

Gospel of John

I. Chapter 1

Vocabulary:

involved: was included / was a part of

acknowledge: to admit that something is true

privilege: right

abundant: plentiful

descended: to move from a high position to a lower one

skeptical: to doubt

ascending: to move from a low position to a higher one

A. The Word become human

In the Gospel of John, John calls Jesus the "Word". Jesus, the Word, has always existed. Jesus was involved in creation. In fact, all things were made through Him. Jesus is the Light of the world. Without His light, we are in darkness.

God sent John the Baptist to witness about Jesus. John was sent to prepare people for Jesus' coming. Even though Jesus made the world, the world did not acknowledge Him. Jesus came to earth to save the Jewish people but they would not accept Him.

Read John 1: 1-11 (page 1125)

Some people did accept Jesus. Jesus gave these people the privilege to become the children of God. No one can be born a child of God. We become God's children when we believe in Jesus. Jesus left His heavenly throne to be born as a human. He came to live on earth. Jesus was full of grace and truth.

John gave witness about Jesus. John told everyone that the One who comes after John was more important than John. John was talking about Jesus. God's grace is abundant. He gives us blessing after blessing. While Moses gave the law, Jesus gives us grace and truth. Jesus came to show us what God is truly like.

Read John 1: 12-18

B. John the Baptist is not the Christ.

Jews sent priests to John. They wanted to know who John was. John was honest with the priests. John told them that he was not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet. According to Malachi, Elijah the prophet will come again before the Lord returns. Jesus is the Christ as well as Prophet, Priest, and King. John told the priests that he was a messenger - he quoted the prophet Isaiah. Some Pharisees asked John why he was baptizing people. John said, "I baptize with water. But there is One coming after me. He is more important than I am." The "One" John spoke about was Jesus.

Read Malachi 4: 5-6 (page 1026), John 1: 19-28 (page 1125)

C. Jesus is the Lamb of God

John saw Jesus coming towards him. John told everyone that Jesus was the Lamb of God. Priests sacrificed lambs for the sins of the people. Jesus was the Lamb sacrificed for our sins. John told the people that Jesus was the One who was the most important. John baptized with water to get the people prepared for Jesus. John witnessed the Holy Spirit as it descended on Jesus like a dove from heaven. John knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

Read John 1: 29-34

D. Jesus chooses His disciples

John the Baptist was walking with two of his disciples. John pointed to Jesus and told his disciples that Jesus was the Son of God. These two men began to follow Jesus. Jesus asked them what they wanted. The disciples wanted to know where Jesus was staying. They spent the afternoon with Jesus.

Andrew was one of the disciples who followed Jesus. Andrew went home to find his brother Simon Peter. He told Simon that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew took Simon Peter to Jesus. When Jesus met Simon Peter, Jesus called him Cephas which is the same name as Peter. The name Peter means "rock".

Read John 1: 35-42

On the way to Galilee, Jesus met Philip. Jesus told Philip, "Follow me." Philip went to find his friend Nathanael. Philip told Nathanael that he had met the One that the prophets wrote about - Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael was skeptical. He said, "Could anything good come from Nazareth?" When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, Jesus said, "Here comes a truthful man." Nathanael asked Jesus how He knew Nathanael. Jesus told Nathanael that He saw Nathanael under a fig tree before Philip even talked to him. Nathanael was amazed - He said, "You are the Son of God!" Jesus said, "You believe because I told you where you were, even though I could not see you. But I will do much greater things!" Jesus told His disciples, "You will see angels descending and ascending on the Son of Man."

Read John 1: 43-51

Questions

1. Who is the "Word"? What has He done?
2. Why did God send John the Baptist?
3. What does Jesus give to the people who believe Him?
4. Who was more important than John?

5. Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God?

6. How did Andrew learn about Jesus? What did Andrew do after he met Jesus?

7. What did Jesus say about Nathanael? Why was Nathanael amazed?

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II. Chapter 2

Vocabulary:

indicated: showed

prior to: before

drove out: to force someone or something to leave

A. Jesus changes water into wine.

There was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus and His disciples attended the wedding along with Jesus' mother. During the wedding celebration, the wine was completely finished. Jesus' mother told Him that there was no wine. She wanted Jesus to perform a miracle to produce wine. At first Jesus indicated that He didn't want to do anything. His mother recognized Jesus' power. She told the servants to do whatever Jesus said.

Jesus told the servants to fill 6 water jars with water. Each jar held 20 to 30 gallons. The servants filled each jar to the top with water. Jesus told the servants to remove some of the liquid and give it to the person in charge of the wedding. The person in charge drank this water which had been turned into wine. He went to the groom. He told the groom that he had saved the best wine for the end of the wedding.

This was the first miracle that Jesus performed. Prior to the wedding, Jesus had spent 40 days in the desert tempted by Satan. Jesus chose His first miracle to be one of celebration. His disciples witnessed this miracle and their faith increased.

Read John 2: 1-11 (page 1126)

B. Jesus clears the temple.

Jesus, his family, and his disciples went to Capernaum for a few days. It was nearly the time of the Jewish Passover Feast. So Jesus went to Jerusalem to the Temple. In the temple courtyard, there were men selling animals and exchanging money. When Jesus saw the sellers outside of the temple, He became angry. Using whips, Jesus chased all the animals out of the courtyard. He turned all the tables over of the men who were exchanging money. Jesus said, " You

should not turn my Father's house into a market". Jesus' disciples remembered a verse from Psalm 69 - it reads "My great love for your house will destroy me." Jesus drove out the merchants and animals at the beginning of His ministry. He did this again at the end.

Read John 2: 12-17

The Jews questioned Jesus about his authority. Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days." The Jews didn't understand. It took 46 years to build the temple in Jerusalem. How could Jesus raise it in 3 days? But Jesus was not talking about the physical temple. He was talking about his own body. After Jesus died, his disciples remembered this discussion. They believed what Jesus said.

While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast, He performed many miracles. Many people said that they believed. But their belief was because of the miracles. Jesus knew what was in their hearts.

Read John 2: 18-25

Questions

1. Why did Jesus and his disciples go to Cana?
2. What did Jesus do there?
3. Why did Jesus, his family, and his disciples go to Jerusalem?

4. What did Jesus see at the Temple? What did He do?

5. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days"? When did His disciples understand this?

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III. Chapter 3

Vocabulary:

guided by: controlled by

convicted: to feel guilty

A. Jesus teaches Nicodemus

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus who was a Jewish ruler. He visited Jesus one evening. Nicodemus believed that Jesus had come from God. He believed this because of the miracles Jesus performed. Jesus told Nicodemus that to see God's kingdom, a person must be born again. Nicodemus didn't understand. Nicodemus thought that this meant that he had to be born by his mother a second time.

Jesus explained that a person must be born through water (baptism) and the Holy Spirit. To be a part of God's kingdom, a person must have a spiritual change. As Christians, we are guided by the Spirit which no one can see.

Read John 3: 1-8 (page 1127)

Nicodemus still didn't understand even though he was a Jewish teacher. The Trinity (God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit) gave witness to the truth but people did not understand. The Son of Man is the only one who has come down from and gone up to Heaven.

In Numbers 21, we read about Moses and the serpents. The people of Israel were complaining about their lives in the desert. God sent poisonous snakes. Many people were bitten and died. The people of Israel felt convicted by their sin. They asked Moses to pray for them. God told Moses to make a bronze snake. Moses raised the snake in the air. Anyone who looked up at the snake would live. Just as Moses lifted up a snake, Jesus would also be lifted up on a cross.

God loved the world so much that He gave Jesus, his Son. Anyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life. Jesus didn't come into the world to judge it. Jesus came to save the world.

Jesus is the Light of the world. He came to bring light into the world. But many people liked darkness better. They didn't want their sin to be shown in the light. But people who live by truth live in the Light. When we live in the Light, we can see God working in our lives.

Read Numbers 21: 4-9 (page 162), John 3: 9-21 (page 1127)

Jesus and His disciples went to Judea. Jesus spent some time with the people there. He also baptized them. John the Baptist was also in the same region. John's disciples came to him. They told John that Jesus was baptizing people. These men were concerned that people were following Jesus instead of John.

John said that you can only receive what God gives you. John was not the Christ - He told his disciples this. John's job was to make the people ready for Jesus. He was like the "best man" at a wedding. The best man helps the groom get ready for the wedding. He supports the groom. John was filled with joy. Jesus came from Heaven and He was more important than John. Jesus came from Heaven and He is above all things. Jesus spoke God's words to the people. God has placed everything in Jesus' hands. All who believe in Jesus have life forever with God.

