

# The Gospel of John Part 55: The Love Hidden in The Delay

## John 11:1-16



*John 11:1-16 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with perfume, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus*

*was sick. 3 So the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days in the place where He was. 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 He said these things, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him." 12 The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be saved from his sickness." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of actual sleep. 14 So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him." 16 Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."*

a purposeful reply and reveals that the reason Lazarus is sick and dying is so that the glory of God might be revealed. From Mary and Martha's perspective, the situation is dire. But Jesus knows more than Mary and Martha can see in their circumstances. As God, Jesus has perfect knowledge of events, outcomes, and purposes in our lives. Though we may not see what Jesus sees in our circumstances, we can trust that His love will work toward the best end in our lives: the glory of God.

**2) Jesus's Love Waits Longer Than We Expect.** Though we are reminded again that Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, He shows this love by waiting for Lazarus to die before going to them. From a human perspective, this delay may seem like the opposite of love. But Jesus reminds His disciples that the delay is intentional because it will cause the light of God to shine brightly in the world. When it feels like we are waiting on God, it may reveal that our expectations of God do not match His will or purposes for our circumstances. Because Jesus can see more than we can see, He acts precisely when He intends to accomplish His greater purpose. The love of Jesus in our lives demands a great level of trust in Him, holding loosely to our expectations and remaining ready for the unexpected when He comes to us in our time of need.

**3) Jesus's Love Works Greater Than We Can Imagine.** When Jesus tells His disciples that Lazarus is dead, they cannot imagine what comes next. Jesus says, "Let us go to him," and Thomas assumes that means they are all going to die and meet Lazarus in the place of the dead. It never occurred to the disciples that Jesus could and would raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus's love is not bound by what we think He can do or should do. Jesus can bring forth a work in our lives that is nothing short of impossible and far exceeds our imagination. When Jesus shows up in our time of need, there is nothing He cannot do to express His love in our lives and glorify the Father through what is done.

**1) Jesus's Love Knows More Than We Can See.** Jesus is met with a personal appeal from Mary and Martha to come heal their sick brother, Lazarus. Lazarus is described as the one whom Jesus loved. Yet, in light of this news, Jesus issues

# The Gospel of John Part 54: The Signs Speak, Evidence We Cannot Ignore

## John 10:31-42



*John 10:31-42 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.<sup>32</sup> Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of*

*them are you stoning Me?”<sup>33</sup> The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself God.”<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? <sup>35</sup> If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), <sup>36</sup> do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? <sup>37</sup> If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; <sup>38</sup> but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and continue knowing that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”<sup>39</sup> Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp. <sup>40</sup> And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. <sup>41</sup> And many came to Him and were saying, “While John did no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” <sup>42</sup> And many believed in Him there.*

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**1) The Signs of Jesus Are Clear.** As the crowd takes issue with Jesus’s claim of divinity, Jesus responds by pointing them back to His works. Their rejection of the signs is proof of their hardened hearts. Neither the works nor the words of

Jesus are the real issue of that day, rather, the core problem is unbelief. The signs of Jesus are a clear declaration of His identity and His origins. He performed these works in plain sight so that all the people may know who He is and by knowing they may believe in Him. This reality exists today. People don’t want to believe even though they have all the evidence they need. Nobody can be argued into Heaven; they must believe in the work of Jesus to trust in the word of Jesus.

**2) The Signs of Jesus Are Sufficient.** As the crowd appeals to Scripture to condemn Jesus, Jesus appeals to Scripture to vindicate Himself. Once again, Jesus tells them that His words are not the issue, rather it is His works that bring credibility to His words. It is His works that show His relationship with the Father because they are the Father’s works. It is Father who set Jesus apart, who sent Jesus into the world, and who gave Jesus the works so that faith may abound. The signs of Jesus are sufficient; they offer everything a person needs to know to bring forth the right response of faith.

**3) The Signs of Jesus Are Effective.** Though the situation may seem hopeless because of the crowd’s persistent unbelief, it does not end that way. As Jesus leaves this confrontation He encounters a new group. This group remembered the witness about Jesus, and considered the signs of Jesus, and they responded by believing in Jesus. Their faith was born from the witness and the works. The people that believed in Jesus did not receive anything new or different concerning Him than what the hostile crowd possessed. Their genuine faith came about because of the clarity and sufficiency of the signs Jesus performed and it shows us today that His signs are effective. Today, the supreme sign that any person will need to believe in Jesus for eternal life is the resurrection. Like Jesus, we are to point to His signs, point to the resurrection so that every person will be equipped to make an informed decision about Jesus leading to eternal life.

# The Gospel of John Part 53: The Shepherd and His Sheep (Part 3)

## John 10:22-31



*John 10:22-31 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; 23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the Portico of Solomon. 24 The*

*Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us openly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish—ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.*

problem: they are not His sheep. Today a person can assume they are right with God through religion and tradition, but lack a true relationship with Jesus. Jesus exposes that unbelief is a refusal of the relationship that He desires to bring the lost into the flock of God.

**2) Jesus and the Sheep is a Relationship Received.** Jesus describes the defining marks of those who truly belong to Him. His sheep hear His voice, are known by Him, and follow Him—revealing an active, personal relationship. This relationship begins with a divine summons: they hear the call of the gospel and respond in faith, continuing in a life of obedience. Jesus not only calls them but gives them eternal life as a gift, not something earned or deserved. This life is permanent—He declares they will never perish. Finally, their relationship is secure; no one can snatch them out of His hand. Their salvation does not depend on their ability to hold on, but on His power to keep them. Those who receive Jesus are called, gifted with eternal life, and eternally secured by Him.

**3) Jesus and the Father is a Relationship Revealed.** Jesus points to the Father as the ultimate source of both the sheep and their security. The Father, greater than all, has given the sheep to the Son, and no one can snatch them from His hand—providing their complete safety. Jesus then makes a profound claim: "I and the Father are one," expressing perfect unity in will, purpose, and divine nature. Though distinct persons, they are one in securing salvation. This statement reveals Jesus' divinity and His unique relationship with the Father. The whole work of salvation is done in the perfect unity of God, both Father and Son.

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**1) Jesus and the Unbeliever is a Relationship Refused.** As Jesus is walking in the temple, a crowd confronts Him and demands a clear declaration of His identity as the Christ. Jesus responds that He has already told them, not only through His words but through His works—miracles done in the Father's name that testify to who He is. The issue is not lack of evidence but lack of belief. Many had claimed to be the Messiah, but only Jesus confirmed it through undeniable signs, such as healing the blind. The crowd's refusal to believe reveals a deeper

# The Gospel of John Part 52: The Shepherd and His Sheep (Part 2)

## John 10:16-21



*John 10:16-21 And I have other sheep, which are not from this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17 For this reason*

*the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it away from Me, but from Myself, I lay it down. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” 19 A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words. 20 And many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?” 21 Others were saying, “These are not the words of someone demon-possessed. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”*

**1) God the Father Sent God the Son to Gather All Who Believe.** As the Shepherd of God, Jesus was sent into the world by the Father to gather the sheep of God into the fold of God. Jesus is the Father’s agent of gathering. This is an act of compulsion, an act that Jesus says He must do. Because Jesus is the good Shepherd, once the flock is gathered they are not left without provision, protection, and promise. When Jesus introduces the “other sheep,” He is revealing that the promise of salvation is not limited to the Jews, but that every person, regardless of ethnic origins, will have access to eternal life through faith in Him. Today Jesus continues to gather. The reason He has not come again is because

not all the sheep have gathered. The message of our day is to get into the fold of God before the Chief Shepherd appears.

**2) God the Father Sent God the Son to Die For All Who Believe.** As the Shepherd of God, Jesus was sent into the world by the Father to die for the sheep of God. Jesus is the Father’s agent of sacrifice. This is an act of compliance, one that Jesus says He does in faithful obedience to the commandment of God the Father. A person cannot become a sheep without a provision for sin. The one thing that every sheep shares in common with each other is that they have all been washed clean in the blood of the Shepherd. Today a person does not need to worry about being good enough to come into the fold. Jesus makes every person acceptable to God because He has offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin.

**3) God the Father Sent God the Son to Work Miracles So We May Believe.** As the Shepherd of God, Jesus was sent into the world by the Father to work miracles so that the sheep of God may know and receive their Shepherd. When division occurred among the crowd, the thing that separated those who believed and those who did not is how a person received the miracles of Jesus. To see Jesus heal the eyes of the blind and believe that He was sent from God is to know that He is the Shepherd of God. The greatest miracle that Jesus performed was to rise from the dead. The resurrection is our proof today that Jesus is the sent One of the Father, and to believe in the resurrection is to be gathered into the flock of God by the Shepherd.

# The Gospel of John Part 51: The Shepherd and His Sheep (Part 1)

## John 10:1-15



*John 10:1-15*  
*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 To*

*him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he brings all his own out, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will never follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them. 7 So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. 11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees—and the wolf snatches and scatters them—13 because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*

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**1) The Ideal Life is One Lived Under a Watchful Shepherd.** Jesus starts by teaching with a metaphor concerning some sheep, a thief and robber, and a shepherd. Jesus is describing an ideal situation where there are some sheep

who are vulnerable to being stolen, abused, and misled but who are under the watchful care of a shepherd. This is a shepherd who owns, knows, and leads the sheep. The picture here is that if a person were a sheep, then it is best to be found living under the care of a watchful and loving shepherd than to fall into the hands of the bad actors that roam about seeking to harm the sheep. This metaphor is designed to explain a spiritual truth, that people can be seen as being like sheep and that the ideal life comes when we hear, know, and follow a shepherd in life.

**2) The Ideal Life Starts by Becoming and Being a Sheep.** Jesus continues and explains the metaphor concerning the shepherd and the sheep. He reveals two things: that He is the door to the sheep and that He is the good shepherd of the sheep. One speaks to becoming a sheep, the other speaks to being a sheep. In other word, before a person can live a life under the watchful care of a shepherd, the first must become a sheep. As the door, Jesus says that He is the only legitimate way to become one of His flock and that by going through Him a person will find salvation. This means that to become a sheep in life is to experience salvation in Jesus; we must go through the door. Then, Jesus adds that what makes Him the good shepherd is that He lays down His life for the sheep. Meaning that everything required to save us is accomplished by Him, and that once we are saved we know Him and belong to Him. This means that we must follow the good shepherd. The spiritual truth here is one of both becoming and then being a sheep in life. Becoming a sheep is accomplished by faith and being a sheep is accomplished by following Jesus.

There is an ideal life to be found in the world. But it is a life that only comes through a relationship with Jesus. Anyone can become a sheep through faith, but once a sheep, then we are to follow our shepherd wherever He may lead us. The alternative is to live a life exposed to the bad actors that operate in the world that will not lead us to an abundant life, but to a life of chaos and destruction.

# The Gospel of John Part 50: From Begging to Believing

## John 9:35-41



*John 9:35-41 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and after finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 Jesus said to*

*him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." 38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him. 39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "Are we blind too?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.*

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**1) The Journey of Faith Is Built On Trustworthiness.** Before Jesus asked the man born blind "Do you believe," He first laid a foundation of trustworthiness. When Jesus first met the man, He did a work and spoke a word into the man's life. The man then believed the work and obeyed the word and was healed. This encounter showed the man born blind that Jesus was trustworthy. The man could believe Jesus in the future because of what Jesus has done in the past. Today, when a person is asked "Do you believe," it is not an empty question. It comes with a record of proof in the Bible and in the Christian testimony that Jesus is worthy of our trust.

**2) The Journey of Faith Must Pass Through Belief.** With the question, Jesus reveals His identity as "the Son of Man." To believe requires a content of the faith, meaning, we have to believe in something. The question before the man is fundamental in nature because from the beginning, God has asked humanity to believe that He is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do. Faith passes through a belief in God's revealed identity and spoken promises. So, the man must decide in his heart and mind that Jesus is the Messiah and will forgive his sin. This is the proposition before the man on that day, and this is the proposition that remains in our day. Each person is called to decide what to believe concerning Jesus because He has been revealed as the Christ and spoken a promise of forgiveness and eternal life. There is no such thing as blind faith. Faith has a content and it is believing the identity and promises of Jesus.

