

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

This study will examine the witness of John and of the Holy Spirit as to the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the gospel of John. Some in the past and in our day have claimed that the Scriptures do not proclaim Him God, nor did He claim it. As you will see in this book, nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus reigns!

The Outline of the Book:

- I. Introduction and statement of Jesus' Divinity 1:1-18
- II. Jesus' divinity revealed 1:19-12:50
- III. Christ's teaching to His disciples 13:1-17:26
- IV. Christ's arrest, trials, crucifixion and burial 18:1-19:42
- V. He is risen! 19:1-21:25

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

I. Introduction and statement of Jesus' divinity.

Read through Jn 1:1-18

1. "In the beginning..."

- a. What other book of the bible begins like this?

- b. What is said about the Word in verses 1-5?
 - In the beginning was the Word.
 - He was with God.
 - He was God (It is stronger in the original language, lit. "And God was the Word).
 - Through Him all things were made. (See Heb 1:1-4)
 - Without Him nothing was made that has been made.
 - In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

- c. About the term "the Word." Calling Jesus the Word is a statement that He is the embodiment of Who God is and what God does.
 - Look at Jn 14:5-14, especially verses 7 and 10). What do they tell you about Him?
 - Look at verse 1:14 - What has the Word done?
 - What is His revealed name? Lk 2:21
 - What of His other names? Jer 23:6, Mtt 1:22-23
 - What does it mean? Mtt 1:18-21

2. The Word reveals the invisible God. Look up the following:

- a. Ex 33:20
- b. Dt 4:12
- c. Job 9:11
- d. Jn 5:37
- e. Col 1:15
- f. 1 Tim 1:17
- g. 1 Tim 6:6
- f. 1 Jn 4:12

3. What are the implications of Jn 1:18?

For next week read John through once if you can. Pay special attention to 1:1-18 and do the following:

- a. Look up Is 40:1-11, Mal 2:17-3:5 (esp 3:1) and Mal 4:5-6 / Lk 1:11-17 and write down what they tell you.**
- b. Look up Mtt 3:1-17, Lk 3:1-22 and write down what they tell you.**
- c. Finally, look at Mtt 11:1-19 - Who is the Elijah who was to come.**

II. From Jn 1:10-14 what does the text say about the One we call the Word?

III. From Jn 1:10-18: What was John's testimony about Jesus?

John 2019-2020

Son of God, Son of Man

I. Introduction and Statement of Jesus' Divinity: John the Baptist

4. Describe the man mentioned in 1:6-8. What can you learn about him? *Note, the one described here is another person than the author of this gospel who has the same first name.*

- a. He was sent from God.**
- b. His name was John**
- c. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light (See Is 40/Jn 1:29-34).**
- d. He was not the light. He bore witness to the Light that was coming.**

5. Look up Is 40:1-11, Mal 2:17-3:5 (esp. 3:1) and Mal 4:5-6 / Lk 1:11-17 and write down what they tell you.

a. Is 40:1-11 A voice of one calling - Prepare the Way.

- God's glory would be revealed and mankind will see it.
- Mankind and their works are like the grass that is here and gone. God's word stands forever.
- He (John) would go to Jerusalem and the towns of Judah declaring: "Behold your God!"
 - * "See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power and His arm rules for Him." By "*His arm rules for Him*" it is meant that He has the power and authority to reign in and of Himself. He needs no assistance.
 - * His reward is with Him and His recompense accompanies Him. See Phil 2:5-11.
- He is the Good Shepherd (See Jn 10).

b. Mal 2:17-3:5

- God is going to deal in justice with this messed up world.
- He will send His messenger to prepare the way before Him (John).
- Then, the Messenger of the Covenant (Jesus) will come, but who can endure the day of His appearing?
 - * He will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.
 - * He will purify the Levites and spiritually restore Judah and Jerusalem.
 - * Sin will be exposed.

c. Mal 4:5-6/Lk 1:11-17

- God will send Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.
 - * He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and children to their fathers.
 - * Those who reject Him will suffer judgment. (e.g., Lk 19:44)
- Zechariah would have a son named John.
 - * He would be a joy and delight to him.
 - * Many will rejoice because of his birth for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.
 - * He will be a Nazarite (Num 6).
 - * He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb.
 - * He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord.
 - * He will go on before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah in fulfillment of Mal 4:5-6 and Is 40:1-11.

6. Look up Mtt 3:1-17, Lk 3:1-22 and write down what they tell you.

a. In the 15th year of Tiberias Caesar, while Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod Tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Tetrarch of Iturea and Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas - the word of the Lord came to

John in the desert and he began to preach.

- He preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- He came in fulfillment of God's promise (e.g., Is 40:1-11).
- He warned the crowds (and especially the religious leaders) to repent in action not mere words (e.g., Joel 2:13).
- He declared that it was judgment day! The ax was already at the root of the trees.
- He himself was not the Christ - but, He was coming and He was greater.
- The Christ was coming with all authority.

c. Finally, look at Mtt 11:1-19 - Who is the Elijah who was to come. John the Baptist.

7. From Jn 1:10-14 what does the text say about the One we call the Word.

- He was in the world that He made, yet the world did not recognize Him.
- He came to that which was His own (Israel) but they did not receive Him.
- Yet to those who did receive Him (who believed in His name), He gave the right to become children of God.
 - Children not born by any human agency.
 - Children born of God (See Jn 3:1-21, esp. vs 5-8).
- The Word became flesh and dwelt/tented among us.
- We have seen His glory (See 1 Jn 1:1-4).
 - The glory of the One and Only (or Only Begotten) who came from the Father.
 - The glory of the One who is full of grace and truth.

