

## **Gospel of John**

### **I. Prayer**

### **II. Lesson 1**

#### **A. General Information**

1. Probably written between 90 and 110 ad
2. Author unknown...
3. Jesus' ministry takes place in 3 years rather than 1 in the Synoptics
4. Less emphasis on the Kingdom of God, the focus of the Synoptics
5. Limited use or some would say no use of Parables which are a prominent feature of the Synoptics, think of all the missing Parables, i.e....
6. No traditional call of the disciples and no list of their names
7. Stories not told in the Synoptics
  - a) Cana water into wine
  - b) Cleansing of the Temple at the beginning of Jesus' ministry
  - c) Encounter with Nicodemus in John 3
  - d) Woman at the Well
  - e) Woman caught in the act of adultery
  - f) Raising of Lazarus
  - g) John 14, "In my Father's house..."
  - h) Foot Washing
  - i) Crucifixion on the day before Passover
  - j) Doubting Thomas
8. Missing in John
  - a) No birth story
  - b) No Baptism by John
  - c) No Temptation story
  - d) No (limited) Parables – all the familiar Parables
  - e) No casting out of demons
  - f) No Sermon on the Mount or the Plain
  - g) No Transfiguration
  - h) No Lord's Prayer
  - i) No Communion
9. With all its differences, there is much the same
  - a) Jesus as divine
  - b) Connection to John the Baptist
  - c) Feeding of the 5000, only miracle story apart from the Resurrection told in all Four Gospels
  - d) A last meal in which Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial
  - e) Garden of Gethsemane

- f) Trial before High Priest
- g) Trial before Pilate
- h) Release of Barabbas
- i) Scourging
- j) Crucifixion
- k) Burial
- l) Resurrection
- m) Appearances

B. Chapter 1 – Majestic 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

Chapter 1

1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.** What has come into being 4 **in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.** 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was **John.** 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 **He himself was not the light,** but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 **He was in the world,** and the world came into being through him; **yet the world did not know him.** 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And **the Word became flesh** and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 **The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** 18 **No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.**

The Testimony of John the Baptist

19 This is the testimony given by John when **the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,** "Who are you?" 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, **"I am not the Messiah."** 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been **sent from the Pharisees.** 25 They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the

prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

C. Jesus is the Word, capital W. We often refer to the Bible itself as the Word of God, but literally Jesus is the Word of God and the Bible is either the witness to the Word of God or the written words about the Word of God

D. Jesus is the Word of God, the Co-Creator, the Life and the Light – wow!

E. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

F. Now, John the Baptist is introduced. He is not the light, but points to the true light.

G. He came to the world, but the world doesn't not recognize him. That recognition will take some time.

H. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. John 1:17-18

I. John makes it clear that he is not the Messiah. He baptizes with water, but the one to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

J. The Synoptic Gospel have a powerful scene at Caesarea Philippi in which Peter announces, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God..." In John, it's John the Baptist who is the first to recognize who Jesus is.

K. Chapter 1: 35-51

L.

### III. Lesson 2

A. Prayer Concerns

B. Opening Prayer

C. Questions from last week

#### The Lamb of God

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is 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 ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." John 1:29-34

D. The Gospel of John doesn't tell the story of Jesus' baptism by John, but we know it happened from John 1: 32-34

### The First Disciples of Jesus

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

### Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." John 1:35-51

### IV. Lesson 4 Chapter 2 – the First Miracle

1. Prayer Concerns
2. Prayer

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that

had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this, **the first of his signs**, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; **and his disciples believed in him.**

**12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples;** and they remained there a few days.

John 2:1-12

3. Lots to discuss
4. A wedding in the 1<sup>st</sup> century was a big deal. Common people didn't celebrate very often.
5. Why would Mary intervene? This isn't a national crisis; it is simply embarrassing to run out of wine. Is Mary somehow related to someone in the wedding party?
6. Why did Jesus push back?
7. Why was there so much water around?
8. Let's try to keep track of Jesus' miracles in John. This was his first sign. Why call it a sign?
9. His disciples believed in him. Why were they there? Their homes were many miles away. How did they get an invitation? Were they also relatives?
10. "After this he went down to Capernaum (where his disciples lived) with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples." Why did his mother and brothers go down to Capernaum?
11. Finally, what does all this mean for us today? What are the "take aways?"

**B. Jesus travels to Jerusalem (that's a long way away-it takes 4 or 5 days)**

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and **Jesus went up to Jerusalem.** 14 In the temple he found people selling **cattle, sheep, and doves**, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also **poured out** the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, **"Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"** 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18 **The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"** 19 Jesus answered them, **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."** 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said

this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

23 When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing.

24 But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone. John 2:13-25

1. Questions, insights This is a story told in all four Gospels.
2. What animals were they selling? Cattle and doves are only mentioned in John. In my mind I hadn't thought about the doves. I knew they sold doves because that's what Jesus' parents bought to sacrifice about a month after he was born. But I never really thought about how you use a whip to scatter birds in cages. John says that Jesus told the sellers to "Take these things out of here."
3. He poured out the coins of the moneychangers and turned over their tables. In my mind, the coins were stacked on the tables and Jesus turned over the tables.
4. Why did Jesus do this? Marketplace... Notice that in John Jesus doesn't mention the Temple as "a house of prayer."
5. Why do you think that John puts the Cleansing of the Temple at the beginning of his ministry rather than the end as the Synoptics do?
6. Zeal for the Temple will consume me. "What sign can you show us?" Again, what sign.
7. Prediction of the destruction of the Temple, but Jesus was talking about his body (his death). Three days...
8. Like the water into wine, John comments, "Many believed in his name because they say the signs he was doing." Again signs.

