

The Gospel of John

Lesson #71
The Journey
Jim Hoffman

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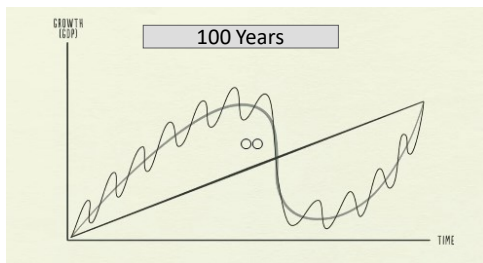
The Gospel of John

- The Jews were trying to arrest Jesus but couldn't because his hour had not yet come - God would see to it that his plan would unfold only on his timetable.
- 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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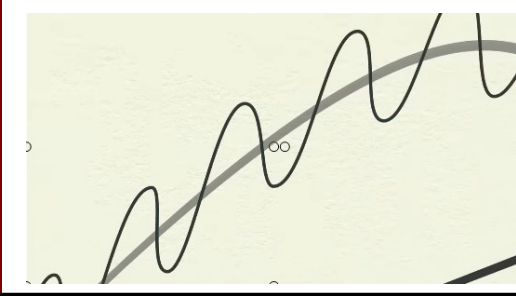
An Economic Cycle



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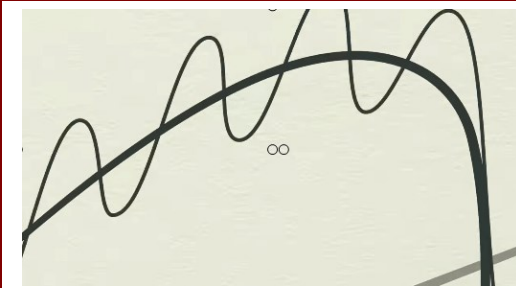
Maybe I catch a glimpse of an upswing.



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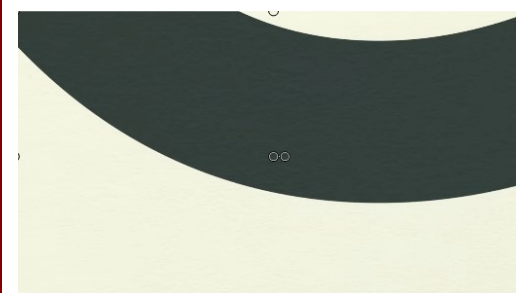
Or maybe I see a big downturn.



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In the day-to-day battle maybe I see this.



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This is what God sees.

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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The Gospel of John

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.

Philippians 1:6

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The Gospel of John

- John 7:32 The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, (When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?) and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. 33 Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. 34 You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." 35 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? 36 What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come?'"

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The Gospel of John

- The Pharisees send the temple guard to arrest Jesus, but they come back empty-handed.
- The Temple Guard was comprised of (3) priests and (21) other Levites to keep watch over the things in the temple and to ensure Gentiles did not overstep their bounds.
- John 7:45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why did you not bring him?”
46 The officers answered, “No one ever spoke like this man!”

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The Gospel of John

- So what was Jesus saying that stopped the Temple Guard in their tracks – well, it’s sort of a tease designed to have the hearers ask themselves the right questions.
- John 7:33 Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. 34 You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.”
- Look what Jesus says in chapter #13 - “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”

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The Gospel of John

- “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.”
- Given his previous claims, is it not obvious he is plainly speaking of his return to Heaven and to his Father where he came from?
- At this point he is not hiding his identity at all – as for his mission, it will be some time yet until his mission will be more fully understood.

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The Gospel of John

When I say, "until his mission will be more fully understood." I am not sure his mission even today is fully understood by the masses. Many say he was a good man, or a great teacher, and some simply view him as a misguided martyr. In its purest form his mission was what he said it was – "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." God is not waiting to be found but is actively seeking the lost. And how interesting is it that he is going away that he might be found? What does it say about a God who is so magnificent and so incomprehensible he cannot be found without going away?

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The Gospel of John

- The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him?"
- When Jesus speaks in these mystical, but straight forward terms the Jews simply cannot bear it that he connects with the common people but not so much with them.
- The people understood Jesus better than their leaders because they were willing to be guided by the evidence before them and not by a desire to destroy him.

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The Gospel of John

- "You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come."
- Let's take this admonition from Jesus to another time – the time when most, if not all, of the "Jews" would die and have the words of Jesus ringing in their ears so to speak.
- Indeed, all who reject Jesus, especially those who clearly heard the gospel, evaluated it, and then turned their back to Jesus will have a day of reckoning.

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The Gospel of John

- You see when Jesus said, “You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.” I don’t think he had the immediate time and space in mind.
- The day will come for all the scorers of Jesus that will be just like the rich man in Luke 16 – they will know they are in hell and will have deep regrets for rejecting Jesus.
- In eternity the “rules” change – today the one who seeks, finds but in eternity the time for finding Jesus ends.

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The Gospel of John

- What John describes in today’s text from John 7 he had further insights on when he wrote The Revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Revelation 14:9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”

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The Gospel of John

When we read that the rejecters of Jesus will be tormented in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb we need to understand the presence of Jesus at this point in the sinner’s life will be no comfort at all. It will in fact add to their suffering to be able to see the Savior, but the very sight of him is in itself a judgment. Jesus will be there in hell, at least in some sense, but his presence will be of no efficacious benefit to the lost. His presence will be a painful reminder of what Jesus’ offered them. To be able to see day after day what could have been for them, merely adds to their eternal suffering. The constant reminder of his presence underscores the seriousness of rejecting him - a sin that is no light offense at all.

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The Gospel of John

- Why is it that we are so prone to minimizing what it is to reject the calls of the Holy Spirit, the offer of salvation in Christ, and the gift of God?
- We think murder, rape, and the like are the worst of sins all while thinking the nice old lady next door who rejects Jesus is a better kind of sinner.
- People do not go to hell for murder, they go to hell for something much worse – the rejection of Jesus!

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Questions?

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