My Prayer for my Brothers”



I. Read John 17:6-12

A. V. 6: What does the word **“revealed”** mean? - ‘manifested, or made that which is invisible... visible or known... realized, to be plainly recognized....thoroughly understood.

B. Jesus is summarizing:

1. I have **revealed** you, Father in Heaven, to them.
2. You **gave** them to Me.
3. They have **obeyed** / **kept** your word.
4. They now **know** all I have and am comes from You, Father.
5. They know with **certainty** that You sent Me.
6. I, Jesus, am **coming** to You.

C. V. 11: Father, please **protect** my brothers. V. 12: Judas is in hell. Jesus never knew him. **Read John 1:12.**

II. Read John 17:13-19

A. V. 13: Jesus wants us brothers to have the full measure of what? _____ Why? _____

B. V. 14: Why does the world hate you and me? Why did it hate Jesus? How do we get the world to like us?

C. Here is the **2nd big nugget** of 9 nuggets in this amazing chapter which is occurring right before Gethsemane.

1. Jesus’ Prayer: Don’t remove my brothers from the world (convents, monasteries?), but that you, Father, **protect** them from the evil one: the devil and His evil clutches and schemes.
2. Describe this Traitor in us that often yearns for the things of this world. What things tempt us?

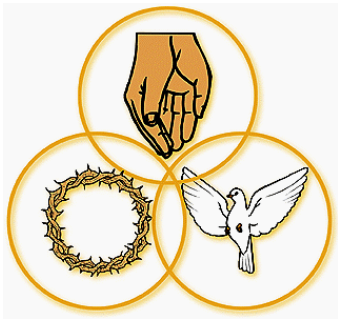
D. **3rd big nugget:** V. 17: Sanctify them by the truth. What is the truth?

1. Sanctify: to make separate for holiness and eternally minded, God honoring service, be different.
2. A new direction. **Read Psalm 119:105; 119:9-11, John 14:6, John 1:1.**

E. **4th big nugget:** V. 18. This is the mission for the church! What was Jesus’ mission? **Read Luke 19:10, John 10:7-10** ¹

III. Summary: If you were one of the 11 disciples, what would be going through your mind right now? What is God saying to you in verse 18? **Check out Colossians 1:28-29.**

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12575&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 17:20-26

*"You see me for what I will be, not for what I am.
And You loved me when all I deserved was fire."*



I. Read John 17:20-26

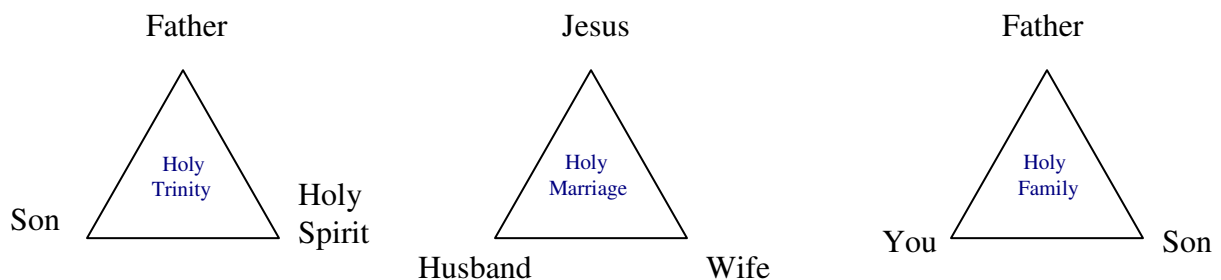
A. Chapter 17: There are 3 Segments.

1. V. 1-5: Christ's relationship with **His Father** and His mission.
2. V. 6-19: Christ's relationship with **His disciples** and their mission.
3. V. 20-26: Christ's relationship **with us** and our mission.