8. From Jn 1:15: What was John's testimony about Jesus?

- Here He is! This is the one I have been speaking about!
- He is "greater than I and is before me."
- This next is probably not John the Baptist's testimony but that of the apostle John (1:16-18):
 - From the fullness of His grace we have received blessings!
 - The Law was given through Moses (and condemns us) but grace and truth came through Jesus.
 - He alone is (and has been) the visible revelation of God to man.

- * He is God the One and Only.
- * He makes God known.

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: 1:19-12:50

1. John's ministry fulfilled. Jn 1:19-51

- a. He freely confessed that he was not the Christ.

- b. The religious leaders of the Jews wanted to know who he said he was.
 - What was John? (See vs 23)
 - What had he been doing?
 - Where was he doing this?
 - John said he was what? (Isaiah 40:1-11)
 - Who did God say he was? (Lk 1:11-17, see also Mal 2:17-5, 4:5-6)

- c. Why did John say he baptized?
 - One stood among them about whom they were unaware.
 - This one was unimaginably great.

- d. One day later John saw Jesus coming toward him.
 - What did he tell his own disciples about Jesus? What did he call Him?
 - Look up:
 - * Is 53:7
 - * 1 Cor 5:7
 - * 1 Pet 1:18-19
 - * Rev 5:6, 7:9, 15:3, 21:22
 - Look at Heb 9:11-15, 23-28.
 - What was significant about calling Jesus the "Lamb" of God.
 - God had revealed Jesus' identity to John for what purpose? See Mtt 3:1-12, 13-17; Mk 1:9-11, Lk 3:1-20
 - * So He would be _____ to Israel.
 - * So _____ would know Him.

- e. John sent his own disciples after Jesus (1:35-42)
 - Andrew and one other followed Him and spent the day with Him.
 - Andrew sought out his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus.
 - * What did Andrew believe about Jesus?
 - * What did Jesus do just as soon as Peter was introduced to Him? (And why is this important?)

f. Jesus left for Galilee and called Philip.

- What did Philip do?
- What was Philip's opinion of Nazareth? (See Is 53:1-2, Jn 12:37-41, Jn 7:45-52 / Is 9:1-7 - Where were the people *not* expecting the Messiah to come from?)

How do our pre-conceived ideas hinder our spiritual perception?

How important is it to hold everything up to the Word?

How did the pre-conceived ideas/opinions of the religious leaders hinder them?

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

2. A Glimpse of Glory - Water into wine

2:1-11

- a. Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana (His mom also)
- The wedding hosts ran out of wine (A big social faux pas).
 - Mary brought it up to Jesus.
 - * Why?
 - * What does this reveal about what she believed about Him?
 - Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do.
 - How much wine did Jesus make?
- b. What kind of wine did Jesus make?
- Who knew?
 - How did His disciples respond?

3. A Matter of Authority

2:12-25

- a. Jesus went up to the temple courts at Passover.
- b. What did He find there? See also Mtt 21:12, Mk 11:15 / Is 56:4-8
- Buyers of sacrificial animals (See Dt 14:22-27)
 - Money changers - Denarii and Drachmae turned into "Sanctuary Shekels." *The idea was to keep secular, "tainted" money out of the sacred temple. So "Sanctuary Shekels" were minted and exchanged for common currency so worshippers could offer "unpolluted" coins to God. Of course the minting and labor to exchange coins involved labor, material etc. and had to be paid for so those minting and exchanging the coins added their percentage. They were there making money by offering a service - in the nation's house of worship. The courtyard where they operated the buying/selling and money exchange would have been the Court of the Gentiles. This was the place set aside at the temple where Gentiles could come to worship God. What does this tell you about the concern of the temple authorities for the spiritual welfare of Gentiles? Can you see why Jesus became angry? (See 1 Thess 2:13-16). How do you feel about for profit coffee bars, etc. in churches? Why?*
 - By whose permission would those people be there plying their trades? The temple authorities! The High Priest and his associates.

c. Jesus asserted His authority

- He made a whip (Premeditated, not an act of rage).
- Drove people and animals out of the temple area.
- Scattered the coins of the money changers.
- Rebuked the sellers of doves (Lev 5:7, 14:30).

d. His disciples remembered something. What is it?

e. The Jewish authorities demanded to know what miraculous sign Jesus could show to prove His authority to do all this.

- What did He tell them?
- How did they respond?
- When was this fulfilled?

4. What did the people see at Passover? (vs 23-25)

a. How did they respond?

b. What does it mean to “believe in His name?”

c. Why didn’t Jesus trust the people?

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

1. Jesus meets with Nicodemus

Jn 3:1-21

- a.** Nick was a Pharisee and a member of the ruling council ("Sanhedrin").
- He came to Jesus by night. *Many assume that it was because he didn't want to be seen. But the Pharisees usually were tradesmen and had day jobs. It is best not to make too much out of this.*
 - He had come to some conclusions about Jesus:
 - * "We" know (who else was Nick referring to here? Maybe Joseph of Arimathea See Jn 19:38-42) that Jesus was a teacher who came from God.
 - * Why? Because "no one could perform the miraculous signs" that Jesus was doing if God wasn't with him. Pretty good logic. He had eyes and ears and knew what he observed. See Act 2:22-24.
- b.** Jesus told him that truly, no one could enter the kingdom of God unless they were spiritually changed. "Born again" would be better translated "born from above."
- Nick wasn't sure about that. He was probably older, at the peak of his ministry, at the pinnacle of his achievement (ruling council, "the teacher of Israel" [vs 10] etc). He had scaled the "mountain of success" and Jesus was telling him that he'd climbed the wrong hill.
 - Jesus reiterated and expanded on his earlier statement:
 - * No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit (physical and spiritual birth).
 - * Nick shouldn't be surprised at this - just as we cannot see the wind but know its characteristics and existence by seeing/feeling its effects, so although genuine faith is a work of the invisible Spirit, we can see its effects in ourselves and others.
 - Nick begged for further explanation and Jesus gave it to him:
 - * "We" (the Father, Spirit and Son) testify (through words and signs) to what we have seen and you people don't accept it."
 - * "I've spoken of the basics and you are not getting it, how are you going to handle deep stuff?"
 - * No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from there - Jesus (Dt 30:12, Rom 10:6). Just as the Israelites had to look at the raised up serpent to be healed (Nu 21:6-9), so everyone now needs to look to (believe in) Christ when He is lifted up (Crucified) to have eternal life.
 - * For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son ...
 - * The Son came not to condemn but to save.
 - * Whosoever believes in Him is not condemned - whosoever does not believe is

self condemned. They love darkness rather than light.

