

JOHN - CHAPTER 5

1. Why do you think Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to get well?"
2. Jesus claims to be equal with God. Give three phrases about that relationship and its implications contained in John 5:17-20.
3. From John 5:24 what must a person do to know he has eternal life?
4. Give different kinds of witnesses to Jesus from verses 33-40.
5. What reason does Jesus give for man's refusal to believe?

JOHN -CHAPTER 5

In this chapter we see a shift in the focus of Jesus' ministry. The first part of John pointed towards individuals. Now Jesus will begin to focus on larger groups.

In verses 5-15 Jesus seems to be teaching the man in a similar way that he might instruct us. With the word "Arise" He is telling the man to choose to begin a new life. "Take up your bed" means carry your responsibilities. "Walk" means to be willing to move where He calls you. Each of us is sick if we are not reborn in Him. We are helpless to do any work for God until we are willing to recognize our need and have a desire to get well.

Jesus looked for the man after he was healed. Where did he find him? (see verse 14.) Our relationship with our Lord and Savior is personal and no church is necessary for our salvation, however, after we are saved, shouldn't He find us in church? We should be worshiping and growing closer to Him within the body of other believers.

In John 5:17, we see Jesus following the example of His Father. Jesus links His work with His Father's. He says, "Because my Father is working, so too am I." Jesus always has the same thought, purpose, and methods of action as His Father.

Note what Jesus says about Himself in verse 19, explaining that it was not that He could not do anything, but would not. Think about Jesus' submission to His Father in comparison to today's attitude of "I am the master of my own fate."

It is important we understand that to believe in Jesus is the only way to enter into eternal life. When you experience the intimacy of a personal relationship with Jesus, you will be given a work to do for Him. Your first responsibility is to yield to the Holy Spirit drawing you closer to Jesus. You learn about your relationship to the Lord by the study of His Word. He will also give us a work to finish. The goal of your life is to depend completely on Him and trust that He will enable you to complete the work He has given you to do. He teaches us that the more you depend on Him the more He shows you His plan to be a co-laborer with the Father. What a glorious completion of who you are, to have Jesus in control of your life and be part of His plan for eternity.

JOHN - CHAPTER 6

1. Why would Jesus test His disciples with the question, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"
2. From verses 16-21, what did the disciples have to do before they could arrive at their destination? How can you apply this to your own life?
3. What did Jesus say the work of God is? What does it mean to do this?
4. Give a verse or phrase from John 6:35-37 which represents a promise upon which you can rely?
5. How does the passage in John 6:60-71 reveal a crisis in the lives of the disciples of Jesus?

JOHN - CHAPTER 6

Chapters 5 and 6 each begin with a miracle, centered upon the hearer's appropriation of what Jesus had come to give. Jesus wanted the cooperation of His disciples. In the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus would show them how they are to work. Philip took the human level of thought. Jesus wanted Philip to recognize the impossibility of this task on our human level. Each of us, as Philip, must learn that it is only through Jesus that any true work of God can be accomplished. It is then that pride falls away and reverence, worship, and praise take hold in our hearts.

Andrew was always bringing someone to Jesus. Think of the boy who gave what he had to Jesus. He watched it multiply to meet the needs of himself and thousands of others. Think of how the faith of the disciples must have grown as they continued to feed the people.

Look at some of the examples we learn from Jesus in this the first feeding of the multitude.

1. He gave thanks for His food.
2. He had them sit in an organized manner.
3. There was no waste or mess left on the ground.

Many of the people asked for a sign (See verse 30). Today many also have a similar request for some absolute proof or visible miracle. If you want to see a miracle, yield your spirit to the living God of the Universe. It is through Jesus that we receive eternal life. It is a free gift open to all who ask. If you are looking for a miracle, He is before you. In the words of His Bible, you have met the true and everlasting bread of life.

In this chapter we will see four aspects of living the Christian life.

1. The aim of a true Christian (John 6:26-27).
2. The method of working for God (John 6:28-29).
3. The assurance of divine authority in regard to one's faith (John 6:30-33).
4. The experience of fulfillment in the Christian life (John 6:34-40).

