

# The Gospel of John

## Lesson #70 The Journey

Jim Hoffman

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### The Gospel of John

• John 7:25 Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? 26 And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? 27 But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." 28 So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. 29 I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." 30 So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?" 2

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### The Gospel of John

- The crowds at the feast of tabernacles is a bit confused because the leadership is against Jesus, even called him a blasphemer and wanted to put him to death.
- Yet they seemed to be very timid with any attempts on his life – probably because the Jews were unsure of how murdering Jesus would go down with the crowds.
- This dance between the Jews and Israelite crowds will continue for another 6 months at which point the Jews became confident the crowds would side with them. 3

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**The Gospel of John**

- The “Jews” were cunning and manipulative and at the next feast, Passover, they will have the crowd with them and will then have their way – or so they thought.
- Knowing how the events between Tabernacles and Passover play out it is interesting to analyze them from a chapter 7 perspective.
- The Jews want desperately for Jesus to die and be off the map, but we know that is not exactly how it will go down with Jesus dying - let’s just say the Jews will not be rid of him. ☺

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**The Gospel of John**

- Allow me to remind you just whose plan it really was to put Jesus to death – without God’s plan, the Jews don’t have a plan.
- Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

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**The Gospel of John**

- With the Acts 2 perspective, while it’s not at all humorous from Jesus’ point of view, you must admit that the Jews are about to have a big “Wiley Coyote” moment.
- They thought putting Jesus to death would solve all their problems – uh, wrong!!
- Putting Jesus to death as they did set the stage for Jesus to become the most prominent person in history when he rose from the dead!

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One Jew to another - Wait, you did what!! You mean to tell me we betrayed and murdered the only man who could give us eternal life? Boy are we stupid, or what?

Assuming the Jews, or most of them anyway, never repented then we know for the last 2,000 years they have been in darkness, suffering in the flames of hell, muttering to themselves something like, "If only we would have believed our own eyes and ears. We would be in Heaven today instead of this dungeon". They are the ultimate examples of how human lives without Christ are merely the sum totals of their own choices.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:25 Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? 26 And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?"
- Notice here the thinking of the crowds – they are beginning to conclude the Jews knew Jesus was the Christ, it was that obvious.
- The wording is precise – the crowd believes the Jews knew Jesus was Christ.

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### The Gospel of John

- Now, let's look at 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.
- I've used this verse many times to define how simple the message of the cross is – believe that Jesus is the Christ and be saved.
- The difference between the Jews condition and what John later writes is that one group "knows" Jesus is the Christ and the other "believes" Jesus is the Christ.

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## The Gospel of John

- This is the precision of the scriptures – in English we often count “knowing” and “believing” as synonyms and these words are often used interchangeably.
- But they are not synonyms in Greek – they are very different words and cannot be used interchangeably.
- Hence, it is a reality that many will be in hell who knew Jesus was the Christ but did not believe Jesus was the Christ.

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**Word:** pisteuw  
**Pronounce:** pist-yoo'-o  
**Strong's Number:** G4100  
**Orig:** from 4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ)--believe(-), commit (to trust), put in trust with: G4102  
**Use:** TDNT:6-174,840 Verb  
**Heb Strong:** H6004 H8083

**1) to learn to know, come to know; get a knowledge of; perceive, feel**  
 1a) to become known  
 2) to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of  
 2a) to understand  
 2b) to know  
 3) Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman  
 4) to become acquainted with, to know

**f) to have faith in, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in**  
 1a) of the thing believed  
 1a1) to credit, have confidence  
 1b) in a moral or religious reference  
 2) by implication, to commit or entrust, i.e. to entrust your spiritual well-being to Christ  
 2a) to make a commitment (to trust)  
 2b) to put in trust with or place confidence in

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## The Gospel of John

- John 7:27 “But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.”
- This shows the ignorance of the common Israelite about the scriptures – where Messiah would come from was no mystery at all.
- Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.

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### The Gospel of John

- It is amazing how much information can be uncovered simply by asking some common questions – like, “Jesus, where were you born?”
- Later in this chapter Nicodemus reappears asking if the law judges a man without a hearing – he knew who Jesus was and was merely asking for a broader inquiry into him.
- John 7:57 They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:28 So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know.”
- To say that Jesus “proclaimed” these words as he taught in the temple probably does not resonate with us as it should.
- Jesus is said to have “proclaimed” something (4) times in the Gospels – it means to cry out, or to yell.