C. Closing Prayer

## V. Lesson 3

A. Prayer Concerns

B. Prayer

C. Questions about last week

Nicodemus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I

Commented [PC1]: Leader?

Commented [PC2]: Why by night?

Commented [PC3]: Either N. acknowledges this or this is flattery

Commented [PC4]: Why "we know"

Commented [PC5]: N. knows or flattery again

Commented [PC6]: Again, "these signs" N. knows J. reputation

Commented [PC7]: What does this mean?

Commented [PC8]: Notice that the Bible isn't written to be taken literally, what does J. mean?

tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." John 3:1-21

1. Analyze 3: 16
  - a) For God so loved the world...
  - b) That he gave...
  - c) His only Son...
  - d) So that everyone – "everyone"...
  - e) Who believes in him...
  - f) May not perish...
  - g) But have eternal life.
2. Other verses in John 3: 1-21

Jesus and John the Baptist

<sup>22</sup> After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. <sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized <sup>24</sup> — John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison.

Commented [PC9]: Water and Spirit (cap. S)

Commented [PC10]: What do you think this mean? Are non-Xns without S. or s.?

Commented [PC11]: What do you think?

Commented [PC12]: Nicodemus is also a Rabbi

Commented [PC13]: Comments?

Commented [PC14]: Recall this event

Commented [PC15]: What does this mean to you?

Commented [PC16]: God didn't send Jesus to condemn

Commented [PC17]: Eternal life is through belief, we have a choice = Free Will

Commented [PC18]: Notice past tense

Commented [PC19]: This is some sort of judgment, but clearly Jesus isn't the one who condemns

Commented [PC20]: Now Jesus' disciples are baptizing

Commented [PC21]: Synoptics tell of his beheading

<sup>25</sup> Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. <sup>26</sup> They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." <sup>27</sup> John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup> who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease."

**The One Who Comes from Heaven**

<sup>31</sup> **The one who comes from above is above all;** the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. **The one who comes from heaven is above all.** <sup>32</sup> He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. <sup>33</sup> Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. <sup>34</sup> He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup> **The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.** <sup>36</sup> **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath.** John 3:22-36

- D. Comments or Questions
- E. Closing Prayer

#### VI. Lesson 4 John 4 – the Samaritan Woman

- A. Prayer Concerns
- B. Prayer
- C. Questions about last week
- D. History of the Samaritans
  1. Period of the Judges – prior to 1000 BC
  2. United Kingdom – 1000 BC approx.
    - a) Saul
    - b) David
    - c) Solomon
      - (1) The conventional dates of Solomon's reign are circa 970 to 931 BCE. This puts the date of its construction in the mid-10th century BCE. 1 Kings 9:10 says that it took Solomon 20 years altogether to build the Temple and his royal palace; the Temple itself was completed in 7 years.
      - (2) Solomon builds the First Temple around 950 BC
  3. Divided Kingdom
    - a) Northern tribes = Israel
    - b) Southern tribes = Judah
  4. Conquest of the Northern Tribes by Assyria – 722/1 BC
    - a) Some say that this is the time that Samaritans appear
    - b) Samaritans are the people produced by the intermarriage of the remnant of the Northern Tribes with

**Commented [PC22]:** Again, John had disciples

**Commented [PC23]:** John is also considered a Rabbi

**Commented [PC24]:** Professional jealousy?

**Commented [PC25]:** Great analogy

**Commented [PC26]:** John is joyful about Jesus

**Commented [PC27]:** The last paragraph is the author's commentary about Jesus and John

**Commented [PC28]:** Jesus did not come to condemn the world but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath



other people brought in to the Northern Kingdom to occupy the conquered land

5. Conquest of the Southern Tribes by Babylon – 587/6 BC
  - a) Solomon's Temple destroyed by the Babylonians
  - b) Leading citizens along with any skilled craftsmen taken into slavery and imported to Babylon
6. Conquest of Babylon by Cyrus the Great (Persian King)
7. Edict of Cyrus allowing Jews to repopulate the Holy Land and rebuild Jerusalem and construct the Second Temple – 538 BC
  - a) Those claiming Jewish heritage welcomed the freed Jews from Babylon and want to help rebuild Judah
  - b) Those who had endured 50 plus years of slavery rejected these "half-breeds" and expelled them back into Israel and referred to them as "Samaritans" (non-Jews)

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John"<sup>2</sup> —although **it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized**—<sup>3</sup> he left Judea and started back to Galilee.<sup>4</sup> But **he had to go through Samaria.**<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. **It was about noon.**

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (**His disciples had gone to the city** to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."<sup>20</sup> **Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain,** but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, **"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain**

nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

Jesus Returns to Galilee

<sup>43</sup> When the two days were over, he went from that place to Galilee.<sup>44</sup> (for Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in the prophet’s own country).<sup>45</sup> When he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the festival; for they too had gone to the festival.