**3) The Journey of Faith Will Halt At Self.** In the end, Jesus says that He came "so that the blind may see, and those that see may become blind." For the "blind to see" means that the sinner experiences forgiveness. For "those that see to become blind" means that the sinner who trust in themselves will not experience forgiveness. The Pharisees were unwilling to admit that they needed Jesus for forgiveness. Their solution for sin was themselves and not Jesus. This reliance on self will always bring the journey of faith to a screeching halt. Until a person is willing to admit that they have a problem with sin and that they cannot solve that problem without Jesus, then no matter what they do, their sin will remain. Jesus is the only way to complete the journey of faith that leads to the forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

# The Gospel of John Part 49: Our Testimony in Action

## John 9:13-34



*John 9:13-34 They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 So then*

*some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 Therefore, they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." 18 Then, the Jews did not believe it of him that he was blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" 20 So his parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. 23 For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 Therefore, a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." 25 He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to listen again? Do you want to become His disciples too?" 28 And they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from, and He opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him. 32 Since the*

*beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered and said to him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.*

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**1) Our Testimony About Jesus Becomes Bold.** The more the healed man shared his testimony with others the bolder that testimony became in his heart and mind. What started as a simple and timid statement of the facts became a bold and compelling declaration of the truth. As other people sought answers for what Jesus did in this man's life, the more he appreciated and understood the significance of who Jesus was. The man was growing in his faith the more he shared that faith with others. This is the effect that witnessing for Christ has on a person's life. Our witness keeps our hope fresh and vibrant in our lives.

**2) Our Testimony About Jesus Becomes Contagious.** As others heard and received the healed man's testimony now, they too possessed some truths about Jesus in their lives. Though his parents were afraid of what the religious rulers would do because of Jesus, they could not deny the testimony of what happened in their son's life. Now they too knew that Jesus was the one who healed their blind son and they were telling others. This truth will either become a stumbling block for them or the beginning of their eternal hope. The people in our lives today may never meet Jesus unless they receive the truth about Him from us.

**3) Our Testimony About Jesus Becomes Transformative.** In the end, the healed man's unwavering testimony drove change in his life as the people around him responded to his message. The people's response was not positive. Those that knew him doubted him. His own parents distanced themselves from him. He was ultimately excommunicated from the synagogue because of what he professed. Though all this change may appear negative, it will ultimately become positive. Because, the man will gain new friends, new family, and a new identity in Christ. The old is gone and the new is starting to come in. Just as going from blind to seeing is a radical change in the man's life, so also will be the change in people, practices, and purpose for the rest of this man's life. This is what the Christian experience is about. The more we identify with Christ in the world, the more the world around us starts to change.

# The Gospel of John Part 46-48: Bringing Hope to the Hopeless

## John 9:1-12



*John 9:1-12 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his*

*parents sinned, but this was so that the works of God might be manifested in him. 4 We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, made clay of the saliva, and rubbed the clay on his eyes, 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing. 8 Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" 9 Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one." 10 So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and rubbed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so when I went away and washed, I received sight." 12 And they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."*

**1) Our Hope is Revealed When We Receive Jesus in Our Problem.** Jesus sees a man who was blind from birth. This is a man whose life was defined by his circumstances which left him with a feeling of hopelessness. But this all began to change when he received Jesus in his

problem. We may experience periods of hopelessness in life. These are the times when the only solution to our problem is one that comes from Jesus. As Christians, we can invite Him in, expect His arrival, and be ready to receive Him when He shows up in our problem.

### **2) Our Hope is Realized When We Believe and Obey Jesus in Our Problem.**

When Jesus arrived in the blind man's problem He did two things in the life of the man. Jesus did a work and spoke a word directly aimed at delivering this man from his hopelessness. All that was required for the man to realize the hope that Jesus offered was to believe the work and obey the word that he brought. In our lives, Jesus has a work and word that speaks directly to our hopelessness. Whether it is salvation and eternal life, or our daily circumstances, Jesus does what is required and speaks the truth for us to hear. It may be that all we need to realize the hope that Jesus offers in our lives is faith and movement, or to believe and "go" in the direction Jesus has spoken for our circumstances.

### **3) Our Hope is Renewed When We Testify About Jesus in Our Problem.**

After Jesus healed the man who was blind from birth many people wanted to know how this happened in the man's life. It was clear to all who were present and involved in this man's life that something transformational occurred. Thought this man did not know all the details about Jesus, he carried with him a personal testimony of what Jesus did, and he told others about it. Our testimony concerning what Jesus has done in our lives is the source of our renewal as we tell others about Christ. When we give a reason for the hope that is now within us, we are remembering where we came from and what Jesus did to change our lives and our circumstances. This testimony keeps the hope of Jesus fresh in our hearts and can cause others to look for Jesus in their hopelessness.

# The Gospel of John Part 45: Living In Godliness

## John 8:48-59



*John 8:48-59 The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50*

*But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death—ever." 52 The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death—ever.' 53 Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; 55 and you have not known Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.*

Jesus's teaching at the Temple Complex in John chapter 8 is rich with declarations of Jesus's identity and positive benefits for believing in Him. The chief of which is Jesus revealed in verse 58 as the great "I AM", or the God of Moses, who grants eternal life. But among all these great declarations of truth, Jesus has been subtly offering proof of His divine nature in how He lives His life. For any man to claim to be God, that

claim can only stand if the same person lives the kind of life only God could live. This is what Jesus did, and this is our example for living in Godliness today.

**1) A Christlike Walk In One That Honors God.** When the Pharisees accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan and demon possessed this is a statement that defines Jesus as the worst sort of person. But Jesus says the opposite is true and His offer of proof is that in all His ways He honors the Father. To honor God is to place the highest value on God in our lives, over and above anyone or anything else. Like Jesus, a life lived that honors God is one that will look so radically different from the world that the world cannot understand it.

**2) A Christlike Walk Is One that Obeys God.** The Pharisees miss the point concerning how Jesus's character reveals He truly is of God and persist that He is demon possessed. But Jesus appeals again to His character as proof that He is of God and says they can know He is of God because of how He obeys the word of God. Nobody except Jesus can claim to always do what is pleasing to God and be without sin, because for any other person that would be impossible. Yet Jesus says that if one is to begin to know God the Father the way He does, then that relationship is built upon obedience. The greater a person's obedience is to God the greater the fellowship one experiences with God. To say that we "know God" is to show that we honor God and obey God in our lives.

**3) A Christlike Walk Is One That Reveals God.** Jesus concludes His teaching at the Temple Complex with a declaration that He is the great "I Am" of the Old Testament. The power of this statement is found in the proof of Jesus's life. He is revealed as God by doing what only God could do: live a perfect life. Though we will never be divine, we can show the world a glimpse of God by demonstrating His moral character in our daily lives.

# The Gospel of John Part 44: The Hallmarks of Those Who Believe

## John 8:30-47



*John 8:30-47 As He was speaking these things, many believed in Him. 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples;*

*32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's seed and have never yet been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham's seed; yet you are seeking to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father." 39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, you would do the deeds of Abraham. 40 But now you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God. This Abraham did not do. 41 You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of sexual immorality; we have one Father: God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."*

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**1) A True Disciple of Jesus Follows a New Head.** Jesus tells His follower that for those who abide in His word, or keep on trusting in His promise of salvation, that they "are truly My disciples." This means that the first hallmark of faith is that we gain a new head in life. Jesus becomes the lead of our life, and we belong to Him. No longer do we follow ourselves driven by selfish pride, and no longer do we follow the desires of the flesh which are the lies of the devil. Rather, when we place our trust in Jesus, we gain a new head over our lives and He commands our steps.

**2) A True Disciple of Jesus Gains a New Perspective.** Jesus says, "and you will know the truth." The truth He is speaking of is the life-giving power of salvation. That for unless you believe that He is the Christ then you will die in your sins. The truth of Jesus is the truth of God's word. It is a word that Jesus has seen and heard from God. It is a word that proceeds, comes, and is sent into the world by God. To believe in Jesus's word is to believe in the truth of God's word. This gives the Christian a new perspective on life. The believer can now see the world the way God sees the world, know the truth, and know how to respond rightly to the circumstances of life.

**3) A True Disciple of Jesus Lives a New Condition.** Finally, Jesus Says, "and the truth will make you free." This is not just any freedom; this is freedom from the bondage of sin. When Jesus declares that His followers will be liberated from sin, that means the Christian will experience three blessings as a new condition. First, that the disciple of Jesus will experience freedom from the penalty of sin. This speaks to our destiny, no longer being found under the judgement of God. Second, that the disciple of Jesus is free from the power of sin in this life. For those in Christ, we now have the capacity to live in a manner worthy of God. Finally, that the disciple of Jesus will become free from the presence of sin in the life to come. In eternity, where God dwells is where the followers of Jesus will dwell. Because sin does not exist in the presence of God, the follower of Jesus will experience an eternity free from sin.

# The Gospel of John Part 43: I Am He

## John 8:20-30



*John 8:20-30  
These words  
He spoke in the  
treasury, as He  
was teaching  
in the temple;  
and no one  
seized Him,  
because His  
hour had not  
yet come. 21  
Then He said  
again to them,*

*“I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.” 22 So the Jews were saying, “Surely He will not kill Himself, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’” 23 And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above. You are of this world, I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins. For unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” 25 So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you from the beginning? 26 I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I am saying to the world.” 27 They did not know that He had been speaking to them about the Father. 28 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing from Myself, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” 30 As He was speaking these things, many believed in Him.*

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**1) Because Jesus Is Returning Our Time is Now.** When Jesus says, “I am going away,” That means the moment Jesus ascended into Heaven a divine clock started to count down until the end when Jesus will return. There will be a day in the life of the sinner where the presence of Christ, the life in Christ, and the access to Christ will forever be cutoff. Jesus is pressing upon our lives today that our time is running out to decided what we are going to do concerning who He has revealed Himself to be. That time is now.

**2) Because Jesus Is Revealed Our Choice is Clear.** Jesus says, “For unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” In this statement, Jesus declares Himself to be both the fulfillment of every Messianic statement in the Old Testament and the very person of God. We can find in Jesus today that He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and that by believing in Him we may have life in His name. Though our time is running out, our choice is clear: Jesus is the way to pass from death into eternal life through the forgiveness of sin. All Jesus requires is that we believe in Him.

**3) Because Jesus Is Raised Our Questions Have Been Answered.** Jesus points his audience to a future event that will answer all their questions concerning who He is when He says, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He.” It is His death and resurrection that Jesus points the people to in His day to know for certain that He is the Christ. Likewise, in our day we look back to the death and resurrection of Jesus to know for certain that He is the Christ. This is the one event in human history that tells all people and in every generation everything they need to know concerning who Jesus is and what they ought to do about it. Jesus’s words ring out as truth in our day: the time is now, the choice is clear, believe in Jesus and pass from death to eternal life.

