

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 1



WEEK 8

“Waking Up Early”

Study: Matthew 4:23-25, Mark 1:35-45, Luke 4:42-44, 5:12-16

Reading: Psalm 63:1-11,

Memory: Psalm 51:15

When I was in my early 30's, I began to realize the importance of proper time management. I was learning to balance between my spouse, four small children, ministry, exercise, a side business and hobbies. To help accomplish everything I needed to get done, one of the only options I had was to start waking up a little earlier, so I started getting up at 4:45 a.m. every morning. This was not always easy and I didn't do it every day, but I realized that I needed to wake up early on a regular basis so that I could have time for everything I wanted to do and also have time to spend with God.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus knew how vital it was to spend time with His Father and He realized that the best time for Him to do this was early in the morning.

What Does the Bible Say?

The fame of Jesus was on the rise and it started to become much more difficult for Him to get away to a private place where He could be alone with His Father. He found that if He got up early in the morning He could avoid the crowds for a little while and be alone with God. After He left Peter's house in Capernaum early in the morning, Peter and the other disciples started to look for Him. Once they found Him, they told Him that everyone was looking for Him. They wanted Jesus to go back to Capernaum and continue His miracles there, but Jesus told them He wanted to travel to other towns in Galilee because He was sent by God to preach the good news to all men. Jesus wanted as many in Israel to know who He was and to believe on Him. He went to many of the towns and villages and would spend a great deal of time teaching in the synagogues and was constantly casting out demons and healing the sick. People with every kind of sicknesses were coming to Him from all over the region, and He was traveling to many places in the region. (Matthew 4:23-25, Mark 1:35-39, Luke 4:42-44).

Though Jesus healed many more people than had been recorded in Scripture, there is a sampling of these miracles recorded for us to learn

from and understand the great power that Jesus had and the fame that came with it. One of these instances described how a leper came to Jesus begging to be healed. Leprosy in those days was probably a little different than what we call leprosy today, but we do know that it was a terrible disease. If a person contracted this disease, they were banned from living in the city and coming into close proximity with others. This man came to Jesus in desperation full well knowing that he was not supposed to get that close to others who did not have the disease. He knelt before Jesus, begging to be healed. Jesus was filled with pity when He saw this, and He reached out His hand to touch the man. This was a very significant act because people were not to touch lepers for fear that they would get the disease. The man was immediately healed by the touch of Jesus, which must have completely shocked all those who saw this. Jesus told the man to show himself to the priest as prescribed in the law, but not to tell anyone what had taken place. The man could not contain His joy, and he not only went to the priest, but he told everyone that he could about how he had been healed (Matthew 8:2-4, Mark 1:40-44, Luke 5:12-14).

The reason that Jesus didn't want the man to tell anyone is because He didn't want people coming to Him just for healing. Though, in reality, He knew they would since He understood human nature. Jesus found it increasingly harder to get alone and pray, but made every effort to do so because He knew the great necessity of it in His life. This required self-sacrifice, often waking up before light, so that He could commune with His Father (Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you too busy to spend time with God on a regular basis? Jesus was too busy but still found time since He knew how vitally important it was for Him to be with His Father. Jesus sacrificed to spend time with God so that He could remain in fellowship with His Father and He also set an example for you and I to follow. This does not mean that we have to wake up early to spend time with God, but for many people this is necessary. There are different stages in your life where you will be busier than at other stages, but don't let your busyness be an excuse for not spending time with God. There is a battle for your time and one of the easiest things to put aside is time with God, yet it is one of the most important times. If you need to wake up early, you must. Jesus did and you can too! You don't have to be legalistic about this time, or feel guilty if you aren't able to, but making the choice to spend time with God is worth it.

Mark 1:35-45

When did Jesus go to pray (vs 35)?

Why do you think it is emphasized that He went very early in the morning?

Why do you think prayer was so important to Jesus?

What did the disciples do when they realized Jesus had left early in the morning (vs 36)?

What did they tell Jesus when they finally found Him (vs 37)?

Why do you think the disciples liked all the attention Jesus was getting?

Why didn't Jesus choose to go back to Capernaum?

What does this reveal about the mission of Jesus?

Where did Jesus preach when He traveled from town to town (vs 38)?

Who came to Jesus (vs 40)?

Why were lepers outcasts in society?

How did this leper express faith in the power of Jesus?

Why did Jesus choose to heal this man (vs 41)?

How quickly was the man healed (vs 42)? What does this show about the power of Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus emphasized to the man not to tell anyone (vs 43)?

What did Jesus tell the man to do (vs 44)? Why?

Why do you think the man failed to listen to what Jesus told him (vs 45)?

What problem did this cause for Jesus (vs 45)?

Where did Jesus have to start ministering (vs 45)?