Jesus Heals an Official’s Son

<sup>46</sup> Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum.<sup>47</sup> When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”<sup>49</sup> The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my little boy dies.”<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed

the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way.<sup>51</sup> As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive.<sup>52</sup> So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him."<sup>53</sup> The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household.<sup>54</sup> Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee. John 4

- E. Samaritan woman
  - 1. Did Sychar have its own village well?
  - 2. What's the point of the story?
    - a) Jesus loves non-Jews
    - b) Jesus is a prophet – he has knowledge of people's past
    - c) Jesus is living water
    - d) God loves a flawed woman
  - 3. What is God trying to teach us in this story?
- F. Royal Official's son
  - 1. What happened?
  - 2. What is the point of the story?
    - a) Jesus has compassion for a sick child
    - b) Jesus heals a boy from 15 to 20 miles away
  - 3. What is God trying to teach us in this story?
- G. Closing Comments
- H. Prayer

## VII. John Chapter 5

- A. Prayer Concerns
- B. Prayer
- C. Questions about last week

<sup>1</sup> After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes.<sup>3</sup> In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.<sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.<sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"<sup>7</sup> The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me."<sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk."<sup>9</sup> At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.<sup>10</sup> So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat."<sup>11</sup> But he answered them, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'"<sup>12</sup> They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take it up and walk'?"<sup>13</sup> Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there.<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well!

Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.”<sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.<sup>16</sup>

Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath.<sup>17</sup> But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.”<sup>18</sup> For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

#### The Authority of the Son

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.”<sup>20</sup> The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished.<sup>21</sup> Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes.<sup>22</sup> The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son,<sup>23</sup> so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.<sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

<sup>25</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”<sup>26</sup> For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself;<sup>27</sup> and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.<sup>28</sup> Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice<sup>29</sup> and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

#### Witnesses to Jesus

<sup>30</sup> “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

<sup>31</sup> “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.”<sup>32</sup> There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true.<sup>33</sup> You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth.<sup>34</sup> Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved.<sup>35</sup> He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.<sup>36</sup> But I have a testimony greater than John’s. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.<sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form,<sup>38</sup> and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

<sup>39</sup> “You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf.”<sup>40</sup> Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.<sup>41</sup> I do not accept glory from human beings.<sup>42</sup> But I know that you do not have the love of God in you.<sup>43</sup> I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you

will accept him.<sup>44</sup> How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God?<sup>45</sup> **Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope.**<sup>46</sup> **If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.**<sup>47</sup> But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

D. Second trip to Jerusalem

1. Healing on the Sabbath

- a) Jesus knew the paralyzed man had been lying there a long time
- b) Superstition or tradition said that the first one who entered the water after it was "stirred up" would be healed.
- c) The Jews start persecuting Jesus because he healed on the Sabbath.
- d) A disproportionate number of Jesus' healing miracles occur on the Sabbath. Why?

2. What is Sabbath?

- a) The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment
- b) However, the Hebrew people were already observing Sabbath before Moses brought the 10 Commandments down from Mt. Sinai.
- c) Recall that Moses instructed the people to gather only enough manna for 1 day. Right? What would happen if they gathered more than 1 day? Maggots. However, there was an exception. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the week, they were to gather enough for 2 days. Why? Moses instructed them not to gather manna on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.
- d) However, there is a more ancient origin than that. Recall the 1<sup>st</sup> Creation Story from Genesis 1. What did God create on the 7<sup>th</sup> day? Nothing, God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Bible sets up the observance of rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.
- e) Why should people rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day? Judaism has pretty elaborate instructions for Sabbath observance. Breaking Sabbath is a capital offense.

**Numbers 15:32-36** When the Israelites were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the sabbath day.<sup>33</sup> Those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses, Aaron, and to the whole congregation.<sup>34</sup> They put him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him.<sup>35</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him outside the camp."<sup>36</sup> The whole congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- f) Sabbath was big deal. Jesus broke the Sabbath.

The Jewish authorities weren't opposed to Jesus because he was a healer. They opposed him because he healed on the Sabbath.

- g) What should Sabbath look like today?
- h) What should we do on the Sabbath?
- i) Should there be any restrictions on Sabbath?
- j) What do you think was God's intent for us for Sabbath?

E. Theology of Trinity

- 1. Virgin Birth
- 2. John 1 – Jesus as Co-Creator
- 3. For whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.