# The Gospel of John Part 42: The Light of the World

## John 8:12-20



*John 8:1-11 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will never walk in the darkness,*

*"to make known." The reality is that without Jesus in the world, humanity remains in darkness. Darkness here represents ignorance of God or just not knowing the truth about God. Without this light nobody can know God and we cannot see Him, understand His ways, or know His will for our lives and eternity. Jesus as the Light of the World shines brightly as a spotlight on God the Father so that we can see Him clearly and come to know Him through His Son.*

*but will have the Light of life." 13 So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are bearing witness about Yourself; Your witness is not true." 14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness about Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. 16 But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me. 17 Even in your law it has been written that the witness of two men is true. 18 I am He who bears witness about Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness about Me." 19 So they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also." 20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He was teaching in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.*

**2) The Light of Christ Exposes Our Sin.** There is a theme in both the Gospel of John and the book of 1 John where darkness represents the dwelling place of sin and evil. Jesus says in John chapter 3 that the world loves this darkness because their deeds are evil. Until we can see ourselves the way God see us, as ones who need to be cleansed of our sin, then we remain in this darkness. Without the knowledge of sin humanity will not know that they need a Savior to be made pure before a holy and righteous God. But Jesus as the Light of the World shines brightly in this darkness and exposed the truth of our deeds as sinful, and with this truth we can now seek a way to be made pure before God through His Son.

**3) The Light of Christ Leads to Eternal Life.** It is not enough to simply know that God exists and know that we are sinful, but we need to know that there is a way to overcome this great dilemma. Darkness can represent not knowing where to go or how to get there; darkness is death. But Jesus as the Light of the World shines brightly on the way to eternal life. The path that leads each person from death to eternal life is made clear because of the light of Christ. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life all in one person so that we may know how to respond to His offer of forgiveness in our lives. Jesus say the "He who walks in darkness does not know where He goes." But as our Light, every person can now see clearly the path to eternal life through faith in Jesus.

**1) The Light of Christ Reveals The Truth.** Earlier in John chapter 1 we are told that Jesus is the "true light" that "enlightens everyone." The words truth and light go hand in hand when speaking about Jesus. The light of Christ is what reveals truth to humanity and to "enlighten" simply means

# The Gospel of John Part 39: Our Divine Judge (Parts 1-3)

## John 8:1-11



*John 8:1-11  
But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them. 3*

*The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" 6 They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have evidence to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. 7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. 10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go, and from now on sin no more."]*

**1) The World Judges According to Appearance.** The religious rulers use a women accused of adultery as a test of Jesus to see how He would judge the Law. The problem is that this test of Jesus is corrupt. The work of Satan in the world is one that seeks to tear down and destroy people and their lives. While the work of Christ in the world seeks to build up

and restore people and their lives. The motives of the religious rulers show that they had no interest in the welfare the women, she was merely a pawn in their evil schemes against the Son of God. What appeared as an open and shut case of adultery by worldly standards becomes an opportunity not for condemnation but for restoration.

**2) God Judges All Things in Righteousness.** Jesus tells the religious rulers that the only one among them fit to rightly judge and condemn this women to death is the one who has not sinned. When it comes to the judgement of sin and death because of sin, God alone sits as the righteous judge. Only God can judge all mankind in righteousness. Only God is free from bias due to false motives, free from errors due to not knowing all the facts, and free from hypocrisy due to sin. The divine standard for condemning another is nothing short of perfect righteousness. The work of God in the world, and of His people in the world is not one of condemnation but one of forgiveness and restoration. The time to condemn will come, but today is the season of restoration.

**3) Jesus Alone Has the Power to Forgive the Accused.** Jesus tells the women that she is not condemned but forgiven. So long as any person draws the breath of life then Jesus is not their divine judge, He is their savior. God has appointed a time in which Jesus will sit as judge of all mankind. That time has not yet come. Until that day, Jesus stands before and among all of humanity as the only one who has the power to forgive the accused. All have sinned and are guilty before God. If it were up to the world, all would be condemned in their sin. But since it is God alone who judges all things and all people, He has chosen to extend grace and mercy to the guilty through one man. Jesus did not come to judge the world but came so that the world might be saved through Him. It is better to know Jesus today as Savior rather than meet Him in the end as Judge.

# The Gospel of John Part 38: An Invitation to the Thirsty

## John 7:37-53



*John 7:37-53  
Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture*

*said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were going to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. 40 Some of the crowd therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This truly is the Prophet." 41 Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "No, for is the Christ going to come from Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" 43 So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him. 44 Some of them were wanting to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. 45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" 46 The officers answered, "Never has a man spoken like this!" 47 The Pharisees then answered them, "Have you also been led astray? 48 Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in Him? 49 But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed." 50 Nicodemus (he who came to Him before), being one of them, said to them, 51 "Does our Law judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing?" 52 They answered him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee." 53 [Everyone went to his home.*

It is on the last day of the Feast of Booths that Jesus comes, stands, and cries out before the crowd. It is in His final words to the people there that He issues

an invitation for them to believe in Him. The time for presenting arguments about why they should believe is over, now it is the time for making a decision about Him. So, Jesus issues His invitation to believe and among this invitation to the crowd we can learn today some truths about doing the work of discipleship among a large gathering of people.

**1) The Invitation to Believe is Comprehensive and Clear.** Jesus says that anyone who is thirsty can come and drink of Him. Jesus's use of "anyone" along with His appeal to "thirst" means His invitation is perfectly comprehensive, it applies to every living person, and nobody is excluded. Every person thirsts and must drink to live. This truth applies also to eternal life. Every person must drink of Jesus to live in life eternal. And to the one who is wondering, "how do I drink of Jesus?", He says, "believe." The clarity of His invitation is that we are to drink to live, or believe to inherit eternal life.

**2) The Invitation to Believe is Personally Received.** Though Jesus's invitation is comprehensive and clear, the crowd is indecisive. Some believe, while others do not. Some have fully accepted the words and the works of Jesus and trust in Him as Christ. While others remain doubtful. The reality among this crowd is the same as today. Every person must decide for themselves what to believe concerning Jesus. This decision is personally received. Nobody can receive the invitation from Christ for eternal life for another. Each person must accept or reject Jesus for themselves.

**3) The Invitation to Believe is Cancelled By Pride.** The religious rulers respond to Jesus's invitation with indignation. Their pride has cancelled out His offer of eternal life. You can see their pride in their words. They say "we are your leaders, not Him" and "we know the Law, you don't" and "our truth is not His truth." Pride remains the greatest barrier to eternal life in our day. The proud will choose their way over any other way every single time. The proud will not submit to anyone but self, and will never bow their knee to Jesus as Lord. Until the proud can declare, "not I, but Christ", then His invitation is left powerless in their life.

# The Gospel of John Part 37: The Benefits of Jesus Going to the Father

## John 7:31-36



*John 7:31-36 But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than this man did?" 32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these things about Him,*

*and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him. 33 Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come." 35 The Jews then said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? Is He intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 What is this statement that He said, 'You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.'"*

Jesus's sermon at the Feast of Booths both opens and closes with a crowd that is confused and they don't know what to believe concerning Jesus. Some say He is a "good man" or "a prophet" or "the Christ", while others say He is a deceiver who "leads the people astray" and He is not the Christ. This very same confusion concerning Jesus remains in our day today. It is among this confusion that Jesus offers three way we can know that He truly is the Christ, the anointed One of God.

Jesus tells the crowd in Jerusalem that He will soon be going back to the Father who sent Him. While the crowd did not understand the implication of what Jesus meant, the Christian today can know the full benefit of Jesus's returning to the Father in Heaven. It is because He has gone that we can rejoice in three eternal truths.

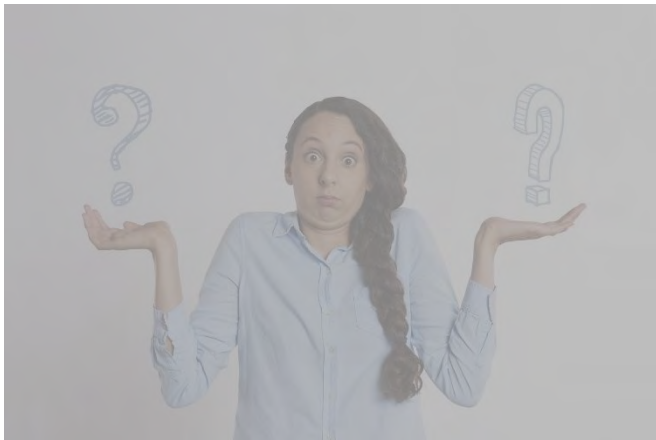
**1) Jesus Has Gone To Prepare His People an Eternal Place.** Jesus will later tell His disciples that thought He will go back to heaven, that one day He will return to gather all who believe in Him. It is between the time that Jesus left and the time that Jesus will return again that He works continuously to prepare an eternal dwelling place, in the very presence of God, and for all who believe. We can rejoice in life today knowing that our place has been prepared by Jesus for life eternal.

**2) Jesus Has Gone To Equip His People With an Eternal Spirit.** Jesus later tells His disciples that it is for their advantage that He leaves them because He will send them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to all who believe to transform and equip every disciple of Christ for life today and life eternal. It is the Holy Spirit that works our new birth, that guides our live, that leads our steps, and teaches every Christian the ways of Christ. We can rejoice in life today knowing that Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to equip every believer for life today and forever.

**3) Jesus Has Gone To Empower His People for an Eternal Work.** Jesus will later tell His disciples that because He goes to the Father that they will do greater works in the world than He has done. These greater works speak to the building of the Kingdom of God on earth. This is the church. Jesus in His life and work set the foundation for the Kingdom of God. He prepares the field, He provides the seed, but the disciples of Christ are left to sow and reap for the harvest. This is the eternal work of God's people to build His Church until He comes. The greatest work that will come forth in all of creation is the redemption of the lost and Jesus has chosen His disciples to labor with Him in this work. We can rejoice in life today knowing that we have a work assigned to us by Jesus that will bring forth a full harvest in life eternal.

# The Gospel of John Part 34: Jesus's Answer to the Confused (Part 1-3)

## John 7:11-29



*John 7:11-29 So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and saying, "Where is He?" 12 And there was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He leads the crowd astray." 13 Yet no one was*

*speaking openly about Him for fear of the Jews. 14 But when it was now the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach. 15 The Jews then were marveling, saying, "How has this man become learned, not having been educated?" 16 So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but from Him who sent Me. 17 If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is of God or I speak from Myself. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. 19 "Did not Moses give you the Law? And yet none of you does the Law. Why do you seek to kill Me?" 20 The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?" 21 Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." 25 So some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill? 26 And look, He is speaking openly, and they are saying nothing to Him. Do the rulers truly know that this is the Christ? 27 However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from." 28 Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. 29 I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me."*

Jesus's sermon at the Feast of Booths both opens and closes with a crowd that is confused and they don't know what to believe concerning Jesus. Some say He is a "good man" or "a prophet" or "the Christ", while others say He is a deceiver who "leads the people astray" and He is not the Christ. This very same confusion concerning Jesus remains in our day today. It is among this confusion that Jesus offers three ways we can know that He truly is the Christ, the anointed One of God.

**1) You Can Know Jesus is the Christ By What He Says.** Jesus tells the crowd that His very word, the things that He teaches, reveal the truth concerning His identity. Everything Jesus taught, everything that Jesus said during His earthly ministry was not His words, but the very words of God the Father. It is the one who seeks God, who desires to do the will of God that will hear and know Jesus is the Christ by what He says. We can trust in Jesus as Lord today because in all His words He glorifies the Father who sent Him.

**2) You Can Know Jesus is the Christ By What He Does.** Jesus confronts His accusers by showing them that His works among the people do not trespass against the Law of God, rather, they honor the Law of God in every way. The signs that Jesus performed were indeed marvelous. There is no other explanation for the things Jesus did other than only God can do that. Jesus challenges the crowd and His critics to not judge His works by worldly standards, but to evaluate them against God's standard for righteousness. We can trust in Jesus as Lord today because in all His ways He fulfilled the righteousness of the Father who sent Him.

**3) You Can Know Jesus is the Christ By Where He Is From.** Jesus tells the crowd that His origins, the very place from which He has now come to them, is not from some town in Israel but is from the very presence of God the Father. No other man who has come in the name of God, who has come claiming to be the Christ has an origin from heaven. Jesus did not become the Christ when He was born, Jesus has always existed as God before the world came to be. Though Jesus reveals Himself to humanity in the form of a man, His origins are eternal and He came into the world out of the presence of God the Father. We can trust in Jesus as Lord today because He is the eternal and divine Son of God sent by the Father to save the lost.