2. John the Baptist's Ministry Fulfilled

Jn 3:22-36

a. After Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus, he and His disciples went to a place in the Judean countryside where He spent time with them and where they baptized people.

b. John the Baptist was also in the area (it had plenty of water)

- A dispute arose between (apparently see vs 26) some of Jesus' disciples and those of John.

* They were apparently jealous for their teacher because the crowds that once followed him were now following Jesus.

* Yet John had testified about Jesus to his followers (See Jn 1:19-34).

* John said that things were as they should be: He came to prepare the way for Jesus. He was to increase, while John would become less. That meant that John had done his job!

c. This next (vs 31-36) may be John the Baptist's words or they may be John the apostle's. Either way they are from God and breathed out by His Spirit.

- The One from above (Jesus) is above all, the one from the earth belongs to it and speaks as such.

- The one from heaven testifies to what He has seen and heard but no one accepts His testimony. (See Is 53:1).

* The man who accepts it testifies that God is truthful

* By implication, the one who does not accept it (gospel) calls God a liar.

- The One God sent (Jesus), speaks God's words and God has given Him the Spirit without limit.

- The Son is loved by the Father and has placed everything in His hands (Dan 7).

- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, whoever rejects Him has God's wrath.

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

It will be beneficial to your understanding of the situation described to do a little homework in the Old Testament.

Look up 2 Kings 17 and read verses 7-23.

a. *How did they (Israel) merit God's discipline?*

b. *But that isn't all: Their rebellion against God began generations earlier.*

- *Read 1 Kings 11:26-40*

* *What was Jeroboam promised? (See 11:37-39)*

* *Why was God dividing Solomon's kingdom? (11:33-33).*

- *What did Jeroboam do to corrupt the northern kingdom spiritually? (See 1 Kings 2:23-33, chapter 13, 14).*

* *How long did this go on? (See 15:25-26, 33-34; 16:18-19, 25-26, 29-33; 1 Kings 22:51-55, 2 Kings 10:30-31, 13:1-3, 10-11, 14:23-24, 15:8-9, 17-18, 23-24, 27-28; 2 Kings 17).*

* *Was God patient with the northern kingdom that ruled from Samaria?*

c. *How was the territory resettled by Assyria? (2 Kings 17:24-41).*

* *What kind of priest did the King of Assyria send back to Samaria? See 2 Chron 13:8-9 - this passage will give you a good idea of the nature of the "priesthood" of the northern kingdom and why it wouldn't have been a good thing.*

d. *The Southern Jewish kingdom (Judah) was sent into captivity a few decades later and after 70 years, was allowed to return home. They sought to rebuild the temple and the resettled pagans in Samaria wanted to help. How did that turn out (Ezr 4:1-5).*

So - there was a multi-generational animosity between the Samaritans and the Jews. To call a Jew a Samaritan was an insult (Jn 8:48). That is the background for John 4.

3. Jesus departed Judea and travelled to Galilee - through Samaria. 4:1-42

a. His disciples went into town to buy food (vs 8) and Jesus sat down by the well.

b. A Samaritan woman came to draw water at mid day.

c. Jesus violated social custom and the prevailing ethnic animus and spoke to her, asking for a drink.

- She expressed surprise that he a Jew, would ask a Samaritan woman for anything.
- So Jesus tells her that if she knew who He was, she'd ask for more than just water. (What was He speaking about? See Jn 7:37-39).

- The woman, continuing the conversation, makes a couple of observations. What are they? (vs 11-12).

- What claim does Jesus make in 4:13-14?

- How does He reveal Himself to be more than a man in verses 15-18?

* Her response initially is that Jesus was a _____. (vs 19)

* She now wants some clarification regarding the proper way/place to worship. What does the Lord tell her?

d. In verses 27-38 several things happen: The disciples return from town with food, the woman had gone back to town and was telling everyone about Jesus, and the disciples wanted to eat.

- They didn't have the gumption to ask Him why He'd been speaking to a woman.

- The woman must have been pretty excited when she went back to town. Who did she believe she had just met (See vs 25-26)?

- Jesus deferred eating as there was a crowd coming toward Him from town.

* What were the disciples blind to at that moment (See vs 34-38)?

* What does this tell you about human priorities? Is everything that is important urgent or vice versa? What was Jesus focused on?

e. From verses 39-42, what was the result of Jesus' time in Samaria?

- How long did He stay with them?

- Why did the Samaritans believe?

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

4. After two days (see vs 40), He (Jesus) left for Galilee.

4:43-54

a. The Galileans welcomed Him.

- Why? See verse 45)

- What is the point of miracles? (e.g., Jn 14:11, Act 2:22)

- What about people who seek miracles? Think about today's snake handlers and compare this with Lk 10:18-20, Act 28:1-10. What is the difference?

- For people who were always seeking a sign, what was Jesus' message? Mtt 12:39, Lk 11:29

b. Jesus visited Cana again (where He'd performed a miracle on His 1st visit).

- A royal official who's son was deathly sick in Capernaum (16 mi away). He heard that Jesus was there and went to beg Jesus to heal his son.

