

# The Gospel of John

Lesson #69  
The Journey  
Jim Hoffman

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## The Gospel of John

- If you recall from last week Jesus did not go up to the feast with his brothers because his time had not yet come.
- From verse #14, About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. – well, it appears his time has come.
- He goes to the feast, he goes directly to the temple, and he begins teaching – the word of God is powerful when it’s faithfully taught well and who better than Jesus to teach it?

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## The Gospel of John

- It is now the middle of the feast (4 days in) and Jesus enters the feast and begins teaching – that what teachers do. ☺
- He is not hiding, he is at the feast and in the temple teaching, exactly where his enemies would be looking for him - but what is he teaching?
- A lot of Jesus’ teaching had to do with making the Torah clear and he shed enough light on it for the hearer to know there is more to the law than the letter of the law. 3

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?".
- His critics wanted to see his pedigree when they should have just shut their mouths and opened their ears.
- If he came the same way today as he did in the Bible, he would no doubt come as a construction worker with rough hands, a muscular body, and as one who was plain spoken and somewhat confrontational.

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### The Gospel of John

- I have found that the subject of any teaching on a given day is far less important than the hunger in the heart of the hearer.
- If your pastor is preaching truth, you are pleased to hear him speak it almost no matter the subject and no matter his appearance – truth makes its own way and creates its own interest.
- The word of God does things in us that are transforming and when we hear the truth – we know it.

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### The Gospel of John

There is just something about the spoken Word that soothes satisfies, and supplies what we need. It truly is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. It gets right to the matter of the heart by getting to the heart of the matter. There is something about the Word that is always satisfying, and it never leaves you wanting - unless you are speaking of wanting more. Sitting under the sound of the Word brings peace to the child of God. When it is rightly divided, we do not need to see the credentials of the messenger because the work the Word does in us is all the accreditation needed.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:16 So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.”
- They asked, “where did he get what he is teaching” – his answer was the same answer every Bible teacher would give, “from God”.
- When one who is tasked to teach the Word gets his teachings from anywhere but the Lord then he should shut up and sit down – he has nothing of value to say.

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### The Gospel of John

- If we look closely at Jesus’ answer, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me” he is boldly raising a familiar claim – he came from Heaven and his message is from God.
- To us that is a comforting word – that God is speaking to us through his son, but the enemies of Jesus are enraged.
- He had all the credentials necessary – healing the sick, raising the dead, and miracle after miracle all served to validate his deity and validate his words.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:17 If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.
- The one who wants to do God’s will, glorify him, that person is in position know when his teacher is getting his message from God and when he isn’t.
- I believe Jesus is telling us that a heart that is seeking to glorify God is a heart that is also given some supernatural understanding.

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### The Gospel of John

This is so like Jesus to say much without talking much – “If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God”. He is telling us that knowing the deep truths of God comes more from obedience than it does from study. The “Jews” are asking how they can trust what Jesus was teaching. His response is along the lines of “if your heart is set on obeying the will of God, you will know the teachings of God when you hear them”. Knowing what comes from God is often found in plain sight that does not require a master’s degree from the university. It does, however, require a sincere desire to do what God reveals and when we are ready to obey, he will disclose what we need to know no matter how deep.

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### The Gospel of John

- The one who is saved does not come to Jesus seeking for things – if getting things is anywhere in the equation that one has been deceived.
- The one who believes comes to Christ seeking forgiveness, and eternal life in his presence.
- The one who believes comes to Christ convicted of sin and is perhaps even a little surprised to find that even he can come and be forgiven.

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### The Gospel of John

- Jesus’ answer to the “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?” question is a pretty strong rebuke to those who asked it.
- He is effectively saying, “if your intentions are to obey God, he will show you the source of my teaching”, any other attitude will keep you from understanding.
- It’s not that education is a bad thing– but Jesus says that people who would obey what God shows them will be the ones who can grasp things with or without a formal education.