# The Gospel of John Part 33: Jesus as Our Example of a Disciple of God

## John 7:2-10



*John 7:2-10 Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. 3 Therefore His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You*

*are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself publicly to the world." 5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him. 6 So Jesus said to them, "My time is not yet here, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I bear witness about it, that its deeds are evil. 8 Go up to the feast yourselves; I am not yet going up to this feast because My time has not yet been fulfilled." 9 Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee. 10 But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as in secret.*

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Jesus issues His great commission in Matthew 28 and calls His followers to go and make disciples. A Christian is fundamentally a disciple of Jesus. Jesus defines what a disciple is by being a follower and learner of Him. It is in Jesus's own life on earth that He gives us an example of what a true disciple of God looks like, and this can be seen through the WILL that He follows and the WORD that He has in His heart. Everyone in the world is a disciple of something, either they are a disciple of the world or a disciple of Jesus. And these two groups should stand in sharp contrast to one another.

**1) A Disciple of the World Rejects the Will and the Word of God.** Jesus's brothers challenge Him to reveal Himself publicly in Jerusalem to settle

the debate concerning who He is. Jesus's brothers had yet to believe in Him, they were disciples of the world. Jesus characterizes their will as one that does whatever it wants whenever it wants with no restraints. It is a will bent on selfish desires. Jesus also reveals they have a word that the world loves. It is a word that speaks well of the evil deeds of the world. A disciple of the world has the wrong will and the wrong word in their life. This is why the Bible calls the lost to repentance. Repentance means we change the direction of our will and change our mind about the word, away from that of the world and towards that of God.

### **2) A Disciple of Jesus Follows the Will and Learns the Word of God.**

Jesus tells His brothers that He has a will and a word that is not of this world. Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus consistently demonstrates two essential characteristics in His life: His will is the will of the Father, and His words are the words of the Father. Jesus's walk of faith as a man is a perfect example of what a disciple of God looks like in all ways. His will is bound by the will of God, and He has learned and shares the very words of God. This is one of the reasons why Jesus will later say, "if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." So also, the Christian should be seen in the world as a direct reflection of Jesus. A disciple represents and is known by the one they learn from and the one they follow. From the beginning, the Christian experience was always intended to bring forth a people in the world that thought differently, talked differently, and walked differently than the ways of the world. And this is what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus today.

# The Gospel of John Part 31: The Bread of Life

## John 6:48-65



*John 6:48-65 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51*

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and also the bread which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” 52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” 53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. He who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. 60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” 61 But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? 62 What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? 63 The Spirit is the One who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would*

*betray Him. 65 And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”*

**1) Jesus is A New and Better Provision.** Jesus reveals to the crowd that it is through His flesh that eternal life comes to the world. Jesus responds to the people’s appeal to the past. They look back to Moses and God’s provision in the wilderness as a sign of hope. Jesus says to look in the present, because God has changed the way in which He will deal with His people. It is now through the person and work of Jesus Christ that God’s provision comes to all. Jesus is the bread of life, the provision that will sustain us until we can taste the promise of God; which is eternal life.

**2) Jesus Offers A New and Better Path.** Jesus tells the crowd to eat Him to live forever. Jesus is using an earthly illustration for a spiritual truth. The eating of His flesh is a spiritual activity and is done by faith. Earlier in this same sermon, Jesus has been clear, eternal life is granted for those who see and believe, who come to Him, who hear and learn from God. All of this speaks to faith. Eating His flesh is one more illustration that the righteous will live by faith, trusting in the promise of God who has revealed Himself to mankind as Jesus the bread of life.

**3. Jesus Speaks A New and Better Practice.** Jesus instructs His disciples that the Holy Spirit is One who makes salvation possible in our lives. The reason the crowd was troubled by what Jesus taught them is because they lacked the Holy Spirit in their hearts to help them understand. Jesus speaks spiritual truths that require a spiritual discernment that is only made possible when the Holy Spirit brings conviction and illumination in the heart of the lost. The Holy Spirit had not yet come when Jesus preached these words, but the Holy Spirit is active in or world today. God has given mankind everything they need to see and believe, to hear and learn, and to come to Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit in the world, many would still be in their sin, “grumbling” and “stumbling” and saying to themselves concerning Jesus, “this is a difficult statement; who can listen to it.” But, thanks be to God that the death of Christ would not be trampled underfoot, rather, the Holy Spirit came so that we might believe and have life.

# The Gospel of John Part 30: The Draw of God

## John 6:41-47



*John 6:41-47  
Therefore the  
Jews were  
grumbling  
about Him,  
because He  
said, "I am the  
bread that  
came down  
from heaven."  
42 They were  
saying, "Is not  
this Jesus, the*

*son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" 43 Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop grumbling among yourselves. 44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.*

The draw of God is the initiative of God making the first move to bring the lost to a knowledge of truth. Jesus tells us that this draw is accomplished through both hearing and learning. In "hearing," God draws the lost to Christ through the Christian's confession. That means God has partnered with humanity to spread the Gospel as part of His work of drawing the lost to Jesus. In "learning," God draws the lost to Christ through the Spirit's conviction. God sent the Holy Spirit into the world to empower the Christian witness and to prepare the hearts of the lost to receive, to "learn" from the gospel. Without the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the lost, the unsaved person will not accept the things of God, rather, they will consider the gospel foolishness.

**3. Every Person Must Respond to the Draw of God In Their Lives.** Jesus once again issues a call to believe in Him. The only right response to the drawing of God in our life is to believe. Though some may reject God's work of hearing and learning, some will believe. The Christian cannot know where and when the Holy Spirit is at work, but the Christian can know that Jesus has commanded us to be faithful in our witness. It is the Father's will that none should perish and all should come to repentance and faith in Jesus. The Father is drawing all of humanity to Jesus this very day. For the church, we participate with God by our good confession concerning Christ in the world, and for the lost, we respond to God by believing in Jesus.

**1) Without the Draw of God, the Lost Will Not Believe.** Despite all the signs and words of Jesus, the crowd that followed Him around the Sea of Galilee still did not believe. Instead, the crowd complained against Jesus. This crowd is representative of the human condition. In that the lost are so corrupted by sin that the Bible says they just do not understand and do not seek God on their own. Unless God takes the initiative and makes the first move for our benefit, the lost will remain in their unbelief.

**2) The Draw of God Comes Through Hearing and Learning.** Jesus tells the crowd that no one can come to Him unless the Father draws them.

# The Gospel of John Part 29: His Guarantee of Assurance

## John 6:35-40



*John 6:35-40 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out. 38 For I*

*have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 Now this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."*

**1) Assurance Comes By Partaking in the Bread of Life.** Before anyone can experience the great assurance that comes through faith, one must become a partaker of the Bread of Life. Jesus says that "seeing" alone is not enough, but seeing and "believing" is how we gain eternal life. The difference between "seeing" and "believing" is the difference between "knowing" and "trusting." Knowing about Jesus and trusting in Him for eternal life are two different things. Trust means we take Him at His word, that we

believe He is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do, and we have confidence in the promise and the promise giver. A person is found trusting when we are found obeying the Word of God.

**2) Assurance Means We Will Never Be Rejected.** Jesus tells the crowd that once they believe in Him that He will never reject them. When Jesus says that He will "never cast out," this is not a conditional statement, meaning, there are no strings attached. Once the Father gives the believer to Jesus, for His eternal care and as His eternal possession, then we are His forever. Our salvation belongs to the Father because of a work of the Son. The Father gives us to the Son and Son keeps us. There is nothing a believer can do to cause Jesus to reject them in the end.

**3) Assurance Means We Will Never Be Neglected.** Jesus tells the crowd that for those who believe in Him, that He will never lose a single person in the faith. To "lose nothing" speaks both to neglect and hostility. Jesus will never lose a believer because He will never neglect a believer. Once we believe, we possess Jesus's undivided care and attention over our lives forever. Jesus will never lose a believer because nobody can take us from Him as an act of hostility. The devil will never be able to snatch the believer out of the hand of Jesus. Because both Jesus and the Father have an eternal grip on our lives and not anyone or anything can cause God to let loose. This is Jesus's guarantee of assurance, that for all who believe in Him, He will raise them up on the last day no matter what.

# The Gospel of John Part 28: Jesus's Model for the Christian Witness (Part 1 and 2)

## John 6:22-36



*John 6:22-36*  
*On the next day, the crowd which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples*

*into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone. 23 Other small boats came from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. 25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" 26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, set His seal." 28 Therefore they said to Him, "What should we do, so that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." 30 So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He*

*who comes to Me will never hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.*

### **1) Confusion About Jesus Should Be Answered with Correction from Truth.**

Jesus told the crowd that their motives for seeking Him were wrong and corrected their confusion with the truth about Him. The lost who are seeking Christ may be confused and driven by the wrong motivations. Only the truth concerning Christ can expose the foolishness of the human heart. Jesus promises eternal life and not a better life filled with material things. The Christian experience can be a life lived with joy and abundance, but we are to seek first the kingdom and His righteousness, then all these things will be added to us. As followers of Christ, we are to bring correction to the lost who may be confused about why they are seeking Jesus.

**2) Curiosity About Jesus Should be Answered with Clarity of Faith.** Jesus told the crowd that the only thing God requires from them to be given eternal life is to believe in Him. The crowd was curious as to what works they must do to please God. Many today are curious about Jesus and believe their good works will be enough to please God. But Jesus brings clarity among the crowds curiosity with a simple statement about faith; believe in Him. The only works that God requires for anyone to enter heaven are the works that have already been done by Jesus. As followers of Christ, we are to bring clarity about faith to the lost who may be curious about what they must do to please God.

**3) Cynicism About Jesus Should be Answered with a Call to Believe.** Jesus told the crowd that He is the bread of life and gives life to the world. The crowd was cynical about Jesus's identity. They had questions and demanded that He prove to them who He was. But Jesus answered their questions with spiritual truths and called them to believe in Him. The lost today may be skeptical about who Jesus is and hesitant to trust in Him. As followers of Christ we should be ready to address the questions of the skeptic as a way to reveal the truth about who Jesus is. In the end, it is the call to believe that even a cynical seeker must hear if they are to find forgiveness of sins and eternal life in the name of Jesus.

# The Gospel of John Part 27: Receiving Jesus in the Midst of Our Storms

## John 6:16-21



*John 6:16-21*  
*Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, 17 and after getting into a boat, they began to cross the sea to*

*Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 And the sea was stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. 19 Then, when they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. 20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.*

**1) The Storms of Life Will Come Our Way.** Jesus's disciples get caught in a strong storm as they try to cross the Sea of Galilee. This story shows us that the people of God will experience great high points and great low points in life, but the storms of life will come our way. We can understand from this that first, Jesus knows about the storms before we experience them, and second, that Jesus allows the storms to come upon His followers. But for every storm in life, we can trust that they are always meant to strengthen our faith in Christ.

**2) Where There Is a Storm In Our Life, So Also Is Our Savior.** Jesus comes to His disciples in the middle of their storm. This means that where there is a storm in our life, so also is our Savior. We can learn

three truths about Jesus amidst our storms in life. First, that Jesus is coming, but in His good time. Second, that Jesus is coming, but in His good way. And third, Jesus is coming, but for His good purpose. Sometimes we get stuck in a storm in life unnecessarily because we refuse to wait, we are not looking for Jesus in our suffering, or we are unwilling to accept His terms in His offer of help in our time of need.