- Why did Jesus answer him the way that He did? (vs 48). What is implied in Jesus' answer?

- For the official, when did politics and men's opinions cease to matter?

- How was this boy healed?
 - * The message here seems to be about authority - What do people usually want in a crisis/need? See 2 King 5:11-12. Jesus insisted that He be taken at His word.

 - * Jesus asserted His authority and the result was what?

c. How did the official respond?

- Faith/trust + action stemming from that faith. Would it have been hard to obey?

- When was the boy healed? The message for us in this?

- What did this prompt the man and his family to do?

So, what *is* faith? Heb 11:1, 6

What are some other words that describe faith?

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

5. The Man at the Pool

5:1-30

- a.** Jesus found a man at a pool called Bethesda. People were laid there in the hope that they might receive healing there.*
- He had been an invalid (weak, frail, suffering) for 38 years.
 - Jesus saw him lying there, learned of his condition and asked him, "Do you want to get well?"
 - * Why would Jesus ask him *if* he wanted to get well?
 - * Why would anyone choose to remain in misery when change was possible?
- b.** The man answered with an excuse.
- Jesus told him to get up, pick up his mat and walk.
 - What choice did the man have at this point?
- c.** The day Jesus healed him was a Sabbath. What statement was He making? See Mtt 12:12-13, Mk 2:23-27, Jn 7:23, 9:14 - What is Jesus asserting here?
- What conflict did the Jewish authorities have? ("Jews" in the text. When used like this it means the leaders/teachers. They were all mostly Jews!). Remember Nicodemus in Jn 3:1-2 or see Jn 10:21.
 - Jesus found the man at the temple and warned him to "stop sinning" or something worse might happen to him. What's worse than an infirmity? (Mk 8:36).
- d.** Because He was doing these things (apparently the man at the pool was one miracle of many) the Jews persecuted Jesus.
- Jesus made a very clear claim in 5:16-30 - His Father is always at work...and so is He.
 - * By claiming God as *His* Father He was making a clear statement of Divinity. Had He said that God was *the* Father He would have made no such claim. But He was clear and they took immediate umbrage at His claim (Jn 5:16-18).
 - * In 5:19-23 Jesus makes what claims for Himself? List them:

** In the NIV verse 4 is omitted as the oldest manuscripts do not have it. It appears to be a scribal addition made later. One of the blessings of living in our day/time is the sheer wealth of ancient manuscripts, complete and partial that have been found in our lifetime. There are thousands available. And far earlier than anything available that was used for Bible translation in years past. This is why textual scholarship/translation is a continuing and urgent task. The Bible in its original transmission is inerrant. But human translations are not, and the utmost effort and attention must be made to faithfully communicate God's Word.*

* In 5:24 - 30 the Lord makes more claims: Again, list them.

Do you think that these claims are an assertion of Jesus' divinity? Explain.

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

6. The Witness to Jesus' Identity and Authority

5:31-47

a. In verses 31-46 Jesus makes a statement about who testifies in His favor.

- From the context, who is this? How?
- Also, how did John (the Baptist) testify about Jesus (See Mtt 3:1-17/Jn 1:29-34)?
- If people rejected John's testimony who's testimony did they reject also? Who sent John (See Jn 1:6-9, 15)?

b. What was the testimony that Jesus had that was weightier than that of John?

Think about this. Jesus stated that "among those born of women, there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist." Not Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha etc.

- How did the Father testify concerning Jesus? See Mtt 11:20-21, Jn 10:22-30, 37; 14:11, 15:24; Act 2:22.
- In verses 37-44 Jesus makes some statements about the unbelief of the religious leaders:
 - * Vs 37
 - * Vs 38
- Why does He say that God's word did not dwell in those leaders?
 - * They studied/examined the scriptures diligently.
 - * They believed that by them (scriptures) they had eternal life.
 - * Yet professing to believe the word, they rejected who?
 - * Can a person be religious and yet an unbeliever? Look at Jer 8:8.

c. Why did Jesus reject the praise of men v(s 41-44)? See also Jn 2:23-25.

- What did Jesus say to His opponents regarding their spiritual condition (5:42-44)?
- Whose praise were they seeking? See also Jn 12:37-43

d. In vs 45-47 Jesus pointed out the inconsistency of the religious leaders:

- They claimed to follow Moses but Moses wrote about Jesus.
- They found themselves in the odd position of revering Moses, yet rejecting his words.
- Look up Rom 10:1-4 and answer the following questions:
 - * Were the Israelites zealous for God?
 - * Was their zeal based on a true knowledge of scripture?
 - * What were they ignorant of? See Rom 1:16-18
 - * How did their attempt at self justification compare with Phil 3:1-11?
 - * In the end, where did this leave them (Rom 10:3)?
 - * When we say, "The end justifies the means," what do we mean by the "end?"

John 2019-2020

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

6. The Bread of Life

6:1-71

- a. The Feeding of the five thousand (See also Mtt 14, Mk 6 and Lk 9). (vs 1-4)
- A hard time (Read Mtt 14:1-14). John the Baptist had just been executed and Jesus took His disciples to a solitary place (Mk 6/Lk 9) show it to be near Bethsaida, a fishing town a distance from the market towns of the region. It was also the home town of Andrew, Peter and Phillip).
 - * He wanted to get some rest from the demands of the crowds that had been continually coming and going to be healed and to hear Him.
 - * The disciples were just returning from a ministry tour one which He had sent them on and He wanted time to go over with them how things had gone.

 - They sat down on a hill. Traditionally it is thought to be the hill that Bethsaida sits on. It overlooks the northern end of the lake, which when full, laps at its base.

 - A great crowd (numbering thousands - see verse 10 and Mtt 14:21) was in the near distance coming toward them.
 - * This is the truth of 2 Tim 4:2 - God's servant must be prepared to serve "in season and out of season." That is, when it is convenient and when it is not.
 - * Fact - ministry opportunity and demands do not present themselves on our schedule.