Read John 3: 22-36

Questions

1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. What does it mean to be "born again"?
3. Why did God send poisonous snakes to the people of Israel?

4. Why was the bronze snake important? Why was this similar to Jesus on the cross?

5. Why do some people like darkness instead of light?

6. What was John's job?

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IV. Chapter 4

Vocabulary:

interact: to communicate with someone

proceeded: continued

testimony: to tell what happened truthfully

A. Jesus talks with a woman from Samaria

The Pharisees began to compare Jesus and John. Jesus left Judea and entered Sychar in Samaria. Jesus stopped at Jacob's well to rest. A Samaritan woman came to get water from the well. Jesus asked her to get him a drink. The Samaritans and Jews did not talk or interact with each other. The woman didn't understand why Jesus was asking her for a drink. Jesus told her that she didn't know who she was talking to. If she knew who Jesus was, she would be asking Him for water. The water Jesus gives is living water.

Read John 4: 1-10 (page 1128)

The Samaritan woman didn't understand Jesus. She thought he was talking about the water from the well. Jesus said that if she drank from the well, she would still be thirsty. But the water Jesus gives is eternal life. You will never be thirsty with this water. The Samaritan woman wanted this water but she still did not understand. She still thought that Jesus was talking about water from the well. Jesus told the woman to go home and bring her husband.

The Samaritan woman said that she did not have a husband. Jesus proceeded to tell her about her life. In the past, the Samaritan woman had been married to 5 men. Now, she was living with a man but was not married. The woman thought Jesus was a prophet. Many Samaritans believed in God. They worshiped Him on a mountain but the Jews worshiped God in Jerusalem.

Read John 4: 11-20

Jesus said that in the future, God will not be worshiped on a mountain or in a temple. The Samaritans worshiped but they really didn't know God. To truly

worship God, we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The Samaritan woman said that she knew the Messiah was coming. Jesus said, "I am He."

Read John 4: 21-26

B. The disciples join Jesus again

The disciples came to find Jesus at the well. They were surprised that Jesus was talking with a woman. The Samaritan woman took her jar of water and returned to her village. She told everyone about Jesus. People from the village went to find Jesus. Jesus' disciples were concerned for Jesus. They wanted Jesus to eat something. Jesus said that He had food to eat that they didn't know about. Jesus was talking about God's work. Jesus' food was to do God's will.

Read John 4: 27-34 (page 1129)

Jesus talked to His disciples about the harvest. But He was not talking about harvesting crops in a field. Jesus was talking about the harvest of people. The "crop" is people who become followers of Christ. The crop is harvested for eternal life. The disciples were sent out to gather the crop which they did not plant.

Many of the Samaritans from Sychar believed in Jesus. They believed the testimony of the woman who went to the well. Jesus remained with the Samaritan people for 2 days. Because of His words, more Samaritans became believers.

Read John 4: 35-42

C. Jesus heals the official's son

Jesus left Samaria to go to Galilee. This was the region of Jesus' birth. They refused to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. But the people of Galilee welcomed Jesus because of the miracles He performed. Jesus visited Cana again. Jesus performed His first miracle there when He changed the water into wine. One city official had a sick son - he was close to death. The official went to Jesus and begged Him to heal his son. Jesus said, "You will only believe if you see miracles." The official again begged Jesus to heal his son. Jesus told the man to go home. His son was healed. The official believed Jesus and went home immediately. On his way home, the official's servants came to meet him. They said, "Your son is much better. He will not die." The official asked the servants

when the son became better. The servants said it was 1:00PM yesterday. This was the exact time that Jesus said, "Your son will live". The official and his family became followers of Jesus.

Read John 4: 43-54

Questions

1. Why did Jesus stop at Jacob's well?
2. Who did Jesus meet there? What did He ask?
3. Why didn't the Samaritan woman understand Jesus? What water was Jesus talking about?
4. What did the Samaritan woman think of Jesus?
5. What did Jesus mean about having food?
6. What harvest was Jesus talking about?
7. What did Jesus say to the official about believing?

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V. Chapter 5

Vocabulary:

occasionally: sometimes

ripple: small waves in the water

plot: to develop a plan

A. Jesus heals a disabled man

Jesus went to Jerusalem to attend a Jewish feast. He went to the pool of Bethesda. Many sick people gathered around the edges of the pool. Occasionally, the water in the pool would ripple. People believed that if they entered the pool when the water was moving, they would be healed.

Jesus saw a man who had been disabled for 38 years lying near the pool. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be well. The man said that he tried to reach the pool but couldn't. Jesus told the man to get up and walk. The man was healed at once and he picked up his mat.

Read John 5: 1-9 (page 1130)

Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath. Some Pharisees saw the man carrying his mat. The Pharisees complained that the man was carrying his mat on the Sabbath. The man who was healed said, "The man who healed me told me to pick up my mat and walk." The Pharisees said, "Who is this man?" The man didn't know who Jesus was. Later, Jesus found the man and told him to stop sinning. The man went to the Pharisees to tell them that Jesus had healed him.

Read John 5: 10-15

B. Life because of the Son

The Pharisees were angry because Jesus was healing on the Sabbath. Jesus said that His Father was working all the time and Jesus was too. The Jewish leaders began to plot about Jesus' death. They were angry that Jesus called God His Father. Jesus continued to talk about God, His Father. Jesus said that He could only do what God does. God, the Father loves His Son. God raises the dead

and gives them life. So does the Son. God has given Jesus the job of judging people. People will honor Jesus just as they honor God, the Father.

Read John 5: 16-23 (page 1130)

Anyone who listens to Jesus' words and believes will have eternal life. Because of Jesus, we will not be found guilty - we have life through Christ. Jesus told the people that He would soon give life - through His death. Jesus was born in human form but God gave Him the authority to judge. In the future, everyone will come before Jesus - those who believe will be given life. But those who refused to believe will be found guilty.

Read John 5: 24-30

C. Giving witness about Jesus

Jewish law states that a person cannot be their own witness. In a court of law, guilt or innocence depends on the words of two or three witnesses. Jesus told the people that He could not be His own witness. But Jesus did have a witness who was very important. John, the Baptist, witnessed about Jesus. But John was a human witness. Jesus' witness was God, the Father. The very One who sent Jesus to earth. Jesus came to do the work of God - and this work also gives witness.

Read John 5: 31-38

The Jewish leaders did not acknowledge God's witness because God's word did not live in them. They refused to believe in Jesus. The Jewish leaders studied the scriptures but they still refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus knew the hearts of the people. The people did not love God. The Jewish people followed the teachings of Moses. But, Moses wrote about Jesus. However, the Jewish people still would not believe.

Read John 5: 39-47

Questions

1. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem? What did Jesus visit when He was there?

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VI. Chapter 6

Vocabulary:

eight months worth of pay: the amount of salary in 8 months

hand out: give out

pick up: gather

frightened: scared, afraid

literally: to actually (physically) do something

A. Jesus feeds the five thousand.

Jesus traveled to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Many people followed Him. Jesus climbed a nearby mountain with His disciples. As they sat together, a large group of people started coming to them. Jesus asked Philip where they could get food for the people. Jesus wanted to see what his disciples would say. Philip said that eight months worth of pay would not give enough food for one bite for everyone. Andrew looked around at the crowd. He found a boy who had 5 loaves of barley bread and 2 small fish. Andrew asked, "How many people could this feed?" Jesus said, "Ask the people to sit down." There were 5,000 men in the crowd.

Read John 6: 1-10 (page 1131)

Jesus lifted the food to Heaven and gave thanks to God. Then, Jesus started to hand out the food. After the crowd had finished eating, Jesus told His disciples to pick up the leftovers. The disciples filled 12 baskets with the leftover food. The people in the crowd began to say that Jesus was the Prophet the scriptures told about. Jesus knew that the people wanted to crown Him King. Jesus left the region to be by Himself.

Read John 6: 11-15

B. Jesus walks on the water.

As evening approached, Jesus' disciples got in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. The wind began to blow and the sea became rough. When they were about 3 miles from shore, they saw Jesus walking towards them. Jesus was

walking on the water. The disciples were frightened. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. It's me." Jesus got onboard the boat and they reached the other shore. The crowd knew that the disciples were on the boat alone. They knew that Jesus was not with them at that time. The people traveled to Capernaum to find Jesus.