**3) An Early End to Our Storm Comes Once We Receive Jesus.** The disciples receive Jesus into the boat and immediately their storm ends. The difference between a boat full of fearful disciples and a boat full of men in a state of peaceful rest is that they accepted Jesus's offer of help. Had the disciples not been watching for Jesus, and had the disciples not been willing to receive Jesus, then Jesus would have kept on walking right on by. The lesson for us is that we can suffer needlessly in our storms because we miss our opportunity to be rescued by our Savior in our suffering. But, because we can know the storm is coming, and because we can know the Savior is also coming to us in our storm, then we can know there is an early end available if we simply receive Jesus in our midst right in the middle of our fear and suffering.

# The Gospel of John Part 26: The Work of Our Good Shepherd (Part 1)

## John 6:1-15



*John 6:1-15*  
*After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). 2 Now a large crowd was following Him, because*

*they were seeing the signs which He was doing on those who were sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He was sitting down with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where should we buy bread, so that these people may eat?" 6 And this He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was going to do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little." 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces so that nothing will be lost." 13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had done, they were saying, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 So Jesus, knowing that they were going to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.*

**1) The Good Shepherd Heals the Diseased Sheep.** Jesus heals the sick and causes a large crowd to follow Him. Jesus's work as the Good Shepherd extends well beyond that of physical healing, rather, He specializes in spiritual healing. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who can and will heal His sheep from the disease of sin, but we have to draw near to Him and ask to be treated, to be cleansed, and made pure, so that we can remain a vibrant and healthy member of the flock, and not become easy prey for wolves that roam about in the world.

**2) The Good Shepherd Strengthens the Weak Sheep.** Jesus uses a crisis from the crowd as an opportunity to strengthen His disciples. As a sheep of Christ we never outgrow our need to be shepherded by Him. Jesus uses trials to test His own so that they may be strengthened in faith. The follower of Christ is going to encounter various trials, even crisis in their life and these things are a test from our Good Shepherd, not to trip us up, but to build us up in the faith.

**3) The Good Shepherd Feeds the Hungry Sheep.** Jesus feeds the five thousand as a sign that they might believe in Him. The feeding of the five thousand demonstrates the trustworthiness of God to bring forth our daily provision in life. The Good Shepherd feeds the hungry sheep, not just once, but pours out His provision in our life day by day, and this provision is one that overflows and always satisfies. There is no detail overlooked in our life that our Good Shepherd does not tend to for us.

**4) The Good Shepherd Guides the Stray Sheep.** Jesus withdraws from the crowd because their intentions were misguided. The crowd rightly understood by what Jesus did that He was both the Prophet and King who is to come. However, Jesus did not come into the world to be crowned King by sinful people, rather, He came to be crucified for sinful people. It is the Father who will rightly crown Jesus king and will do so at His time and by His methods. The guiding work of our Good Shepherd is what binds everything together. Because, the closer we walk with Christ, the less we are inflicted by sin, the more we are strengthened, and the nearer we stand to our provision in life.

# The Gospel of John Part 25: The Witnesses of Truth Concerning Jesus (Part 2)

## John 5:31-47



*John 5:31-47 "If I alone bear witness about Myself, My witness is not true. 32 "There is another who bears witness about Me, and I know that the witness which He gives about Me is*

*true. 33 "You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 "But the witness I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 "He was the lamp that was burning and shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 "But the witness I have is greater than the witness of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish – the very works that I do – bear witness about Me, that the Father has sent Me. 37 "And the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness about Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. 38 "And you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. 39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that bear witness about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. 41 "I do not receive glory from men; 42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. 43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the only God? 45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. 46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. 47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*

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**1) The Testimony of John Bears Witness to the Truth.** John the Baptist was a man, called and equipped by God, to prepare and point the people of God to their Messiah. John carried with him a credible testimony that flowed from a life of devotion to God. The church today is called to pick up John's ministry in the world to prepare and point the sinner to the Savior. Jesus reveals that even in a culture today that demands a "pragmatic" view of truth, or a truth that is practically beneficial, there is no greater benefit available to humanity than the truth that Jesus saves the sinner.

**2) The Work of Jesus Bears Witness to the Truth.** Jesus did the works that only God could do and proved with His miracles that His word is true. Jesus's miracles appeal to the human sentiment that "seeing is believing." In our culture today, many will not believe something unless that thing "corresponds" to reality. Meaning it can be observed, measured, and tested. When Jesus healed the sick, those people became physical demonstrations of His truth in the here and now. The Christian today is a physical demonstration of the truth of Jesus in the here and now. The transformed life of the Christian bears witness to the truth of Christ.

**3) The Voice of God the Father Bears Witness to the Truth.** God the Father, the One who sent Jesus into the world, is the One who established firmly the credibly and trustworthiness of Jesus; His word and His works. In the days of Christ, God the Father spoke from heaven to the people declaring Jesus as the beloved Son of God. In our day, the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and bears witness to the truth of Jesus as the voice of God in the world. When God's voice speaks in our heart we are to listen to Him.

**4) The Words of Scripture Bears Witness to the Truth.** The Bible, from beginning to end, is one great testimony from God concerning the person Jesus. The Scriptures are God's special revelation to humanity that reveals His character, His nature, and His purposes, all of which find their perfect fulfillment in Christ. In our culture today some will evaluate truth by its "coherence." That means the claims, arguments, and propositions are internally consistent and rational. The Bible, though written by over 40 different authors, and over the course of 1,500 years, is consistent concerning the truth and maintains a perfect coherence.

# The Gospel of John Part 24: The Witnesses of Truth Concerning Jesus (Part 1)

## John 5:31-47



*John 5:31-47 "If I alone bear witness about Myself, My witness is not true. 32 "There is another who bears witness about Me, and I know that the witness which He gives about Me is*

*true. 33 "You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 "But the witness I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 "He was the lamp that was burning and shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 "But the witness I have is greater than the witness of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish – the very works that I do – bear witness about Me, that the Father has sent Me. 37 "And the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness about Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. 38 "And you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. 39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that bear witness about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. 41 "I do not receive glory from men; 42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. 43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the only God? 45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. 46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. 47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*

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A timeless question rings out in every generation and constantly demands an answer: what is truth? In every generation humanity sets forth in different ways to answer that question so that we might gain knowledge and understanding. Well, that question is never more important than when we apply it to the person of Christ. How can we know that Jesus is who He says He is? How can we know that Jesus will do what He says He will do? The answer to that question is fully given by Jesus Himself, and He offers for us today four reasons why we can know He is truth, and two reasons why people refuse to believe. The truth of Christ is revealed through four witnesses:

**1) The Testimony of John Bears Witness to the Truth.** John the Baptist was a man, called and equipped by God, to prepare and point the people of God to their Messiah. John carried with him a credible testimony that flowed from a life devoted to God. The church today is called to pick up John's ministry in the world to prepare and point the sinner to the Savior. Jesus reveals that even in a culture today that demands a "pragmatic" view of truth, or a truth that is practically beneficial, there is no greater benefit available to humanity in the truth that Jesus saves the sinner.

**2) The Works of Jesus Bears Witness to the Truth.** Jesus was not a man who said He could do something and then never showed that to the people. Rather, Jesus did the works that only God could do and proved with His miracles that His word was true. In other words, Jesus's miracles appeal to the human sentiment that "seeing is believing." In our culture today, many will not believe something unless that thing "corresponds" to reality. Meaning it can be observed, measured, and tested. When Jesus healed the sick, those people became walking and talking demonstrations of His truth in the here and now. The Christian today is a walking and talking demonstration of the truth of Jesus in the here and now. A transformed life, that can only be explained by the miraculous work of Jesus, is a powerful testimony in the world that bears witness to the truth concerning Christ.

# The Gospel of John Part 23: Hearing the Voice of God

## John 5:25-32



*John 5:25-32 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For*

Spirit is at work in the world today, opening the spiritual eyes and ears of the lost so that they may hear the gospel of Jesus and be called forth from death to life.

**2) Hearing the Voice of God Fulfills a Future Promise.** Jesus next reveals that the dead will hear the Father's voice and be raised to the resurrection. This is an old promise that guarantees a future reality. The prophet Daniel was given a promise long ago: that all the dead will be raised, but some to everlasting life, and others to everlasting contempt. While only a few will hear the Son's voice and live, every single person will hear the Father's voice and be raised from the dead in the end. This is an inescapable reality for all mankind.

**3) Hearing the Voice of God Preserves a Past Witness.** Jesus finishes by declaring that both the Son and the Father bear witness about the same thing; they speak with one voice. The truth in all of this is that both Son and Father are willing and acting in the world as One, and that both Son and Father are bearing witness that Jesus is truth. When we hear the voice of God, it is a voice that speaks in perfect unity, that testifies to the same truth, and that has the same power over life and death. If the first time we hear the voice of God is at the resurrection, then it is too late. Jesus is calling every person today to hear the voice of God the Son, so that when they hear the voice of God the Father in the future, it will be a time of blessed hope and not everlasting contempt.

*just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgement, because He is the Son of Man. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. 30 "I can do nothing from Myself. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 31 "If I alone bear witness about Myself, My witness is not true. 32 "There is another who bears witness about Me, and I know that the witness which He gives about Me is true."*

**1) Hearing the Voice of God Brings Forth a New Reality.** Jesus tells the religious rulers in Jerusalem that the dead can hear His voice and live. This truth represents a new reality for all mankind. Hearing the voice of Jesus means we receive the word from Christ, we know it, we understand it, we believe it, and we trust in that word. But for anyone to hear and live, they need the Holy Spirit to heal their spiritual ears and prepare their dulled heart. The Holy

# The Gospel of John Part 22: Knowing God the Father by Knowing God the Son

## John 5:16-24



*John 5:16-24*  
*And for this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But He answered them, "My Father is*

*working until now, and I Myself am working."* 18 *For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father making Himself equal with God. 19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing from Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same manner. 20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. 21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgement to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.** 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life..*

**1) The World Does Not Know God the Father Because They Reject God the Son.** The religious rulers in Jerusalem saw the signs that Jesus was doing and heard the words that Jesus was saying, yet concluded that Jesus was not divine but instead was a delinquent. They rejected Jesus, God the Son, and by doing this they showed that they did not know God

the Father. Rather than their religion drawing them nearer to God, it instead drove them further away from God. The world will never know God the Father until they first believe in God the Son.

**2) God the Father and God the Son are Coequal and United.** Jesus reveals to the world that we can know God the Father by knowing God the Son because the Father and the Son are coequal and united. Jesus says they are united in action, united in will, united in power, and united in honor. Yet, amidst all this unity there is a difference concerning their role in the world: it is Jesus alone who will judge mankind. There is but one person appointed to redeem humanity from the coming judgement: Jesus, God the Son.

**3) Rejection of Jesus is Rejection of God the Father Because the Father Sent the Son.** The grand conclusion from Jesus concerning all these things is that nobody can come out of judgement and into eternal life except through Him. The reality is that God the Father does not offer a separate work of salvation except that which Christ has made available to all mankind. God the Father has sent God the Son to make it possible for humanity to receive the forgiveness of sin and eternal life in His name. If we reject Jesus, we also reject God the Father and He is not sending anyone else, and He will not provide another way. To believe in Jesus is to believe also in the Father who sent Him and this alone is how one can pass from death to life.

# The Gospel of John Part 21: When Faith and Religion Collide

## John 5:1-16



*John 5:1-16 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. 3 In*

*these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters; 4 for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever sickness with which he was afflicted.] 5 And a man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been sick a long time, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" 7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your mat and walk." 9 And immediately the man became well, and picked up his mat and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. 10 So the Jews were saying to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." 11 But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" 12 They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your mat and walk?'" 13 But the man who was healed did not know who is was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." 15*

*The man went away, and disclosed to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 And for this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.*

**1) The Sick Will Be Searching for a Cure.** When Jesus enters in Jerusalem, there is a man who has been sick for 38 years trying his best to be cured of his disease. This sick man is simply doing what he knows best, he is following conventional wisdom, and he lays by a pool with no guarantee that healing will every occur in his life. The world is filled with people who have a terminal disease. Sin has come to all of humanity and death through sin. Some people know this to be true, others are ignorant of this truth. But, it is those who know they have this disease, those that are searching for a cure, these are the ones who can be found going to places in search of a cure, but have yet to discover that forgiveness and life does not come from a place, but it comes through a person: Jesus.

