

# Baptist Basics University

Providing Online Training For Christian Workers

## **The Book of John**

### **Lecture Notes**

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## Lesson 1

### Introduction to John

The best way to begin studying a book in the Bible is to look at the basics. Who wrote the book? What is its purpose? What is its place in the canon of Scripture? Before we begin going through the book of John, let's look at some of the details of the book.

#### I. The Author - John

- A. John was probably the youngest disciple
- B. Son of Zebedee and brother of James – Matthew 4:21-22
- C. Part of the “inner circle” with Peter and James – Luke 8:51, 9:28
- D. Was called the “beloved” disciple – John 19:26, etc.
- E. Lived longer than any other disciple, until about 100 AD
- F. Wrote 5 books of the New Testament: Gospel of John; I, II, and III John; Revelation

#### II. The Purpose of the Book

- A. Each Gospel presents Christ in a different way for a different audience
  - 1. Matthew – Christ as King, written to the Jews
  - 2. Mark – Christ as God's Servant, written to the Romans
  - 3. Luke – Christ as the Perfect Man, written to the Greeks
  - 4. John – Christ as the Son of God, written to the Church
- B. John is written as an intimate look at Christ
- C. John gives his reason for writing in John 20:30-31

#### III. Characteristics of the Book

- A. John contains none of the famous parables of Christ
- B. The miracles in John are used to display Christ's deity and accentuate His message
- C. John is written in very simple language although it plunges into very deep subjects
- D. Mentions the Jews over sixty times
- E. Takes note of many Jewish customs and feasts
- F. “Believe” is used over 100 times in John, less than 40 times in other Gospels
- G. “Eternal Life” is 35 times in John, and only 12 times in other Gospels
- H. Half of the book deals with the “Passion Week”
- I. The last Gospel written, and one of the last books of the Bible written (90 AD?)

#### IV. Outlines of John

- A. Outline by J. Vernon McGee:
  - 1. Light – ch. 1-12
  - 2. Love – ch. 13-17
  - 3. Life – ch. 18-21
- B. Outline by John Phillips
  - 1. Prologue (1:1-18)
  - 2. The Signs of the Son of God (1:19-12:50)
  - 3. The Secrets of the Son of God (13-17)
  - 4. The Sorrows of the Son of God (18-20)
  - 5. Epilogue (21:1-25)

## Lesson 2

# In the Beginning

John 1:1-14

John begins his Gospel by going back to the beginning. Actually, its more like *before* the beginning. Because John's theme is the deity of Christ, he begins by showing that Christ was God.

- I. Christ as the Word (vs. 1-3)
  - A. "In the beginning" - Before Genesis 1:1. Christ was in "Eternity Past"
  - B. "The Word"
    - 1. "Word" – Greek word "logos" which means "word"
    - 2. Pictures Christ as the "divine expression", God's revelation to man
    - 3. Only John uses the name - I John 5:7, Revelation 19:13
  - C. "with God" - the intimacy of Christ's relationship with the Father
  - D. "was God" - The deity of Christ, two persons of the Trinity in once verse
  - E. "same ... with God" - Repetition of the previous truth applied to God the Father
  - F. "All things were made by Him" - Christ was instrumental in Creation
    - 1. Genesis 1:26 - "us"
    - 2. All three members of the Trinity worked in Creation
- II. Christ as the Light (vs. 4-9)
  - A. Christ is the source of all life
    - 1. Physical life in Creation – vs. 3
    - 2. Eternal life in Salvation – vs. 4
  - B. Christ is the light of hope in a dark world – vs. 5
  - C. Many still refuse to see the Light, but they cannot hinder it – vs. 5
  - D. John the Baptist pointed people to the Light
    - 1. He acknowledged he was not the Light – vs. 8, 21
    - 2. He prepared people to see the Light
  - E. "True Light"
    - 1. There are many "false lights"
    - 2. Only Christ is the True Light
    - 3. The Light of Christ shines upon all men
- III. Christ in the World (vs.10-14)
  - A. Christ came to the world, the world he made, and still it rejected him – vs. 10
  - B. Christ was rejected by:
    - 1. The World (as in the world system, mankind) – vs. 10
    - 2. The Jews – vs.11
    - 3. These groups are made up of individuals who each rejected him
  - C. Though rejected by many, still people accepted Him – vs. 12
  - D. Those who received Him:
    - 1. Believed on His Name – FAITH!!!
    - 2. "Power to become sons of God" - right, privilege to do so
    - 3. Were born again spiritually – vs.13
  - E. The Character of Christ's Coming – vs.14
    - 1. God became man dwelt among man.
    - 2. He revealed the Father to man
    - 3. The marks of His life – Grace and Truth

Lesson 3  
John the Baptist  
John 1:15-36

John the Baptist was an amazing person who was mightily used of God. He was born under extraordinary circumstances of parents beyond normal childbearing age (Luke 1:7). He lived as few others did in the wilderness areas of Judea, and suddenly appeared around 28 A.D. proclaiming the soon coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. His ministry was a fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3. His purpose was to herald Christ's coming and prepare the world for His ministry.

I. The Purpose of John the Baptist

- A. John was a special individual with a special purpose on his life
- B. This purpose came straight from God – vs. 6
- C. John was not the Messiah
  - 1. Some confused the Messenger with the Messiah
  - 2. Some even followed John years after his death - Acts 19:3
  - 3. John bore witness of the coming Messiah – vs. 8

II. The Message of John

- A. John pointed out the sins of the people
  - 1. Religious leaders – Matthew 3:7
  - 2. Herod Antipas– Matthew 14:3-4
    - 1. Son of Herod the great who ruled Galilee and Perea for 42 years
    - 2. Was married to daughter of Aretas, King of Nabatea
    - 3. Divorced her to marry his niece and half-brother's wife, Herodias
    - 4. Was the Herod that tried Christ
    - 5. Exiled to Gaul in 39 AD by Caligula, died there with Herodias
- B. John called for them to REPENT
  - 1. Repent – turn, change of mind or direction
  - 2. Turn from sin to righteousness – Luke 3:8
- C. Those who heeded his preaching were baptized
  - 1. This was directly tied to a person's repentance – Luke 3:3
  - 2. This was not a “works” or “water” salvation
  - 3. Those who decided to repent were baptized
- D. John pointed them to Christ
  - 1. He told of the coming Messiah – vs. 27
  - 2. He pointed Christ out – vs. 29

III. John's Role in Promoting Christ

- A. He announced Christ's coming ministry – vs. 15
- B. He laid the groundwork for Christ
  - 1. John and Christ's message or very similar – Mark 6:14
  - 2. John's followers became Christ's followers – vs. 36-37
- C. He baptized Jesus – vs. 31
  - 1. Not for salvation or repentance
  - 2. To identify with the sinner

We'll talk more of John the Baptist later. In the end, he was imprisoned and beheaded by command of Herod Antipas after a ministry of only five years or so. While it may seem John's ministry ended in failure, our Lord esteemed him as a great man (Matthew 11:11).

Lesson 4  
The First Disciples  
John 1:37-51

With the public announcement of the Christ, people soon began to follow after Christ. Almost immediately Christ began to call certain individuals to follow Him. These men He chose from various backgrounds to carry His message to the world after training them for over three years.

I. What is a Disciple?

- A. Disciples were those who learned from great teachers
- B. Many of the famous Greek philosophers had disciples
- C. Christ's disciples were picked by Him (John 6:70)
- D. There were more than 12 disciples (Luke 6:13, )
- E. The Twelve became known as Apostles (“one sent forth”)
- F. Requirements of Apostle
  - 1. Chosen by God – John 6:70
  - 2. Witness of Christ's life from baptism to ascension – Acts 1:22

II. Purpose of the Disciples

- A. Carry on the work of Christ
- B. Be witnesses of His Resurrection
- C. Carry the Gospel to the world

III. The First Disciples

- A. Came from the followers of John the Baptist – John 1:35-37
- B. Recognized Christ's leadership – v. 38
- C. Spread the news of finding Christ – vs. 41
- D. Brought others to Christ – vs. 42
- E. Individually called by Christ – vs. 43

IV. The Case of Nathanael

- A. Nathanael evidently was not one of the Twelve, but was a follower of Christ – 21:2
- B. Phillip sought him out and told him of finding the Messiah – vs. 45
- C. Nathanael doesn't believe and makes excuse – vs. 46
- D. Christ sees them coming and calls out to them – vs. 47
  - 1. “an Israelite indeed” - a true son of Abraham after the flesh and spirit
  - 2. “in whom is no guile” - honest and true, righteous
- E. Jesus knows Nathanael: - vs. 48
  - 1. Before Nathanael knew him
  - 2. Knew private details about Nathanael
- F. Nathanael acknowledges Christ's Deity and Role as Messiah – vs. 49
- G. Christ's tells Nathanael that he'll see more wonderful things than this! - vs. 50
- H. The divine nature of what is to come – vs. 51

V. Summary

- A. There were many followers of Christ, and twelve He called to be leaders
- B. The twelve were followers from these early days and witnesses of Christ's ministry
- C. As shown in this passage, many of them came from John the Baptist's followers
- D. These men, ordinary men from Israel, turned the world upside down -
- E. Lists of the twelve – Matthew 10:2-4 and Luke 6:13-16

Lesson 5  
The Marriage at Cana  
John 2:1-12

Now that Christ has been introduced to the world and people have begun to follow after Him, He gives the first proof of His Deity – a miracle.