B. Jesus is praying for and strongly desiring blessed, spiritual unity in the entire body of Christ.

1. Unity is not uniformity.
2. Augustine, 3rd Century said three things.
 - In essentials: **UNITY**
 - In nonessentials: **LIBERTY**
 - In all things: **CHARITY**

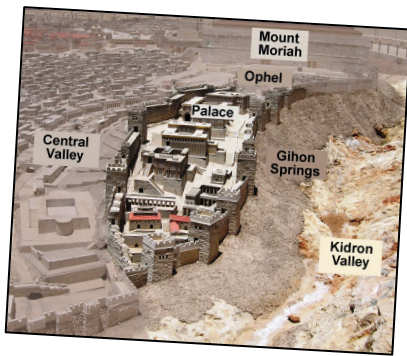
C. What is a major hallmark of the Holy Trinity? **Loving Unity: The Life Blood of Redemption!**



1. Common Theme through the Bible: Motive **Love**. Method: **Creation** and **Redemption**.
2. Because of this, where does the devil attack?

D. God loves us so much! He created us. When we fell, He rescued and redeemed us. We, as **Family Members**, have the high calling of imaging Christ to a lost and hurting world so Heaven can be filled.

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/focht_joe/Jhn/John_Expositional.cfm#John_17_20_17_26



Journey through John

Chapter 18:1-40

- Peter chose impulse and lying
- Pilate chose compromise
- The crowd chose Barabbas
- Jesus chose the Cross



I. Read John 18:1-11

→The Arrest in the Garden at Night

1. John seems to have left out the weakness and humanity of Jesus. No Prayer Agony.
2. Rather he emphasizes the Lord in full command and gentle control.
3. V. 5: “I am’ he”. **Read Leviticus 11:45** Look at v. 6!
4. Number of soldiers, officials, and servants to arrest Jesus? Probably around 50.
5. **Simon Peter!** Only used when he is carnal and foolish. Man’s way vs. God’s way. (Mr. _____)

II. Read John 18:12-27

→The Illegal Trial before Annas and Caiaphas ¹

1. What emotions do you think **Simon Peter** is experiencing right now? Why was this trial illegal?
2. In what way does one lie often lead to more? What would have happened if Simon Peter had not lied?
3. Annas, an older, corrupt politician, was a Past High Priest. Caiaphas, his son, was High Priest now but Annas was still the main ‘behind closed doors in a smoke filled room’ boss. – The Power behind the son.
4. V. 19-20: Stedman believes Jesus was asked illegal questions and was hit in the face...all illegal then.
5. What do you think it means to “**Turn the other cheek.**”? **Read 1Peter 3:9**
6. V. 27: Peter’s Galilean accent gave Him Away. – Like a Texan in Boston!

III. Read John 18:28-40

→The Illegal Trial before Pilate

1. Jewish execution was **stoning**. The Roman’s was **crucifixion**:
After bantering back and forth, why did the Romans execute Him?
Read John 18:31; Acts 7:57-60; Isaiah 53:5
2. V. 37: One reason Jesus came to earth was to unveil **The Truth**.
3. V. 38: Why do you think Pilate’s answer was cynical and weary?
4. V. 39: Why is this first word ‘**But**’ so significant?



King David’s Palace, thru the Kidron Valley, then East-Northeast up to Mt. of Olives.



The Garden of Gethsemane

IV. Conclusion

Human free will always works in the framework of divine determination. We are responsible for the choices we make but ultimately they fit into God’s sovereign plan. ²

¹ Reasons Jesus’ trial was illegal: <https://rcg.org/pillar/0902pp-trjtwi.html>

² https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=1741&rel=stedman_ray/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 18:38 – 19: 30

“Paid In Full”



I. Read John 18:38 – 19:11

- A. Pilate: Jesus is **Innocent #1**. He knows he is innocent.
- B. Here is a typical placating, insecure, politician who is looking out for his own hide. Thank Heavens, we’ve never seen that during our life time!
- C. What is a Roman flogging? **Read Isaiah 50:6** 800 years earlier: Prophecy.
- D. He was unrecognizable! **Read Isaiah 52:14** Prophecy.
- E. Pilate: Jesus is **Innocent #2**. Pilate was, no doubt experiencing inner torment. Why?
- F. He probably felt, “Hey, you Jewish Leaders! He’s flogged with in an inch of his life. Isn’t that enough? Gee wiz! You are demanding!!!
- G. V.6: How do the Jewish leaders respond? Jesus is **Innocent #3**. How many times did Simon Peter deny Christ?
- H. Why do you think Pilate was afraid? What did he fear? In what way is Pilate the one on trial here?
- I. V. 11: Will you trust God if an unfavorable candidate wins the Nov. election?