**2) Jesus Will Come to Those Seeking to be Healed.** The sick man had no one to help him and could not help himself, but he knew he needed healing. Jesus, came to him in his time of need and Jesus cured the man's disease. People today are seeking in all sorts of places a cure for sin and death. But until they meet Jesus they will only discover that no one else can heal them, and they cannot heal themselves no matter how hard they try. The world is filled with entire religious systems that offer relief for the symptoms of sin, but have no cure because they are missing the great Physician who alone can heal all mankind: Jesus. He will come to those who call upon Him.

**3) A Dead Religion Can Blind Us to the Cure for Our Disease.** When the religious rulers in Jerusalem discovered this man had been healed by Jesus, they missed their sign from God concerning Jesus, and could only fixate on a broken rule in a broken religion. The rules of a religion had blinded them to the truth that the Christ had come and He alone reconciles God to man. Because being in fellowship with God does not come about by following religious rules or doing religious things. Rather, fellowship with God can only come through faith in Jesus.

# The Gospel of John Part 20: How a Desperate Journey Can End With an Eternal Hope

## John 4:43-54



*John 4:43-54*  
*And after*  
*the two days*  
*He went*  
*from there*  
*into Galilee.*  
*44 For Jesus*  
*Himself bore*  
*witness that*  
*a prophet*  
*has no*  
*honor in his*  
*own*

*country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast. 46 Then He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was asking Him to come down and heal his son; for he was about to die. 48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." 49 The royal official said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. 51 And while he was still going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was alive. 52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at the hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives;" and he himself believed and his whole household. 54 This is again a second sign that Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.*

**1) A Desperate Condition Should Bring A Person to Jesus.** When the royal official meets Jesus it is because he had a desperate situation in his life with no other hope than to seek out a miracle from Christ. The one thing lacking in many people's lives, the thing that is preventing them from coming to Christ, is that they are not desperate enough. But every person faces a desperate reality that will come if they experience death without knowing Jesus. Only Jesus offers eternal hope to the desperate.

**2) Jesus is More Than a Cure for Our Troubles Today.** The royal official simply saw Jesus as the means to an end. Jesus was a resource for this man to solve his problem today with no consideration of the future to come. But what Jesus desired was for this man to believe in Him. In our day, there are many who come to Jesus with wrong motives and who seek prosperity, health, wealth, or even social status. But Jesus is offering none of these things as a cure for our troubles today, rather, Jesus desires that we believe He is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing we may have life in His name.

**3) To Know What Jesus Has Done is to Believe in Who Jesus Is.** It was not until the royal official finally realized who Jesus truly was based on what Jesus had done in his life, that this man believed in Jesus and was saved. In our day, there is a much greater work than the healing of a dying boy that Jesus has done for all mankind. Jesus has died on the cross and rose again and this is what we must know and what we must believe to experience the forgiveness of sin and eternal life in His name. The death and resurrection of Jesus is what He is offering to each us today as His finished work, it is our sign of who He is, and the only response He desires from us is to believe.

# The Gospel of John Part 19: Finishing the Work of God in Our Lives

## John 4:28-42



*John 4:28-42 So the woman left her water jar, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; is this not the Christ?" 30 They went out of the*

*city, and were coming to Him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. 35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 "Even now he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor." 39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who bore witness, "He told me all the things that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is truly the Savior of the world."*

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**1) The Work of God Starts with Our Witness.** After a personal encounter with Jesus, the women at the well went and told everyone to come see the Christ. It is through the witness of the Samaritan woman that many believed in Jesus. God has begun a great work of redemption in the world. Every single Christian has been called to participate in that work by being a witness of Christ in the world. We can use the Samaritan women as our example by keeping our witness for Jesus urgent, inviting, personal, and Christ centered.

**2) The Work of God Requires Our Labor.** Jesus relates our labor in God's work to that of a farmer growing a crop. It starts with sowing the seed and ends in a harvest. Jesus tells His disciples that they have now entered into the labor of God. The Christian today is no different and each one of us as entered into the labor of God in our life. We learn from Jesus that this work of ours is varied with each person having their own task, that our work is to be in unity with one another striving towards a common end, and that our labor is not without an eternal reward for those that are faithful. The Christian today can be sure that the Holy Spirit has gifted them uniquely to equip each one of us for the labor that God has called us to.

**3) The Work of God Finishes at the Harvest.** The story of the women at the well ends with many of the Samaritans believing. They believed in the witness of the women and they believed in the word of Jesus. Today, we have both of these things: our personal testimony and the words of Jesus. We have everything we need to begin the work of God in our lives this very day. The faith of the Samaritans was the harvest that Jesus saw among the people because God's work is finished at the harvest. The Scripture declares that God's work within the church will not be finished until the "fullness of the Gentiles." This means that so long as the church remains in the world, God is not finished with His work for lives.

# The Gospel of John Part 16-18: The Reconciliation of a Broken People (Part 1-3)

## John 4:1-30



*John 4:1-30*  
*Therefore when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), 3 He left Judea and went*

*away again into Galilee. 4 And He had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How do You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, being a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews had no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst – ever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come back here to draw." 16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come back here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I see that You are a prophet. 20 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when*

*the true worshiper will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when He comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." 27 And at this point His disciples came, and they were marveling that He was speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You speaking with her?" 28 So the woman left her water jar, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; is this not the Christ?" 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.*

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**1) Reconciliation Comes to an Estranged People.** As Jesus returned to Galilee, He had to first pass through Samaria. The Samaritans represented an estranged people because of their pattern of rebellion against God. But as bad as they were in the eyes of the Law, they shared one thing in common with every living person: a need for reconciliation to God. In light of this, Jesus comes to them because there is no group or person on earth who cannot find reconciliation with God through Christ.

**2) Reconciliation with God Comes by a Promise.** Jesus tells the Samaritan women that eternal life has come through His promise to her and all the people: that if she asks, then it will be given. Like a thirst that falls upon every person and drives their need for water, a spiritual thirst exists in every person that cannot be satisfied by the things of the world. Yet, Jesus declares that He can quench the spiritual thirst for reconciliation to God for all who trust in Him.

**3) Reconciliation with God Comes for the Purpose of Worship.** Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that God is seeking a people who will worship Him in spirit and truth. Those with a new spirit brought by reconciliation, flowing from a new truth found in the gospel of Christ. Life giving trust leads to life transforming worship. We are reconciled to God through a promise, and for the purpose of worship.

**4) Reconciliation with God Comes by a Person.** Despite Jesus's promise and invitation for reconciliation, the woman responds with a hopeful doubt. But that doubt is transformed into pure joy when she discovers the one who is to come, who will declare all things to all people, is in fact standing before her. Jesus is revealed as the person through whom reconciliation to God comes to all mankind.

# The Gospel of John Part 15: A New and Better Way

## John 3:22-36



*John 3:22-36 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. 23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim,*

*because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized – 24 for John had not yet been thrown into prison. 25 Therefore there arose a debate between John’s disciples and a Jew about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have borne witness, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him.” 27 John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. 28 “You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent ahead of Him.’ 29 “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. 30 “He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 “He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 “What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no one receives His witness. 33 “He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that God is true. 34 “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. 35 “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. 36 “He who believes*

*in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

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### **1) The Great Debate: What is the Best Way to Achieve Purification Before God?**

A great debate emerges as both Jesus and John the Baptist are performing baptisms in the land of Israel. Amidst all the different ways the Jews believed that a person can become purified before God, which one is the best? The Law offered a way, the tradition offered a way, the Temple offered a way, yet there remained confusion in the land with Jesus’s appearing. This debate continues to the present age, because God has said that for any person to have the hope of standing in His presence, they must first be made pure.

### **2) Jesus Is The Best Way For Achieving Purification Before God.**

John the Baptist settles with question with his disciples by making it clear: Jesus is the best way to be made pure before a holy God. Jesus possesses a better origin, offers a better witness, which leads to a better truth. The gospel of John has already shown that Jesus gives a better baptism, offers a better practice, has raised a better institution, and gives a better birth. There is no enterprise among mankind that can achieve the full satisfaction of what Jesus offers in contrast to human efforts. Jesus is the better way.

**3) Believe In Jesus and Be Made Pure Before God.** Only one questions remains in light of these great truths concerning what Jesus offers: How can a person receive the purification that Jesus offers today? John the Baptist makes this answer clear: believe. He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who does not obey the Son will not see life. This is the answer for humanity today, that no one can pass from death to life, from unclean to clean, or from wrath to joy but by faith alone in the Son of God. Jesus is our new and better way.

# The Gospel of John Part 13-14: His Greatest Words (Part 2-3)

## John 3:16-21



*John 3:16-21*  
*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 “For God did not send the Son*

*into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 19 “And this is the verdict: Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed. 21 “But he who does the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be made known as having been done by God.”*

**1) The Greatest Verses.** Jesus brings to a close his teaching concerning the new birth with the greatest verses in the Bible. He offers John 3:16 as an explanation for why and how God can so graciously redeem mankind to Himself. It is because: it involves the greatest person, it follows the greatest truth, it includes the

greatest act, it contains the greatest gift, it applies to the greatest number, it offers the greatest invitation, it holds the greatest promise, it provides the greatest certainty, and it reveals the greatest destiny. This message of good news will endure until the end, but we know that God has fixed a day in which Christ will return.

**2) The Greatest Verdict.** It is in light of the coming judgment that one can find the greatest verdict in the Bible: “He who believes in Him is not judged.” All of human history has a destiny that will end with the second coming of Christ. While He came the first time as savior of the world, He will return a second time as the great Judge of the world. But there is one group who will not be partakers in the judgement to come in the end, it is those who believe in the name of Jesus. Everyone else will stand before the Judge because they did not believe in the name of the Son of God.

**3) The Greatest Assurance.** Jesus declares that because of the new birth, there will be two kinds of people in the world until the end: those that do evil, and those that do truth. It is for the doers of truth that Jesus offers an assurance today that we may know we will be redeemed in the end: that our deeds will be seen by the world as having been done by God. Later in 1 John, John offers three ways that we can know we have been born again of God, simply by asking ourselves: What Do I Believe, How Do I Behave, and How Do I Love? We can have assurance leading to confidence before God because we can see evidence of His work in the transformation of our lives.

# The Gospel of John Part 13: His Greatest Words (Part 2)

## John 3:16-21



*John 3:16-21*  
*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 “For God did not send the Son*

*into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 19 “And this is the verdict: Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed. 21 “But he who does the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be made known as having been done by God.”*

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# The Gospel of John Part 12: His Greatest Words (Part 1)

## John 3:16-21



*John 3:16-21*  
*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 “For God did not send the Son into the world*

*to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 19 “And this is the verdict: Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed. 21 “But he who does the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be made known as having been done by God.”*

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John 3:16 is considered by many as the greatest verse in the Bible. This is easy to see when one considers the reasons why this is so.

**1) It Is About The Greatest Person:** “For God” There is none like Him. Humanity cannot even imagine a person greater than God, but God in His greatness has made Himself known to us.

**2) It Contains The Greatest Truth:** “so loved the world” All of eternity, for every person, hinges on this great truth: God is love. So great is His love for mankind that He has done everything required to save us.

**3) It Shows The Greatest Act:** “that He gave” God is under no obligation to give mankind anything. But out of His loving grace He gave Himself to redeem the crown jewel of His creation: humanity.

**4) It Reveals The Greatest Gift:** “His one and only Son” God spared nothing to save us. Jesus is the greatest gift because He is given freely and He is all the world needs to inherit everything.

**5) It Applies To The Greatest Number:** “that whoever” There are no limits to the saving power of Christ. Every person, in every generation, and in every place can receive Jesus by faith.