I. Miracles

- A. Miracle – something supernatural, extraordinary caused by God
- B. Christ used miracles to:
  - 1. Prove His deity – Acts 2:22
  - 2. Gather a crowd – Matthew 4:24-25
  - 3. Help the hurting – Matthew 14:14
- C. Christ performed around 35 miracles in His earthly ministry

II. Background

- A. Cana
  - 1. Small town in Galilee, about 5 miles northwest from Nazareth
  - 2. Home of Nathaniel – 21:2
- B. Jewish Wedding (simple order)
  - 1. Groom “bought” his bride
  - 2. Marriage covenant arranged
  - 3. Groom leaves for about a year to prepare new home
  - 4. Groom leads a torch-lit procession to get his bride
  - 5. Couple goes to new home for “honeymoon”
  - 6. Everybody celebrates for seven days

III. The Setting

- A. Evidently it was a relative of Jesus getting married – vs.1-2
- B. The celebration had been going on and now supplies ran low – vs.3
- C. This was a disgrace and embarrassment to the family
- D. Mary expects Jesus to do something – vs.3-5
- E. The six pots were used for washing hands, about 21 gallons – vs. 6
- F. The servants had faith, serving to the head of the feast from water pots – vs.8
- G. Though others knew what was happening, the taster did not – vs.9
- H. Usually the best was served first, then lesser quality latter – vs.10
- I. The result – Christ's deity shown and people believe.

IV. Lessons

- A. Christ can meet any need, no matter how trivial
- B. Christ can use ordinary objects and people to accomplish His Will

Lesson 6  
Jesus Cleanses the Temple  
John 2:13-22

Often people picture Christ as a very meek pacifist. He is seen as effeminate and weak physically. The Bible shows a very different picture of Christ. He was a carpenter who worked hard with His hands. Strong men were attracted to Him, such as fisherman. One episode in His life that shatters the modern false conception of Christ's demeanor and life is His cleansing of the Temple.

I. The setting

A. Time

1. About a year into Christ's ministry
2. Since about half of John is the last week, the 3 ½ years of ministry “fly by”

B. The Passover Feast

1. All men were to go to Jerusalem three times a year for feasts
  - a. Feast of Passover (15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan – March or April)
  - b. Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Passover)
  - c. Feast of Tabernacles (15<sup>th</sup> of Tishrei – September or October)
2. Observing the Feast (Leviticus 23:5)
  - a. A spotless lamb was taken.
  - b. Lamb was eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread
  - c. All leaven was put out of house.

C. The Temple

1. Herod's Temple
  - a. Herod's massive construction projects still on going.
  - b. Actually was finished just before Temple was destroyed
2. Moneychangers and merchants
  - a. A thriving business has developed in outer parts of the Temple
  - b. Only “approved money” could be used for official purposes
  - c. Moneychangers exchanged money (for a fee of about 11%)
  - d. Since people traveled so far, bringing sacrifices was hard
  - e. Merchants started selling animals at the Temple

II. The Story

A. Christ drives out the moneychangers – vs. 14-15

1. A sign of authority
2. Used a whip

B. Motivation – purify worship at Temple – vs. 16

C. Fulfillment of prophesy (Psalm 69:9) – vs. 17

D. Jews asked what sign this was for – they always wanted a sign – 18

E. Jesus constantly says the sign is – three days in grave – Matthew 12:39

F. Jesus prophesies His death and resurrection – vs. 19

G. They don't see the symbolism – vs.20-21

H. The disciples didn't get it until after the resurrection – vs. 22

I. The further results – vs. 23-25

1. The multitudes gathered for the feast flocked to Christ – vs. 23
2. The multitude would probably do something rash – vs. 24
3. It was not for man's timing, but God's – vs.25
4. If Christ were to ride popularity into earthly power, this was His chance.

Lesson 7  
Jesus and Nicodemus  
John 3:1-21

Probably the most famous passage in John is the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. It is the source for many phrases we commonly use, such as “born again”. It is also the source of the most widely quoted and memorized verse, John 3:16.

I. Background

- A. Still at Passover feast from John 2.
- B. Nicodemus
  - 1. Pharisee – strict follower of Mosaic Law
  - 2. Ruler of the Jews – member of Sanhedrin, religious teacher?
  - 3. Rumored to be one of the three wealthiest men in Judea
- C. Christ has avoided the crowds, not trusting them – 2:23-25
- D. Christ takes time to meet this one man – 3:1
- E. Christ knew this man was seeking the truth.

II. The Interview

- A. Nicodemus comes to see what Christ is about – vs. 2
- B. Jesus gives it straight – the need of Salvation – vs. 3
- C. Nicodemus doesn't get it – vs.4
- D. Jesus explains that the new birth is a Spiritual one – vs.5-7
- E. Jesus explains that the new birth is not related to the Physical – vs. 8
- F. Jesus rebukes him for not knowing or understanding this – vs. 9
- G. Jesus and His disciples understood this – vs. 10-11
- H. Jesus came to bear witness of the Gospel and to purchase Salvation – vs. 12-15
- I. The Gospel in a nutshell – vs. 16
- J. The negative side of John 3:16 – vs.17
- K. The great divide – what will you do with Christ? – vs.18
- L. The division of Light and Darkness – vs. 19
- M. Sinners choose their sin over the light of the Gospel – vs.20
- N. Saints choose the light -vs. 21

III. Summary of Christ's message – the Gospel.

- A. All men need help if they should see Heaven.
- B. Christ came to purchase our salvation.
- C. We choose to accept or reject Christ.

IV. The Results of the Talk

- A. No direct record is given of the effects of the conversation
- B. We do hear from Nicodemus two more times:
  - 1. Standing up to growing opposition to Christ – John 7:50
  - 2. Helping to bury the body of Christ – John 19:39

Are you “born again” as Christ spoke about? Will you accept Him as your Savior? Will you trust His works and not your own as the basis of your salvation?

Lesson 8  
He Must Increase  
John 3:22-36

It has been around a year since we last saw John the Baptist. At that time he had announced the Messiah's presence and his followers had begun to follow Christ. It was a turning point in his ministry, but one he well knew would come.

I. The Setting

- A. Just after the Passover – vs.22
- B. Jesus and His disciples were in the countryside of Judea – vs. 22
- C. John the Baptist was at Aenon (“spring”) near Salim (“peace”)
- D. This place was about just north of Judea

II. John the Baptist's Status

- A. His popularity was declining and more and more turned to Christ.
- B. His ministry is about three years old - one year since Christ's baptism
- C. His declining ministry led some of his followers to begin to quarrel – vs.25
- D. Not too long after this, John is imprisoned by Herod Antipas.

III. John's Message

- A. A debate about “purifying”, probably John's baptism vs. Christ's baptism – vs. 25
- B. His followers come to him thinking Christ is usurping John's ministry – vs. 26
- C. John's perspective is to trust's God's timing and will – vs. 27
- D. John reminds them that he is not the Christ, but is the forerunner – vs. 28
- E. John illustrates by comparing to a wedding – vs. 29
  - 1. The Bride (“the Church” or “congregation”)
  - 2. The Bridegroom (Christ)
  - 3. The Friend of the Bridegroom – Best Man? (John the Baptist)
  - 4. The Bride is the Bridegrooms, yet all celebrate
  - 5. The Friend is there to serve the Bridegroom, a high honor
  - 6. The Friend gladly serves the Bridegroom
  - 7. He is happy in his part even though it is not his wedding
- F. THE KEY TO SERVING CHRIST – vs. 30
  - 1. To serve Christ we must humble ourselves – Philippians 2:5-8
  - 2. To serve Christ we must lift up Christ – Philippians 2:9-11
- G. Christ is superior in the origin of His ministry and message – vs. 31-32
- H. Those that receive Christ are “sealed” and safe in God's Truth – vs. 33
- I. Christ spoke the words and message of God in limitless power – vs. 34-35
- J. The dividing line of the Gospel – vs.36
  - 1. The crux of the matter is belief in Christ – NOTHING ELSE!
  - 2. Those that believe on Him will have eternal life
  - 3. Those who do not face the wrath of God

John, with his ministry in decline, still has the focus right. The main thing to him is accomplishing the will of God, which he was doing. He had prepared the way for the Messiah. He knew that the salvation of mankind was at stake, and was thrilled to play a part in God's plan.

This is the last we'll see of John the Baptist in the Gospel of John. He'll be mentioned a few times, but not at much length. In the end, he would be imprisoned and then beheaded via a sinister plot. You can read about that in Matthew 14:1-12.

Lesson 9  
The Woman at the Well  
John 4:1-42

Christ's mission was to “seek and to save that which is lost”. Here is a tremendous story of Him seeking out an outcast to share God's love for them.

