

The Gospel of John

Lesson #65

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

1

The Gospel of John			
Event	Scripture	Year	Mth/Day
John the Baptist Begins Preaching	John 1:19-28	26	20-Apr
Jesus Turns Water to Wine in Cana	John 2:1-11	26	23-Oct
Jesus Goes to Capernaum with Family/Disciples	John 2:12	26	30-Oct
Jesus Goes to Jerusalem For 27 AD Passover	John 2:13	27	06-Apr
First Time Jesus Cleanses the Temple	John 2:14-17	27	25-Apr
Nicodemus Comes to Jesus at Night	John 3:1-21	27	01-May
Jesus Departs for Galilee by Way of Samaria	John 4:3-4	27	08-May
Jesus and Disciples Arrive in Samaria	John 4:5-6	27	11-May
Jesus Speaks with Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well	John 4:5-38	27	11-May
Jesus is Welcomed in Galilee	John 4:45	27	07-Jul
Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son-Second Sign in Cana	John 4:46-54	27	10-Jul
Jesus Heals Paralytic on Sabbath	John 5:1-16	28	26-Apr
Jesus Goes to the Sea of Galilee as Passover Approaches	John 6:1-4	29	04-Mar
Jesus Walks on Water of the Sea of Galilee	John 6:16-21	29	06-Mar
Jesus is the Bread of Life in Capernaum	John 6:22-59	29	07-Mar
Many Followers Reject Jesus and His Teaching	John 6:60-66	29	08-Mar

2

The Gospel of John			
Jesus Speaks with Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well	John 4:5-38	27	11-May
Jesus is Welcomed in Galilee	John 4:45	27	07-Jul
Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son-Second Sign in Cana	John 4:46-54	27	10-Jul
Jesus Heals Paralytic on Sabbath	John 5:1-16	28	26-Apr
Jesus Goes to the Sea of Galilee as Passover Approaches	John 6:1-4	29	04-Mar
Jesus Walks on Water of the Sea of Galilee	John 6:16-21	29	06-Mar
Jesus is the Bread of Life in Capernaum	John 6:22-59	29	07-Mar
Many Followers Reject Jesus and His Teaching	John 6:60-66	29	08-Mar

3

The Gospel of John

- John 6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"
- All this raw talk about eating his flesh and drinking his blood would have had to have been a "hard saying" – who had ever called for such actions to gain eternal life?
- The "disciples" in verse #60 are not just the "twelve", but most likely refers to the crowd of adherents who were following his ministry and enjoying his teaching until now. 4

4

The Gospel of John

- Let's go back to verse #54 where Jesus says, "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
- He wasn't talking about what we call holy communion, but he was talking about a deep and abiding communion with him.
- So how are we to deal with a command that is clear but has no obvious sub-commands to execute it? 5

5

The Gospel of John

The command is clear, but unreasonable on the surface. We are to eat the flesh of Jesus and drink his blood. Later he tells us he is not speaking in a literal fashion - he is speaking spiritually. But even so, how does one eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus? It is almost as though he assumes it is so simple that he does need to explain it. Or, has he already explained it with his careful work throughout the chapter to establish the "bread" metaphor? The Israelites in the wilderness fed on the manna and survived. Now he is saying that he is the Bread of Life and if they feed on him, they will live forever. But the question remains, "how are we to feed on him"?

6

The Gospel of John

To answer that question, I have some ideas that are not ends in themselves, but they become means to an end where I find Jesus completely satisfying and find that he has indeed sustained me through every test and every trial I've faced. This is not the first time I've alluded to the necessity of our being completely satisfied in him. To know him is to find him as our treasure. In Matthew 13 we read, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." The man in this short parable traded everything he had for Jesus. He did it willingly because he found him to be more desirable than anything else.

7

The Gospel of John

- Now, I said I have some ideas, I know these ideas work, and most of you have heard me speak of them before – I am talking about the **"means of grace"**.
- The term, "means of grace" is not common to our language or even to the preaching of today, at least not by that name, but they are a proven list of activities that help us to grow.
- Peter tells us this, **"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"** – to grow in grace there are some simple actions that have proven to be valuable.

8

8

The Gospel of John

- John Wesley divided his "means of grace" into two categories –
 - Works of Piety – things we do to grow in our love for God.
 - Works of Mercy – things that we do to express God's love to others.