**6) It Offers The Greatest Invitation:** “believes in Him” The only thing God requires from us to be saved is to believe. There are no works required and no payment do, Jesus did it all.

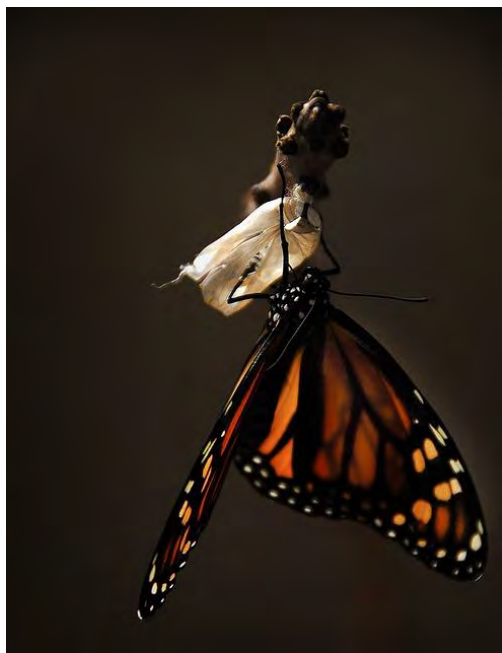
**7) It Contains The Greatest Promise:** “shall not perish” God says He will do this for us. We trust in this promise for our eternal hope.

**8) It Provides The Greatest Certainty:** “but have” God left nothing for us to do to guarantee our salvation. When we trust in Christ, our eternity is firmly established by God Himself.

**9) It Ensures The Greatest Destiny:** “eternal life.” We cannot truly comprehend what it means to live in the very presence of God forever. But this is our destiny for those who trust in Christ.

# The Gospel of John Part 11: Our New Birth

## John 3:1-15



*John 3:1-15 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be*

*born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? 11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and bear witness of what we have seen, and you do not accept our witness. 12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 "And as Moses*

*lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes, will in Him have eternal life.*

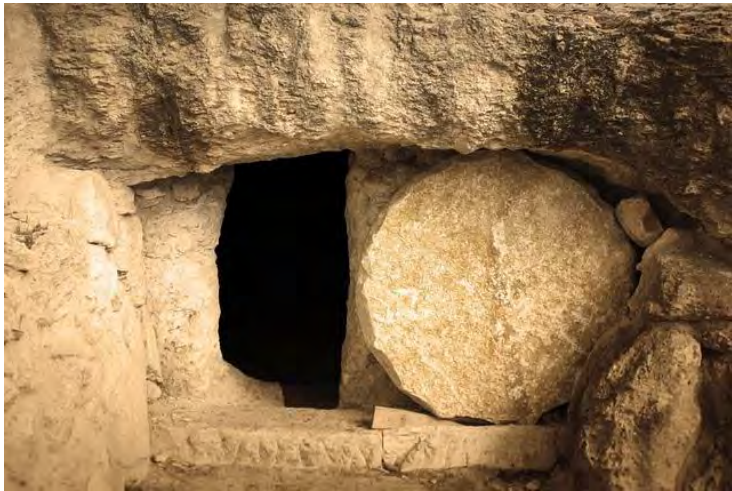
**1) Humanity Cannot Save Themselves.** Nicodemus was a man just like many people we find today. He thought that because he had the right religious credentials that he had found favor with God. The only thing his religious credentials led to was a faulty confession and a lack of faith. A person can have the greatest religious credentials to be had, with a profound knowledge of the things of God, and an almost perfect sounding confession, but none of these things will save anyone. Jesus is going to tell Nicodemus and each one of us today, that we must be born again. We need the right heart which leads to the right confession.

**2) God Alone Saves the Sinner.** The only way any person will see and will enter the kingdom of God is by being born again. This is Jesus's command to all. But for the one who believes they must earn their salvation through works, this can be a hard thing to understand. But God says "I will do it." God alone brings forth the work of the new birth in the heart of the believer. A Christian is fundamentally a person who has experience complete transformation from old to new through faith. We are cleansed by God, transformed spiritually by God, and indwelt by the Spirit of God. This is the new birth.

**3) Trust in the Promises of God.** Jesus criticizes Nicodemus because he was the teacher in Israel. He had access to the word of God which spoke directly to the new birth from the prophet Ezekiel, and yet, he still did not understand and trust the ways of God. When God saves the sinner, it is a spiritual work. Like the blowing of the wind, there are spiritual truths that defy our comprehension. But Jesus assures us that Scripture itself bears witness to the truth. That we are to trust the Word of God and His promises, knowing that we may never fully comprehend the ways of God. We are to simply trust that He is able, He is willing, and that He will do what He says He will do. This is faith leading to the new birth.

# The Gospel of John Part 10: His Gospel

## John 2:18-25



*John 2:18-25  
The Jews  
then said to  
Him, "What  
sign do You  
show us as  
Your  
authority for  
doing these  
things?" 19  
Jesus  
answered*

*them, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up."  
20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this  
sanctuary and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was  
speaking about the sanctuary of His body. 22 So when He was  
raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this;  
and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had  
spoken. 23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during  
the feast, many believed in His name, when they saw His signs  
which He was doing. 24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting  
Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He had no  
need that anyone bear witness concerning man, for He Himself  
knew what was in man.*

**1) An Ask for a Sign.** After Jesus purifies the temple, the Jews ask Him for a sign concerning His authority to do what He just did. But the reality is, the Jews were already given a sign. The sign from the prophet Malachi was fulfilled when Christ appeared first in the Temple. The sign of David was fulfilled in

the zeal the Lord demonstrated for the House of God. But the Jews ignored these signs because they were not ready to admit what they were doing was wrong. The gospel of Christ demands the sinner admits God is right concerning the direction and destination for their lives in light of His holiness and righteousness. But, the Jews refused to believe that there was anything wrong with what they were doing.

**2) A Promise Given.** In response to the Jew's request for a sign, Jesus gives them a promise. Jesus says that He will give them the sign of all signs: the resurrection. The resurrection is a sign for every single person and in every single generation that Jesus is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do. The world asks for a sign, and the world has all the sign they will every need and that they will every get to know who Jesus is and what we are to do about Him. But the resurrection of Christ alone is not enough to save mankind, rather, every person must respond to the death and resurrection of Jesus personally.

**3) A Response To Be Had.** In light of Jesus proclaiming His gospel to the Jews and the disciples concerning the resurrection, we are shown two responses. The Jews heard and understood Jesus, but refused to believe. However, the disciples also heard and understood Jesus, but responded to the truth of His gospel by faith. Every person has to personally respond to the gospel of Christ. Refusing to believe is a response, but faith alone is all that God requires for eternal life.

# The Gospel of John Part 9: His Purifying Work

## John 2:13-17



*John 2:13-17  
And the  
Passover of  
the Jews was  
near, and  
Jesus went up  
to Jerusalem.  
14 And He  
found in the  
temple those  
who were  
selling oxen*

*and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume me."*

**1) A Disgraceful Homecoming.** Not only did the prophet Malachi foretell the coming of John the Baptist, but he also foretells the first work of the Messiah, that He "will suddenly come to His temple." And this is exactly what Jesus did. But, even though the temple of God was set apart as a holy place for the people to commune with God, this is not what Jesus found. Rather, what He found was utterly disgraceful. The local church today is very much like the temple of old. Paul

calls it "the sanctuary of God." And Christ visits His bride regularly, and He "knows our deeds." We can learn a lesson from the Jews in this account, that the local church ought to be ready and expecting Christ to suddenly come to His church.

**2) A Righteous Purification.** Jesus is the master purifier. When that which has been set apart by God as holy becomes defiled, Jesus will bring forth His work of purification. Paul reminds us that not only is the local church the sanctuary of God, but every believer is the "sanctuary of the Holy Spirit." When we become defiled because of sin in our life, Jesus can either purify us against our will, like He did in the temple at Jerusalem, or upon our request. The difference is, one comes as a discipling judgment in our life, the other as a gentle cleansing from a tender hand. We can learn a lesson from the Jews in this account, that our prayer life ought to seek regular and willing purification of sin before God, so that we receive a gentle cleansing and not a "scourge."

**3) A Compelling Proof.** Jesus's work of purification in the temple was not without meaning, rather it was a compelling proof of who He is. The Scripture describes the Messiah as the One who will have "zeal" for God's house. The works of Christ in the world become the perfect fulfillment of prophecy so that those who see and know may also believe. We have the testimony of Scripture today, so that we also might "remember" what is written and be strengthened in our faith.

# The Gospel of John Part 8: The Beginning of His Signs

## John 2:1-12



*John 2:1-12 And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; 2 and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when the*

*wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were six stone jars set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing two or three measures each. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the water jars with water." So they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. 9 Now when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, 10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then the inferior wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this in Cana of Galilee as the beginning of His signs, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. 12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.*

**1) The Work of Christ is Known Through His Sign.** Jesus launched His public ministry by performing a miraculous sign; He turned

water into wine. Only God can transform something old into something new through a supernatural work. Today, the world does not need to see Jesus transform water into wine. Because the church is the sign of Christ in this age. The transformation that happens in the life of every Christian is a sign to the world that Jesus is the Christ. The question for us today, is when the world gets a "taste" of our lives, through the attitudes and actions we show them, will they see the transforming work of Christ, or will this miracle be hidden from them?

**2) The Work of Christ is Done in His Own Time.** Mary learned an important lesson about faith at this wedding feast. That the power of Christ is made known in our life and in our circumstances in His own time not ours. Jesus said "My hour has not yet come." That means, despite Mary's problem, and Mary's expectation of Him, He would bring forth His work in the situation according to His own time. We are shown today through this account that when we are willing to accept Jesus's timing and not ours, to work in our circumstance, that He will bring forth a good work in our lives.

**3) The Work of Christ is Done in His Own Way.** Mary and the servants demonstrated an important lesson about faith in their circumstances. That the power of Christ is made known in our life and in our circumstances in His own way and not ours. Mary said "Whatever He says to you, do it." That means, once we invite Christ into our circumstances we have to be willing to move forward in complete trust and obedience to Him. It may just be that we do not see Christ working in our circumstances today because we have not yet gotten out of His way and commit our hearts to say, "whatever you say to do, I will do it."

# The Gospel of John Part 7: The Making of Disciples

## John 1:35-51



*John 1:35-51 On the next day, John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 And the two disciples heard him speak and followed Jesus. 38 And when Jesus turned and noticed them following, He said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to*

*Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day. It was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. When Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). 43 On the next day, He desired to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Phillip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said about him, "Behold, truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "From where do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

**1) The Witness.** In the calling of the first disciples of Jesus, we discover that it all starts with a faithful witness concerning Christ. We have as our examples: John the Baptist, Andrew, and Phillip. Each one of these men told someone else about Jesus as the first step in disciple making. Yet, across these different accounts we learn that our witness comes forth in our own way, using our own words, based on our own understanding, and among our own relationships. There are few hard and fast rules concerning witnessing for Christ, we just keep Him as the subject of our testimony to others.

**2) The Response.** Every witness concerning Christ that came forward was met with varied responses. There was Andrew and the other who were eager seekers of Christ and just need a point in the right direction. There was Peter, who had to be "brought". Someone else had to remove all the barriers to his coming to meet Jesus. Finally, there was Nathanael, a skeptic, who needed more encouragement to blunt his reluctant curiosity. The responses will vary to our invitation, but we must meet excuses with solutions, and skepticism with persistence.

**3) The Reception.** Everyone who came to Christ was received by Him. For the eager seekers, Andrew and the other, they were met with a warm welcome. For Peter, who was brought, he was met with a new identity, the rock of faith. And for Nathanael, his skepticism was met with a convincing proof. For those who come, Jesus does the rest. We witness, we make the introduction, we get the lost to where then need to be, and Jesus will work in their heart.