I. The Setting

- A. Christ is departing Judaea and headed into Galilee as opposition grows.
- B. He went through Samaria
  - 1. Samaria is a region west of Jordan and between Galilee and Judaea
  - 2. Samaritans were descendants of settlers after Assyria's victories in 722 BC
  - 3. Samaritans were half-Jew and half-Gentile by blood
  - 4. They had a hybrid religion that reflected their heritage
  - 5. They worshiped at Mt. Gerizim
  - 6. Jews hated them as “half-breeds” and heretics
- C. Sychar
  - 1. Known as “Shechem” or variant
  - 2. First capital of Northern Kingdom in about 930 BC
  - 3. Location of Mt. Gerizim, Jacob's Well, and Joseph's Tomb

II. The Story

- A. Christ stops at the well at noon as disciples go to buy food – vs. 6
- B. A woman comes, not customary to go in the middle of the day – vs. 7
- C. The woman is shocked at his request of a drink – vs. 7,9
- D. Jesus turns the conversation to the Spiritual and the “Living Water” - vs. 10
- E. The woman is puzzled that Christ's offer – vs. 11-12
- F. Christ talks further of the Living Water – vs. 13-14
- G. The woman only wants her physical needs met – vs. 15
- H. Christ shows her spiritual need – vs. 16
- I. Christ shows His Omniscience – vs. 17-18
- J. The Woman thinks Christ is here to rehash the old debates – vs. 19-20
- K. Christ goes past the petty arguments – vs. 21-22
- L. The true way to worship and serve God – vs. 23-24
- M. The woman points that the Messiah is coming – vs. 25
- N. Christ tells her who He is – vs. 26
- O. The disciples marvel at Christ talking to a Samaritan and a woman at that – vs. 27
- P. The Woman tells everyone who she has found – vs. 28-30
- Q. NOTICE – The disciples just left that town with no converts, but she had many!
- R. The Superiority of the Spiritual – vs. 31-34
- S. The task at hand
  - 1. The time is now – vs. 35
  - 2. The goal is fruit, no matter who works on it – vs. 36
  - 3. Everyone should do their part in reaching the goal – vs.37-38
- T. Many believed the woman's witness – vs. 39
- U. They wanted Jesus to stay! - vs. 40
- V. Many more believed Jesus after meeting Him – vs. 41-42
- X. Jesus stayed two days were others wouldn't spend two minutes – vs. 43

Lesson 10  
Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son  
John 4:43-54

After leaving Samaria, Christ returns to Galilee. He has become a well-known figure now and people are seeking Him out. Here we have recorded a miracle performed by Christ on a child many miles away.

I. The Setting

- A. Christ is returning from Judaea with His stop in Samaria
- B. He is headed to Cana, site of His first miracle – John 2:1-11
- C. Many people hear have heard and seen Him, both in Galilee and at Jerusalem

II. The Story

- A. After spending two days in Samaria, Christ heads to Galilee – 45 miles? – vs. 43
- B. Christ avoids Nazareth, which rejected Him – Mark 6:1-4; Luke 4:16-31 – vs. 44
- C. He receives a warm welcome – vs.45
- D. Many believed on Him after His actions at the Passover – vs. 45
- E. Jesus returns to Cana – vs. 46
- F. The Nobleman
  - 1. Nobleman – officer in the court of Herod Antipas
  - 2. From Capernaum
    - a. About 18 miles from Cana on the northwest shore of Sea of Galille
    - b. Sat on trade route, probably where Matthew was called – Matthew 9:9
    - c. Not a very important town by all accounts
    - d. Home of Peter and Andrew – Mark 1:29
    - e. Christ based much of His ministry here after John the Baptist's death
    - f. Christ performed many miracles there – Matthew 11:23
- G. The Nobleman had a son at the “point of death” - vs.47
- H. Christ rebukes not only the man but all Galileans – vs. 48
- I. The Nobleman still asks Christ to come -vs. 49
  - 1. He did believe Christ could heal his son:
    - a. He came a long way to seek Him
    - b. He asked Him
  - 2. He still lacked some faith
    - a. Thought Christ had to be with son to heal him
    - b. Probably sought a “sign”, a showy healing
- J. Jesus says the son is healed, the man believes and leaves – vs. 50
- K. On the way back to Capernaum, he finds out his son is healed – vs. 51
- L. When did it happen – about 1:00 pm – vs. 52
- M. Same time he spoke with Christ! - vs. 53
- N. His family witness the work and believed in Christ! - vs. 53
- O. This is His second miracle at Cana, not His second miracle – vs. 54

Lesson 11  
The Pool of Bethesda  
John 5:1-16

Jesus is still popular but is about to put the religious leaders to the test. Would they accept Him as Messiah or would they reject Him for their way? Through the working of a miracle which should have proved His deity, Christ will find that they will still refuse Him.

I. Setting

- A. The feast – probably Passover, not sure – vs. 1
- B. If this is so, probably eight months or so since chapter four
- C. The Pool of Bethesda
  - 1. Bethesda - “house of mercy”
  - 2. Two pools with five porches
  - 3. Depth of about 13 meters
  - 4. Located outside the walls of Jerusalem near Antonia Fortress

II. The Story

- A. Jesus goes to Jerusalem – vs.1
- B. Many people waited by the pool to be healed by a strange miracle – vs.2-4
- C. One man had been sick for 38 years, a most pitiful case! - vs. 5
- D. Jesus sees him, has compassion, and offers healing – vs. 6
- E. The man's case is hopeless and no man cares for him – vs. 7
- F. Jesus commands him to do something he can't do – vs. 8
- G. The man responds in faith and is healed – vs. 9
- H. PROBLEM – this happened on the Sabbath! - vs. 9
- I. The man is caught breaking Jewish tradition – vs.10
- J. He'd rather listen to the One who healed him – vs.11
- K. He just didn't know who had done it – vs. 12-13
- L. Not much later, Jesus reveals Himself to the man – vs.14
- M. The Jews were mad and sought to kill Jesus – vs. 15

Christ performed a mighty miracle in healing a hopeless man. This should have brought rejoicing on the part of the people, but instead their cold hearts twisted the situation into the motive to have Jesus killed. How sad it is to see the depths of depravity of the human heart! In spite of the goodness of God they reject Him and seek to destroy Him.

Lesson 12  
The Father and The Son  
John 5:17-30

Jesus stands accused of breaking the Jewish Sabbath by healing a cripple man by the Pool of Bethesda. Now we shall see his defense: He was working the Will of God. He doesn't stop there though as he drops an even more controversial fact on the Jews: He was God, being the Son equal to the Father.

I. The Setting

- A. This takes place immediately after the healing of the crippled man
- B. Still at the feast, so throngs of people are around
- C. This does not seem to be an official “trial”
- D. Probably a delegation of the Pharisees had confronted Him
- E. The Trinity
  - 1. A truth revealed by God that the Godhead is three persons
  - 2. Alluded to in Old Testament – Genesis 1:26, etc.
  - 3. Revealed in New Testament – Luke 3:21-22, Matthew 28:19, I John 5:7

II. The Story

- A. Christ's defense of His actions: - vs. 17
  - 1. The Father has worked this way all along, regardless of days
  - 2. Christ worked alongside the Father in this
  - 3. By implication Christ is claiming that He worked with, thus equal to, God
- B. Jewish leaders now have two reasons to hate him – vs. 18
  - 1. Breaking traditional law in healing on the Sabbath
  - 2. Claiming to be equal with God
- C. The Father and Son work in unison – vs. 19
- D. Christ will be involved in greater works in the future – vs.20
  - 1. Raising the dead – vs. 21
    - a. Ruler's daughter – Mark 5:35-42
    - b. Widow's son – Luke 7:11-15
    - c. Lazarus – John 11:14-44
  - 2. Judging the world – vs. 22
    - a. II Timothy 4:1
    - b. Romans 14:10-12
- E. To honor Son is to honor God – vs.23
- F. Salvation is through Christ alone – vs. 24
- G. The dead shall live through Christ – vs. 25
  - 1. Dead spiritually – Salvation
  - 2. Dead physically – Resurrection
- H. As Messiah, life and judgment are given to Christ – vs. 26-27
- I. Christ will be Lord of the Resurrection – vs. 28-29
  - 1. Some resurrected to life
  - 2. Some resurrected to damnation
- J. Christ working in unison with the Father doing His Will – vs. 30

Lesson 13  
Five Witnesses of Christ's Deity  
John 5:31-47

We are just wrapping up the events of John Chapter 5. The healing of the lame man on the Sabbath brought the wrath of the Jewish leaders on Christ. Christ began His defense by reminding them that His actions were the will of the Father, the Lord of the Sabbath. He also claimed equality to God (vs. 17-18). The last section of this chapter give us five witness to Christ's Deity and Authority.

