



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 6 "COME AND SEE"

In John chapter 4, Jesus revealed His power over distance and space by healing the nobleman's son. This was Jesus's second miracle in the city of Cana. Chapter 5 opens with Jesus traveling to Jerusalem for a religious feast, but He makes an important stop on the way. In His next miracle, Jesus demonstrates His power over time, healing a man that had been sick for 38 years. This miracle causes a stir among the religious leaders. Jesus had been met with suspicion and hesitation, but after this miracle, opposition was full blown! The religious leaders now become openly hostile. We must remember that everything that happened was according to God's will and His divine plan and timetable. It was now time to "go public," so to speak. The changing of the water into wine and the healing of the nobleman's son were semi-private. In our chapter this week, Jesus healed on the Sabbath deliberately, to challenge the leaders and give Him a platform to speak. In verses 17-47, He gives some very clear statements about His deity.

Remember to pray before you begin. The Lord has some great and mighty things to teach you about Himself this week. Are you ready?

First Day

1. Read John 5:1-47. Break up the chapter into sections, giving each a title. Briefly summarize the main thought of the section.

2. Do you notice any change of focus from chapter 4 to chapter 5?
3. How does this chapter tie in with John's main theme of his Gospel?
4. Are there any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases?
5. Are there any challenges for you in this chapter?
6. Are there any promises for us?
7. It has been said that the sick man was an illustration of the tragic spiritual state of the nation of Israel at the time. What do you think is meant by that?
8. It has also been said that the man is an illustration of mankind, period. What do you think?

It's exciting to see the power of Jesus' spoken Word. Whatever He says, happens. The Bible is the same way because the Scriptures are God's very words to you and me. There is still power in His Word!

Memory Verse of the Week: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life." John 5:24

Second Day

Work on your memory verse. Meditate on the wonderful truth it teaches us.

1. Please read John 5:1-9. Verse 1 says "After this." After what?

We don't know which Jewish feast John is referring to in verse 1. It doesn't really matter because the focal point of the story is not on when the healing took place, but who did the healing!

This healing took place at the "Sheep Gate" which was in the northern wall of Jerusalem, not far from the northeast corner (Nehemiah 3:1,32; 12:39). The name of the pool was "Bethesda," which has been translated as "house of mercy," "house of the olive," or "house of the outpouring." John Phillips describes the pool like this: "It seems that there were two adjacent pools and the areas that enclosed them were marked by four covered colonnades, with another one centered between the two pools. These formed cloisters, or covered alcoves, around the pool, in the shelter of which large numbers of sick people congregated." Five porticoes were built so the sick could be shaded from the sun as they waited, hoping to be healed by the stirring of the water by the angel.

Was an angel really stirring the waters? Most believe that this is simply a legend that the people thought to be true. Perhaps this is similar to many shrines that we have today, where people believe Jesus, Mary, or some saint appeared to someone, and now the legend lives on. There probably really was some kind of disturbance of the water, or else all these handicapped people wouldn't keep coming. It has been suggested that the

pool of Bethesda, like many similar pools in the Jerusalem area, is fed by an intermittent underground spring. "At various times, water is released in surges from underground reservoirs under the city, causing these springs to rise and fall suddenly. This activity in the water -- which was completely mysterious to the people at that time -- gave rise to the superstition about an angel troubling the pool." (Ray Stedman, God's Loving Word.)

2. How long had the man been sick?

3. Jesus "saw" and "knew" in verse 6. He knew what was troubling the man without the man telling Him. Jesus "sees" and "knows" what you're going through, too. How does that comfort you?