 - Jesus saw ministry, the disciples only saw a problem. (vs 5-9)
 - * He asked Philip: Where are we going to buy bread for these folks?
 - * Philip was from this place, as were Peter and Andrew. The massive crowd that was approaching surely worried them. It was very likely beyond the respires of the town to feed them. Would they be blamed by their friends/family?
 - * Andrew seems to have found a kid with a lunch - 5 small loaves of bread and two small fish. A kid-sized lunch for a kid.
 - * Jesus already knew what He was going to do, but He wanted to stretch His disciples. When you are presented with a need or ministry opportunity do you Pray about it or run screaming from the building? If you only serve in your "comfort zone," will you ever grow?

- The Lord had the people sit down in groups of 100s and 50s (Mk 6) and fed them.
 - * The people were allowed to eat as much as they wished. (God is a generous provider!).
 - * When it was all over, Jesus had the disciples gather the uneaten food. There was enough for each of the 12 to have their own basket.

- The crowd saw the sign, deemed Jesus “the Prophet” and sought to make Him king. Jesus withdrew up to a mountain alone.

When needs/problems present themselves, do you see an obstacle or opportunity?
Do you just want the problem to go away or do you pray for God’s help in confronting it.

Do you believe that God is sovereign and already has a solution?

Do you believe that He is able?

What does this miracle indicate about Jesus?

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: Continued - 1:19-12:50

6. The Bread of Life

6:1-71

b. "Doubting Faith"

6:16-25

- Having fed the multitude, Jesus sent His disciples across the lake to Capernaum while He remained behind.
- * He had avoided the crowd (who wanted to take Him by force and make Him king).
- * Remember that He had initially gone to the area of Bethsaida to draw apart from the crowds for a while (See Mtt 14:13).
- * Now He had sent his disciples ahead of Him by boat while He remained in the vicinity of the crowd, a crowd with an agenda (as we will see as we continue through this chapter).

A note here: People do not "use" God. He cannot be played. Jesus had a plan and it would now begin to unfold.

- The disciples struggled to cross that corner of the lake by boat (The wind and waves were against them - Mtt 14:24). It was a distance of roughly 6 miles. They must have assumed that Jesus was going to walk and meet them there.
- * In Mtt 14 it reveals that immediately after the 5k were fed, Jesus had sent His disciples away while He dismissed the crowds and went up on the mountainside to pray. Sometimes we need to get alone with the Father!
- They battled the wind and had to row. They'd made it roughly 4 miles and were likely worn out.
- It was getting toward dawn (Mtt 14:25) and they were still a couple miles from their destination. They were sleepy, worn out and probably grouchy.
- * Jesus came toward them walking on the water and they were frightened (The word in the original means "disturbed, agitated, upset, etc."). This was *super-natural*. That is, it defied any rational, naturalistic explanation and it crept them out.
- * Jesus called out to them "It is I, don't be afraid." Matt records the additional info that Peter impulsively asked to come out to Jesus on the water. One can denigrate him for his lack of faith and subsequent wet clothes, but the point is, he went while the others remained in the boat. This is akin to Mk 9:24.

It is easy to "arm chair quarterback" someone else's actions when we were not on the field. Be merciful.

- There is another miracle related in this account - upon Jesus entering the boat, they immediately found themselves at their destination (See also Acts 8:26-40).
He who made the universe has authority over it.

- c. The crowds discovered that they could not control Jesus. vs 22-24
Over the course of Jesus' ministry, factions in Israel wanted to get Him on their "side." Failing that, they tried to destroy Him. His teaching and popularity were a perceived threat to their aspirations unless He was "with" them.
- The following day the crowd that had stayed behind realized two things:
 - * The disciples went away without Jesus.
 - * Jesus was not there with them.
 - So they returned to Capernaum to search for Jesus.

Jesus did not come to take sides, He came to take over.

Why were they searching for Jesus?

- ***He healed their sick.***
- ***He fed them.*** Next Sunday we will cover Jn 6:25-71 and it will be plain that people were on the "Jesus bandwagon" for selfish reasons. Yesterday He fed them. But... what had He done for them today?
 - * *How do we approach God? Is He a cosmic gum-ball machine or is He Lord of all, of us?*
 - * *Do we come to Him with an agenda or to seek His will. (Jas 4:1-10).*

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: 1:19-12:50

6. The Bread of Life (continued)

6:1-71

- d.** The crowd followed Jesus from Bethsaida and found Him by Capernaum. Why?
- Jesus called them out: **6:25-31**
 - * They had an agenda. They wanted something from Jesus - more free food. See Jas 4:1-10.
 - * Jesus warned them not to work for "food" that spoiled. (See Isaiah 55:1-3/Ps 63:1-5).
 - + They were to seek food that endures to eternal life which the Son gives.
 - + The Father has placed His seal of approval on Him (See Act 2:22, Jn 3:1-2).
 - The crowds wanted to cut to the "chase" - "What do we have to do?"
 - * The "work" of God is this: Believe on the One He has sent."
 - * The crowd offered a suggestion: bread. Manna from heaven. (Ex 16:4)

- e.** Jesus told them that what they wanted was not what they needed. **6:32-34**
- They looked to Moses. Jesus made the point that God provided manna for their ancestors.
 - The true "bread" comes from God - Jesus.
 - * He came down from heaven.
 - * He gives life to the world.

While they viewed Him as the driver of the "bread truck," He begged to differ. These are clear statements: He is Divine and gives life.