I. Setting

- A. After the healing of the lame man by the pool of Bethesda – vs.8-9
- B. The Jews came to Christ to accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath – vs.16
- C. He was working the will of the Father – vs.17
- D. In doing so, He claimed equality to God – vs. 18
- E. He explained the relationship of the Father and the Son – vs. 19-30
- F. He now gives five witnesses to His Deity

II. The Lesson

- A. One's own testimony is inadequate, in every judicial system – vs. 31
- B. The witness is true – vs. 32
- C. THE FIRST WITNESS – John the Baptist – vs.33
  - 1. A good witness, but human – vs. 34
  - 2. They did accept his role and witness for a time – vs. 35
- D. THE SECOND WITNESS – the works and miracles of Christ – vs. 36
- E. THE THIRD WITNESS – The Father – vs. 37-38
- F. THE FOURTH WITNESS – the Scriptures – vs. 39
- G. The rejection of the witnesses seen in:
  - 1. Not coming to Christ for salvation – vs. 40
  - 2. Not honoring Christ – vs. 41
- H. The rejection was not only the Messiah, but of God Himself
  - 1. They did not have the marks of followers of God – vs. 42
  - 2. They did not accept the authority Christ represented – vs. 43
- I. In rejecting Christ, they followed men rather than God
  - 1. They sought the honor of men – vs. 44
  - 2. They sought the honor of the moment
  - 3. They sought the honor of the messenger
- J. THE FIFTH WITNESS - Moses
  - 1. Moses and the Law are the witness against them
  - 2. The Law “accused” (pointed out faults) them – vs. 45
  - 3. Moses and Christ are on the same side – vs. 46
  - 4. Moses prophesied of Christ in His writings – vs. 46
    - a. Genesis 49:10 – Shiloh
    - b. Deuteronomy 18:18 – Prophet
    - c. Also symbolism
  - 5. They rejected the testimony of Moses in rejecting Christ

Lesson 14  
Two Miracles  
John 6:1-21

Christ has made quite an impression on the people of Israel. He is still very popular with the people, but the leaders are now seeking to destroy Him. These circumstances do not keep Him from working mighty miracles.

I. The Setting

- A. Christ has left Jerusalem and headed back to His native Galilee – vs. 1
- B. Near Bethsaida on northeastern shore of Sea of Galilee – Luke 9:10
- C. Multitudes of people have followed Him seeing His miracles – vs. 2
- D. Sometime in February or March probably – vs.4

II. The Feeding of Five Thousand

- A. Jesus goes up to mountain to teach – vs. 3
- B. Jesus asks Philip how they could feed the crowd – vs. 5
- C. He knew what He was going to do – vs. 6
- D. Philip estimates 200 denarii - \$20,000? - vs. 7
- E. Andrew finds a willing offering – vs. 8-9
- F. 5000 men prepare for a meal that does not exist – vs. 10
- G. Jesus blesses the food and it is distributed to everyone – vs. 11
- H. The leftovers fill 12 baskets – vs. 12-13
- I. Fired up by the miracle, the people proclaim Him to be Messiah – vs. 14
- J. Jesus retreats to prevent the people making Him king – vs. 15

III. Jesus Walks on the Water

- A. Jesus sends the disciples ahead to Capernaum – vs.16-17
- B. A storm arises that threatens the small boat – vs. 18
- C. The disciples rowed around four miles, almost to their destination – vs. 19
- D. They see Jesus walking on the water towards them – vs. 19
- E. Jesus calms their fears – vs. 20
- F. After getting in the boat, they are immediately at their destination – vs.21

IV. Review of Miracles

- A. Five barley loaves and two small fish feed 5,000 plus women and children
- B. Not only fed that many, but produced 12 baskets of leftovers
- C. Jesus walks on the water in the storm
- D. The boat miraculously arrives at destination with Jesus aboard.

Lesson 15  
The Bread of Life  
John 6:22-71

Christ now has a very large following and people are seeking after Him after He fed the five thousand. Their motives were not spiritual, but carnal. They wanted their bellies filled and their nation free. Christ came not for these things, but to save mankind. In the last portion of John 6, we see the multitude's expectation and Christ's purpose. This takes place in the synagogue at Capernaum (vs. 59).

- I. The First Exchange – vs. 22-27
  - A. The people have sought Christ after He fed them – vs. 23-25
  - B. Christ points to their motives and points them toward the spiritual – vs. 26-27
- II. The Second Exchange – vs. 28-29
  - A. The people inquire about what God's work would be – vs. 28
  - B. Christ says the work of God is obeying the Gospel – vs. 29
- III. The Third Exchange – vs. 30-33
  - A. The people ask for a sign, and if the food was it – vs. 30-31
  - B. Christ points them to the spiritual bread and not the carnal – vs. 32-33
- IV. The Fourth Exchange – vs. 34-40
  - A. The people ask for the bread of heaven – vs. 34
  - B. Jesus is the bread of life – vs. 35
  - C. The Saved and the Lost – vs. 36-40
- V. The Fifth Exchange – vs. 41-51
  - A. The Jews are ticked off that He claimed to be heaven sent – vs. 41-42
  - B. Christ and the Father are one – vs. 43-46
  - C. Christ is salvation, illustrated as bread and manna – vs. 47-51
- VI. The Sixth Exchange – vs. 52-58
  - A. The Jews aren't thinking spiritually – vs. 52
  - B. Christ, speaking figuratively, emphasis the need of Him in salvation – vs. 53-57
  - C. Christ combines the illustrations – bread and Himself – vs. 58
- VII. The Seventh Exchange – vs. 60-66
  - A. Now His followers have issues – vs. 60
  - B. Christ points them to the spiritual – vs. 61-63
  - C. Foreshadowing Judas – vs. 64-65
  - D. Many of disciples forsake Him – vs. 66
- VIII. The Eighth Exchange – vs. 67-71
  - A. Jesus now puts a question to His inner circle – vs. 67
  - B. Peter speaks for the group, confirming their faith in Christ – vs. 68-69
  - C. Christ once again foreshadows His betrayal by Judas – vs. 70-71

Lesson 16  
Christ at the Feast of Tabernacles  
John 7:1-53

Christ is creating quite a stir in Israel. People are talking about Him and His teaching. In this chapter, we see the opinions of His earthly family, the people, and the rulers.

I. Setting

A. The Feast of Tabernacles - Sukkot

1. Leviticus 23:33-44
2. One of three “pilgrimage feasts”, with Passover and Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
3. Celebrated by dwelling in “tabernacles” for the week
4. Days after the Feast was holidays (“Eighth day of assembly”)
5. Started on 15<sup>th</sup> of Tishri – Sept. or Oct. – five days after Day of Atonement
6. Four Species – date palm frond, myrtle tree bough, willow branch, citron fruit
7. Remembrance of wilderness journey and recognition of God's blessings

II. The Story

A. Christ is urged to go to Feast of Tabernacles – vs. 1-13

1. Jesus is staying in Galilee – vs.1
2. Family wanted Him to go to prove His works – vs.2-5
3. Jesus tells them to go on ahead, He wasn't coming now – vs. 6-9
4. Everyone at the Feast has Christ on their mind – vs.10-13

B. Christ at the Feast – vs.14

1. The First Question
  - a. “How does He know so much?” - vs. 15
  - b. Answer – Truth comes from doing God's will – vs.16-19
2. The Second Question
  - a. “Are you crazy?” - vs.20
  - b. Answer - “No, you are hypocrites” - vs.21-24
3. The Third Question
  - a. “Can He really be the Messiah” - vs.25-27
  - b. Answer - “I am” - vs.28-29
4. Pharisees try to take Him for claiming equality with God – vs. 30-32
5. Christ says He will go where they can't go – Heaven – vs.33-34
6. They don't get it – vs.35-36
7. Prophecy of the Spirit on the Eighth Day of Feast – vs. 37-39

C. The Divided Opinion of the People

1. Some said He was the Messiah – vs. 40
2. Some said He couldn't be – vs. 41-43
3. The officers couldn't take Him – vs. 44-49
4. Nicodemus gives a defense – vs. 50-51
5. The reply – no prophet can come from Galilee
6. Every man kept his opinion and nothing happened – vs. 53

Lesson 17  
Cast the First Stone  
John 8:1-11

Christ's enemies are not going to let an opportunity to trap Christ in front of a large crowd. Using the opportunity of the feast, they set a seemingly perfect trap. With no apparent way out, Christ turns the tables on them.