VIII. Chapter 6

A. Prayer Concerns

B. Prayer

C. Questions from last week

D. Sequence by Chapters

- 1. Jesus is baptized at Bethany beyond the Jordan in Judea and his first disciples begin to follow him.
- 2. Jesus turns water into wine at Cana and then goes to Capernaum
- 3. Jesus has an encounter with Nicodemus in Jerusalem and then "cleanses the Temple"
- 4. Jesus "has to go through Samaria" for the encounter with the Samaritan woman
- 5. Jesus heals the man beside the Pool on the Sabbath in Jerusalem
- 6. "After this" Jesus crosses the Sea and feeds the 5000
- 7. Clash with Religious Authorities

Feeding the Five Thousand

John 6

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup> A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they

were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw **the sign that he had done**, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

<sup>15</sup> When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

**Jesus Walks on the Water**

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, **his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum.** It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, **they saw Jesus walking on the sea** and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup> Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

**The Bread from Heaven**

<sup>22</sup> The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup> Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup> **Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."** <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup> for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent

me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.<sup>40</sup> This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

<sup>41</sup> Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.”<sup>42</sup> They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves.<sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.<sup>45</sup> 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.<sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.<sup>47</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.<sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life.<sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.<sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”<sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.<sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day;<sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.<sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.<sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”<sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

#### The Words of Eternal Life

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”<sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you?<sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?<sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.<sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.<sup>65</sup> And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.<sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?”<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.<sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”<sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the



**twelve? Yet one of you is a devil."**<sup>71</sup> He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

**E. The feeding of the 5000**

1. This is the only miracle story, apart from the Resurrection itself, that is told in all four Gospels.
2. Only John mentions that a boy gave his meal.
3. What is the miracle here?
  - a) Jesus multiplying the food
  - b) The people shared the food they brought
  - c) Jesus used the gift offered by a boy
4. What is the point or points of this story?
  - a) Jesus' compassion
  - b) Jesus' power
  - c) How God can use others such as the boy to bless others
  - d) Is there another miracle at work here? Jesus could certainly multiply the food, he co-created the universe. However, if the miracle is multiplying food, then this is the only one of Jesus' miracle that no Psycho-Evangelist has ever claimed to do. What if the secondary miracle is that once people see generosity, they become more generous? What are the chances that the little boy was the only one who had any food with him? What if Jesus' blessing was to encourage the sharing of resources?
  - e) Where did the 12 baskets come from? If no one had brought food with them, why would there be 12 baskets in which to collect the leftovers?

**F. Flesh and Blood**

1. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."
2. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. John 4:14
3. Jesus gives living water and Jesus is the bread of life.
4. Since the Gospel of John does have a Last Supper Communion story, could this be the equivalent?
5. Let's talk about Communion
  - a) Catholics – Transubstantiation
  - b) Lutherans – Consubstantiation
  - c) Methodists – Real Presence
  - d) Others – a Remembrance
  - e) These differences primarily concern "the mode of Christ's presence in the Lord's Supper.

**Wesley's Article XVIII - Of the Lord's Supper**

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that, to

such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, cannot be proved by Holy Writ, but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the mean whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshiped.

6. 41 Then the Jews began to complain 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 can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43 Jesus answered them,

~~"Do not complain among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person 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~~

~~Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that 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. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."~~

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them,

"Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Those

who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; 55 for my flesh is true food

and my blood is true drink. 56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living

Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came

down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." 59

He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

7. 66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the

twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” 70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.” 71 He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him. John 6:66-71

- G. Jesus knew what kind of man Judas was.
  - 1. Already in Chapter 6, Jesus already knew of Judas’ betrayal.

- H. Questions and Comments

- I. Closing Prayer

## IX. Chapter 7 – the Festival of Booths

- A. Prayer Concerns

- B. Prayer

- C. Questions about last week

- D. Synopsis

1. Jesus is baptized at Bethany beyond the Jordan in Judea and his first disciples begin to follow him.
2. Jesus turns water into wine at Cana in Galilee and then goes to Capernaum
3. Jesus has an encounter with Nicodemus in Jerusalem and then “cleanses the Temple”
4. Jesus “has to go through Samaria” for the encounter with the Samaritan woman
5. Jesus heals the man beside the Pool on the Sabbath in Jerusalem
6. “After this” Jesus crosses the Sea of Galilee and feeds the 5000
7. Clash with Religious Authorities in Jerusalem

- E. Notice how Jesus travels back and forth from Jerusalem/Judea to Galilee

The Unbelief of Jesus’ Brothers

Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. <sup>2</sup> Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near. <sup>3</sup> So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing; <sup>4</sup> for no one who wants to be widely known acts in secret. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” <sup>5</sup> (For not even his brothers believed in him.) <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify against it that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> Go to the festival yourselves. I am not going to this festival, for my time has not yet fully come.” <sup>9</sup> After

saying this, he remained in Galilee.

Jesus at the Festival of Booths

<sup>10</sup> But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret. <sup>11</sup> The Jews were looking for him at the festival and saying, "Where is he?" <sup>12</sup> And there was considerable complaining about him among the crowds. While some were saying, "He is a good man," others were saying, "No, he is deceiving the crowd." <sup>13</sup> Yet no one would speak openly about him for fear of the Jews.

<sup>14</sup> About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. <sup>15</sup> The Jews were astonished at it, saying, "How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?" <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. <sup>17</sup> Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. <sup>18</sup> Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.

<sup>19</sup> "Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?" <sup>20</sup> The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered them, "I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. <sup>22</sup> Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. <sup>23</sup> If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath?" <sup>24</sup> Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

Is This the Christ?

<sup>25</sup> Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill?" <sup>26</sup> And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? <sup>27</sup> Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." <sup>28</sup>

Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. <sup>29</sup> I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." <sup>30</sup> Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. <sup>31</sup> Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, "When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

Officers Are Sent to Arrest Jesus

<sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering such things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent temple police to arrest him.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little while longer, and then I

am going to him who sent me.<sup>34</sup> You will search for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”<sup>35</sup> The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?”<sup>36</sup> What does he mean by saying, ‘You will search for me and you will not find me’ and ‘Where I am, you cannot come’?”

