

**The Gospel of John**

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**The Gospel of John**

**Lesson #55**

**The Journey**

Jim Hoffman

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**The Fishes and the Loaves**



SEA OF GALILEE

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**The Gospel of John**

- John 6:12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" 15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

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### The Gospel of John

- There was more bread and fish than they needed – the miracle was big, but let’s remember it started with some small things.
- “There is a boy here” – a small boy who showed up with a small lunch was all that was needed for a big miracle
- By our measurements the boy had little to offer until he presented what he had to Jesus. (exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think)

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### The Gospel of John

- Most of you in the room could easily finish this sentence for me –
- The issue at the Bema Seat is, What did you do \_\_\_\_\_? (think about the boy and his lunch)
- Rare is the Christian who overvalues him or herself – it is much more likely that we undervalue what we can contribute to the Kingdom.

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### The Gospel of John

Maybe the best perspective is to evaluate ourselves on one issue – am I making use of what I have to serve the Lord, no matter how small or inconsequential it may seem to me? You do not want to be the one who shrugs your shoulders when you stand before Jesus. Do not discount the shame of being the one who must answer, “I mostly used the time, talent, and treasure you gave to me to serve me.” And, if you are thinking, “I will be in Heaven and that is all that matters, please think again”.

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### The Gospel of John

- We are not told much about the results of what happens when we appear before Jesus and give an account for our lives.
- We know the results have nothing to do with whether we are allowed to enter Heaven – that would in fact be some sort of salvation by works.
- However, we do have enough information to know what happens at the Bema Seat matters in eternity. 7

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### The Gospel of John

- Romans 14:10 For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.
- This is not about entrance into Heaven – but it is about a reckoning on some kind where some are rewarded and some are "outed" for squandering the time, talent, and treasure they were given. 8

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### The Gospel of John

- What we don't know is what happens after the Bema based upon our evaluation.
- There must be some significance to the evaluation process, or the Lord wouldn't take the time to tell us about it.
- Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done." 9

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### The Gospel of John

- Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- So what are the rewards we can earn?
- What are they, and why would I care about rewards if all I wanted was Heaven?

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### From gotquestions.org

In this way, rewards in heaven glorify God and provide us with joy, peace, and wonder as we consider God's work in us and through us. The closer we were to God during this life, the more centered on Him and aware of Him, the more dependent on Him, the more desperate for His mercy, the more there will be to celebrate. We are like characters in a story who suffer doubt, loss, and fear, wondering if we will ever really have our heart's desire. When the happy ending comes and desire is fulfilled, there comes a completion. The story would not be satisfying without that completion. Rewards in heaven are the completion of our earthly story, and those rewards will be eternally satisfying.

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### The Gospel of John

“We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.”  
C.S. Lewis

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**The Gospel of John**

**Psalm 16:11**

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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**The Gospel of John**

The boy with the fishes and loaves is unknown by name – he serves as a model for all of us who think we have little to offer to the Lord. I doubt that he ever thought he had something to contribute because he is in a big crowd and when you are small you feel even smaller in a crowd. That day he learned when you lend what you have to the Lord, he has a way making what little we have turn into gifts of immeasurable value to others and the proof of that is we are still talking about him 2,000 years later!

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**The Gospel of John**

- “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” – What prophet?
- In Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses said, **“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—”**
- Moses provided food and water for the Israelites in the desert on more than one occasion – Jesus now provides food, and the interest of the crowd is peaked.

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### The Gospel of John

- This kind of proves that the crowd’s idea of the Messiah they wanted was one who could lead and feed them – having healing too was like a bonus.
- The crowd was hungry and Israel, in general, was angry at being ruled by the Romans.
- When they see the power of Jesus to meet their temporal needs, they (accurately) jump to the conclusion that he was the Messiah.

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### The Gospel of John

- **15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.**
- The crowd desired to be out from under Roman rule and be led by someone who could provide the basics of life and that was pretty much all they wanted.
- They wanted economic and political security so much so they were willing to use force to make Jesus, king - that they thought it possible says everything about them.

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### The Gospel of John

- Jesus could have declared himself King and staged a coup with the backing of the crowds – on more than one occasion he was invited to be King.
- The people wanted relief from the Romans – Jesus wanted them relieved of their sin burden.
- Why do the lost so crave the meeting of their physical needs when a far greater problem is unresolved? Answer – they are blind to their real need.

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### The Gospel of John

- These ones who were so excited about Jesus were excited for the wrong reasons.
- When he was healing and feeding them, they wanted as much as they could get, but as soon as he is not what they wanted they want to force him to change.
- These are not believing people – they were not believing in him as Messiah, they were groping at him for what they could get.

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### The Gospel of John

This is perhaps the best of all tests for true faith in Jesus – are you disappointed that he is not all you expected, or is he better than expected? When we grow beyond what we want from him to what he wants from us, we've come to a new plateau in our faith. We've come to the very point of life – that we were made for him and not the other way around. A mature view of Jesus is one that is full of joy that comes from complete satisfaction in him.

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Questions?

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