II. Read John 19: 12 – 30

- A. In what way did the Jewish leaders zero in on Pilate’s weakest link? The Chink in his armor?
- B. If some day, our Constitution is so eroded, and the President issues an edict that all professing followers of Christ, shall be gathered up, and either be put in “Re-education Camps” or put to death, what would be your answer when they came for you? **Jesus or Caesar?**
- C. V. 16: Pilate chooses!
- D. V. 19-20: the sign above our Lord’s head on the cross said **‘Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews’**.

1. **Aramaic** = for commoners.
 2. **Greek** = for the educated.
 3. **Latin** = the Law-- ‘Legalese’
- Covers all the bases.

- E. Why do you think Mary went with John and not with her many children?
- F. What kind of thirst and agony do you think Jesus experienced on the cross? **Read Psalm 22:14-18.**
- G. V. 30: **‘It is Finished.’** Means what? = **Paid in full.**

1. What is paid in full?
2. Note: No one else in all of eternity can give up their own ghost or spirit. If there was more payment demanded including good works and performance from you, He would not have given up His Spirit quite yet and, for sure, he would not have said, “It is finished!” ☺¹

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=11037&rel=davis_bob/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 19:31-42

“It Hasn’t Ended.”



I. Read John 19: 31-37

- A. Why didn't the Jews want the bodies left on the crosses? Note: The average time was 2 to 3 days. One man lasted 13 days!
- B. Read Deuteronomy 21:22-23
- C. Why did blood and water come out of the spear-piercing wound? What did this confirm?
- D. V. 35. Do you think John was an honest guy? Why?
- E. Where is Arimathea? - In Judea. Well then...where is Judea? ☺ See map. Read Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7

II. Read John 19:38-42

- A. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were very wealthy. They had much to lose if the Jews turned on them. They were members of the Sanhedrin = 23 to 71 men appointed as judges: Full authority over the Jewish people.
- B. Read Mark 15:43. What has happened to timid “Must visit Jesus in the night” Nicodemus?
- C. For these brave men, it had ended. Probably their faith was filled with pain but no longer fear! And they did not even know Chapter 20 was coming! It hasn't ended! It has really just begun!¹



Jerusalem & Bethlehem here

D. In Jesus' tomb,
no evidence of
any decomp.
And only 1
body space
carved out.
Unusual!!!



¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12580&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Magdala: Mary Magdalene's home town west of Sea of Galilee

Journey through John

Chapter 20:1-18

"Raboni!"



Mary M. upon seeing "The Gardner"

I. Read John 20:1-10

- A. Sunday: The first day of the Feast of First Fruits...The priest goes into the Holy Place, waves a sheave of grain...thankfully and humbly asking God for His blessing on the soon to be harvested crops 50 days later.
- B. Order of Risen Jesus appearing: **1.** Mary Magdalene and the other women (Matt. 28:8-10) **2.** Peter, probably in the afternoon (Luke 24:34; I Cor. 15:5) **3.** The disciples on the Road to Emmaus toward evening (Luke 24:13-32) **4.** The disciples except Thomas in the Upper Room (Luke 24:36-43) **5.** The disciples including Thomas the next Sunday night (Mark 16:14; John 20:26-29) **6.** Seven disciples beside the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-24) **7.** The apostles and more than 500 brethren and James, the Lord's half brother. (1Cor. 15:6-7) **8.** Those who witnessed the ascension (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:3-12) ¹

II. Read John 20:11-18

- A. Why do you think the Lord didn't first appear to Caesar, Pilot, the Chief Priests, the Centurion, or the Soldiers?
- B. Another earth quake Sunday morning... **Read Matthew 28:2-4**
- C. Evidently, Mary and the women were unaware of the stone and Roman seal on the tomb entrance. (If you got caught breaking a Roman seal, you would be crucified. If no one came forth and later they found out who, the Romans would crucify your entire village. If the guards fell asleep, they would be put to death....possible the entire squad.)
- D. Notice: Mary was not interested in the Kingdom or in great plans or service. She wanted Jesus: her life! He delivered her from 7 demons!!!
- E. What is the meaning of this quote: "We have no life but Jesus!"
- F. The Saving Redeemer has been collecting doubters, deniers, the broken, the husbandless, the fatherless, the sick, the grieving, the lonely, the sinner, and the lost. **He still is. Read Mark 16:9-11**



¹Ryrie's notes, Ryrie Study Bible (NIV) page 1488.