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### The Gospel of John

- Once we know Jesus is probably yelling at the top of his voice, we also know what he is yelling must be a very important message.
- When Jesus says, “you know where I come from” he was not even speaking of Bethlehem – he was speaking of God.
- His appeal is for them to stop with the micro analysis and start examining the facts before them – it was obvious who he was.

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### The Gospel of John

- And then he gets down to “brass tacks” as we might say when he says, “and him you do not know” – God’s chosen ones did not know the God who chose them.
- All the Old Testament, all their history, and the miraculous nature of their very existence as a people had not brought them to a place where they knew God.
- They had lots of rituals and lots of stories designed to teach them about God, but they still did not know him – to fail to know him despite lots of information is not uncommon.

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### The Gospel of John

The western world (the U.S.A., Canada, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand) is without a doubt the most Christianized people ever, but is the west any better off spiritually than the rest of the world? And as it pertains to our degree of guilt when compared to the rest of the world, we are much worse off “to whom much is given, from him much will be required”. It is a sad thing for us to have lived through the beginnings of the destruction of the west, and even worse to have not noticed it until just recently when the foundations of our culture have been shaken so much that to miss hearing the crumbling of them would be impossible. We’ve had so much truth, have mostly ignored it, and now we may well just wobble slowly for who knows how long until we eventually collapse in our sin. The fall of Rome took 250 years.

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### The Gospel of John

- So much of what Jesus is saying to the Israelites of his day also applies to the western world of our day – people know about Jesus, but few know him.
- Bibles every where, the Gideons alone have Bibles in over 100 languages, their distribution is worldwide, and despite some inroads to people’s hearts most are still lost.
- In our culture a big part of evangelization is overcoming the “I already know” problem – but very few people do know him, they just know about him.

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### The Gospel of John

- To some degree Jesus may be mocking them with respect to their knowing who he is – I think he may be pointing out they merely thought they knew him.
- When he says, “You know me, and you know where I come from” it is quite possible he is referring to them thinking he came from Nazareth.
- Again, we see a crowd being confused about an important matter due to ignorance that could easily have been avoided – questions are free!

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:29 “I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.”
- Now Jesus seeks to refocus the crowd in the temple on the main issue – the main issue is that of who was this man before them yelling at them that he came from God.
- He is telling them that not only did his journey originate in Heaven, but it is the Father himself who sent him – he is on the original missionary journey, and he is evangelizing.

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### The Gospel of John

- In our day we are witnessing the power of sin to dull the senses of mankind and deceive many who might otherwise believe on him.
- The deception of sin happens to the intelligent and runs the course of the I.Q. scale hitting every strata of people throughout history.
- From the most brilliant among us to the dullest of mankind, sin gets many people so filled with pre-conceived assumptions that are difficult to overcome.

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### The Gospel of John

- And maybe we should not be surprised at the confusion in our world around who Jesus is and what he came to do.
- There is much in our everyday world that is driven by the devil, deception, and a general dullness of mind that is intended to delude all who might dare to look closely into Jesus.
- The school systems, entertainment, business, and government are all often even unwittingly among the tools of the enemy to keep people from Christ.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:30 So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"
- I erred last week when I said that the "hour" of Jesus' destiny had come when he went up to the feast of tabernacles – and had I looked just a few verses further (verse #30) I would have been alerted to my error. 😊

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### The Gospel of John

- The Jews were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.
- The amazing protecting and keeping power of God – no matter the size or the power of the adversary, no one and no thing can force his hand to act before his "time".
- It is sad that most Christians do not embrace the sovereign protecting and keeping power of God when we would all benefit from understanding and resting in it daily.

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### The Gospel of John

- We should all grab hold of the keeping power of God and we should see ourselves as being overseen and directed by the hand of God in all that we do.
- God does not save us by grace and then expect that the rest of his work in us is up to us – not at all. What began by grace will be sustained and completed by grace.
- Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

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### The Gospel of John

- Let's orient ourselves to the plan of God for all of us – it is his will to conform us to the image of Christ.
- It is his will for everyone who comes to Christ to become just like Jesus – this extends to the finished product where we are free of sin and have a body like the one Jesus had at the resurrection.
- And while our lives may not look all that together today, that is God's will for us and what he wills, he does.