John 6 begins the separation of the "bandwagon Christians" and those who would truly believe and follow. To "drink my blood and eat my flesh" is a command that will always separate. To drink His blood is to participate personally in the death of Christ. We must understand that we cannot come before God, who is holy, with sin. We must also realize that

all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We can only be cleansed from our sin when we accept God's pardon that He gave as a free gift on the cross. It is by Jesus' blood that we are forgiven and have deliverance from the power of sin.

The flesh of Jesus represents the new humanity as opposed to fallen human nature. Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him." (See John 6:56) Eating means dwelling on His Words, taking them in, and acting upon them. Jesus is the Word. (See John 1:1) When you begin to apply His Words to your life by the power of the Holy Spirit, you will begin to reproduce the holy personality of the Lord. To drink His blood is to accept the sacrifice of Jesus' life for yours. You will begin to see Jesus as John the Baptist did when he said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

To be a Christian, you must believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and the sin of the world. We must also believe in the miracle of a bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

When Jesus asked the twelve if they, too, would leave Him, Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy one of God." Is this your answer as well? Do not wait until you know all, for we will never fully understand the glory of God. Take Jesus as He has revealed Himself to you in the book of John. Jesus considers each one of us to be God's gift to Himself. What a glorious privilege to know we are loved by Him.

JOHN - CHAPTER 7

1. Why did Jesus' brothers want Him to go to Jerusalem?
2. Why did Jesus say the world hates Him? Why do you think the world did not hate His brothers?
3. Try to explain in your own words the force of Jesus' argument in John 7:22-24 (see Leviticus 12:3).
4. From verses 17-18 how did Jesus state we can distinguish between one who teaches falsely and one who speaks the truth?
5. The Pharisees looked into Scripture, but they didn't look at Jesus. It's true a prophet would not have come from Galilee, but if they had asked Jesus, He would have told them where He had come from (See Micah 5:2, John 7:41-42, 52). Do you have any questions you would like to ask Jesus? Write them down and pray that He will answer your questions.

JOHN - CHAPTER 7

Six months have passed between John 6 and 7. This chapter opens with controversy and confusion. It takes place on the last and greatest day of the eight day Feast of Tabernacles, the most popular festival of the Jewish calendar. (See John 7:37.) As you read this chapter, see yourself in Jerusalem as one of the participants on this day.

Jesus had four half brothers according to Matthew 13:55. They were James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. (James is the author of the book of James. Jude, or Judas is the writer of Jude.) At this point John states that none of our Lord's brothers believed in Him. They seem to be saying, if you are truly the Messiah, prove it to the world! (See John 7:4-5). They missed the privilege of being among those who stood with Jesus during His earthly ministry.

Jesus told His brothers in John 7:6, "The right time for me has not yet come." Jesus knew that God's timing is all important in guiding us to where we go and when we go. Our eternal opportunities in life rest with God's timing, which, if you loose, may never return.

Many people today think of Jesus as a good man but never truly think about what He said. Either the claims of Jesus are true, or He is a liar, not a good man. (See John 7:12) Faith in Jesus is a moral rather than an intellectual issue. (See John 7:17) Honest seekers will know He is true. The problem is most believe the cost is too high to truly follow and obey. They try to sit in the middle and hope the decision doesn't have to be made. Unfortunately there is no middle ground. You will find yourself in one group or the other. If Jesus is calling you now, take hold of His promises and yield your will to His. Revelation 3:20 says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." The time will come when He is no longer available. Each of us is called to act upon the knowledge we have.

How Nicodemus must have wished he had stood more boldly in defense of Jesus. His words in verses 50-51 did cost him some respect in the eyes of the Pharisees. His growing belief will continue to cost him as he comes to understand who Jesus is. The proportion of believers and unbelievers is still approximately the same today as it was in the early church. Followers of Jesus Christ are in the minority, yet if activated by the power of the Holy Spirit, they have a witness that will effect both our nation and the world.