- They still thought in terms of physical bread. We people are stubborn critters. We want what we want. That is why we often have to labor in prayer until God deals with us. (1 Jn 5:13-15, Lk 18:1-8, Mtt 6:8)

- f.** Jesus declared that "I am the bread of life." **6:35-40**
- He who comes to Him will never go hungry (See again Is 55:1-3)
 - He who believes in Him will never go thirsty (ditto verse above)
 - But although they had seen the miracles attesting to His divinity, they still; didn't believe.

For them as often for us, Jesus is seen as a means to an end. He is Lord! Not the "gum-ball machine in the sky."

- Jesus further stated that all that the Father gives to Him will come to Him and that whoever comes to Him He will never drive away.
- * He stated that He came down from heaven to do the Father's will, not His own.
- * And He stated that the Father's will is that He shall lose none of all He gave Him but raise them up on the last day.

A word here needs to be said about eternal security:

- ***Just claiming to be a Christian does not make one a Christian. Trusting Christ does.***
- ***Some who profess the faith later fall away. Some after years of outwardly faithful profession and outward good works. (See Matt 7:15-23, 1 Jn 2:18-19) In thinking about such people there are only two possibilities:***
 - * ***First and most likely, they were never truly believers at all but just playing church. If a person's attitude is that, "OK, I prayed the prayer, now I have "fire insurance" and can do whatever I want. Well, such a mindset betrays an unregenerate heart. "We died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?" (Rom 6:2b)***
 - * ***Second and possible, if a believer drifts away from following Christ they place themselves in a great disability. See 2 Pet 1:3-11***
 - + ***They become ineffective and unproductive in their knowledge of Jesus.***
 - + ***They become "blind because they are near-sighted" - that is, they no longer see things from a Spirit - directed perspective but only from a sinfully flawed view.***
 - + ***They can even forget that they were cleansed from their past sins.***
 - + ***Also, it seems from other scriptures (e.g., 1 Cor 5, 1 Jn 5) that God reserves The right to remove unrepentant believers from this earth. A "sin unto death?"***

For next week read John 6 again and look at how Jesus means it when He says He is the bread of life. Think about why the crowd began to grumble.

Why did Jesus's disciples begin to desert Him?

- ***What did Jesus say to them?***
- ***How does the Spirit give life? See also John 3***
- ***How does the flesh (human effort) count for nothing? Why? See Rom 10:1-4***
- ***Why did the 12 stay with Him?***

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: 1:19-12:50

6. The Bread of Life (continued)

6:1-71

- g.** The people who had followed Him began to grumble because He said that He was the bread that came down from heaven. **6:41-46**
- Just as the Father had given manna to eat in the wilderness, so He sent Christ. Jesus called God "my Father" claiming equality with God (See 5:16-18).
 - They wanted Him to do what they wanted - provide for them (See 6:25-31, 34). They were happy to follow Him as long as they got what they wanted.
 - Jesus rebuked them.
 - * Yes, they were unhappy with Him ("And to think, I walked all this way!")
 - * They were not His. The Father will draw people to Jesus and Jesus ("I") will raise them up at the last day. Here Jesus clearly declares His power over death.
 - * If the people were listening to God, they would come to Jesus.
- Their problem was they wanted things from God but they didn't want Him.***

- h.** He is making His identity the issue: **6:47-51**
- He is the Bread of Life. What they needed wasn't loaves and fish. Their deepest need was salvation and He was the only way. (Jn 14:6, Act 4:12)
 - Bread is bread. Only a temporary filling of the stomach.
 - Anyone "eating" (equated in the text with belief/coming to Him) will have everlasting life. He is claiming clearly prerogatives that are solely Divine.
 - Anyone who eats His bread will live forever. And He gives this bread for the life of the world (E.g., Jn 3:16).

Jesus time and again made His identity the issue (e.g., Lk 18:18)

Who do you say that He is?

- i.** They began to argue over what He meant. **6:52-58**
- He makes it plain that unless they ate his bread and drank His blood (equated in the text with "believing in Him and coming to Him see vs 36-40).
 - He is the giver of eternal life.
 - He is the One who will raise the dead.
 - He is the Sustainer/Bread that came down from heaven. (See Heb 1:1-3)
 - Those who ate manna died. Those who eat/come to Him will live forever.

He is the Creator, Sustainer, only Lord and Savior

- j.** Hearing this, many of His “disciples” said - “This is hard and unacceptable. **6:59-65**
- Jesus, told them, “If this offends you, what will happen to you when you see Me as Lord? *You don’t want to be on the wrong side of Him at the judgment!*
 - Salvation cannot be earned (“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing”). For a very similar declaration, look at John 3:5-8. Human works yield a human result. The Spirit gives life.

John 3:36

- k.** Although many disciples turned away, some of them got it.

6:66-71

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: 1:19-12:50

7. The Well of Life

John 7

a. Jesus remained in Galilee, purposely avoiding Judea because the Jews there wanted to kill Him. 1-13

- The Feast of Tabernacles was near (early Fall) and his brothers urged Him to go and make a name for Himself. They thought He was in the religion "business."
- They didn't believe - but they would. (Matt 28:23-28, 1 Cor 15:1-8).
- Jesus told them to go. For them, any time was right. But God is precise (e.g., Mk 1:15, Gal 4:4, Eph 1:9-10, 1 Tim 2:5-6, Tit 1:1-3, Heb 9:23-28).

b. Jesus later went up secretly to the feast. 14-19

- He went up to the temple courts and began to teach.
- The leaders were amazed by His knowledge (He hadn't gone to *their* schools).
- They had disdain for those who were not "illuminated." (See Jn 7:48-52)
 - * Jesus asserted His authority to teach - His teaching came from the Father.
 - * Those who chose to do God's will would recognize that.
- Jesus worked for the honor of the Father.
- By contrast, although they had the Law, they sought to kill Him.

c. The crowd wanted to know who wanted to kill Him? 20-24

- He responded that He'd done a miracle (which showed Who He came from), and they (the leaders and Pharisees) were enraged.
- Yet perversely, those same leaders would ""break" the law in order to circumcise a child on the 8th day.
- And He rebuked them, in effect telling them to get their facts straight (vs 24).

d. The crowds began to realize the tension between the temple authorities and the Pharisees and Jesus. 25-32

- "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? Yet here He is speaking publicly, and they are silent."
 - * Have the authorities really concluded that He is the Christ?
 - * But we know where this man is from (e.g., Mtt 13:55, Jn 6:42).
 - * No one will know where the Christ is from."
- Jesus responded to them head on:
 - * "Yes, you know Me, and you know where I and from.
 - * I am not here on My own, but He who sent Me is true.
 - * I am from Him and He sent Me."