Read John 6: 16-24 (page 1132)

C. Jesus is the Bread of Life

When the people found Jesus, they asked, "When did you get here?" Jesus understood what they really wanted. Jesus said, "You came to find me because I gave you food." Jesus wanted them to think about food that will last. This food can only come from Jesus, himself. The people asked Jesus what God wanted them to do. Jesus replied that God wanted them to believe in Jesus Christ, his Son. The people wanted some special sign to help them believe. God had given the Jewish people manna when they were in the desert.

Read John 6: 25-31

Jesus said that God gives the true bread from heaven. He gives life to the world. The people said, "Give us this bread." Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. If you come to me, you will never be hungry or thirsty." The people who came to see Jesus still did not believe. They still didn't believe even though they saw Jesus perform many miracles. Only God can change the hearts of the people. Jesus came to earth to do God's will. The people who believe will be given eternal life.

Read John 6:32-40

The Jews who were listening to Jesus began to complain. They complained that Jesus said that He was the bread that came from heaven. The Jews said, "Don't we know his mother and father? He is Joseph's son." Jesus told them to stop complaining. God will bring those who will believe to Jesus. Isaiah the prophet says, "God will teach all of them." Jesus told them, "I am the Bread of Life." When God sent manna from heaven, it did not keep the people from dying. But when you eat from the Bread of Life, you will never die. Jesus said that the bread was His body - Jesus gave His life for the world.

The Jews began to argue among themselves. How can this man give us his body to eat? Jesus said, "To have life, you must eat of my body and drink my

blood." If you eat of Christ's body and drink of His blood, you will have eternal life. Does this mean we must do this literally? No. But just as we need food and water to live, we need Jesus. Eating food satisfies us for a moment but Jesus provides us with eternal satisfaction. Jesus should be our only desire.

Read John 6: 41-59 (page 1132)

D. Many followers leave Jesus

Some of Jesus' followers began to complain. They didn't like the difficult things that Jesus was saying. Jesus knew what they were thinking. Jesus replied, "Are you upset? What if you see the Son of Man going up to Heaven?" It is the Spirit that gives life. Jesus was talking about spiritual things, not a physical body. Jesus knew that many of His followers did not truly believe. He knew that only the followers that God brought him would remain. Jesus turned to the twelve disciples and asked if they would also leave. Peter said, "Where would we go? You have eternal life and we believe you are truly God." Jesus had chosen these men but still one of them would betray Him.

Read John 6: 60-71 (page 1133)

Questions

1. What happened when Jesus and his disciples went to the mountain?
2. Why did Jesus ask Philip where to get food?
3. Why did Jesus leave the mountain?
4. What happened to the disciples as they rowed across the Sea?

5. Why were the people looking for Jesus after He returned to Capernaum?

6. What did Jesus tell the people about bread?

7. Why did the Jews complain?

8. What does it mean to eat Jesus' body and drink His blood?

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VII. Chapter 7

Vocabulary:

Feast of Boothes: also the Feast of the Tabernacles - this celebration was to remember the journey from Egypt to Canaan

mocking: made fun of

criticize: to complain about someone

A. Jesus goes to the Feast of Boothes

For awhile, Jesus remained in Galilee. His brothers told Jesus to come to Judea with them. It was the time for the Feast of Boothes. Jesus' brothers said that Jesus shouldn't hide His miracles. Jesus should show Himself to the world. But Jesus' brothers were mocking Him. Jesus' brothers didn't believe in Him.

Jesus told His brothers that He could not go. Jesus knew that the Jewish leaders were waiting to kill Him in Judea. They hated Jesus because He showed the people their own evil behavior. After Jesus' brothers left for the Feast, Jesus went to Judea in secret. The Jewish leaders were looking for Jesus. Some of the crowd said that Jesus was a good man. Others said that Jesus fooled the people.

Read John 7: 1-13 (page 1133)

B. Jesus teaches at the Feast

Halfway through the Feast, Jesus went to the temple courtyard. He began to teach the people about God. The Jews said, "How does he know so much? He has never studied." Jesus said, "What I teach comes from God. If you obey God, you will know that this comes from God Himself." When someone speaks for themselves, it is to receive honor. But Jesus came to work for God's honor and is truthful. Jesus asked, "Didn't Moses give you the law? But you refuse to keep it. Why do you want to kill me?" The crowd didn't understand. They didn't know about the plot of the Jewish leaders.

The people were amazed by Jesus' miracles. But the Jewish leaders criticized Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath. The Jews claimed to observe

the law. But they allowed circumcision on the Sabbath. Jesus completely healed a man on the Sabbath. Jesus told them to judge correctly.

Read John 7: 14-24 (page 1133)

C. Is Jesus the Christ?

The people in the crowd began to talk. They said, "Isn't Jesus the man people are trying to kill? He's right here. Why is no one saying a word to Him? Could Jesus be the Christ? We know where this man comes from. But when the Christ comes, we will not know where he is from." Jesus said, "Yes, you know me. But I'm not here on my own. You don't know the One who sent me." Some of the Jewish leaders tried to arrest Jesus. But it was not His time yet. Many people in the crowd believed. They said, "Look at all the miracles Jesus has performed. Only the Christ could do this."

Read John 7: 25-32 (page 1134)

Jesus said that He would only be here for a short time. He would return to the One who sent Him. Then, no one would be able to find Jesus. The Jews said to one another, "Where is he going? Does he think that we can't find him? Will he live with the Greeks?"

On the last day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and said, "If anyone is thirsty, come to me and drink. If you believe in me, springs of living water will flow from you". Jesus was telling them that those who believe will be given the Holy Spirit. When people heard this, some people said that He was the Prophet. Other people said that Jesus must be the Christ. But some people said, "Jesus comes from Galilee. Scriptures say that the Christ belongs to the family of King David. He will come from the town of Bethlehem."

Read John 7: 33-44

D. The Jewish leaders do not believe

The Jewish priests wanted Jesus arrested. But the temple guards refused to capture Jesus. The guards said that no one spoke the way that Jesus did. The Jewish leaders said that Jesus was fooling the guards just like He fooled the crowd. None of the Pharisees believed in Jesus. But Nicodemus spoke up. Nicodemus

was a Pharisee who believed that Jesus came from God. Nicodemus asked the other Jewish leaders, "Doesn't the law require us to listen to someone before we say that they are guilty?" The other Pharisees replied, "You know that no prophet will come from Galilee".

Read John 7: 45-53 (page 1134)

Questions

1. Why did Jesus' brothers want Him to go to Judea? Why didn't Jesus want to go?
2. Why were the Jews surprised at Jesus' teaching? Where did Jesus say His teachings were from?
3. Why did the Jewish leaders criticize Jesus?
4. When the people in the crowd said that they knew where Jesus was from, what was Jesus' reply?
5. What is the "spring of living water"?

6. Why did the temple guard refuse to arrest Jesus?

Gospel of John

VIII. Chapter 8

Vocabulary:

according to: as someone said or wrote

verify: to give evidence that something is true

does matter: is important

human standards: human values

A. Jesus and the woman caught in adultery

The next day, Jesus went to the temple courtyard to teach again. The Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus. She was a married woman who was found with another man. The Pharisees said, "According to the law of Moses, we should kill her by throwing stones." They wanted to know what Jesus would do. Jesus didn't answer them at first. Instead, Jesus began to write on the ground. The Pharisees continued to ask Jesus questions. Finally, Jesus said, "If anyone of you has not sinned, then you can throw a stone." Jesus bent down again and continued to write on the ground. One by one, the Pharisees left and only the woman remained with Jesus. Jesus stood up and asked, "Where are they? Did no one find you guilty?" No, she answered. Jesus told her to go and stop sinning.

Read John 8: 1-11 (page 1135)

B. Jesus' witness is true

Jesus began to teach again. He said, "I am the light of the world." People who follow Jesus will never be in darkness. The light of Jesus will lead His followers. The Pharisee complained. They said that Jesus was being His own witness. According to Jewish law, a person needed at least two witnesses to verify any claim. But Jesus said that even if He was His own witness, it does matter. Jesus said that the Jewish leaders didn't know where Jesus came from. The Pharisees were judging using human standards. Jesus judges by what is right. Jesus has two witnesses - Jesus, Himself and His Father.