I. Setting

- A. Takes place during the feast of Tabernacles in Chapter 7
- B. Takes place in the Temple
- C. The religious leaders are going to set a trap for Christ

II. The Story

- A. Jesus stays at the Mount of Olives overnight – vs. 1
  - 1. No record of Christ ever staying in Jerusalem overnight
  - 2. Avoided crowds and danger
- B. Jesus taught the people in the outer courts of the Temple -vs. 2
- C. The trap is set – vs.3-5
  - 1. The penalty in the Old Testament was death for both adulterers – Deut. 22:22
  - 2. Problem – Where was the man? Didn't they catch them in the act?
  - 3. Any answer would seem fatal to Christ's ministry:
    - a. Affirming the Mosaic death penalty would break Roman law
    - b. Disregarding Mosaic Law would discredit Him with Jews
    - c. To dodge the question would make Him seem weak, stupid, indecisive
- D. Jesus doesn't answer, just writes in the sand – vs. 6
  - 1. We don't know what He wrote
  - 2. There are a few theories out there:
    - a. Sins of the accusers
    - b. Something like was written by God in Daniel 5:5
    - c. Their names – Jeremiah 17:13
- E. After being prodded, Christ speaks in response to their question – vs. 7
- F. Jesus continues to write, and the many accusers leave – vs. 8-9
- G. Jesus sees no man left to accuse her – vs. 10
- H. Christ does not condemn her either and she leaves – vs. 11

III. Summary

- A. Jesus was not going to be taken in their trap
- B. Jesus in no way condones adultery
- C. We should be more worried about our own problems than others' problems
- D. Christ's mission was to save, not condemn – John 3:17

Lesson 18  
Christ vs. The Pharisees – Part I  
John 8:12-32

The religious leaders were always looking to discredit and embarrass Christ. They would do so by setting traps for Him, such we saw with the woman taken in adultery. They would question His teachings. These exchanges give us insight into their thinking and motives, but also show the superiority of Christ's teachings and abilities.

I. Setting

- A. Appears to take place just after the events of the previous lesson.
- B. Christ is still teaching in the Temple
- C. These exchanges seem to come as interruptions to Christ's teaching
- D. We will split this passage into two lessons for time's sake

II. The First Exchange

- A. Christ says the He is the light of the world – vs. 12
- B. The Pharisees claim His witness is inadequate and false – vs. 13
- C. Christ answers that it is His witness and the Father's – vs. 14-18

III. The Second Exchange

- A. The Pharisees ask where the Father is – vs.19
- B. Christ responds that they did not know the Father – vs. 19
- C. This teaching was done in public with no recourse by His enemies – vs. 20

IV. The Third Exchange

- A. Christ foretells His death and its purpose – vs. 21
- B. The Pharisees think He is suicidal – vs. 22
- C. Christ response – vs. 23-24
  - 1. People need salvation
  - 2. Christ has no need of salvation
  - 3. Christ came to give salvation to men

V. The Fourth Exchange

- A. The Pharisees ask who he thinks he is – vs. 25
- B. Christ responds that He is sent from the Father to men – vs. 25-26
- C. They don't get it – vs. 27
- D. Christ expounds further on His mission of salvation – vs. 28-29
- E. Many believe on Him – vs. 30
- F. Once saved, we are to live continually following Christ – vs. 31-32

Lesson 19  
Christ vs. The Pharisees – Part II  
John 8:33-59

We continue from our previous lesson as the Pharisees continue to debate Christ. The last half of this debate is mostly on who it is that truly follows God.

I. Setting

- A. Same as previous lesson
- B. Christ is teaching at Temple

II. The Story

A. The Fifth Exchange

- 1. In reference to vs. 32, Pharisees ask why they need to be free? - vs.33
- 2. They need to be free from sin – vs. 34-36
- 3. Christ again tells of their hatred of Him – vs. 37-38

B. The Sixth Exchange

- 1. They appeal to being children of Abraham, physically and spiritually – vs. 39
- 2. Christ exposes their hypocrisy – vs. 39-41

C. The Seventh Exchange

- 1. The appeal to being children and followers of God – vs. 41
- 2. Christ says they would love Him if they loved God - vs. 42
- 3. They are actually children of the devil – vs. 43-44
  - 1. not physically, but spiritually
  - 2. goes back to the two groups – saved and lost
- 4. A sign of believing is receiving the truth – vs. 45-47

D. The Eighth Exchange

- 1. They say He is crazy and demon possessed – vs. 48
- 2. He is following and honoring God – vs. 49-50
- 3. The importance of Christ's teaching – vs. 51

E. The Ninth Exchange

- 1. They ask how He can be greater than Abraham and the prophets – vs. 52-53
- 2. Christ boasts of knowing the Father, whom the Jew knew not – vs. 54-55
- 3. Abraham looked for the coming of Christ and rejoiced – vs. 56

F. The Tenth Exchange

- 1. They ask how he could know Abraham – vs. 57
- 2. Christ claims deity – vs. 58
- 3. They try to stone Him – vs. 59

Lesson 20  
Christ Heals A Blind Man  
John 9:1-41

Often the miracles of Christ are dealt with briefly with limited detail. Rarely is there any information given on the person who was healed or what happened after their encounter with Christ. John chapter 9 deals entirely with the healing of a blind man and the events afterward. In this we see the hatred of the Jews for Christ and the love of Christ for the helpless.

I. The Setting

- A. This is a continuation of the events of chapter 8
- B. Therefore it is at the Feast of Tabernacles
- C. Not the same day as the preceding chapter, since it occurs on Sabbath (vs. 14)

II. The Story

- A. Christ passes by a blind beggar – vs. 1
- B. The disciples ask if he was blind because of sin – vs.2
- C. Jesus says it is to show the mighty works of God – vs.3-5
- D. Christ anoints his eyes and send him to wash – vs. 6-7
- E. This miracle gets people's attention – vs. 8-9
- F. He tells them his story – vs. 10-12
- G. He repeats his story to the Pharisees – vs. 13-15
- H. The varied opinions of Christ- vs. 16-17
- I. They call his parents to corroborate his story – vs. 18-23
- J. Regardless of what they say, the man was healed – vs.24-25
- K. The once-blind man grows impatient with his interrogation – vs. 26-27
- L. Jesus had to be from God to do this miracle – vs.28-33
- M. They cast out the man – vs. 34
- N. Jesus find him and Reveals Himself to him – vs. 35-38
- O. Jesus' purpose was to give light to those who wanted it – vs. 39
- P. The Pharisees take offense – vs. 40
- Q. They are guilty – vs. 41
  - 1. Blind – not having the truth
  - 2. Have no sin – not guilty
  - 3. We see – the hold falsehood as truth
  - 4. Your sin remaineth – you are guilty

Lesson 21  
The Good Shepherd  
John 10:1-21

Christ never missed an opportunity to reach people. Most of the time His miracles set the stage for an audience to hear His teaching. There has been great stir among the people with the healing of the blind man at the Feast of Tabernacles in the previous chapter. This bold and wondrous miracle has created a renewed interest in Christ's teaching. Christ takes the opportunity to tell them of His mission and purpose.

I. Setting

- A. This seems to be a continuation of the previous chapter
- B. Then would also take place at Feast of Tabernacles

II. The Story

- A. The Parable - vs. 1-6
  - 1. The door of the sheepfold – vs. 1-2
  - 2. The Shepherd's relationship with His sheep – vs. 3-5
  - 3. They didn't get it. - vs. 6
- B. The Explanation – vs. 7-18
  - 1. Christ is the “door” of salvation – vs. 7-9
  - 2. Christ contrasted to “thief” and “hireling”:
    - a. “Thief” (Satan) seeks to destroy – I Peter 5:8 – vs. 10
    - b. Christ comes to give life – vs.10
    - c. Christ gives His life – vs. 11
    - d. “Hireling” (false teacher) give nothing – vs. 12- 13
  - 3. The relationship of Christ to His sheep – vs. 14
  - 4. The relationship of Christ to the Father – vs. 15
  - 5. The outreach of Christ – vs. 16
  - 6. Christ foretells His death and resurrection – vs. 17
  - 7. The nature of His death and resurrection – vs. 18
- C. The Reaction – vs. 19-21
  - 1. The people are divided at His words – vs. 19
  - 2. Some say He is crazy – vs. 20
  - 3. Others believe on Him – vs. 21
    - a. They see He cannot be evil
    - b. They acknowledge the miracle of John 9

Lesson 22  
Christ Asserts His Deity  
John 10:22-42

The Jews have been anxiously anticipating the coming of the Messiah. They have grown impatient with Christ and want Him to boldly proclaim Himself their Messiah. They take the opportunity of the feast of Hanukkah to press Him on the subject.

I. Setting

- A. Takes place during Hanukkah
  - 1. Began in 164 B.C. by Judas Maccabeus
  - 2. Celebrated
    - a. Return of Jewish independence from the Seleucids
    - b. Miracle of oil lasting eight days in Temple
  - 3. Feast lasted eight days, beginning on 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislew
  - 4. Featured lighting of the menorah
- B. Solomon's Porch – east side of Temple complex
- C. About three years into Christ's ministry

II. Story

- A. The impatient demand – vs. 24
- B. Christ's response:
  - 1. They didn't believe His words or deeds – vs. 25
  - 2. They were not saved – vs. 26
  - 3. The relationship of the Shepherd and the Sheep – vs. 27-28
  - 4. The security of the saved – vs. 29
  - 5. The bold claim of deity – vs. 30
- C. They try to stone Christ – vs. 31
- D. Christ questions the charge – vs. 32
- E. They understood His claim of deity – vs. 33
- F. Christ says that the Bible says they are gods (Psalm 82:6) – vs. 34
- G. The Scripture is undeniable and undebatable – vs. 35
- H. The Messiah has a right to claim thus – vs. 36
- I. The works prove the claim - vs. 37-38
- J. They didn't like His response either – vs. 39
- K. He escapes and dwells where John the Baptist had dwelt – vs. 40
- L. Many people sought Him out there. - vs.41-42

Lesson 23  
Lazarus  
John 11:1-46

The greatest miracle performed by Christ was almost His last chronologically. With the cross fast approaching, He performed the ultimate of miracles: raising a dead man. This miracle was unmistakable and irrefutable. It was the last major showing of Christ's power before the cross.