4. Why do you think Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed?

5. How does the man respond? Why does he respond this way, instead of just saying, "You bet!"?

6. Jesus asks him to do the impossible in verse 8. Does the man hesitate? What does that show us about the man?

7. Why do you think Jesus told him to take his bed with him?

The man was obviously losing hope, after all this time. There was no one to help him and he couldn't do it on his own. The man was miserable and in despair. The people around the pool are like those in the world, paralyzed, handicapped, lost, lame, and hopeless. Jesus walks up to an individual and asks him if he wants to be healed. The man recognized that he had a need, and it was bigger than him. He needed someone to save him. That's where Jesus comes in. He speaks to the individual heart, knocking on the door. He offers spiritual healing, peace, joy, and best of all, forgiveness of our sins and escape from eternal damnation. He wants to save us from our impending doom. We, like the sick man, need to first admit we have a need. We have to recognize we can't do it on our own, and then we must look to Him in faith. But we must want to be healed. He asks us, like the sick man, do you want Me?

I think this can apply to those of us who are already saved, but yet are still struggling with certain sins. We must admit we can't do it on our own; we need His power. Do we really want to be made well? Do we really want Him to work in our life, or has our sin become too comfortable? If we say we want victory over a particular sin that has been controlling us, we must be willing to obey His Word and make the choice to turn the other way. We do have responsibility.

8. Do you have a hurt that has been lingering for a very long time? Is there an area of your life that seems "paralyzed" for some reason? Have you been experiencing a sense of failure or defeat? Jesus wants to heal all the pain. Do you want to be healed? Are you willing to give it all to Him?

9. Is there an area in your life that you know God wants to change? (Maybe you've been that way for 38 years!) Have you been trying to fix it on your own? Ask the Lord to empower you with His Spirit, filling you with His power to change.

3. Where did Jesus find the healed man? What does this tell us?
4. Read verse 14. Jesus doesn't usually say that to those He has healed. Why do you think He said that?

Jesus' words in verse 14 seem to hint that the man's sin had something to do with his sickness. We know that isn't always the case, as in the blind man that was healed in John 9:3. Also, his healing obviously wasn't due to his great faith, as some try to teach today.

5. In verses 16 and 18, John reveals the intent of the Jewish leaders. What is it?
6. They were mad at Jesus because it was the Sabbath. How did Jesus refute that in verse 17?
7. Now they were even angrier. Why?

The battle had now begun and it wouldn't end until Jesus was crucified, about a year and a half later. They were upset because Jesus healed on the Sabbath. We can read the origin of the Sabbath in Genesis 1-2:2. God created in 6 days and He rested on the seventh. (Not because He was tired!) Sabbath means rest, translated from the Hebrew word "shabath." In Exodus 20, God gave Moses the Law which required them to observe the Sabbath, basing it after the pattern of creation.

8. Read Exodus 20:8-11. What were they supposed to do on the Sabbath?

9. How can we, as Christians today, keep the Sabbath holy without being legalistic?

The Jewish religious leaders came up with some of their own rules. They were legalists, trying to make religion a list of do's and don'ts. Charles Swindoll, in Exalting Christ, the Son of God, writes this: "Slipping in between the Old and New Testaments, the Pharisees amplified the Sabbath law by adding thirty-nine categories of unpermitted work, along with a number of tedious restrictions. These became part of the traditional teachings of the rabbis, who then enforced them among the people. Yet these requirements stretched considerably beyond God's original intent." For example, Nehemiah 13:15 and Jeremiah 17:21-27 says that carrying a load for commercial business would be considered work, so it was forbidden. The rabbis took that even further and said that carrying anything from one place to another was work, and, therefore, the man that carried his bed was in violation of the law.

Legalism is conforming to a code of behavior for the purpose of exalting self. They make a list of do's and don'ts, not based on Scripture, but on their own traditions or personal feelings. They measure themselves and judge their performance against that list, as well as make it a burden for others to follow.

10. Are you legalistic in any way? Do you judge others by your "check-list"? Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart on this one. Is there anything you need to change?

See you tomorrow, ladies. Remember that Jesus wants to make you well. It's also important to remember not to become like the Pharisees, pious and judgemental. Our obedience should be motivated by our love for Christ, not our fear of the Law.

Fourth Day

Continue to memorize your verse. Can you share it with someone today?

1. Today let's begin by reading John 5:19-30. List the verses that show Jesus claims to be equal with God in power.
2. What verses show that Jesus and the Father are equal in the work they share?
3. What verse tells us that Jesus has the same power over the dead as the Father?
4. How do verses 22-23 show us that Jesus is equal with the Father in authority?
5. What verses show us that Jesus is the giver of life?
6. According to verse 24, what two things are required to obtain everlasting life?