Read John 8: 12-18

The Pharisees asked, "Where is your father?" Jesus said that they did not know Him or His Father. If the Pharisees really knew Jesus, they would know His Father. Again, Jesus talked to the Jewish people. Jesus told them that He was going away. People will look for Jesus but will not find Him. Jesus told them, "You can't come where I'm going." The Jews didn't understand. Jesus said, "I am from heaven but you are from the world. Do you believe I am whom I claim to be? If not, you will die in your sin." The people asked, "Who are you?" Jesus said, "I am who I claim to be. I tell you what I have heard from the One who sent me." Jesus said, "You will lift up the Son of Man. Then, you will know that I am whom I claim to be." Jesus was talking about His death on the cross.

Read John 8: 19-30 (page 1135)

C. The Children of Abraham

Jesus spoke to the crowd. Jesus said that if they obeyed His teaching, then they would truly be Jesus' disciples. Those who follow Jesus will be set free by His truth. The people didn't understand. They said, "We have never been slaves. How can we be set free?" Jesus said, "If you sin at all, then you are a slave to sin. A son is part of a family but a slave is not. So, if the Son of Man sets you free, you are truly free." The people claimed to be Abraham's children but they wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus said that the Jews do what their father does. Jesus was referring to Satan but the people didn't understand. The Jews repeated that they were Abraham's children. But Jesus said that they were not doing the things that Abraham did.

Read John 8: 31-41 (page 1136)

D. Children of the devil.

Jesus continued to speak to the crowd. He said that if God was their Father, then the people would love Jesus. God sent Jesus to earth. Jesus said that the people didn't understand because they belonged to their father, the devil. The devil was a murderer from the beginning. There is no truth in the devil. He is the father of lies. When Jesus spoke, He told the truth. But the people didn't believe. If you belong to God, you will understand the truth.

Read John 8: 42-47

E. Jesus makes claims about Himself.

The Jews replied, "You are either a Samaritan or controlled by a demon." But Jesus said that He was not controlled by a demon. Jesus honored God, His Father. Jesus was not seeking glory for Himself. It is God's choice to honor His Son. Jesus said, "If you obey my word, you will never die." The Jews were angry. They said, "You are controlled by a demon. Abraham died. So did the prophets. Do you think that you are greater than Abraham?" Again, Jesus responded, "I do not claim glory for myself. God, the Father brings glory to me."

The Jews didn't truly know God. Jesus was obedient to God in all things. Abraham rejoiced that Jesus came to save the world. Again, the Jews didn't understand. They said, "You're not even 50 years old. How could you see Abraham?" Jesus replied, "Before Abraham was born, I am!" The phrase "I am" means that Jesus has always existed and always will exist. This is the same phrase used when God first spoke to Moses. God told Moses to tell the people of Israel that "I am" had sent Moses. When the people heard Jesus say "I am", they picked up stones to kill Jesus. But Jesus left.

Read John 8: 48-59 (page 1136)

Questions

1. Who did the Pharisees bring to Jesus? Why did they bring her?
2. Why didn't the Pharisees stone the woman?
3. What did Jesus say He was? Why did the Pharisees complain?

4. What did Jesus mean by "You will lift up the Son of Man"?

5. Why did the Jews need to be "set free"? Were they slaves?

6. Jesus said that the people didn't believe because they belonged to their father. Who was their father?

7. Why did the Jews try to stone Jesus?

Gospel of John

IX. Chapter 9

Vocabulary:

responsible: the reason that something happened

former: had a condition or job before

A. Jesus heals a man born blind.

Jesus met a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus' disciples asked Jesus who was responsible for the man's blindness. Was the blindness caused by his parents' sin or his own? Jesus said that sin did not cause the blindness. The man was born blind so that God's glory could be seen. Jesus was sent to do God's work on earth. He was sent to be the light of the world. Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud. He placed the mud on the blind man's eyes. Jesus told the man to wash his eyes in a special pool called Siloam. The man was able to see again.

Read John 9: 1-7 (page 1136)

People saw the former blind man and began to talk. Some people thought that he was the blind beggar. Others thought that the man only looked like the blind man. But the man told them that he had been blind. Jesus put mud on his eyes and now he could see. The people brought the former blind man to the Pharisees. The former blind man explained what Jesus had done. The Pharisees complained that Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath. Some Pharisees said that Jesus could not be from God. But others said that the miracle showed that Jesus was not a sinner. The man who had been blind believed that Jesus was a prophet.

Read John 9: 8-17

The Pharisees still did not believe. So they talked to the blind man's parents. The Pharisees asked, "Is this your son? How is he able to see now?" The parents said that the man was their son. But they didn't know how he could see since he was born blind. The parents were afraid to talk about Jesus. The Pharisees talked to the former blind man again. The man said, "I have already told

you what happened. Do you want to be Jesus' disciples?" The Pharisees said, "We are disciples of Moses. We don't know where this Jesus came from." The former blind man said, "God doesn't listen to sinners. No one can open the eyes of a blind man. If Jesus was not from God, He could do nothing." The Pharisees called the man a sinner and threw him out of the synagogue.

Read John 9: 18-34

Jesus heard that the former blind man had been thrown out of the synagogue. He found the man and asked him if he believed in the Son of Man. The man said, "Who is he? Tell me so that I can believe." Jesus said, "He is the one speaking to you." The man said, "I believe." Jesus said that He came to give sight to the blind and to make blind those who can see. The Pharisees who were near heard Jesus. They said, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty of sin. But since you can see, you are guilty."

Read John 9: 35-41

Questions

1. What caused the man's blindness?
2. What did Jesus do for the blind man?
3. When the blind man told the Pharisees what happened, how did they respond?
4. What did the blind man say when the Pharisees said "We don't know where Jesus came from?"

5. The former blind man was thrown out of the synagogue. What happened when he saw Jesus again?

Gospel of John

X. Chapter 10

Vocabulary:

sheep pen: an enclosed area for sheep to graze

abundant: an amount of something that is far greater than needed

failings: the times when we do not obey God

secure: safe, no risk of harm

A. The Shepherd and the Flock

Jesus continued to talk with the Pharisees. He told them a story about a shepherd and his flock. A robber trying to steal the sheep would climb over the sheep pen. But a shepherd comes through the gate to visit his sheep. The sheep recognize the shepherd's voice and obey him. The shepherd knows all his sheep by name. When the shepherd calls, the sheep follow him. But if a stranger calls the sheep, they will not come. In fact, the sheep will run away from a stranger. After Jesus told this story, the Pharisees did not understand.

Read John 10: 1-6 (page 1138)

God, through Ezekiel, talked about the teachers of the law. He called them shepherds, but they were not good shepherds. These leaders did not take care of their sheep, the people of Israel. Jesus, as Lord and King, said that He would care for His sheep. Jesus said that He was like the gate of the sheep pen. Many false prophets and Jewish teachers came but they were like the robbers and thieves. The "sheep" did not listen to them. Jesus is the gate. Anyone who enters through Jesus will be saved. Thieves and robbers came to kill and destroy but Jesus came to give us life. Life in Jesus is abundant life.

Jesus is the good shepherd. He gave His life for us - His sheep. If a man is hired to take care of the sheep, they do not belong to him. So when the sheep are attacked by wolves, the hired man will run away. Then the wolves will hurt and kill the sheep. Jesus loves us and takes care of us because we belong to Him.

Read Ezekiel 34: 1-12 (page 927), John 10: 7-13 (page 1138)

Jesus is the good shepherd. He knows His sheep and His sheep know Him. Jesus knows everything about us. He knows our voices, our minds, and our failings. We, as believers, know Jesus' voice. We know His voice because the Holy Spirit lives in us. Jesus also said that there were other sheep. These sheep did not belong in the same pen. Jesus was talking about Gentile believers. Jewish and Gentile believers are part of the same flock. Jesus died for us. This was his decision and He chose to give up His life for us.

The Jews who heard Jesus did not agree with each other. Some people thought that Jesus was being controlled by a demon. Other people said that a person controlled by a demon could never open the eyes of a blind man.

Read John 10:14-21 (page 1138)

B. The Jews do not believe.

It was winter. The Feast of Hanukkah was being celebrated in Jerusalem. Hanukkah is an eight day Jewish holiday that celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was walking around the Temple. The Jewish leaders came to Him. They said, "If you are the Christ, then tell us." Jesus said, "I did tell you. The miracles I do in God's name also show who I am. But, because you are not my sheep, you do not believe. My sheep know me. They follow me and I give them eternal life. No one can take my sheep from me. God, my Father gave these sheep to me and no one can steal them." When we belong to Jesus, we are His sheep. We can be secure in the knowledge that we will be His forever.