I. Setting

- A. Christ is still dwelling away from the Jews probably near Aenon – 10:40
- B. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are friends of Christ who live in Bethany
- C. Bethany was on the east side of the Mt. of Olives, about two miles from Jerusalem

II. The Story

A. To Bethany

- 1. Christ's friend Lazarus is sick – vs.1-2
- 2. The plea for Christ's help – vs. 3
- 3. Christ delays His coming – vs. 4-7
- 4. The disciples question the safety of going – vs. 8
- 5. Christ replies that He knows what He is doing - vs. 9
- 6. Christ declares the gravity of the situation – vs.10
- 7. The disciples don't get it - vs. 11-13
- 8. Christ plainly tells of Lazarus' death – vs. 14-15
- 9. Thomas' bold charge – vs. 16

B. At Bethany

- 1. The situation – vs. 17-19
- 2. Martha meets Him before entering the town – vs. 20-22
- 3. Christ tells of Lazarus' raising, Martha misses it – vs. 23-24
- 4. The faith of Martha – vs. 25-27
- 5. Mary goes to meet Him – vs. 28-30
- 6. The mourners follow – vs. 31
- 7. Mary blames Christ – vs. 32
- 8. Christ is moved by compassion on those mourning – vs. 33-35
- 9. The varied reactions of the Jews:
  - a. Marvel at His love – vs. 36
  - b. Others blame Christ – vs. 37

C. At the grave

- 1. Christ approaches the tomb – vs. 38
- 2. Jesus commands the tomb unsealed – vs. 39-40
- 3. Christ's prayer – vs. 41-42
- 4. Lazarus is raised – vs. 43-44
- 5. The reactions:
  - a. Some believe on Him – vs. 45
  - b. Others go to inform the Pharisees – vs. 46

Lesson 24  
Foreshadows of the Cross  
John 11:47-12:11

The end is drawing near for Christ's earthly ministry. The Jewish rulers have decided against their Messiah and preparations are being made to destroy Him. In the midst of these dark shadows we also have one of the most beautiful acts of worship recorded in Scripture.

I. Setting

- A. The raising of Lazarus has created quite a stir
- B. The Jewish leaders are planning in Jerusalem to rid themselves of Christ
- C. With the Passover approaching, Christ meets with His friends at Bethany

II. The Story

A. The Dark Plot

- 1. The Jewish leaders have to deal with Christ – 11:47
- 2. Their fears are: - vs. 48
  - a. Too many Jews will believe on Him
  - b. This disruption will bring Roman intervention
- 3. Caiaphas – vs.49
  - a. High priest under Pontius Pilate, from 27-36 A.D.
  - b. Son-in-law of Annas, former high priest
- 4. Caiaphas' unwitting prophesy – vs. 50-52
- 5. The decision was made to have Christ killed – vs. 53
- 6. Christ dwelt in Ephraim, about 20 miles north of Jerusalem – vs. 54
- 7. The Passover approached, about a week away – vs. 55
- 8. Christ was the talk of the town – vs. 56
- 9. A dragnet is set to capture Christ – vs. 57

B. Mary's Worship

- 1. Six days before Passover, Christ arrives at Bethany – 12:1
- 2. A feast is made by His friends – vs. 2
- 3. Mary anoints Christ – vs. 3
- 4. Judas' protest – vs. 4-5
- 5. The character of Judas – vs. 6
- 6. The purpose of the anointing – preparing for His death – vs. 7
- 7. Christ's soon departure – vs. 8

C. The Growing Darkness

- 1. The curious crowd seeking Christ and Lazarus – vs. 9
- 2. The Jews seek to even kill Lazarus – vs. 10-11

Lesson 25  
The Triumphal Entry  
John 12:12-50

As the end draws near, Christ offers Himself publicly to the people as their Messiah. For most of His ministry He has shunned the public and avoided the crowds. Now He makes a rare, bold move in fulfillment of prophesy.

I. Setting

- A. The Passover draws nigh
- B. Crowds are gathering in Jerusalem preparing for the feast

II. The Story

A. The Triumphal Entry – Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> of Nisan

- 1. The crowds anticipate the coming of Christ – vs. 12
- 2. They go to meet Him as a hero – vs. 13
- 3. Jesus comes riding a colt, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 – vs. 14-15
- 4. The disciples didn't get it until later – vs. 16
- 5. The results of the news of Lazarus' raising – vs. 17-18
- 6. The problem of the Pharisees – vs. 19

B. Christ and the Greeks – Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> of Nisan

- 1. Certain Greek (Gentiles) want to see Christ – vs. 20-22
- 2. The Son glorified through His sacrifice – vs. 23-25
- 3. To serve Christ is to follow in His pattern – vs. 26
- 4. This dark hour is why He came – vs. 27
- 5. The Father speaks audibly – vs. 28-29
- 6. The coming victory – vs. 30-31
- 7. Christ prophesies of His death – vs. 32-33

C. Christ and the People - Monday

- 1. The people wonder how the Messiah could die – vs. 34
- 2. Christ responds that they should follow the Light while they can – vs. 35-36
- 3. The people still didn't believe, fulfilling Isaiah 53:1 – vs. 37-38
- 4. The people couldn't believe, fulfilling Isaiah 6:9-10 – vs. 39-40
- 5. These prophesies were about Christ, whom Isaiah saw (Isaiah 6:1) – vs. 41
- 6. Many rulers believed on Him, but not publicly – vs. 42-43
- 7. To believe on Christ is to believe the Father – vs. 44
- 8. To see Christ is to see the Father – vs. 45
- 9. Christ's role as Saviour – vs. 46-47
- 10. There is a consequence for not believing on Christ – vs. 48
- 11. Christ's message is of and from the Father – vs. 49-50

Lesson 26  
The Supremacy of Service  
John 13:1-20

With the end approaching, Christ and his disciples gather into an upper room to observe what we know as the Last Supper. With the cross now hours away, He spends time teaching His disciples for the last time. One of the first lessons was one of humility and service, as Christ washed the disciples feet.

I. Setting

- A. This takes place on Tuesday evening, the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan
- B. Last Supper held in an “upper room”, a room built on the roof of a house

II. Story

- A. The setting of the Supper – vs. 1
- B. The devil at the Supper – vs. 2
- C. The Lord's confidence – vs. 3
- D. The Lord washes the disciple's feet – vs. 4-5
- E. Peter questions the Lord – vs. 6
- F. Jesus responds that he'll understand later – vs. 7
- G. Peter balks again – vs.8
- H. The Lord says he'll fail the test – vs. 8
- I. Peter wants to go all out – vs. 9
- J. Christ says it is enough – vs. 10
- K. Christ alludes to Judas – vs. 11
- L. Christ asks the disciples if they understood the lesson – vs. 12
- M. Christ was showing them to be servants – vs. 13-14
- N. It was an example of how they should act – vs. 15
- O. The servant and the master are the same before God – vs. 16
- P. Happiness is being a servant – vs. 17
- Q. Christ again alludes to Judas, fulfilling Psalm 41:9 – vs. 18
- R. Christ foretells this for their benefit – vs. 19
- S. The chain of receiving – vs. 20

Lesson 27  
**Betrayal and Denial**  
John 13:21-38

In the midst of the disciples was a traitor who would betray their Master. He would sell out the Lord for thirty silver shekels. But he was not the only one who would disappoint the Saviour. One of the inner would deny Him multiple times before the night ended.

I. Background

- A. At the Last Supper
- B. Night of 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, Tuesday night
- C. Christ has already told them numerous times that one should betray him.

II. The Story

- A. Christ foretells the betrayal – vs. 21
- B. The disciples did not know who – vs. 22
- C. Peter gets John to ask who it was – vs. 23-25
- D. Christ reveals that it is Judas – vs. 26
- E. Judas leaves to do His evil deed – vs. 27
- F. No disciple suspected Judas – vs. 28-30
- G. Christ is glorified through His death – vs. 31-32
- H. Christ is to be with them a short while longer – vs. 33
- I. The new commandment: Love One Another – vs. 34
- J. Loving the brethren shows our love of God – vs. 35
- K. Peter asks where the Lord is going – vs. 36
- L. Christ foretells that Peter will die for Christ – vs. 36
- M. Peter responds declaring he was willing to be a martyr – vs. 37
- N. Christ tells him that he will deny him three times this night – vs. 38

Lesson 28  
The Father's Will  
John 14:1-14

Christ now begins to teach His disciples many vital lessons before the crucifixion. These lessons are intimate, comforting, and deep. He starts these lessons by further revealing the Father's will and relationship to Him.

I. Setting

- A. The Last Supper
- B. All disciples present except Judas.