²https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12581&rel=focht_joe/Jhn





Journey through John

Chapter 20:19-31

*"Narrow is the way!"
"And I am sending you!"
"Believe and live, Reader!"*



I. **Read John 20:19-25**

- A. What do you notice in this passage? What is obvious to you?
- B. How would you have felt if you had been there that night?
- C. We are His Messengers: What is a messenger?
 - 1. They are to be **sent**.
 - 2. They are to be sent **with a message**.
 - 3. They have been **given authority** to back the message up.
 - 4. They are **not responsible** for the listener's response.
- D. V. 21a. Why do you think Jesus says, "*Peace be with you.*"? **Read Luke 24:36-43**
- E. V. 21b. **Read John 17:18** Note: The Father sends Jesus with **all authority**. We, on the other hand, are sent **under authority**.
- F. V.22. Why did Jesus say, "*Receive the Holy Spirit.*"?
- G. V. 23. Now here is the Gospel. Jesus is saying to His Sending Ones (His Ambassadors / Messengers) 'The people who **listen to and receive** Me through your message from Me are forgiven and will receive Eternal Life. But the people who **reject** Me and My forgiveness, will not be forgiven and they will be eternally condemned. This is very narrow. It is all that matters.

II. **Read John 20:26-31**

- A. What do you notice in this passage? What is obvious to you?
- B. What do you like about Doubting Thomas? In what ways have you acted like him in the past?
- C. V. 28. Thomas is the first one to address Jesus with this combined title.
- D. What can we glean from the passage of time (1 week)? That Jesus who can appear, is really with us at all times... even when we don't see Him or sense His closeness. He will never leave nor forsake us!
Read Deuteronomy 31:8
- E. What is so simple, narrow, and beautiful about v. 31? ¹

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=12582&rel=focht_joe/Jhn



Journey through John

Chapter 21:1-25

“What we really need in life is in the hands of the Master.”



I. Read John 21:1-25

- A. Why do you think John wrote this Book? **Read John 20:31**
- B. Now why do you think John wrote this last chapter, the Epilogue?
 1. To clear up a misconception that John was somehow going to stay alive until Jesus' 2nd return?
 2. To graciously validate **Simon** Peter's Ministry and life. Note: Especially since the Lord's garden arrest and through Peter's three time denial of Jesus, he was called Simon Peter. Now, because of the Lord's forgiveness, grace, and enduring love and encouragement for Peter on the beach here in Chapter 21, He no longer is referred to him as Simon Peter...**Just Peter**. **Look at verses 17 and 20. Read Isaiah 43:25. Read Psalm 103:10-12.**
- C. Vs. 10-11. Jesus knew Peter's heart was broken, humble, and ashamed of his failures and that he really did love Him. You can sense the earnest and exuberant loyalty in Peter's quick and brute strength actions. ☺
- D. All we will ever need is in the hands of Jesus and in the arms of His strong presence. **Read Psalm 37:4. Read Psalm 32:7-8**

II. Let's take a closer look at John 21:15-17

- A. V. 15 Love = **agapaō**. (agape) = God's unconditional, steadfast, never ending one way love. Serves and adores regardless of circumstances. Peter's humble response = **phileō** = human brotherly love. Good, yet often crumbles due to circumstances. – imperfect, sometimes a bit conditional.
- B. V. 16 Note: The same usage by each.
- C. V17 Now this time, the Lord graciously (stoops down) and says **phileō** = imperfect. And Peter returns with, again, the same **phileō**. This is marvelous! Jesus knows our attempt at loving Him will:
 1. Not be even close to perfect.
 2. Clouded at times with sin and failure.
 3. And yet, He is letting Peter know (vs. 18-19) that he, Peter, no longer Simon Peter, will not only persevere for Christ unto the end but will, by God's power and grace, be persevered unto Peter's upside down crucifixion and martyrdom. There is abundant hope for us! **Read Philippians 1:3-6.** ¹

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=11522&rel=hopkins_steve/Jhn