Read John 10: 22-30

The Jewish leaders picked up stones to kill Jesus. Jesus asked them, "I've done many miracles in God's name. Which miracle is causing you to throw stones at me?" The Jews replied, "We want to throw stones at you for saying that you are God." Jesus said that He had come from God - that He was God's Son. Jesus' miracles show God. Jesus said, "If you don't believe me, at least believe in the miracles." The miracles show that Jesus and God are one.

Again, the Jewish leaders tried to arrest Jesus. But Jesus escaped to the Jordan River. Jesus stayed there and performed many miracles. Many people believed in Jesus.

Read John 10:31-42

Questions

1. What do the sheep do when the Shepherd speaks to them?
2. Why weren't the teachers of the law "good shepherds"?
3. How is Jesus similar to the gate to the sheep pen?
4. Why is Jesus the "good shepherd"?
5. Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus with stones?

Gospel of John

XI. Chapter 11

Vocabulary:

poured: to move liquid from one container to another

12 hours in a day: Jews divided every day into 12 hours

plainly: clearly

A. Lazarus dies

A man named Lazarus was very sick. He lived with his sisters, Mary and Martha, in Bethany. Bethany was a village near Jerusalem in Judea. Mary was the woman who poured expensive perfume on Jesus. The sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him that Lazarus was sick. Jesus said, "He will not die. This sickness will bring glory to God." Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters but He did not go to see Lazarus immediately. Instead, Jesus waited 2 days before leaving. Jesus told His disciples that they would return to Judea. His disciples replied, "But Jesus, the Jewish leaders tried to stone you. How can you go back there?"

Jesus replied, "There are 12 hours in a day. If you walk during the day, you won't trip and fall. If you walk at night without light, you will stumble." A man's life is like a day. If a person walks in obedience to God, there will be no stumbling. Jesus was obeying God by going to Lazarus. Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus had fallen asleep. The disciples didn't understand so Jesus told them plainly that Lazarus had died. Thomas said, "Let's go with Jesus. Then we can die with Jesus."

Read John 11: 1-16 (page 1139)

B. Jesus comforts the sisters

When Jesus and the disciples arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had already been buried. Many people came to Bethany to comfort Mary and Martha. When Martha heard that Jesus was near, she went to meet Him. Martha told Jesus, "If you had been here, Lazarus wouldn't have died. But I know that God will give you anything you ask." Jesus told her that Lazarus would live again. Martha thought that Jesus was talking about the future - when people will rise from the dead when Christ returns. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me,

you will live even if you die. If you believe in me, you will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha said, "I believe that you are the Son of God."

Read John 11: 17-27 (page 1139)

Martha returned home and called for Mary. She told Mary that Jesus had come. Mary quickly left her home to find Jesus. There were many people at Mary's home. They had come to comfort her and Martha. Some people saw Mary leave quickly and they followed her. When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet. Just like Martha, Mary wished that Jesus had come sooner. Jesus saw her tears and the tears of the friends who had followed her. Jesus was full of compassion. He felt deep sorrow. Jesus said, "Where have you put Lazarus?" Jesus began to weep.

Read John 11: 28-37

C. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

Jesus arrived at the tomb. He told the people to remove the stone which was covering the tomb. Martha said, "But Lazarus has been in the tomb for 4 days - there will be a terrible smell." Jesus said, "I told you that if you believed, you would see God's glory." The people removed the stone. Jesus prayed to God, His father. He prayed so that everyone would believe that God sent Jesus. In a loud voice, Jesus called, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus came out of the tomb wearing his burial clothes.

Read John 11: 38-44

D. The plan to kill Jesus

Many of the Jews who followed Mary saw what Jesus did. They believed and put their faith in Jesus. But some of the Jews went to the Pharisees. They told the Pharisees what Jesus did. The Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the Jewish court. They discussed what to do with Jesus. They were afraid that if Jesus continued doing miracles, everyone would believe in Him. If they believed in Jesus, the Roman government may come and destroy their temple and nation. The high priest Caiaphas told the Sanhedrin that it was important that one man should die to save the nation. Caiaphas as high priest was prophesying of Jesus' death. He also prophesied that Jesus would die for all God's children throughout the world.

The Jews began to make plans to kill Jesus. Jesus could no longer move freely in public. It was nearly time for the Passover feast. Jews were arriving in Jerusalem to get ready for the celebration. They went there to perform special washings before Passover. Many people were looking for Jesus. They expected Jesus to come for the Passover feast. The Pharisees also expected this. They sent out orders. If anyone knew where Jesus was, they must tell the Pharisees.

Read John 11: 45-57 (page 1140)

Questions

1. What did Jesus say about Lazarus' sickness?
2. Why didn't the disciples want Jesus to go to Judea?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, "If you walk during the day, you won't trip and fall?"
4. What did Martha say to Jesus when He arrived in Bethany?
5. What did Jesus say about the Resurrection?

6. When Jesus saw Mary crying, how did He feel? What did He do?

7. What happened at Lazarus' tomb?

8. After the Pharisees heard about Lazarus, what did they decide to do about Jesus?

Gospel of John

XII. Chapter 12

Vocabulary:

concentrated: a substance that is not diluted (no water added)

donkey's colt: a young donkey

heart is heavy: very sad, full of sorrow

glorified: to be given praise and honor

defeated: to lose as in a battle

A. Mary pours perfume on Jesus

Six days before Passover, Jesus and His disciples went to dinner at the home of Lazarus. After dinner, Mary poured concentrated perfume on Jesus' feet. This perfume was very expensive. Judas did not approve of Mary's action. Judas said, "The money spent on this perfume could feed many poor people. This perfume should have been sold." Judas really didn't care about the poor. Judas' job was to manage the money for Jesus and the disciples. As treasurer, Judas often kept money for himself. Jesus said, "Leave Mary alone. She is honoring my burial. You will always have the poor with you but you will not always have me."

Many people found out that Jesus was staying with Lazarus. Other people wanted to see Lazarus because he was raised from the dead. A crowd of people came to Lazarus' home. The chief priest wanted to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus. Many people began to believe in Jesus because He raised Lazarus.

Read John 12: 1-10 (page 1140)

B. Jesus enters Jerusalem

Some people heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. A crowd gathered to meet Jesus as He walked to Jerusalem. The disciples brought Jesus a donkey's colt. Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem. The crowd carried palm branches. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord." The disciples didn't understand why this happened to Jesus. But later, after Jesus' resurrection, the disciples remembered the scriptures and understood.

There was a crowd of people who witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. The crowd continued to tell others of this miracle. The Pharisee said, "There is nothing we can do. The world is following Jesus."

Read John 12: 11-19 (page 1141)

C. Jesus tells about His coming death

Some Greeks who came for Passover wanted to see Jesus. The disciples told Jesus. Jesus said, "It's time for the Son of Man to get glory. If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it will produce many seeds. But if it doesn't die, there will only be one seed." Jesus meant that many people would live because of His death. Jesus said that if you love your life and only care about yourself, you will lose your life. But, if you hate your life in this world, you will have life forever. Jesus said that if you want to serve Him, then you must follow Him. God will honor all the people who serve Jesus.

Read John 12: 20-26

Jesus said, "My heart is heavy. Should I ask God to save me from death? No, this is the reason I came to earth. Father God, be glorified". A voice sounded from heaven. It said, "I have been glorified and I will again". Some people in the crowd thought that the sound was thunder; others thought that it was an angel. Jesus said, "The voice you heard was for your benefit. The world will be judged. Soon Satan will be defeated. I will be lifted up and will bring all people to myself." Jesus was talking about His death on the cross and His resurrection. When Jesus died and rose again, He defeated Satan and his power. Jesus' death and resurrection allow us to be God's children.

People in the crowd spoke up. They said, "The law tells us that Christ will live forever. What do you mean when you say "the Son of Man will be lifted up"? Who is the Son of Man?" Jesus said, "The light will only be here for a short time. Walk while you have the light. If a person walks in the dark, he doesn't know where he is going. While the light is here, put your faith in it." Jesus called Himself the "light of the world". When Jesus was talking about the light, He was referring to Himself.