II. The Lesson

- A. The security of the believer
  - 1. In Christ's Salvation – vs. 1
  - 2. In Christ's Preparation – vs. 2
  - 3. In Christ's Evacuation – vs. 3
  - 4. In Christ's Illumination – vs. 4
- B. Thomas asks how they can know – vs. 5
- C. Christ responds that He is the only way – vs. 6
- D. To know Christ is to know the Father – vs. 7
- E. Philip wants to see the Father – vs. 8
- F. Christ tells them they see the Father in Him – vs. 9
- G. Christ is the Father revealed – vs. 10
- H. The works prove Christ's teaching – vs. 11
- I. The empowerment of the believer – vs. 12
- J. The power of prayer – vs. 13-14

Lesson 29  
The Comforter  
John 14:15-31

The teaching that Christ does at this late hour is very personal and shows His love for His disciples. He knows that the cross is waiting in a mere hours and that He will soon depart from this earth. To comfort His disciples He tells them of the coming and work of the Holy Spirit, a subject that has practically remained a mystery to this point.

I. Setting

- A. The Last Supper
- B. All disciples present except Judas.

II. The Teaching

- A. The test of discipleship – vs. 15
- B. The coming of the Holy Spirit – vs. 16-17
- C. The concern for the disciples – vs. 18
- D. Foretelling the resurrection – vs. 19
- E. The resurrection as proof of Christ's deity – vs. 20
- F. The fruits of obedience – vs. 21
- G. Judas's question – vs. 22
  - A. Careful to show this is not the traitor, who has already departed
  - B. Probably Thaddeus (Lebbaeus) – compare Matthew 10:3. Mark 3:18
  - C. Might be writer of Jude, some say its not
- H. God reveals Himself to those that love and follow Him – vs. 23
- I. The test of love is obedience – vs. 24
- J. The further work of the Spirit – vs. 25-26
- K. Christ gives peace in the midst of turmoil – vs. 27
- L. They should rejoice in what is about to take place – vs. 28
- M. Christ tells them these things that they will believe later – vs. 29
- N. The time grows short and Satan marches forward – vs. 30
- O. The testimony of Christ's actions - vs. 31
- P. With the close of the Chapter, Christ and the Disciples head toward Gethsemane

Lesson 30  
Relationships of the Believer  
John 15:1-27

The Lord and His disciples are now making their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. On the way there, Christ continues His teaching. He begins to tell the disciples about the many relationships of the believer, such as to Christ, the World, and the Holy Spirit.

I. Setting

- A. Supper is over and the group heads tot the Garden of Gethsemane (14:31)
- B. Christ is teaching as they travel.

II. The Lesson

A. The Relationship of the Father, the Son, and the Believer (1-11)

- 1. The imagery of the vineyard – vs. 1-2
- 2. The washing of the Word – vs. 3
- 3. The results of abiding in Christ – vs. 4-7
  - 1. Power through Christ – vs. 4
  - 2. Fruit through Christ – vs. 5
  - 3. Life through Christ – vs. 6
  - 4. Prayer through Christ – vs. 7
- 4. The Father glorified through our fruit – vs. 8
- 5. The chain of love – vs. 9
- 6. The results of obedience – vs. 10
- 7. True joy is through serving Christ – vs. 11

B. The Relationship of the Believer and Christ (12-17)

- 1. The new commandment of love – vs. 12
- 2. The test of true of love – vs. 13
- 3. The test of friendship – vs. 14
- 4. The new intimacy with Christ – vs. 15
- 5. The purpose of the disciples – vs. 16
- 6. Love one another – vs. 17

C. The Relationship of the Believer and the World (18-25)

- 1. The World hates Christ – vs. 18
- 2. The Believer's separation from the world – vs. 19
- 3. The World treats us the same as they treat Christ – vs. 20
- 4. The World does not know God – vs. 21
- 5. Christ has revealed their sin – vs. 22
- 6. Hatred of Christ is hatred of God – vs. 23
- 7. The world rejected Christ – vs. 24
- 8. The rejection of Christ is foretold (Psalm 35:19, 69:4) – vs. 25

D. The Relationship of the Believer and the Spirit

- 1. The Spirit will testify of Christ – vs. 26
- 2. The Believer will witness through the Spirit – vs. 27

Lesson 31  
The Believer and the Spirit  
John 16:1-15

Christ never promised smooth sailing for the Christian. He gave no illusion that to be a believer was to also live a life of ease. On the contrary, Christ told His disciples that they would face persecution and hatred from those outside their fold. Christ did tell them that they would not face these hardships alone. He would be with them through it all, and the Holy Spirit would be their to help them.

I. Setting

- A. Supper is over and the group heads to the Garden of Gethsemane (14:31)
- B. Christ is teaching as they travel.
- C. This lessons continues the thoughts from 15

II. The Lesson

- A. The dark days ahead (vs. 1-7)
  - 1. The purpose of telling them of hardships – vs. 1
  - 2. The coming persecution – vs. 2
  - 3. The persecutors are not on God's side – vs. 3
  - 4. Christ tells them to help them when He is gone – vs. 4
  - 5. Christ's soon departure – vs. 5
  - 6. Christ sees that the disciples are saddened by these words – vs. 6
- B. The Comforter
  - 1. The Holy Spirit will come when Christ has left – vs. 7
  - 2. The three fold work of the Spirit – vs. 8
    - a. Reprove of sin – vs. 9
    - b. Reprove of righteousness – vs. 10
    - c. Reprove of judgment – vs. 11
  - 3. Christ is limited in what He can tell them – vs. 12
  - 4. The Spirit will teach them further – vs. 13
  - 5. The flow of things from God
    - a. The Spirit gives to us – vs. 14
    - b. Christ gives to the Spirit – vs. 15
    - c. All that is the Father's is also Christ's – vs. 15

Lesson 32  
Christ Plainly Tells of His Death  
John 16:16-33

Christ is wrapping up the final lesson He will give to the disciples before the Cross. The only recorded words spoken by Christ after these are prayers or words to the disciples concerning the prayers. In this last lesson, Christ tells them again of the coming Cross and the results of His coming victory.

I. Setting

- A. Supper is over and the group heads to the Garden of Gethsemane (14:31)
- B. Christ is teaching as they travel.
- C. This appears to be the last teaching done by Christ before the arrest

II. The Story

- A. Christ tells again of His coming death and resurrection – vs. 16
- B. The disciples don't get it – vs. 17-18
- C. Jesus jumps to answer them – vs. 19
- D. Dark times are ahead – vs. 20
- E. Compared to childbirth– vs. 21
- F. There will be joy in the end – vs. 22
- G. Direct access to the Father – vs. 23
- H. The authority through Christ – vs. 24
- I. Direct teaching of the Father – vs. 25
- J. Direct care from God – vs. 26-27
- K. The path ahead for Christ – vs. 28
- L. The disciples are surprised at Christ's plainness – vs. 29
- M. The confess their faith in Christ – vs. 30
- N. Jesus asks why it took so long – vs. 31
- O. Their present faith will prove too little – vs. 32
- P. The purpose of Christ's teaching – vs. 33

Lesson 33  
The True Lord's Prayer  
John 17:1-26

We know by the Gospel accounts that Christ was frequently in prayer, and in some cases have recorded the word He used. The most famous prayer is often called the Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. That prayer can be more accurately described as the Model Prayer. The prayer record in John 17 could more accurately be called the Lord's Prayer. It is the longest prayer recorded in the Gospels.

I. Setting

- A. Tuesday night before Crucifixion on Wednesday
- B. Supper is over and the group heads to the Garden of Gethsemane (14:31)
- C. Shortly before entering Gethsemane

II. Story

- A. The Prayer for Himself – vs. 1-5
  - 1. The time has come – vs. 1
  - 2. The purpose of the hour – vs. 2-3
  - 3. The ministry of Christ – vs. 4
  - 4. The return to Glory – vs. 5
- B. The Prayer for the Disciples – vs. 6-19
  - 1. Christ has prepared the Disciples – vs. 6
  - 2. The disciples have the Word of God – vs. 7-8
  - 3. Christ's ministry is for the believer, not the world – vs. 9-10
  - 4. The prayer for the disciples – vs. 11
  - 5. The purpose of Judas – vs. 12
  - 6. The coming joy – vs. 13
  - 7. The hatred of the world toward the believer – vs. 14
  - 8. In the world, not of the world – vs. 15
  - 9. The unavoidable separation – vs. 16
  - 10. The power of the truth – vs. 17
  - 11. Carrying on the work of Christ – vs. 18
  - 12. The purpose of the Cross for the believer – vs. 19
- C. The Prayer for His Church – vs. 20-26
  - 1. Christ's concerns for the Church – vs. 20-21
  - 2. The relationship of the Believer, the Son, and the Father – vs. 22-23
  - 3. The fellowship of the Believer and Christ – vs. 24
  - 4. The love of God revealed to man through Christ – vs. 25-26

Lesson 34  
The Arrest of Christ  
John 18:1-27

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be arrested and tried in preparation for the crucifixion. The events move swiftly now as cross approaches. In the midst of these events is the sad betrayal by one of Christ's closest disciples.