There is always an exception to disciple making. Jesus can find, Jesus can call, and Jesus can receive. Jesus can do all the work as He did in the case of Philip. But that is the exception rather than the rule. Jesus says that we are to go and to make, that we are to go and to witness. We cannot wait for Jesus to do the work He is waiting on us to do.

# The Gospel of John Part 6: Christ as the Lamb of God Part 2

## John 1:29-34



*John 1:29-34 On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" 30 "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes*

*a man who has been ahead of me, for He existed before me.' 31 "I did not know Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing with water." 32 And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abided on Him. 33 "And I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "The One upon whom you see the Spirit descending and abiding on Him, this is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I myself have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

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**1) Christ is The Lamb Revealed.** John introduces the Lamb of God to the world. It is in this name for Jesus that Scripture reveals the Lamb of God as more than just a name. He is the lamb foretold by the prophets, foreshown to the people, foreknown by God, and foreseen in glory.

**2) Christ is The Lamb of Purpose.** It is the purpose of Christ in His first coming to ..."take away the sin of the world!" We

learn in the Lamb's purpose that sin is our problem, Jesus is the world's solution, and that we can stand in victory before God because our sin is removed by faith in the Lamb.

**3) Christ is The Lamb Known from God's Work.** History tells us that many have come claiming to be the Christ, the Lamb of God. And Scripture tells us many will still come claiming to be the Christ. But the one thing every imposter lacks is the one thing Jesus has, a sign from God as His testimony of authenticity. God personally bears witness to Jesus as the Lamb of God by miraculous signs. Nobody can know the Lamb until God first bears witness about Him in the human heart.

**4) Christ is The Lamb Known from God's Word.** We do not need to depend on the testimony of eye witness alone to know the Lamb of God. Rather, we have a "more sure word" that makes known to all men the Son of God: Scripture. God's word is how Christ was made known to humanity in the first century, and God's word is how Christ is made known today. Because saving faith comes by hearing the word of God.

Though John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the world, he did not know Him, until God made Him know through God's own work and word. So it is today, that nobody can know Jesus apart from God's work and God's word. Both of which are in the world today calling every man, everywhere, to repentance and faith in Jesus.

# The Gospel of John Part 5: Christ as the Lamb of God Part 1

## John 1:29-34



*John 1:29-34 On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes*

*a man who has been ahead of me, for He existed before me.' 31 "I did not know Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing with water." 32 And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abided on Him. 33 "And I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "The One upon whom you see the Spirit descending and abiding on Him, this is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I myself have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

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John introduces Jesus to the world as "the Lamb of God." It is this Lamb of God that the Scripture bears witness to, and the world will discover this is more than just a name. Because the Lamb of God is the One that the Bible reveals to us in a fourfold way.

**1) Christ is The Lamb Foretold.** It is the prophet Isaiah that foretells of a lamb to come. This lamb will be oppressed and afflicted. This lamb will be led to the slaughter. And all along the

way, this lamb will remain silent as he meets his fate. The silent and suffering lamb foretold in now in the world.

**2) Christ is The Lamb Foreshown.** God did a mighty work among Israel as a foreshadow of the things to come. It is during the exodus of Israel out of Egypt that God instructed His people to place the blood of a lamb on the threshold of their homes to save them from the coming judgement. God's wrath passed over those who were covered in the blood of the lamb, and what was foreshown in Israel is now made perfect in Christ.

**3) Christ is The Lamb Foreknown.** It is the Apostle Peter who tells us that the Lamb of God, whose precious blood has redeemed those who believe, was foreknown in the council of God before the foundation of the world. God foreknew before He created anything that He would send Jesus into the world to be the unblemished and spotless sacrifice for sin. The lamb foreknown is now revealed to mankind in the person of Jesus.

**4) Christ is The Lamb Foreseen.** Not only does the Bible speak of the Lamb of God in the past and in the present, but the Bible reveals the Lamb of God in the future as the One foreseen. As the Apostle John witnesses the end of all things, he looks into heaven and sees the Lamb who was slain. But now, the Lamb of God is glorified and possesses all power, wisdom, strength, and honor as every creature in heaven and on earth will praise His great name.

# The Gospel of John Part 4: The Messenger of Christ

## John 1:19-28



*John 1:19-28 And this is the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am*

*not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Therefore, they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 "This One is He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy to untie the strap of His sandal." 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

**1) The Inquiry.** John the Baptist's appearance among Israel was cause for a great inquiry. Because, it had been over 450 years since God had spoken to His people through a prophet. God had been

silent among the nation. Now comes a man who talked like a prophet, who did the works of a prophet, and the religious rulers in Jerusalem wanted to know who John was and why John was doing what he was doing. In John's response to this inquiry the message is clear: this is not about John, it is all about the One who is coming.

**2) The Question of Who?** Even though God had not spoken in Israel for over 400 years, the Jews knew the last thing He told them through the prophet Malachi: that Elijah would come before the day of the Lord. But in John's response to all the questions concerning his identity, he simply states that he is the voice of the one calling. This is the first pillar of John the Baptist's ministry, he is a voice who points. Crying out in the wilderness, pointing the people to Jesus. The witness for Christ is never about the messenger, but is always about the subject of our message; Jesus.

**3) The Question of Why?** The Pharisees wanted to know why John was baptizing the people, and his answer informs the second pillar of his ministry. It was to prepare the people for the One who comes after him. John the Baptist was a man of importance in God's plan of redemption, a man with a purpose, a man with a focus, and a man on point for Jesus in the world. Yet, John rightly understood that the significance of his earthly work had nothing to do with him, but had everything to do with Christ. John dedicated his entire life's work to bringing glory to Christ and not himself. The world was to prepare for Christ's first coming, and today, the world is to prepare for Christ's return. John's ministry in the world is now given to the church to point the people to Jesus and prepare them for the Lord's coming again.

# ***The Gospel of John Part 3: The Story of Jesus. God Becomes a Man***

## **John 1:14-18**



*John 1:14-18  
And the Word  
became flesh  
and dwelt  
among us. We  
have seen His  
glory, the glory  
of the One and  
Only, who came  
from the  
Father, full of*

*grace and truth. 15 John testifies concerning Him. He cries out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.*

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After John introduces Jesus as the Word who was and is God from eternity past, he then tells us something amazing: that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. One might wonder why God would ever become a man? The answer to this question is found in the fruit of Jesus's earthly ministry.

**1) To Do What We Cannot.** The one thing that God requires of anyone to have a relationship with Him, is the one thing that humanity has proven we cannot do: to live a perfect life. But Jesus did what nobody else could do, and as a man, Jesus lived

a perfect life. The only reason we can stand before a holy God as sinners is not because we have a righteousness of our own, but because we have a righteousness from God, accrued by Jesus, and given to us by faith.

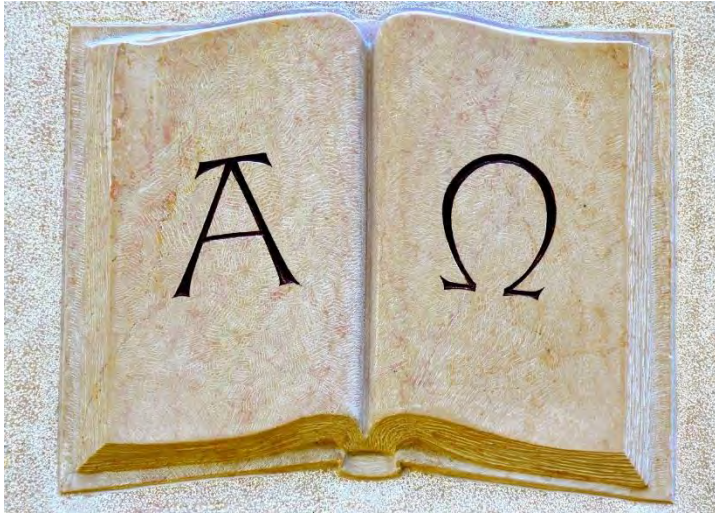
**2) To Empathize in Our Weakness.** Nobody can every say of God that He has no idea what we have to deal with every day. Our trials, our temptations, all aspects of human adversity were all experienced by Jesus in His earthly ministry. Only as man could we find in God a person who can empathize in our weakness, who knows what we experience everyday, and who can give us exactly what we need to endure faithfully to the end.

**3) To Shed Blood for Sin.** From the beginning, God chose the shedding of blood as the only means for accomplishing forgiveness of sin among mankind. In the Old Testament this was done through goats and bulls, and only achieved a temporary remedy. But in the last days, Jesus shed His blood on the cross, so that whoever believes in Him, they can find eternal forgiveness in His blood.

**4) To Guarantee Our Resurrection.** The promise of eternal life depends on a future resurrection. Without a resurrection there is no life for anyone. But Jesus showed us a great sign of the things to come. That as a man, He was raised from the dead by God. So likewise, He will raise all men to life in the last day.

# The Gospel of John Part 2: The Story of Jesus. The Beginning and the End

## John 1:1-13



*John 1:1-13 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was*

*made that has been made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. 6 There was a man having been sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but he came to bear witness about the Light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to what was His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to those who believe in His name, to them He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

John's Gospel opens with a concise description concerning the story of Jesus from beginning to end. While the remainder of John's Gospel will provide details concerning Jesus's earthly ministry, John starts his story with details of Jesus's heavenly ministry.

**1) The Word.** Unlike the other gospel writers, this story of Jesus does not start in Bethlehem, or with Mary, but at the very beginning of all things. Through John, one discovers that before there was anything in the universe, there was God. The very God who spoke creation into existence, who gave life to all living creatures, and who brought forth light out of darkness was the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus as the Word gave life in the first creation, and this same Word now gives life in the new creation. "Then God said...and it was so."

**2) The Witness.** A king does not appear anywhere without first a grand announcement of his appearing. This is no different for the King of Kings who was coming into the world. John the Baptist was chosen by God to bear witness to the coming of Jesus into the world. John the Baptist had one purpose for his ministry: to prepare the people for Christ's appearing and to point the people to the Light of men.

**3) The Work.** John offers the threefold work of Christ as a foundation for what every person should know concerning Jesus: He created, He came, and He claimed. The story of Jesus is one of a savior at work. Where the creator of all things comes into His creation to claim for Himself a people. The work of Christ culminates in the adoption of all who believe in Him into the family of God. To be called a child of God is to gain redemption, eternal life, and a great inheritance. This adoption comes about through a new birth, not based on anything we do, but based solely on the work that Jesus has already done and continues to do for those who receive Him.

# The Gospel of John Part 1: An Introduction

## John 20:31



*John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

the creator of all things who has made his dwelling among His creation.

**2) Believe in Him.** John presses his reader, chapter after chapter, on how they ought to respond to this revelation that Jesus is truly God and truly man. The only right response from humanity is that they believe in Him. This call to belief is central to Jesus's message as He teaches and preaches throughout Judea and Samaria. John the Baptist paves the way in this central message, and Jesus affirms this throughout His earthly ministry. We have been given this gospel "that we may believe."

**3) Eternal Life in His Name.** John highlights that there is a promise from God contained exclusively in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is "life in His name." In the simplest of terms and language, John labors to demonstrate that God grants eternal life to whoever believes in Jesus. If the reader of John understands nothing else in this book, it is that whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life, and whoever does not believe has been judged already and the wrath of God abides on them.

The central theme of John's gospel is given to us at the end of his book: John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. It is in this statement that one can discover the key emphasis of John throughout his entire letter. John speaks specifically to Jesus's identity, humanity's response, and God's promise.

**1) The Son of God.** John opens his gospel with a declaration of Jesus's true identity: He is God. It is this identity, the divine nature of Jesus, that John emphasizes more than any other gospel writer. Whether it is the testimony of John or directly from the mouth of Jesus, the reader of this gospel will have no doubt "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God",