- e. The leaders tried to seize Him but couldn't (Why? Not yet time!).** **33-35**
- Many in the crowd put their faith in Him.
 - Why? The miracles spoke for themselves.
 - The Pharisees and Chief Priests sent guards to arrest Him.
- f. Jesus warned the crowd to listen to Him while they could: His time was limited.**
- He was going back to the One who sent Him.
 - They would look for Him but not find Him.
 - Where He was going, they could not (in their unregenerate state) come.
 - They just could not grasp this.
- g. One the last (and greatest) day of the feast He gave an invitation:** **36-44**
- "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (See Is 55:1-3)
 - Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." Compare this with Jer 2:13, 17:13.
 - He was referring to the Holy Spirit whom those who believed in Him were later to receive - after He was glorified.
 - The crowds were divided:
 - * Some held Him to be the Prophet, others, the Christ.
 - * Still others could not reconcile this with His perceived origins.
 - * Some wanted to seize Him but no one did.
- h. The guards came back empty handed - "No one ever spoke the way this man does."** **45-52**
- The leaders in frustration rebuked the guards:
 - * Had any of the rulers or Pharisees believed? No!
 - * They viewed the crowds that they feared as an ignorant impediment to their wish.
 - Nicodemus asked if their law condemned a man unheard and was rebuked.
 - * They ridiculed him and demonstrated their own ignorance.
 - * Read Is 9:1-6 - They missed something major.

Take aways from this chapter:

God's timing is perfect and can be trusted.

We need to know the facts (regarding Jesus) and not make a hasty judgment.

Jesus is the source of living water.

God's patience has a limit.

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: 1:19-12:50

8. A woman caught in a scheme. 8:1-11

- a. Brought by the teachers of the law and Pharisees.
- b. Caught in the "act." (Where was the man?)
- c. Brought to Jesus for a verdict:
 - If He said, "Stone her," they could turn Him in to the authorities. Only Rome had the right to exact capital penalties.
 - If He advised leniency, they could claim that He was not upholding the law. They thought they they had Him.
- d. Jesus sought their qualification to judge:
 - He bent down and wrote on the ground.
 - "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the 1st to throw a stone at her."
- e. One by one, from oldest to youngest her accusers went away.
 - All of us are sinners.
 - Only God is the Judge (See John 5:22-23, Rom 12:9-21)
 - * Yes, there is a God.
 - * No, you are not Him.
- f. Jesus sent her off, but admonished her to abandon her sinful behavior.

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: 1:19-12:50

9. Jesus' claim to divinity challenged

8:12-59

- a. He is the light of the world (1:3-5).
- Whoever follows Him will never walk in darkness (They will see! See chpt 9)
 - Whoever follows Him will have the light of life (Truth/gospel).
- b. The Pharisees disputed His statement as to their minds, He was making unsubstantiated claims. But was He? (See Jn 3:1-2, 6:36, 7:23, 14:11)
- Jesus stated that His testimony was valid just the same. Why?
 - * He knew where He came from and was going.
 - * They judged by mere human standards (See 1 Cor 2:14-16)
 - * Jesus' judgments and decisions were valid because He was not alone.
 - * The Father was the second witness on His behalf (Miracles).
 - They taunted Him re: His parentage.
 - He replied that they neither knew Him or His Father. This must have put them in "orbit" but it wasn't His time and no one seized Him.
- c. He mentioned that He was going away and they could not follow.
- They were from below (sinful world)
 - He was from above (from heaven).
 - If they didn't believe His claims they would die in their sins (See Jn 5:36-40)
- d. "Who are you?" They asked. *This whole time they must have been thinking, "He can't really mean what He seems to be saying?"* So, Jesus doubles down:
- I have not changed my claims - I have much to say in judgment of you. I give you The message of the One (Father) who sent Me.
 - When you have lifted up (crucified) the Son of Man you will know that He is the one He claimed to be.
 - * That He did nothing on His own but in concert with His Father.
 - * The Father was with Him, and hadn't abandoned Him.
 - * He always did what pleased the Father.
 - While He spoke many put their "faith" in Him.

e. To those who had believed in Him, Jesus said: “If you hold to My teaching you will really be My disciples.

- Jesus warned them that they were not to confuse the emotional impulse of the moment for a purposeful choice based on conviction. I.e., “As time passes it will be plain who is really My disciple.” Then you will know the truth and it will set you free.”
- They took exception to this: They were free-born Jews and have never been enslaved. If we say we have not sinned we lie! 1 Jn 1:10.
- Jesus countered that everyone who sins (and all do - Ecc 7:20) is enslaved by it.
 - * A slave has no permanent place in a family. God will not tolerate sin in His presence. All have sinned and the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23).
 - * A son (the adopted or blood child) belongs to the family forever.
- So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- Merely being descended from Abraham gets one nothing. (Gal 3:6-9)
 - * Abe’s descendants are those who share the faith of Abraham.
 - * They only shared Abe’s blood and in fact were (had been and would be) plotting His death. Why? They had no room for His word.
 - * Jesus told them what He had seen in the Father’s presence (A claim to deity).

f. He said that they what they heard from their father. It gets pretty heated from here: They claimed Abraham as their father.