Read John 12: 27-36

D. The Jews still do not believe

Jesus had done many miracles. But still many Jews would not believe in Him. Isaiah prophesied that the Jews would not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. The Jews hardened their hearts and God closed their minds. Some of the Jewish leaders did believe in Jesus but they were afraid of the Pharisees. These leaders loved their position in the synagogues more than they loved God. Jesus said, "If you believe in me, you also believe in the One who sent me. I came to bring light into the world. I didn't come to judge the world. I came to save the world. I do not speak on my own. Everything I say is from my Father."

Read John 12: 37-50 (page 1142)

Questions

1. Where did Jesus go for dinner? What did Mary do?
2. Why was Judas upset with Mary?
3. What did Jesus ride on into Jerusalem?
4. What did the crowd do as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? What did they shout?

5. Jesus said, "If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it will produce many seeds." What did Jesus mean?

6. What did Jesus mean when He said I will be lifted up and will bring all people to myself?

Gospel of John

XIII. Chapter 13

Vocabulary:

happen soon: an event will occur soon

menial labor: low pay job/little skill needed

feel (felt) troubled: to be upset, anxious

glory: to be honored, praised

A. Jesus washes His disciples' feet

The time of the Passover feast was near. Jesus knew that His death would happen soon. Jesus knew that He would soon return to His Father. He knew that Satan had tempted Judas with money. Jesus loved His disciples very much. He wanted to show His love for them. While dinner was served, Jesus got up from the table. He put a towel around his waist. Jesus poured water into a large bowl and began to wash the disciples' feet. He dried their feet with his towel.

Read John 13: 1-5 (page 1142)

Jesus went to Simon Peter. Peter asked why Jesus was washing the disciple's feet. Peter said, "Lord, you will never wash my feet." Jesus said, "If I don't wash your feet, you can't share in my life." Peter said, "Don't just wash my feet, wash my hands and head too." Jesus knew that the disciples only needed to have their feet cleaned. The disciples were clean except for one. Judas' heart was not clean. He was going to betray Jesus.

Read John 13: 6-12

Jesus asked, "Do you understand what I have done?" Jesus was the Son of God. He was Rabbi and taught the disciples about God. But Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Servants and slaves washed the feet of their Masters. This job was menial labor. This was a job for the lowest people in the society. Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an example. Jesus wanted to teach his disciples to serve others.

Read John 13: 13-17 (page 1143)

B. Jesus tells what Judas will do

Jesus and His disciples were eating the Passover feast. Jesus told them, "One of you will betray me." This was prophesied in Psalms 41:9 which says "my close friend, whom I trusted, has deserted me." Anyone who accepts Jesus accepts God who sent Him. Jesus felt troubled. Again He told His disciples, "One of you will betray me." The disciples didn't understand and they stared at each other. John was sitting next to Jesus. Peter turned to John and said, "Ask Jesus which one of us He means." John said to Jesus, "Who is it, Lord?" Jesus replied, "It is the person to whom I give this bread." Jesus took a piece of bread and dipped it into a dish. He handed the bread to Judas. Jesus said, "Go. Do what you must do." The other disciples didn't know why Jesus said this to Judas. They thought Judas needed to go and buy more bread. After taking the bread from Jesus, Judas left.

Read John 13: 18-30 (page 1143)

C. Jesus says that Peter will fail

Jesus said, "Now it's time for the Son of Man to receive glory. God will be glorified and will glorify the Son." Jesus told his disciples that He would leave soon. Jesus gave his disciples an important commandment. Love one another. If you love other people, they will know that you belong to God.

Peter asked Jesus, "Where are you going?" Jesus said, "You cannot follow me now, but later you will." Peter said, "Why can't I follow you? I would die for you." Jesus said, "You will give your life? Before the roosters crows three times, you will deny knowing me."

Read John 13: 31-38

Questions

1. How did Jesus show love for His disciples?
2. Why didn't Peter want Jesus to wash his feet?

3. What lesson did Jesus want to teach His disciples when He washed their feet?

4. Who was Psalm 41: 9 talking about?

5. What was the important commandment that Jesus told his disciples?

6. Peter said that he would die for Jesus, what did Jesus say?

Gospel of John

XIV. Chapter 14

Vocabulary:

sorrowful: full of sadness

Comforter: someone who gives comfort/ a name used for the Holy Spirit

orphans: children whose parents have died

A. Jesus comforts His disciples

Jesus spent some time with His disciples. He wanted to comfort them. Jesus told His disciples, "Don't be sorrowful. Continue to trust in Me. My Father has many rooms in His house. I'm going to get your rooms ready. Then I will return and take you with me." The disciples said, "We don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one can go to God except through me. If you know me, you know my Father." Philip said, "Show us the Father."

Read John 14: 1-8 (page 1143)

Jesus replied, "Don't you know Me? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. Don't you believe that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father? Anyone who believes in Me will do the same things that I have done. You will do even greater things after I go to the Father. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

Read John 14:9-14

B. The Father will send the Holy Spirit

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask my Father and He will send you a Comforter to help you. The Comforter is the Spirit of truth. The world does not know the Spirit of truth. But you will know Him and He will live in you. I will not leave you as orphans. I will come for you. When I'm gone, the world will not see me. But you will see me. Because I live, you will also. If you obey my commands, you truly love me. My Father loves you and so do I.

Read John 14: 15-21 (page 1144)

One disciple asked, "Why do you only show yourself to us? Why don't you show yourself to the world?" Jesus said, "Those who love me will obey my teaching. I will love them and my Father will also. If anyone does not love me, they will not obey me." Jesus said, "I have told you this while I'm still here with you. Later, God will send the Holy Spirit. He will teach you and remind you of all that I have spoken." Jesus knew that His death would happen soon. He wanted to give his disciples comfort. Jesus told the disciples that He was giving them His peace. They should not be afraid. Jesus said, "Don't be sad. Instead, be happy that I am going to the Father." Jesus said that the "prince of this world" was coming. Jesus was talking about Satan. He said that Satan didn't have power over Him. Instead, Jesus was going to show His love for His Father by obeying God.

Read John 14: 22-31

Questions

1. What did Jesus say to comfort His disciples?
2. What did Jesus say about the way to God?
.
3. What will happen when we pray for something in Jesus' name?
4. How do we show that we love Jesus?

5. Who did God send to us after Jesus' death and resurrection?

6. What does the Holy Spirit do?

Gospel of John

XV. Chapter 15

Vocabulary:

guidance: to give direction

illustrate: to make something clear

trims: to cut back

demonstrated: showed

bear: to produce

opposed: against

A. The Vine and the Branches

Jesus continued to give His disciples comfort and guidance. Jesus wanted to explain the relationship between Jesus, his Father, and those who believe in Him. To illustrate this relationship, Jesus used a vine and a gardener. Jesus is the vine and the Father is the gardener. A gardener cuts out the dead branches from the vine. He also trims the branches that produce fruit. A gardener trims the branches of a grape vine in order to increase the amount of fruit produced. A branch must be attached to the vine in order to survive. A branch cannot live by itself. In the same way, we must stay attached to Jesus. We must abide with Jesus. The word abide means to remain or to continue.

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. If we continue to believe and trust Jesus in every part of our lives, we will bear fruit. The "fruit" that we bear as Christians includes obedience to God, telling others about God, and having Eternal Life. When we don't abide in Jesus, it's hard to obey God. We don't want to tell others about God.

Read John 15: 1-6 (page 1144)

If we abide in Jesus, we can ask God for anything and it will be given to us. When we abide in Jesus, God is glorified. We show God that we love Him by obeying Jesus' commandments. Jesus is joyful when we are obedient. What is Jesus' commandment? He wants us to love each other as Jesus loves us. How did Jesus show His love to us? Jesus demonstrated His love for us by dying for us. Jesus called His disciples, and us, His friends. As believers, we are chosen by God. We have been chosen to bear fruit.

Read John 15: 7-17 (page 1144)

B. The world hates the disciples

If the world hates you, remember that it hated Jesus too. What does Jesus mean by "the world"? The "world" are people that are opposed to God's teachings and have rejected God. If we agreed with the "world", then the world would love us. But because God chose us and loves us, the world hates us. Jesus said that a servant is not more important than his master. If some people hated Jesus, they will hate us also. We will be treated just like Jesus was. Jesus came to bring truth and He told everyone how to obey God. So everyone has heard the truth of the gospel. Those who reject the truth are guilty of sin because they have no excuse.

Read John 15: 18-23 (page 1145)

Jesus performed miracles for everyone to see. The world has seen the miracles but they still reject Jesus. These people hated Jesus and God, the Father. This hatred was prophesied about in Psalms 35 and Psalms 69 - "They hated me without a reason."