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### The Gospel of John

- Could this be why some of the simplest saints seem to have the most discernment?
- Jesus once encountered a Canaanite woman who is an illustration of how plain some things can be seen when the one who is looking is ready to believe.
- Matthew 15:26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." (demon oppressed daughter)

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:18 The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.
- Beware of the mega-church pastor who is the "hip" dresser with the pop-culture lines and clever sermon titles – that person just may well be seeking their own glory. \$\$
- The primary goal of everyone who seeks to teach the Bible ought to be – let it say, what it says.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" 20 The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" 21 Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. 22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?"
- How many times have we had to say in a witnessing situation that no one can obey their way into heaven?
- Jesus is now teaching graduate level stuff – he is telling them what Paul would write 25 years later to the church at Galatia, "the law was your schoolmaster to bring you to Christ".

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### The Gospel of John

- The "Jews" show their true character when they deny their intent to murder Jesus.
- It seems that Jesus struck a nerve when he asked, "Why do you seek to kill me?" because they immediately and loudly deny their intent.
- And, of course, like all tyrants they cannot simply deny the allegation, they have to assassinate Jesus' character by saying he is demon possessed.

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### The Gospel of John

- In one rather brief exchange the Jews are found to be liars and blasphemers - We all know what a liar is, but what exactly is it to blaspheme God?
- Blasphemy is a word sin (written or spoken) – when we slander or misuse the name of God we blaspheme.
- This sin is more prevalent than we might think because it occurs every time someone uses the name of God as a cuss word, or in some other meaningless fashion.

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### The Gospel of John

- Next, Jesus uses a very common event in the lives of the Jews to show his accusers the error of their thinking regarding his healing on the sabbath.
- The event was the circumcision of baby boys on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after their birth. Unknown at the time is blood clotting is not at its peak until the 8<sup>th</sup> day of life – but God knew. 😊
- Jesus points out that if the 8<sup>th</sup> day after birth occurs on a Saturday, the circumcision takes place despite the fact that it would qualify as work.

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### The Gospel of John

- His logic is impeccable – healing someone by the sheer force of his will is much, much less “work” than performing the circumcision ritual on the sabbath.
- It would be a hard case for his enemies to make that feeding and healing people makes Jesus a sinner – so they had to find fault somewhere and they did.
- This is important because Jesus’ healings on the sabbath were points of contention more times than just the man at the pool of Bethesda.

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### The Gospel of John

- In verse #24 we see, “Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”
- Jesus may be saying, “stop it with the micro-analyzing of everything I do and begin to evaluate who I am by the full body of my work”.
- This comes from Jesus, so it is wise advice, but the problem he is dealing with is that of trying to convince a group of men who have no interest in being convinced.

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### The Gospel of John

- Matthew 7:6 “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”
- It was common in 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine for Jews to refer to Gentiles as “dogs” – but Jesus is not teaching us to avoid gentiles with the Gospel.
- That would run completely counter to a book replete with exhortations to preach the gospel to all nations.

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### The Gospel of John

- The prohibition on giving that which is sacred to pigs and dogs is a prohibition against wasting your time on people who know the truth and don't want it.
- From the Expositor's Commentary - “dogs” and “pigs” refer to any persons who have given clear evidences of rejecting the Gospel with vicious scorn and hardened contempt.
- It would be hard to find a group more deserving of the “dogs” and “pigs” label than the “Jews” of Jesus’ day.

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### The Gospel of John

Of all the people in our lives who could wear the label of “dogs” and “pigs” never is it harder to accept than when those people are our own family. We cannot imagine heaven being heaven if they are sentenced to an eternity of torment. I have seen people offer strange defenses for the coldness and hardness of their brothers, sisters, children, parents, and spouses towards the gospel. Despite all evidence to the contrary, sometimes even their own words, like, “look I just don't believe the Bible”, some well meaning Christians will say things at funerals like, “well Dad believed in his own way”, or “my brother was a good man who believed in God”. When someone tells us by their lack of interest, they do not want to be saved we should believe them and pray for them as the lost souls they admit to being.

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