9

9

The Gospel of John

- His two categories “works of piety” and “works of mercy” also just happen to fit nicely with The Two Great Commandments.
- Matthew 22:37 And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” NASB

10

10

The Gospel of John

- Works of Piety includes things like –

- Bible Reading
- Prayer
- Worship
- Service
- Fellowship with Believers

If you want to be a fruitful Christian some day, start doing these things today.

11

11

The Gospel of John

- Works of Piety includes things like –

- Bible Reading
- Prayer
- Worship
- Service
- Fellowship with Believers

On many days we will do these imperfectly, but just keep doing them anyway!

12

12

The Gospel of John

- Works of Mercy includes things like –
 - Visiting the sick
 - Feeding the hungry
 - Helping the poor
 - Providing clothing to needy
 - All helps to others

If you want to be a blessing to others, then get busy on any one of these.

13

13

The Gospel of John

- Works of Mercy includes things like –
 - Visiting the sick
 - Feeding the hungry
 - Helping the poor
 - Providing clothing to needy
 - All helps to others

On many days we will do these imperfectly, but just keep doing them anyway!

14

14

The Gospel of John

- We ought not to think of any of the preceding as means to salvation, but as means of our sanctification.
- When we do the things that express our love for God and for others, He is a part of that and whether we are praying or serving others we experience His grace and grow as believers.
- It is through things like the “Means of Grace” that God injects his grace into our lives.

15

15

The Gospel of John

- Think of a magnifying glass as housing the “means of grace”.
- It is when the love of God is focused on our world through the “means of grace” that His power is manifest.
- God’s power isn’t in the “means”, but it is focused and realized through them.

16

The Gospel of John

- So here is the question we are trying to answer, “how do I feed on Christ and get so connected that he sustains me through every trial and satisfies my deepest longings?”
- 1) We sure up our belief in Christ so there is no doubt that you, an undeserving sinful person, are made worthy of heaven through the blood of Christ apart from any works.
- 2) Then we recognize we are responsible for what we do with what we are given and busy ourselves serving the King and the kingdom.

17

The Gospel of John

If Jesus is our Savior, we will prove it by our works.

18

The Gospel of John

2nd Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

19

The Gospel of John

- So, when we read - John 6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" – we know the answer.
- Who can listen to Jesus' hard saying? – We can, if we know him and are serving him.
- We understand that Jesus is inviting us into the vine that is him, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15, abide = stay)

20

20

The Gospel of John

Jesus is our all-sufficient, all-sustaining, and all-satisfying Savior who has proven to be a treasure worth everything we have. As we obey and serve him, he becomes our food and our drink. We must stay in his presence, consume him, and be consumed by him.

21

The Gospel of John

- John 6:61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?
- These “disciples” (learners) refers to the crowds around him and not just the twelve.
- He reads the collective minds of the crowd and detects their sour attitude and so asks a follow-up question.

22

22

The Gospel of John

- “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?”
- Remember his claim that he had come down from heaven? He didn’t mean the 1st heaven as just dropping out of the sky as the manna did, he meant he came from the realm of God.
- The crowds were offended that one would presume to have come from God, but that was an offense they were okay with so long as he was supplying free food.

23

23

The Gospel of John

- John 3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. (Enoch and Elijah)
- John 6:62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?
- Jesus made no secret of his identity or his origin – he made it broadly known that he came from heaven and would be going back to heaven – For Jesus, earth was a foreign mission!

24

24

The Gospel of John

- Now he’s speaking of eating his flesh and drinking his blood which was evidently more than they could tolerate.
- So, Jesus says, “What if you see me ascend back to heaven to be with God. What would you think if you saw that”?
- The context is this – he is in Galilee healing many and supernaturally feeding the multitudes and he wants to change their mindset from the flesh to the spirit and they won’t budge.

25

25

The Gospel of John

- So, he will shock them with words he knew they would stumble over – eating flesh and drinking blood.
- By this time, he had proven his deity by his miracles and the crowds should have been willing to believe anything he said and be fine with it no matter how absurd his words may have seemed, but not this crowd.
- When you run up against a teaching of the Bible that you don’t understand, do you rebel, or do you assume your understanding is weak and needs to grow?

26

26

The Gospel of John

- The difference between you and the crowds of John 6 is that you have the faith to believe and trust Jesus no matter what he says.
- I told you before if your default position is to always believe the Bible no matter what it says that is a gift from God – truly a gift of faith from God.
- Ultimately, it is better to obey the Bible than to understand it – better yet is to obey it and understand why it is good for you to obey it.

27

27



28