#### Rivers of Living Water

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,<sup>38</sup> and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”<sup>39</sup> Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

#### Division among the People

<sup>40</sup> When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, “This is really the prophet.”<sup>41</sup> Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he?”<sup>42</sup> Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?”<sup>43</sup> So there was a division in the crowd because of him.<sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

#### The Unbelief of Those in Authority

<sup>45</sup> Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest him?”<sup>46</sup> The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!”<sup>47</sup> Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived too, have you?”<sup>48</sup> Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him?<sup>49</sup> But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed.”<sup>50</sup> Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked,<sup>51</sup> “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?”<sup>52</sup> They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.”

John 7:1-52

F. Jesus clashes with the Religious Authorities. There are two sets of religious authorities

1. Temple Authorities=Priests and Levites by bloodline and Sadducees by alliance
2. Pharisees=Rabbis, Scribes, Lawyers who were respected by the common people as Biblical and extra-biblical experts but had no bloodline
3. Each set of religious authorities clashed with Jesus for different reasons
4. The Temple Authorities were threatened by Jesus’ interference in their monopoly over the Temple, Taxes and

- Sacrifices**
5. The Pharisees clashed with Jesus over his interpretation of Jewish laws – Biblical and extra-biblical (Talmud, Mishnah and Gemara)
- G. The Religious Authorities were trying to protect the status quo and their own interpretation of Religion and the Bible**
- 1.
- H. Who do Christians clash with today?**
1. **Non-Christians**
    - a) Jews
    - b) Muslims
    - c) Hindu
    - d) Etc.
    - e) **Why do Christians clash with non-Christians?**
      - (1) We believe that Jesus is God's ultimate revelation of God.
      - (2) Many Christians believe that Jesus is the only way to salvation and to avoid damnation.
      - (3) These Christians use John 14 as their proof text. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by men."
  2. The most troublesome clash that Christians have today is with other Christians. This clash is largely over the interpretation of Scripture.
- I. Interpretation of Scripture**
1. All Christians believe that the Bible was inspired by God.
  2. The clash we have with other Christians is over the interpretation of what "inspired" means.
  3. Until widespread literacy and the printing press, the Priests were the ultimate source of what the Bible meant.
  4. A few hundred years ago, with the availability of the Bible and far greater literacy, people began to struggle with their own interpretation of scripture.
  5. There arose the idea that the Bible was inerrant. What does inerrant mean?
    - a) Some Christians believe that the Bible is perfect. They have been taught that the Bible contains no errors of any kind. They have been taught that the authors who wrote the Bible were so inspired that their own opinions or preconceived notions or historical biases never influenced their writing. They were also taught that God guided the copying of the original writings so that no errors ever crept in. They were further taught that God equally controlled every translation of the Bible

so that each was also perfect and error free.

b) Most Christians recognize that the Bible is the product of human authors who were inspired by God but real human beings. God did not dictate the Bible to humans but inspired people to convey divine truths.

c) From the International Bible Society, "(The Bible is an) ancient collection of books...God did not simply give dictation to the human authors of Scripture; their contribution is real. Their personalities, perspectives, and writing styles are all discernable in the text—as are the unique situations and circumstances of those to whom they were writing.

d) A 2011 [Gallup](#) survey reports, "A 49% plurality of Americans say the Bible is the inspired word of God but that it should not be taken [literally](#), consistently the most common view in Gallup's nearly 40-year history of this question."<sup>[10]</sup>

6. Why is the Bible so important?

a) The Bible is not literally the Word of God, Jesus is, but the Bible does contain the words of God that continue to inform our faith and practice today.

b) Without a Canon of Scripture, new Messiahs would appear every few years and claim to be the authoritative message from God.

c) The Canon of the Bible protects us from a parade of new Messiahs.

X. Chapter 8

A. Prayer Concerns

B. Prayer

C. Questions about last week

D. This week

The Woman Caught in Adultery

[<sup>53</sup> Then each of them went home,

Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup> while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup> they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> And once again he

bent down and wrote on the ground.<sup>9</sup> When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.<sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"<sup>11</sup> She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."]]  
John 7:52 - 8:11

E. Observations

1. Only the woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus. What happened to the man? Had he already been executed or was he released? He was equally guilty.
2. Jesus knelt and wrote in the sand/dirt. This verse shows that Jesus was literate. Is that a silly thing to say? Jesus was the Son of God. What did Jesus know by virtue of being God? How aware was the human Jesus of the knowledge of the eternal Jesus?
3. Let the one without sin cast the first stone. They began to leave beginning with the eldest. Why did the eldest drop their stones first?
4. Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again." Jesus didn't condemn her to die but neither did he condone her behavior. "Do not sin again."
5. What does this story mean? What was Jesus trying to teach us?
  - a) It does not condone immoral behavior.
  - b) In Numbers 15:32-36, a man is stoned to death for gathering sticks on the Sabbath. Is gathering sticks on the Sabbath a more severe infraction than adultery?
  - c) Does this story mean that we can get away with any immoral act?
  - d) How has this story been used historically?
  - e) What does it mean today? What was Jesus trying to teach us?

