

**The Gospel of John**

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**The Gospel of John**

**Lesson #60**

**The Journey**

Jim Hoffman

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**The Gospel of John**

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*John 20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

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**The Gospel of John**

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- If we are serious about reaching the lost, we should seek to serve them the unadulterated Words of God.
- We do not need to “spin”, or in some other way do things to make God look exciting – what is needed today is to get out of his way and let him speak.
- May we stop with the pop psychology sermons, and six steps to accomplish some skill, and tell them what God says – he needs no spin or splash, just let him speak!

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The Gospel of John

L.I.S.W.I.S.



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Brief History

- Jesus fed the 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish.
- His disciples leave for Capernaum encountering a storm of the Sea of Galilee.
- Jesus walks across the sea to rescue them.
- A crowd figures out Jesus crossed without them.
- Jesus tells them not to work for the food that perishes, but do work for the food that is eternal.

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The Gospel of John

- John 6:30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?"
- Do these people have their nerve or what! Jesus could have said, "What about what I did yesterday, and the day before that, and the day before that?"
- They still wanted miracles. They failed to see that miracles, whether healing or food, were just temporary – they wanted miracles, but they needed him!

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### The Gospel of John

• **John 6:31** *Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'*

• They are now comparing Jesus to Moses and the bread he produced for them to the manna that God sent from heaven.

• **Deuteronomy 18:15** *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers."*

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### The Gospel of John

• **John 6:14** *When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"*

• The crowd was effectively saying "Moses fed the people everyday – if you are who we think you are, you will feed us everyday."

• The crowd was not wrong to see Jesus as "the Prophet" of Deuteronomy, they were wrong about his mission.

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### The Gospel of John

John 6:32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

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### Remember these words from John 4?

- John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ***'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.***" ..... ***13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.*** The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

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### The Gospel of John

- Jesus has now opened the subject of "the bread of life" and may have been pointing them to their history where their forefathers were disciplined in the wilderness.

- ***Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.***

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### The Gospel of John

- Why was Israel in the wilderness? - Because they lacked the faith to obey God and take the promised land.
- In Romans 11 Paul speaks of the goodness and severity of God – disqualifying a whole generation of Jews because they would not believe; that was severe.
- The Israelites were alive in the wilderness, but they were not really living because "man does not live by bread alone" – we need so much more.

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## The Gospel of John

- Israel could have enjoyed the land of milk and honey but their lack of trust in Jehovah cost them 40 years and 2 million lives while they walked in circles.
- As they walked in circles, they were existing on something known as manna (“what is it”) so close to the blessings God had for them, yet so far away.
- Jesus doesn’t say it in the text, but he could have added “don’t miss my best for you again”.

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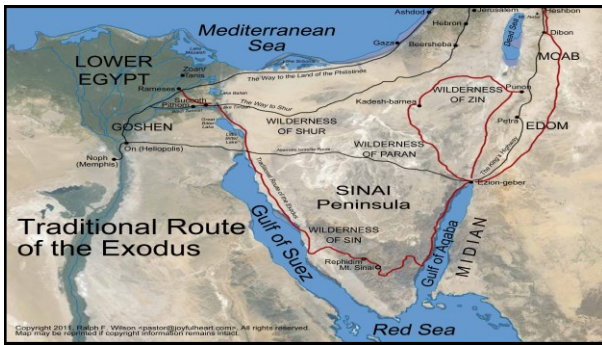
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### The Gospel of John

This is what a disobedient Christian life looks like.



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### Three Tenses of Salvation

- There are three “phases”, or perhaps better stated as “tenses”, of our salvation.
  - Phase 1 of salvation - Justification
  - Phase 2 of salvation - Sanctification
  - Phase 3 of salvation - Glorification



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### Our sanctification could look like this.



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In reality our sanctification usually looks like this.




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### The Gospel of John

- Maybe God has been calling you to do something for him for years, but you lacked confidence and just haven't stepped out in faith.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 18:21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."
- How much more time do you need? – How much more time do you have?

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### The Gospel of John

Do not miss my point. You may have professed faith in Jesus as very young child, a teenager, or an adult and you are headed for heaven. I beg you do not make "just getting there" the goal. You were made for so much more and while many of us in this room are not long for this earth, our time to serve and make much of Jesus has not ended yet. I do not want my legacy to be "he had a lot of potential" and I do not want that for you either. God equipped you to serve - for your own sake, get busy doing something, giving something, witnessing to something, or be praying for something. We all have a part so if you are not busy now for the King, then get busy!

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**The Gospel of John**

Holy Spirit convict me now of all the things that crowd you out of my life – show me what is the good, the better, and the best. Compel me to cease trying to be my own God and spur me on, not merely to avoid sin, but to wholly seek you and may the outworking of my seeking redound to your glory!

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**The Gospel of John**

- John 6:34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”
- The crowd is hungry, but not for what Jesus was offering – they are on a natural plane while Jesus is on a spiritual one.
- Like the woman at the well they know what they want, but they don’t know what they need.

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**The Gospel of John**

- The crowd knew instinctively they needed bread (food) to live – too bad they were never told they needed Jesus to really live.
- The woman at the well wanted the water that never ceased to bubble over so she wouldn’t have to keep going back to the well.
- The “bread” in John 6 and the “water” in John 4 are the same thing – they are both figures of Jesus, the only one who can satisfy our needs now and forever.

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### The Gospel of John

As you may have figured out by now, John 6 is about bread. Bread becomes a metaphor for that which can satisfy our deepest needs. While true that "bread" (food) can be satisfying to our physical needs, food falls way short of mankind's deepest needs. In this chapter Jesus will announce to the crowds that he is the "Bread of Life". In fact, he says, "I am the bread of life" which is another way of saying "God is the bread of life".

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### The Gospel of John

- Jesus says, "**I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**"
- This is the first of his (7) "I AM" statements all of which are intended to connect himself with the God who self proclaims his name to be "**I am who I am**".
- We will encounter all (7) "I am" statements over the next 10 chapters so let me whet your appetite for the first one, "I am the bread of life".

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### The Gospel of John

"If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because we have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Our soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great."  
John Piper

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## The Gospel of John

He didn't come to give us bread (all the things the flesh seeks after), he came to be our bread! He came to be sought after as the only one, or thing, that can satisfy the deepest and most prevalent need we have; life. We were made for life and nothing other than God himself can satisfy that most basic need. We must want Jesus to such a degree that a place where there is no sin, where there is no sadness, no death, and no more suffering and loss will be a disappointment if Jesus is not there.

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Questions?

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