Jesus did not leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit is our Friend and He will remind us of everything that Jesus told us. We will be Jesus' witnesses to the world.

Read John 15: 24-27

Questions

1. What did Jesus use to illustrate the relationship between Jesus, God, and us?
2. Why do the branches on a grape vine need to be trimmed?
3. What is the fruit that we bear as Christians?

4. What is Jesus' commandment?

5. What does Jesus mean by "the world"?

6. Why does the world hate us?

Gospel of John

XVI. Chapter 16

Vocabulary:

mistreated: to treat someone badly

reveal: to show

sorrow: sadness

endure: to suffer with patience

Jesus told His disciples, and us, that the world would hate us because He wanted us to understand. Because the world hates us, we will be mistreated. Jesus wanted his disciple to be prepared.

Read John 16: 1-4 (page 1145)

A. What the Holy Spirit will do.

Jesus told His disciples that He was going back to the One who sent Him. Jesus was talking about God. The disciples were feeling very sad. Jesus said that it was important for Him to go. If Jesus didn't return to God, then the Holy Spirit couldn't come to help us. Jesus said that when the Spirit came, the Spirit would show that the world was guilty. Jesus said that the world is guilty because it doesn't believe in Him. The world is guilty because it does not show godliness. The world will be judged. This is because the prince of this world, the devil, has been judged already.

Read John 16: 5-11

Jesus had more to say but He knew that the disciple couldn't understand. Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them and help them to understand the truth. Jesus would tell the Holy Spirit what to say and the Holy Spirit would reveal it to us.

Read John 16: 12-16

B. The disciples' sadness will turn into joy.

Some of Jesus' disciples were confused at what Jesus said. They didn't understand why Jesus said that the disciples wouldn't see Jesus for a while. The disciples didn't even understand what Jesus meant by saying "I'm going to the Father". Jesus knew what the disciples were saying to each other. Jesus told them that they would soon be filled with sorrow. Jesus said, "You will be sad, but your sadness will turn into joy." When a woman is ready to give birth, she is in great pain. But after the baby is born, the woman forgets her pain. Instead, she is happy to hold her new baby. Jesus told his disciples that, like a woman giving birth, they would endure the pain of sorrow. But, afterward, the disciples would be full of joy.

Read John 16: 17-22 (page 1146)

Jesus was going to the Father. He told the disciples that if they asked for anything in Jesus' name, the Father would give it to them. Jesus said that He had not been speaking plainly to the disciples. But later, Jesus spoke openly about God. When we pray, we can now talk directly to God. God hears us because He loves us.

Jesus plainly told His disciples that He had come from God the Father and that He would soon be returning to the Father. The disciples finally understood. Jesus told the disciples that they would soon separate and would desert Jesus. But Jesus was never alone - God was always with Him. Jesus wanted the disciples to understand. He wanted them to be at peace. Even when trouble happens, we must remember that Jesus has won the battle over Satan.

Read John 16: 23-33

Questions

1. Why was it important for Jesus to return to God, the Father?
2. Why is the world guilty?

3. What did Jesus tell us about the Holy Spirit?

4. Why did Jesus talk about the pain of childbirth? How did this help the disciples?

5. What happens when we pray? Why does God hear us?

6. When trouble comes, what should we remember?

Gospel of John

XVII. Chapter 17

Vocabulary:

redemption: delivery or rescue

safe: free from harm

A. Jesus prays for Himself

After Jesus talked to his disciples, He prayed. He prayed about His sacrifice. Jesus prayed that He and God would be glorified. Through Jesus' death, He would give eternal life to all believers. What is eternal life? It is knowing God and Jesus, His Son. Jesus' work of redemption was almost complete and He would return to Heaven. Jesus would receive glory in Heaven.

Read John 17: 1-5 (page 1146)

B. Jesus prays for His disciples.

God chose the disciples to be His followers. The disciples loved God and were obedient. They understood that Jesus was sent from God. Jesus prayed for the disciples because He was returning to God. Jesus asked God to keep the disciples safe. He wanted the disciples to be united. While Jesus was with the disciples, they were safe. The only disciple that was lost was Judas Iscariot. Judas' betrayal was part of God's plan. Jesus did not pray that God would remove the disciples. He didn't pray that God would take the disciples to Heaven. Jesus prayed that God would protect the disciples as they lived in the world. Jesus prayed that the disciples would become holy. This holiness comes from the truth of God's word.

Read John 17: 6-19

C. Jesus prays for all believers

Jesus didn't just pray for His disciples, He also prayed for future believers. That means Jesus prayed for us. Jesus wants us to be united in mind and heart. Jesus prayed that we would be "in Jesus". This is similar to John chapter 15. In chapter 15, Jesus tells us to remain in Him like a branch attached to a vine. When

we are in Jesus and when we are united, the world can see Jesus through us. Jesus wants us to see His glory which comes from God. God is holy. Jesus showed us what God is like. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus continues to reveal God to us. He is in us and gives us God's love.

Read John 17: 20-26 (page 1147)

Questions

1. What did Jesus pray about first?
2. What did Jesus pray for His disciples?
3. Where does holiness come from?
4. Who else did Jesus pray for?
5. What does it mean to be "in Jesus"?

Gospel of John

XVIII. Chapter 18

Vocabulary:

approached: to move toward someone or something

reprimanded: to scold someone

afterwards: later

A. Jesus is arrested

After Jesus prayed, He and the disciples left. They entered the Mount of Olives near the Temple in Jerusalem. This was the place where Judas planned to hand Jesus over to the Jewish leaders. Judas entered the Mount of Olives with a group of soldiers and Jewish officials. Jesus knew what would happen so He approached the group. Jesus asked, "Who do you want?" The officials said that they wanted Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus replied, "I am he." When Jesus said this, the group of men fell to the ground. Again, Jesus asked them, "Who do you want?" and they replied, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said, "I told you that I am he. Leave the disciples alone and take me." Simon Peter pulled his sword. He struck a servant of the High Priest and cut off his ear. Jesus reprimanded Peter saying, "Put your sword away! I must do my Father's will."

The soldiers and officials arrested Jesus. They tied Jesus up and took him to Annas. Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was the high priest.

Read John 18: 1-14

B. Peter says he is not Jesus' disciple

Peter and John were following Jesus. John entered the courtyard with Jesus but Peter could not enter. Afterwards, John brought Peter into the courtyard. As Peter entered, a woman spoke to him. She said, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" But Peter said, "No, I am not." Peter stood and warmed himself by the fire.

Read John 18: 15-18

C. The high priest questions Jesus

Annas, the former high priest, questioned Jesus. He asked Jesus about His disciples and about what Jesus taught. Jesus said that He spoke openly in the synagogues and temple. Many people heard what Jesus said. Jesus said, "Ask the people - they will tell you what I said." One of the officials hit Jesus in the face. "Is this how you should answer a high priest?" But Jesus said, "I haven't said anything wrong. I have spoken the truth, why did you hit me?" Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Read John 18: 19-24

D. Peter again says he is not Jesus' disciple

While Peter warmed himself by the fire, someone asked him if he was Jesus' disciple. Peter said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest was standing by. He was a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off. He said, "Didn't I see you with Jesus on the Mount of Olives?" Again, Peter said, "No." At that very moment, a rooster crowed.

Read John 18: 25-27

E. Jesus is brought to Pilate.

Jesus was led to the Roman governor's palace. Since it was nearly time for Passover, the Jews did not enter the palace. Instead, Pilate came out to meet them. He said, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" The Jewish leaders said that Jesus had committed crimes. This was the reason that they were bringing Jesus to Pilate. Pilate said, "He is your responsibility. Judge Him according to your own laws." The Jews said that they did not have the authority to put Jesus to death. Pilate returned to the palace. Pilate commanded that Jesus should be brought to him.

Read John 18:28-33

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus asked if this was Pilate's idea. Pilate said, "Your own people have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, those who serve me would fight for me." "You are a king." Pilate said. "This is true. It

is the reason I was born. I came to proclaim the truth." Jesus replied. Pilate asked Jesus what truth was.

After this, Pilate went outside to talk to the Jews. Pilate said, "I find nothing to charge him with. But, during Passover, you can choose a prisoner to set free. Do you want me to set the "king of the Jews" free? They all shouted, "Give us Barabbas."