Jesus the Light of the World

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."<sup>13</sup>

Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid."<sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."<sup>15</sup> You judge by human standards; I judge no one.<sup>16</sup> Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.<sup>17</sup> In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid.<sup>18</sup> I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf."<sup>19</sup> Then they said 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."<sup>20</sup> He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. John 8:12-20

F. I am statements in John.

- 1) I Am the Bread of Life.
- 2) I Am the Light of the World.
- 3) I Am the door or gate &
- 4) I Am the Good Shepherd.
- 5) I Am the resurrection, and the life.
- 6) I Am the way, the truth, and the life.
  - 7) I Am the true vine

G. Light in John

1. John 1:3-9 What has come into being<sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.<sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.<sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

2. John 3:19-21 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.<sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.<sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

3. John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

4. John 11:9-10 Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.<sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.

5. John 12:35-36 Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going.<sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

6. John 12:46 I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

Jesus Foretells His Death

7. Notice in John, how many times "the Jews" try to kill Jesus.

John 8:21-30 Again he said to them, "I am going away, and you will search

for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.”<sup>22</sup> Then the Jews said, “Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’”<sup>23</sup> He said to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.”<sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.”<sup>25</sup> They said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Why do I speak to you at all? <sup>26</sup> I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”<sup>27</sup> They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father.”<sup>28</sup> So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me.”<sup>29</sup> And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.”<sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him. John 8:31-38 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;<sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”<sup>33</sup> They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.”<sup>35</sup> The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.”<sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”<sup>37</sup> I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word.”<sup>38</sup> I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”

**Jesus and Abraham**  
 John 8:39-59 They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did,<sup>40</sup> but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.”<sup>41</sup> You are indeed doing what your father does.” They said to him, “We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.”<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.”<sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word.”<sup>44</sup> You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”<sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.”<sup>46</sup> Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?<sup>47</sup> Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God.”<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”<sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me.”<sup>50</sup> Yet I do not seek my own

glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge.<sup>51</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.”<sup>52</sup> The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, ‘Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.’”<sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?”<sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, ‘He is our God,’”<sup>55</sup> though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word.<sup>56</sup> Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.”<sup>57</sup> Then the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.”<sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

8. Questions and Comments

9. Closing Prayer

## **XI. Chapter 9**

A. Prayer Concerns

B. Prayer

C. Questions about last week

D. This week

**A Man Born Blind Receives Sight**

**Chapter 9**

<sup>1</sup> As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.<sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.”<sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”<sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes,<sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.<sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”<sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”<sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”<sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”<sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

**The Pharisees Investigate the Healing**

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.<sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he

had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.<sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight<sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;<sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."<sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"<sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

#### Spiritual Blindness

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."<sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have

sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

**E. Issues for Chapter 9**

1. Who sinned, this man or his parents. Jesus said, "Neither."
2. Why do bad things happen? Can sin lead to bad things happening? Yes, but sometimes bad things are not the result of sin.
3. Consider the story of Job.
  - a) Scholars argue about the use of "Satan" in this story, but one message is very clear and must be shouted out to Christians everywhere. Bad things happen to good people.
  - b) If you are suffering, it doesn't automatically mean that you are a bad person being punished.
  - c) Many Christians today are living in terrible situation. They are not being punished. Bad things happen to good people.
4. The theological problem of human suffering has resulted in many otherwise devout Christians to abandon their faith. They simply can not believe in a "good" God allowing the suffering of good people. What are some of the possible solutions?
  - a) God is not good.
  - b) God is not all powerful.
  - c) God allows suffering for some greater good.
  - d) Heaven makes up for all the suffering experienced on earth.
5. Again, Sabbath is an issue. No one faulted Jesus for healing a man's blindness, but again the Jewish authorities challenged Jesus for healing on the Sabbath.
  - a) The authorities act as though the law is more important than the people.
  - b) Paul's definitive word is that "no one is saved by obedience to the law, but by faith in Jesus."
  - c) There is nothing wrong with the law. The law is good. The law was given to make it possible for humans to live in community with each other. But the law can't get us where we are supposed to go. We are saved by faith alone.
6. Finally, let's talk about blindness.
  - a) There is of course physical blindness. Most of us will never know how that might feel.
  - b) Today, technology and ADA make it possible for blind people to live much fully and some of them might say, "Completely full" lives. Blindness in Jesus' day made people completely dependent upon charity. To be

blind was to be a beggar. The Bible refers to “blind beggar” but it really doesn’t need to tell us that the blind are beggars.

c) However, there is another kind of blindness that is far more debilitating than physical blindness. Jesus tells the Jewish authorities that they are blind.

d) <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”

e) Who are the “spiritually” blind today?

(1) One of my favorite people in the world used to tell me, “I’m a Christian but don’t ever call me religious.”

(2) What do you think she meant?

(3) Is religion bad or have people who think of themselves as “the religious” given religion a bad name?

(4) One of my favorite stories comes from a friend who pastored a small church in Arkansas...”Pastor, you leave Jesus out of this.”

f) Am I being judgmental to say that far too many church have people who want to “leave Jesus out of this”?

g) What does it mean to “leave Jesus out of this”?