I. The Setting

- A. Tuesday night, late evening.
- B. The Garden of Gethsemane
  - 1. means "oil press"
  - 2. located east of Temple on slopes on Mt. of Olives

II. The Story

- A. The Arrest – vs. 1-9
  - 1. Christ and the disciples enter the Garden – vs. 1
  - 2. Judas finds Him there – vs. 2-3
  - 3. Christ addresses the crowd – vs. 4-5
  - 4. The force of Christ's voice – vs. 6
  - 5. Christ addresses the crowd again – vs.7-8
  - 6. Fulfilling prophecy, see 17:12– vs. 9
- B. Peter's Sword – vs. 10-11
  - 1. Peter cuts off Malchus' ear – vs. 10
  - 2. Christ rebukes Peter – vs. 11
- C. Christ led to the High Priest – vs. 12-14
  - 1. Jesus is arrested – vs. 12
  - 2. Taken to Annas' house, the leading figure in Judaism – vs. 13
  - 3. The outcome is already determined – vs. 14
- D. Peter's First Denial – vs. 15-18
  - 1. Peter and John follow after Christ – vs. 15
  - 2. John gets Peter in – vs. 16
  - 3. Peter denies Christ to the servant at the door – vs. 17
  - 4. Peter falls in with the enemy – vs. 18
- E. The Interrogation before the Priests – vs. 19-24
  - 1. They question what He has taught – vs. 19
  - 2. Christ responds that they already know – vs. 20-21
  - 3. An officer strikes Christ – vs. 22
  - 4. Christ responds that there is no cause for this – vs. 23
  - 5. Christ is sent to Caiphas – vs. 24
- F. The Second and Third Denials by Peter – vs. 25-27
  - 1. Peter denies the second time – vs. 25
  - 2. A kinsman of Malchus confronts Peter – vs. 26
  - 3. Peter denies, and the cock crows – vs. 27

Lesson 35  
The Trial By Pilate  
John 18:28-19:18

Now that Christ has been arrested by the authorities and condemned by the Jewish leaders, He must stand trial before the Roman governor before He can be put to death as His enemies have planned. This trial is important in showing that Christ was blameless and yet the people rejected Him and sent Him to the cross.

I. Setting

- A. Early morning of Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan
- B. These events take place before 9:00 a.m., when Christ was crucified.
- C. Most events seem to take place in the Fortress Antonia located northwest of Temple

II. Story

- A. Christ is sent to Pilate – vs. 28
- B. Pilate asks for the charge against Christ – vs. 29
- C. The reply is that He is worthy of death just because He is there for trial – vs. 30
- D. Christ is to crucified, as He said in John 12:32-33 – vs. 31-32
- E. Pilate asks if Christ is truly a “king” - vs. 33
- F. Christ asks who it was that believed He was – vs. 34
- G. Pilate asks why the Jews have rejected Christ – vs. 35
- H. Christ says that His kingdom is not of this world – vs. 36
- I. The mission of the King – vs. 37
- J. Pilate finds no fault in Christ and offers to release Him– vs. 38-39
- K. The Jews want Barabbas instead – vs. 40
- L. Christ is mocked and scourged – 19:1-3
- M. Pilate presents the beaten Christ – vs. 4-5
- N. The Jews demand and gain crucifixion for Christ – vs. 6
- O. The Jews claim they are right because of Christ's claims – vs. 7
- P. Pilate demands to know if Christ is truly deity – vs. 8-10
- Q. Christ puts Pilate in his place – vs. 11
- R. The Jews use political pressure on Pilate – vs. 12
- S. The King is offered one last time – see Zechariah 9:9 – vs. 13-14
- T. The Jews reject Him – vs. 15
- U. Christ is sent to be crucified – vs. 16-18

Lesson 36  
The Death and Burial of Christ  
John 19:19-42

We have finally reached the climax of Christ's earthly ministry. The time has come to drink the bitter cup before Him and bear the sins of the world. The time has come to give His life for the redemption of man.

I. Setting

- A. Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan
- B. 9:00 a.m. until dusk
- C. Outside of Jerusalem at Golgotha

II. Story

A. The Crucifixion

- 1. The sentence given and posted by Pilate – vs. 19
- 2. The witness of the writing – vs. 20
- 3. The priests protest the wording, but Pilate stands – vs. 21-22
- 4. The soldiers fulfill scripture in parting His clothes – vs. 23-24
- 5. Those close to the cross – vs. 25
- 6. Care of Mary given to John – vs. 26-27
- 7. Christ's only request on the cross – vs. 28-29
- 8. "It is Finished" – vs. 30
- 9. The bodies to be removed before Passover – vs. 31
- 10. The legs of the others broken – vs. 32-33
- 11. Christ's side is pierced – vs. 34
- 12. The fulfilled prophecy – vs. 35-37

B. The Burial

- 1. Joseph of Arimathaea receives the body – vs. 38
- 2. The return of Nicodemus – vs. 39
- 3. The body is prepared – vs. 40
- 4. The body is buried – vs. 41-42

Lesson 37  
The Risen Saviour  
John 20:1-31

The cross is now past and Christ has been buried for three days and three nights. In spite of the many times He foretold His own resurrection, it seems that no one was anticipating. We find His followers adjusting to the light, because after three dark days the Son rose.

I. Setting

- A. Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> of Nisan
- B. Events take place around Jerusalem

II. Story

- A. Mary, Peter, and John find the tomb empty – vs. 1-10
  - 1. Mary Magdalene is the first to discover that Christ is not in tomb – vs. 1-2
  - 2. Peter and John rush to investigate – vs. 3-5
  - 3. The empty tomb – vs. 6-7
  - 4. The disciples still did not fully understand – vs. 8-10
- B. Christ appears to Mary – vs. 11-18
  - 1. Mary stays behind at the tomb – vs. 11
  - 2. The angels speak to her – vs. 12-13
  - 3. Christ speaks to Mary who doesn't recognize Him – vs. 14-15
  - 4. Christ reveals Himself to Mary – vs. 16
  - 5. Christ's message to her – vs. 17
  - 6. Mary tells the disciples what happened – vs. 18
- C. Christ appears to the disciples, Thomas absent – vs. 19-23
  - 1. Christ appears to the disciples – vs. 19-20
  - 2. The disciples are commissioned – vs. 21
  - 3. The disciples are empowered – vs. 22
  - 4. The nature of their mission – vs. 23
- D. Christ appears to the disciples, including Thomas – vs. 24-29
  - 1. "Doubting Thomas" - vs. 24-25
  - 2. Over a week later Christ appears again – vs. 26
  - 3. The Lord offers Himself as proof of resurrection – vs. 27
  - 4. Thomas believes – vs. 28
  - 5. Many more will also believe – vs. 29
- E. John's Epilogue
  - 1. The vastness of the works of Christ – vs. 30
  - 2. The purpose of John – vs. 31

Lesson 38  
Lovest Thou Me?  
John 21:1-25

We close our study of the Gospel of John with an anecdote of the resurrected Christ. After His resurrection, Christ appeared many times to His followers over a forty day period before ascending to Heaven. John closes his gospel telling of one of these appearances, one which proved to be deeply personal for Peter.

I. Setting

- A. Sea of Galilee
- B. Also called Sea of Gennesaret, Kinneret, Tiberias

II. Story

- A. Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two other disciples go fishing – vs. 1-2
- B. The Miraculous Catch – vs. 3-14
  - 1. Their effort is in vain – vs. 3
  - 2. Jesus appears on the shore and addresses them – vs. 4-5
  - 3. The miraculous catch – vs. 6
  - 4. John recognizes Christ and Peter swims to shore – vs. 7
  - 5. The other disciples follow with the fish – vs. 8
  - 6. Christ is waiting there with breakfast ready – vs. 9
  - 7. The fish are brought to shore – vs. 10-11
  - 8. The disciples eat – vs. 12-13
  - 9. This was Christ's third appearance to the disciples – vs. 14
    - a. First was to the Eleven without Thomas
    - b. Second was so the Eleven with Thomas
- C. Love and Service – vs. 15-23
  - 1. The first exchange – vs. 15
    - a. Christ's question – *agape* love
    - b. Peter's response – *phileo* love
    - c. Christ's response – feed the baby lambs
  - 2. The second exchange – vs. 16
    - a. Christ's question – *agape* love
    - b. Peter's response – *phileo* love
    - c. Christ's response – shepherd the sheep
  - 3. The second exchange – vs. 17
    - a. Christ's question – *phileo* love
    - b. Peter's response – *phileo* love
    - c. Christ's response – feed the sheep
  - 4. Christ's prophecy about Peter's death – vs. 18-19
  - 5. Peter asks what John is supposed to do – vs. 20-21
  - 6. Christ rebukes Peter – vs. 22
  - 7. Correcting a misunderstanding – vs. 23
- D. The Grand Epilogue – vs. 24-25
  - 1. The testimony of John – vs. 24
  - 2. The inexhaustibility of the Gospel story – vs. 25