The term "**everlasting life**" stresses the fact that we enter a new, personal relationship with God that brings a new spiritual dimension to our life. It emphasizes life without end. We can never die spiritually again, nor can we ever come into judgement (Roman 8:1). Though it will be fully

completed in the future, everlasting life is also a present possession. Its possession is seen in our actions, as seen by the statement in 1 John 3:15: "No murderer has eternal life abiding in him." Our life can show evidence of eternal life now.

Jesus spoke about four different resurrections in this section.

Let's take a look:

- (1) **Resurrection of lost sinners into eternal life** (John 5:24-25; Eph. 2:1-10) As sinners hear and believe in God's Word, they are made alive and granted eternal life.
 - (2) **Resurrection of the Lord Himself** (John 5:26) The grave could not hold Him. He laid down His life and took it up again. He is life in Himself (John 1:4, 10:17-18; Acts 2:24, 3:15)
 - (3) **Resurrection of Life; believers are raised from the dead** (John 5:28-29a, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15) This takes place when Jesus Christ returns in the air and calls His people to Himself.
 - (4) **Resurrection of condemnation** (John 5:29b) Involves the lost; the small and great will stand before Jesus Christ, who has authority to execute judgement (John 5:27, Revelation 20:11-15)
7. Why does He call Himself the "Son of Man" in verse 27?
 8. There is life after death. How many people are affected by that? (Why should this be a motivation to share Jesus with others?)
 9. Verse 23 says that "Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father." How do we honor the Son spiritually? Practically? (Are you doing that?)

The Jews totally recognized what Jesus was saying. They knew He was making Himself equal with God the Father. To them, that was blasphemy to the highest degree. Jesus was very specific ... He and the Father are one.

10. Let me end with this ... the claims of Christ were meant to change your life. How has the fact that Jesus and the Father are one affected, or changed, your life?

See you tomorrow! Jesus is our "Reason to Rejoice"!

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory. How has it changed your life?

1. Read John 5:31-47. Jesus says there are many valid witnesses to support the claim that He is God. (Jewish Law states that there has to be two witnesses, so He gives them other witnesses besides Himself.) Who is the first witness He calls to the stand, in verses 31-35?
2. Why did Jesus call him a "burning and shining lamp"? How did they rejoice in his light, but only for a time? (Matt. 21:28-32)
3. How can we be a "burning and shining lamp" for Jesus?
How bright are you shining? Are you bright, dim, or even flickering?
How can "our" light be a witness for Christ?

His next witness was His own miracles, or works. The next witness probably made them very mad. It was the witness of the Father Himself (vs 37-38). If they were as religious and versed in the Word as they thought they were, they would have recognized Jesus. They were so caught up in their religiosity, rules, and regulations; they were strangers to the truth.

4. What was His next witness, from verses 39-47?

Jesus challenges them to search the Scriptures. The Pharisees had a superstitious reverence for the Scriptures, believing the very pages contained eternal life. This led them off the path. He uses a word "ereunao," which was used of a lion or a hound tracking by scent. He was telling them to search the Scriptures again and follow the trail. The Word would lead them to Him! He is on every page and in every verse. Jesus always pointed them to the Word and never to the religious traditions. Jesus then uses Moses as an example, a very honored and revered saint! He brought the very law to them which testified and foreshadowed the coming of Christ, but they still rejected Him. Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament and his writings were filled with types that depicted Christ: the ark of Noah, the offering of Isaac, the ladder of Jacob's dream, the Passover lamb, and many more.

5. How serious do you take the study of God's Word? We are not to be superstitious about the actual pages, yet we are to pour over the Bible and study it intensely. It contains the words of eternal life. In it is all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). How serious do you take it? What priority do you give to the study and reading of His Word?

6. When you read the Word, are you looking for Jesus? Don't just look for good stories, or even things to do. Look for Jesus. He's on every page.