F. Questions and Comments

G. Closing Prayer

## XII. Chapter 10

A. Prayer Concerns

B. Prayer

C. Questions from last week

D. Remind me near the end of our time to attempt to answer the question, “So what? As a Christian what am I supposed to do with this?”

<sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> **The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.** <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, **I am the gate for**

the sheep.<sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.<sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.<sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.<sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.<sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.<sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.<sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

<sup>19</sup> Again the Jews were divided because of these words.<sup>20</sup> Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?"<sup>21</sup> Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,<sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.<sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;<sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.<sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.<sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

<sup>31</sup> The Jews took up stones again to stone him.<sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?"<sup>33</sup> The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God."<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'?"<sup>35</sup> If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scripture cannot be annulled—<sup>36</sup> can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'?<sup>37</sup> If I am not doing the

works of my Father, then do not believe me.<sup>38</sup> But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and **I am in the Father.**"

<sup>39</sup> Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.

<sup>40</sup> He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. <sup>41</sup> Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." <sup>42</sup> And many believed in him there.

**E. Shepherds in the Bible**

1. Cain and Abel –
  - a) Now Abel was a keeper of sheep Genesis 4:2
  - b) God accepted the offering of the shepherd. Cain killed his brother Abel out of jealousy.
2. Abraham and Lot divide their flocks
3. Jacob and Esau
  - a) Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Genesis 25:27
4. Moses tending the flocks of his father in law Jethro
5. David was a shepherd
  - a) David may have written, "The Lord is my shepherd."
6. The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus were shepherds.

**F. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd."**

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the **sheepfold** by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 **They will not follow a stranger,** but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, **I am the gate for the sheep.** 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go 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.**

**G. The hired shepherd flees. The Good Shepherd is willing to lay down his life for the sheep.**

**H. I have sheep that do not belong to this fold.**



1. Who are these other sheep?
2. Jesus will say in John 14, "No one comes to the Father but by me" but clearly there are sheep that are a surprise to those who claim to be the only sheep.

### XIII. Chapter 11

- A. Prayer Concerns
- B. Prayer
- C. Question from last week

<sup>31</sup> The Jews took up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'?" <sup>35</sup> If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scripture cannot be annulled—<sup>36</sup> can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? <sup>37</sup> If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. <sup>38</sup> But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." <sup>39</sup> Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.

<sup>40</sup> He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. <sup>41</sup> Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." <sup>42</sup> And many believed in him there.

### The Death of Lazarus

#### Chapter 11

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

<sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you

may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

#### Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.<sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,<sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.<sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”<sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

#### Jesus Weeps

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.<sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

#### Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

#### The Plot to Kill Jesus

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what

Jesus did, believed in him.<sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done.<sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs.<sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation."<sup>49</sup> But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all!<sup>50</sup> You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed."<sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation,<sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God.<sup>53</sup> So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

<sup>54</sup> Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews, but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness; and he remained there with the disciples.

<sup>55</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves.<sup>56</sup> They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?"<sup>57</sup> Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who knew where Jesus was should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

#### XIV. Chapter 12

- A. Prayer Concerns
- B. Prayer
- C. Questions from last week

#### Mary Anoints Jesus

##### Chapter 12

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.<sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.<sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said,<sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"<sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)<sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial."<sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

##### The Plot to Kill Lazarus

<sup>9</sup> When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.<sup>10</sup> So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well,<sup>11</sup> since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

### Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

<sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. <sup>18</sup> It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. <sup>19</sup> The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

### Jesus Speaks about His Death

<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. <sup>34</sup> The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of

light.”

#### The Unbelief of the People

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.<sup>37</sup> Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him.

<sup>38</sup> This was to fulfill the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

“Lord, who has believed our message,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

<sup>39</sup> And so they could not believe, because Isaiah also said,

<sup>40</sup> “He has blinded their eyes

and hardened their heart,

so that they might not look with their eyes,

and understand with their heart and turn—

and I would heal them.”

<sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke about him.<sup>42</sup>

Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;<sup>43</sup> for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

#### Summary of Jesus’ Teaching

<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried aloud: “Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me.<sup>45</sup> And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.<sup>46</sup> I

have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.<sup>47</sup> I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.<sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my word

has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge,

<sup>49</sup> for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak.<sup>50</sup> And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

D. Questions and Comments

E. Closing Prayer

#### XV. Chapter 13

A. Prayer Concerns

B. Prayer

C. Question from last week

#### Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet

##### Chapter 13

<sup>1</sup> Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.<sup>2</sup> The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper<sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God,<sup>4</sup> got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.<sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe

them with the towel that was tied around him.<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”<sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”<sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.”<sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”<sup>12</sup> After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”<sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.<sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.<sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.<sup>16</sup> Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.<sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.<sup>18</sup> I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, ‘The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’<sup>19</sup> I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he.<sup>20</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”

#### **Jesus Foretells His Betrayal**

<sup>21</sup> After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.”<sup>22</sup> The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking.<sup>23</sup> One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him;<sup>24</sup> Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.<sup>25</sup> So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.<sup>27</sup> After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.”<sup>28</sup> Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.<sup>29</sup> Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor.<sup>30</sup> So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

#### **The New Commandment**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.<sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.<sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’<sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial

<sup>36</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward." <sup>37</sup> Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." <sup>38</sup> Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

D. *Comments or Questions*

E. *Closing Prayer*

### XVI. John 14

A. *Prayer Concerns*

B. *Prayer*

C. *Question from last week*

### Chapter 14

<sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

### The Promise of the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those

who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”<sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?”<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”<sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you while I am still with you.”<sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.<sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.<sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.<sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me;<sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

#### XVII. John Chapter 15

##### A. Prayer Concerns

##### B. Prayer

##### Jesus the True Vine

##### Chapter 15

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.”<sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

What word picture do you see? What analogy is Jesus using?