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### The Gospel of John

- If you are putting no effort into being a Christian, maybe you are not one – so ask yourself, “am I conscious of my responsibility to obey God?”.
- Next, I am going to predict that most, if not all, of us see ourselves as making way less progress towards being like Jesus than we should be.
- And you might be right, but usually we judge ourselves way too harshly and we need to understand we are usually wrong.

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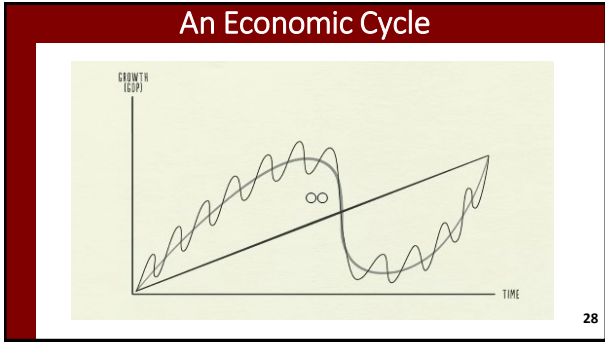
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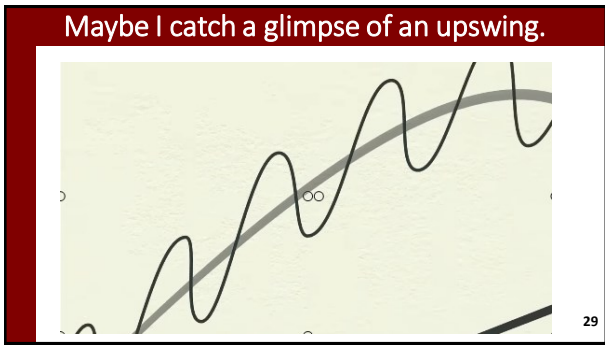
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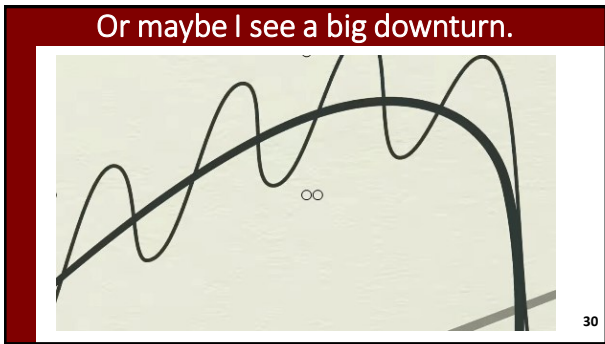
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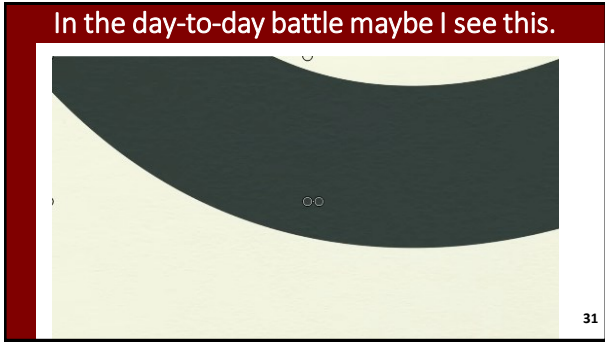
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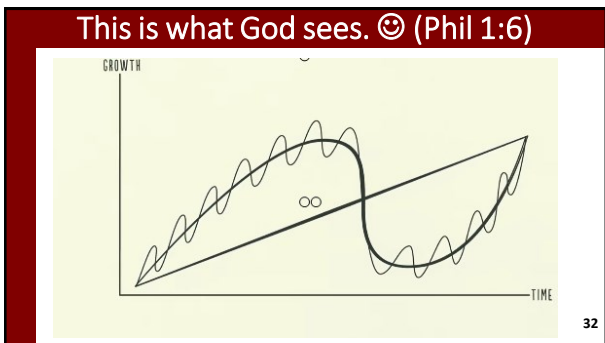
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**The Gospel of John**

- “Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done.”
- The “ignorant” crowds had it right – the common people always seem to get what God is doing way before the highly educated and so-called sophisticated.
- The reasoning of the crowd was right – “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?” and their conclusion was this Jesus is the Christ.

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