Read John 18: 34-40

Questions

1. What happened after Jesus and His disciples entered the Mount of Olives?
2. What did Peter do when the Jews tried to arrest Jesus? How did Jesus respond to Peter?
3. What did Peter say when he was asked if he was Jesus' disciple?
4. When Annas questioned Jesus, what did he ask?
5. What did Pilate ask Jesus? How did Jesus respond?

Gospel of John

XIX. Chapter 19

Vocabulary:

address: to make an announcement

frightened: afraid

pierced: to make a hole with a sharp object

fulfill: to make true/ to verify

A. Jesus is sentenced to be crucified.

Pilate commanded that Jesus should be whipped. The soldiers made a crown from thorns and placed it on Jesus' head. They placed a purple robe on Jesus and pretended to show honor to him. At the same time, the soldiers hit Jesus. Pilate came out of his palace to address the Jews. He said, "Here is Jesus. Just remember that I find nothing wrong with Him."

As soon as the Jewish officials saw Jesus, they started to shout, "Crucify him!" Pilate said, "You crucify him yourselves! He has not broken any Roman laws." The Jews said, "Jesus has broken our law. He claims to be the Son of God." Pilate was frightened.

Read John 19: 1-8 (page 1149)

Pilate went to talk to Jesus again. Pilate asked Him, "Where do you come from?" Jesus did not answer. Pilate said, "Don't you know that I have the power to free you or to crucify you?" But Jesus told Pilate that all power comes from heaven. Pilate tried to have Jesus released. But the Jews said that if Pilate didn't agree to crucify Jesus, they would take the matter to Caesar. Jesus claimed to be king, therefore He was challenging Caesar. Pilate brought Jesus to the Jews. They shouted again, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked, "Should I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar", the chief priests replied. Pilate handed Jesus over to the Jews to be crucified.

Read John 19: 9-16

B. Jesus is nailed to a cross

Jesus carried His cross to a hill called Golgotha. Jesus was nailed to a cross with two thieves on either side of him. Pilate wrote a sign which read "Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews". It was written in different languages and placed above Jesus' head. The chief priests argued with Pilate about the sign. They wanted to change the sign to read "this man claims to be king of the Jews". Pilate said that what was written was final.

Read John 19: 17-22 (page 1149)

The soldiers took Jesus' clothes and divided them between themselves. However, they didn't tear His robe. Instead, the soldiers cast lots to determine who would win the robe. This is exactly what was written Psalm 22:18. Jesus' mother, aunt, and Mary Magdalene stood near Jesus' cross. When Jesus saw His mother, He put her into the care of John, his disciple.

Read John 19: 23-26

C. Jesus dies

On the cross, Jesus said that He was thirsty. The soldier soaked a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and lifted to Jesus' lips. After Jesus drank, He said, "It is finished". Jesus meant that His sacrifice on the cross was complete. Then He died. The Jews did not want anyone to be on a cross during Sabbath. So the soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves who were beside Jesus. But when they looked at Jesus, He was already dead. One soldier took a spear and pierced Jesus' side. Water and blood flowed out of the wound. All of these things happened to fulfill the scriptures.

Read John 19: 28-37 (page 1150)

D. Jesus is buried

Joseph was a follower of Jesus. He was a wealthy man from the town of Arimathea. Joseph went to Pilate and asked him for Jesus' body. Nicodemus helped Joseph. Together, they carried Jesus' body to a tomb and brought spices with them. Using the spices and strips of linen cloth, they prepared Jesus' body for burial. They placed Jesus' body in a new tomb in a garden.

Read John 19: 38-42 (page 1150)

Questions

1. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
2. What did the Jewish officials say when Pilate brought Jesus out to them?
3. Pilate said that he had the power to free or to kill Jesus. What did Jesus say?
4. Pilate put a sign above Jesus' head - "Jesus of Nazareth, king of the Jews"
What did the Jewish leaders think about this? How did Pilate respond to them?
5. After Jesus drank from the sponge, what did He say? What did it mean?

Gospel of John

XX. Chapter 20

A. The tomb is empty

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. When she got there, the tomb entrance was opened. The stone had been rolled away. Mary Magdalene ran to meet Simon Peter and John. She thought that someone had taken Jesus away. Both of the disciples ran to the tomb. The disciples saw the empty tomb. After they entered the tomb, they found the linen strips and the burial cloth. The disciples still did not understand that Jesus rose from the grave.

Read John 20: 1-9

B. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

After the disciples left, Mary remained at the tomb crying. As she looked into the tomb, she saw two angels in white. The angels were sitting where Jesus' body had been lying. They asked Mary, "Why are you crying?" She said, "They have taken away my Lord and I don't know where He is." Mary turned around and saw a man standing there. It was Jesus but she didn't recognize Him. Jesus said, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Mary thought that the man was the gardener. So she asked Him, "Did you take Him away? Tell me where Jesus is so that I can go to Him." Jesus called out Mary's name. She recognized Jesus' voice immediately. Jesus said, "Don't hold onto me right now. Go to the disciples and my followers and tell them that I will return to my Father." Jesus went to the disciples. She told them that she had seen the Lord.

Read John 20: 10-18

C. Jesus appears to His disciples

In the evening, the disciples were meeting together in a closed room. Jesus came in and stood before them. Jesus said, "I give you my peace. God the Father sent me to you. And now I am sending you to tell everyone about God." Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven."

Read John 20: 19-23

D. Jesus appears to Thomas

Thomas was one of the disciples. He was not at the meeting when Jesus appeared to the disciples. The other disciples told Thomas that Jesus had appeared to them. But Thomas didn't believe. He said, "I must see and touch the scars on Jesus' hands. I must touch the wound on His side. Only then will I believe. The next week, Jesus again appeared to the disciples. Jesus said to Thomas, "Here - Put your fingers on my scars. Touch my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God." Jesus told Thomas that he believed because he saw the scars. People who believe in Jesus without seeing Him are truly blessed. These miracles that Jesus did, both before He died and after He arose, are written so that we can believe that Jesus is the Christ. If you believe, you will have eternal life.

Read John 20: 24-31

Questions

1. Who went to Jesus tomb? Which disciples did she run to?
2. What did the disciples find when they looked into the tomb?
3. There was a man standing outside the tomb. Who did Mary think that he was? Who was he?

4. What happened when the disciples were meeting in a closed room?

5. What did Thomas say about believing Jesus?

Gospel of John

XXI. Chapter 21

Vocabulary:

shore: the land around a lake or ocean

could hardly: with difficulty

tow: to move something using a boat or vehicle

A. Jesus does a miracle at the Sea.

After His death, Jesus appeared to His disciples at the Sea of Galilee. Many of the disciples had been fisherman. After Jesus' death, a few of the disciples went fishing. They were on the Sea of Galilee. Even though the disciples fished all night, they didn't catch any fish. In the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. Jesus asked the disciples if they caught any fish. The disciples didn't know that it was Jesus. The disciples said that they did not get any fish. Jesus said, "Throw your nets into the water from the right side of the boat." The disciples obeyed. There were so many fish that they could hardly pull them into the boat.

Read John 21: 1-6 (page 1151)

Suddenly, John recognized Jesus. He said to Peter, "It is the Lord." Peter jumped into the water and swam to the shore. The rest of the disciples rowed the boat to shore. They towed the net full of fish. When the disciples reached the shore, they found fish cooking on a fire and some bread. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish that you caught." Peter dragged the net to shore. The net was completely full of fish but it did not tear. Jesus said, "Come and have breakfast."

Read John 21: 7-14

B. Jesus takes Peter back

Jesus spoke to Peter. He asked if Peter loved Him. Jesus asked Peter this question 3 times. Jesus told Peter to "feed my sheep". Jesus wanted Peter to love and teach His followers. By the time Jesus asked Peter the third time, Peter became upset. Peter said, "Jesus, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus told Peter about his future. Peter's death would bring God glory.

Read John 21:15-19 (page 1152)

When Peter was talking with Jesus, he saw John following them. Peter asked Jesus, "What will happen to John?" Jesus said it didn't matter. Even if John would live until Jesus returns, what does it matter to Peter? Jesus said that Peter must follow Him.

Read John 21: 20-25

Questions

1. What were Jesus' disciples doing at the Sea of Galilee?
2. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
3. Who recognized Jesus? What did Peter do? Describe Peter's character.
4. What did Jesus ask Peter? What did Jesus tell Peter to do?
5. What did Jesus say when Peter asked Him about John?