Who is Jesus? The vine

Who is God? The vinegrower

Who are we? The branches who are either removed or pruned

What is Jesus trying to tell us? Can you think of times when you felt that God was pruning your life to make you more fruitful?

<sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you.

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

What other images do you think of in light of these additional verses about the vine? How does it feel to think that God not only removes fruitless branches but that we are thrown into the fire and burned?



<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Let's look at the abide passages.

What is Jesus trying to teach us here?

<sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Here is the commandment from the Last Supper repeated. Remember this is where the term "Maundy Thursday" come from the Latin for "mandate".

John 13: 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

<sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. What is Jesus foreshadowing?

<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you.

Jesus has called us to be servants. Mark 9:33-35 "Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." (1 Corinthians 9:19) "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more ... "

And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The World's Hatred

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you,

**‘Servants are not greater than their master.’**

If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.<sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.<sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.<sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also.<sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.<sup>25</sup> It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’

<sup>26</sup> “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.<sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

**John 15**

**XVIII. John Chapter 16**

**A. Prayer Concerns**

**B. Prayer**

<sup>1</sup> “I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling.<sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God.<sup>3</sup> And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me.<sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

**C. Remember that the early Christians were all Jewish.**

1. *They did not abandon their Jewish worship in the synagogue or in the Temple when they became Christians. Most Christians were probably very active in their synagogues. Jesus is warning them that the time is coming when synagogue leaders who reject Jesus as Messiah will expel Christians.*

2. Paul was a Pharisee. He was converted on the Road to Damascus. He realized that “no one is saved by obedience to the Law but through faith alone” but he was still Jewish...

3. Conflict over circumcision...

4. Compromise with James...meat offered to idols and sexual purity but did not require converts to be circumcised.

5. Think about the two rites of initiation into the synagogue and into the church. Jewish vs. Christian...

**D. Not only did Jesus warn them about being put out of the synagogue but also of death.**

1. Jews weren’t killing Christians wholesale that I’m aware of but Rome used Christians are “scapegoats”...

2. Christian martyrs...

3. Not only did Jesus warn about death but that those who were killing Christians would consider that they were doing

the work of God.

4. There isn't much more dangerous than a religious zealot especially a bigoted zealous radical...

#### The Work of the Spirit

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.<sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'<sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:<sup>9</sup> about sin, because they do not believe in me;<sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;<sup>11</sup> about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

#### E. *The Coming of the Holy Spirit*

1. Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit
2. Who is the Holy Spirit?
3. The Gospel of John says that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the Upper Room...
4. The Luke/Acts tradition tells the story of Pentecost...

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.<sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.<sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

#### Sorrow Will Turn into Joy

<sup>16</sup> "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me."<sup>17</sup> Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"<sup>18</sup> They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."<sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?"<sup>20</sup> Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.<sup>21</sup> When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a

human being into the world.<sup>22</sup> So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

*F. Jesus prepares his disciples for his death and resurrection...*

1. A little while and you won't see me and then a little while and you will...
2. A little while you weep and mourn and then a little while and your pain will turn into joy...
3. Childbirth...

<sup>23</sup> On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, **if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.**<sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

*Peace for the Disciples*

<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father.<sup>26</sup> On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;<sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.<sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father."

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, "Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech!<sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God."<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe?<sup>32</sup> **The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone.** Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.<sup>33</sup> I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

**XIX. Chapter 17**

*A. Prayer Concerns*

*B. Prayer*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,<sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.<sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.<sup>5</sup> So now, Father, **glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.**

<sup>6</sup> "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.<sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;<sup>8</sup> for

the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.<sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

<sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.<sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.<sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.<sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.<sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.<sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.<sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.<sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

<sup>20</sup> "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,<sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."<sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.<sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.<sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

**C. This is the longest prayer by Jesus in the Bible. It is basically a one-chapter prayer. It is called the Farewell Discourse or the High Priest Prayer.**

1. Remember the context. Chapters 14, 15, 16 & 17 are almost entirely words of Jesus spoken between the Last Supper and Jesus' betrayal and arrest outside the Garden of Gethsemane.
2. If Chapter 17 is entirely Jesus' prayer, how would anyone know what he said? Jesus wouldn't have had time to tell anyone what he had said and even if he had, how would anyone have been able to record his words in this detail?
3. Clearly, the author has recreated these words in the

attempt to tell us some important information about Jesus.  
4. What is being revealed about Jesus in this chapter?  
Let's take it a few verses at a time and determine the main point.

**D. Questions and Comments**

**E. Closing Prayer**