- “If they were Abe’s kids, they would act like it. Instead they were determined to kill Him. They were acting like their true father.
- They now protested that God was their only Father.
- Jesus said, “Nope, Satan is your dad.
 - * If God was your Father, you’d love Me for I came from God and now am here.
 - * The reason that you cannot understand Me is this: You belong to Satan not My Father.
 - * You want to carry out your real dad’s desires - murder and lies. It comes easy.
 - * Come on, what sin have I committed? Name it!
 - * You do not belong to God which is why you can’t hear (understand) Me.

g. It went from contentious to homicidal quickly.

- They accused Him of being demon possessed.
- Jesus denied that and said He honored His father and they (by rejecting Him) dishonored the Father.
- He asserted that “if anyone keeps His word, he will never see death. Thin of this claim!
- The people repeated their claim: You are demon possessed. Abraham and the prophets died and you claim that anyone keeping your word won’t? **Who do you think you are?** Now they are starting to process and realize His claims.
 - * Jesus said that any claim about deity that He made was empty, but His Father Who they claimed as their God (See 5:16-18) was the One who glorified Him.

Think of the miracles as God's testimony.

- * He asserted that the people didn't know God but He did. To deny it was to lie.
- * Jesus again asserted His divinity: Their father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing His day, saw it and was glad. (1 Pet 1:10-12)
- The crowd mocked and Jesus reinforced His claim! "Before Abraham was born, I Am." I.e., He existed. The term denotes absolute existence (Ex 3:14 and Mic 5:2). At this the "nickel" dropped and they finally (finally!) understood Who He claimed to be.
- * They picked up stones to kill Him.
- * Jesus slipped away. It was not yet time.

WHO do you say that He is?

He is not merely a teacher, example, prophet, etc.

He is God.

He is the Way, Truth, Life and only way to the Father.

He came from the Father and is now at His right hand.

He alone is Judge and it is impossible to honor the Father unless we also honor the Son (Jn 5:19-23).

Read John 9 for next week.

John 2019-2020
Son of God, Son of Man

II. Jesus' divinity revealed: 1:19-12:50

10. Who is Blind?

John Chapter 9

- a. Jesus had been in conflict with the religious leaders and with “followers” who were not believers but people looking to Him for what they could get. He had been called demon - possessed and worse. In this chapter He will confront the Pharisees, who claimed to know the word and adhere to the law and the traditions of the elders.
 - “As He went along,” He saw a man blind from birth.
 - * His disciples asked Him who sinned, the man or his parents? The assumption was that the man’s disability was a divine punishment: either in response to a parent’s sin, or a preemptive strike to limit the man’s sinfulness. Which, by the way is a wrong way to look at any disability. Look up Ex 4:1-12. God Himself Makes us the way that we are -for glory!
 - * Jesus told His disciples to pay heed, they would not always have Him present with them. While they walked in His light they needed to pay attention.

- b. Jesus made mud and daubed it on the man’s eyes, directing him to go and wash In the pool of Silloam.
 - The man obey and returned him with his sight.
 - His neighbors were stirred up by his healing.
 - * They wanted to know how his sight was given him.
 - * He didn’t know much but he knew it was due to Jesus and said so.
 - His neighbors brought him to the Pharisees.
 - * Jesus had healed him on the Sabbath and they had a problem with this: They Took God’s commands and added things to them. Jesus was constantly confronting them over this. See Jn 5:9, Mtt 12:1-14, Lk 13:15, 14:2-5.
 - * They were conflicted - by their standards, Jesus had violated the Sabbath. Yet the fact of the miracle pointed to Divine approval of His ministry.

- c. The pharisees were themselves divided and finally questioned the formerly blind man.
 - He related what Jesus had done.
 - The blind man declared that he thought Jesus a prophet.
 - The Pharisees called in his parents (They did not want to believe that the miracle

was genuine). The parents “punted.”

- * They testified that yes, the man was their son and had been blind. But, they professed ignorance as to how and by whom he had been healed.
- * They feared being put out of the synagogue. (See also Jn 12:37-43)
- They questioned the man again:
 - * They charged him solemnly to tell the truth (“Give glory to God” See also Jos 7:19) as they knew that Jesus was a sinner. They did not want to believe the miracle was genuine.
 - * The blind man had enough by then and began to “poke” them:
 - + He’d already told them once. Did they want to become His disciples?
 - + This provoked a reaction - They claimed to follow Moses (Jn 5:45-46) but they couldn’t accept Jesus. He didn’t fit their pre-conceived notions.
 - + The man rebuked them: “He opened my eyes and you can’t put two and two together?” (My paraphrase). “God doesn’t listen to sinners but to the godly man who does His will.”
This man (Jesus) has to be from God or He couldn’t do these things (He is being so bold as to instruct them in their own words). Nicodemus “got” it (Jn 3:1-2).
- * Frustrated, embarrassed and angry, they threw him out.

d. Jesus found the man after he had been ejected by the Pharisees and revealed Himself as the Son of Man.

- The man worshipped Jesus.
- Jesus declared that He had come into the world for judgment:
 - * So that the (spiritually) blind would see.
 - * So that those who claimed spiritual sight would become blind.
- Some Pharisees who were with Him took exception to this: “What? Are we blind too? *Imagine being a religious leader and being told that spiritually, you were Clueless!*”
 - * Jesus replied that had they been actually blind, they would not be guilty of sin. They wouldn’t have seen the miracles, for one.
 - * But these people claimed to have God all figured out and had seen again and again the evidence (miracles) backing Jesus’ claims. And still they rejected Him. Their guilt would remain unless and until they repented.

We cannot come to God with an agenda and demand that He accept us.

We must come to Him as we are and accept/trust in Him for who He is and what He has done.