“Power to Forgive Sins”

Study: Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

Reading:

Memory: Psalm 51:15

We all love a good story about persistence and how people try again and again at something after being constantly turned down and rejected. It thrills us when we hear how that person finally gets their breakthrough and ends up victorious in the end. Though this makes for great movies and books, it is much easier to love the story than it is to be the one who is willing to go through the heartache or put in the work and effort it takes to help be victorious at the end. Many people have goals, dreams and visions, but not everyone sees those fulfilled because they are not willing to stick with it through the hard times.

Today, we are going to see how the persistence of some friends paid off and will be challenged to be persistent in our lives.

What Does the Bible Say?

After Jesus traveled to several of the cities in the region, He returned back “home” to Capernaum. He had been rejected at Nazareth and had now made Capernaum his home base. Now, more than just those in the immediate region were coming out to see Jesus, but many of those who were from distances away were coming to Capernaum to see and hear Jesus. It was difficult for Jesus to be inside a building because the building would be extremely crowded with all those wanting to see and hear Him.

In one such instance, Jesus was teaching inside a building and the throngs of people were pressing in just to get a glimpse of Him. There was no room for any more and people were crowded outside trying to hear what He was saying. Some men had carried a paralyzed friend to see Jesus in hopes that their friend would be healed. With the large crowds of people gathered, they had no way to reach Jesus. Most likely, they had traveled from a great distance to see Jesus and were determined to do something to get to Jesus. They decided to go up on the roof to see if there was a way they could get their friend in from there. Most roofs were flat and often had stairs going up the side of the houses to the rooftops. Luke described how they removed the “tiles” (ESV) which seems to indicate that this was a wealthy man’s house built in Greco-Roman style architecture. There have

been other ideas given of how they got through the roof, which we can’t know for certain, but we do know that they somehow got through the roof and lowered their friend down in front of Jesus (Matthew 9:1-2, Mark 2:1-4, Luke 5:17-19).

Instead of healing the man, Jesus looked beyond his physical need and told him that His sins would be forgiven. This was done by Jesus on purpose because He knew that many religious leaders were there and would take offense to Him declaring He could forgive sins. These religious leaders were thinking “blasphemy” and Jesus knew it. He asked them why they questioned His ability in their hearts. If He had the power to heal the man the way He did, He very well had the ability to forgive the sins of the man. Ultimately, it was the power of sin that led to all sicknesses and by having the power over sickness, Jesus indicated He also had the power over sin.

To let them know that He could heal and forgive, Jesus told the man to stand up and start walking. The man immediately did as Jesus said, which caused great awe and wonder to all those who were watching. Though He had been performing miracles, this one seems to have stood out more than some of the others. The people glorified Jesus for what He had done and were starting to realize that Jesus was something special. He was like no one they had ever seen of or heard of before (Matthew 9:3-8, Mark 2:5-12, Luke 5:20-26).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that Jesus is far more concerned about your spiritual condition than He is about your physical needs? Don’t get this wrong. As a loving Father, He cares about all your needs, but we as people often get stuck in just thinking about the physical needs while He cares beyond the physical and into the spiritual needs. One of the great lessons you can learn from this is to make sure you are concerned about the spiritual more than the physical. Yes, the physical needs you have are important to Him, but He cares much more about your heart, which will last for eternity.

Another lesson from this passage comes from the friends of the paralyzed man. They didn’t let the crowds stop them from getting help for their friend. They trusted that Jesus would help them and they were not going to give up. Circumstances made it much harder than they thought it would be to get help for their friend, but they were determined and stuck with it. Their determination paid off. Though reliance on God is vital, God also wants you to be determined to carry out His plan.

Luke 5:17-26

Who was listening to Jesus teach (vs 17)?

Where had these Pharisees and teachers come from (vs 17)?

Why do you think the religious leaders came to hear Jesus teach even though many of them were angered by Him?

What did Luke point out about the power of Jesus (vs 17)?

What were some men doing (vs 18)?

Why couldn't they get their friend to Jesus (vs 19)?

What plan did they come up with (vs 19)?

What did Jesus tell the man when He saw him (vs 20)?

Why do you think He told the man this?

What did the religious leaders begin to question (vs 21)?

What does verse 22 reveal about the power of Jesus?

What question did Jesus ask them (vs 23)?

Why do you think he asked this?

What did Jesus want them to realize that He had the authority to do (vs 24)?

What was the man able to do (vs 25)?

How did the man respond to this miracle (vs 25)?

Why do you think this miracle amazed the people (vs 26)?

What did they recognize about the power of Jesus (vs 26)?

Why do you think Jesus did miracles?

“Sinners To Repentance”

Study: Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 2:14-17, Luke 5:28-32

Reading: I Timothy 1:12-17, John 3:16-21

Memory: Psalm 51:15

What Does the Bible Say?

After Jesus finished teaching in Capernaum, He went out and traveled a short way along the Sea of Galilee. Most likely, He went on the road called the Via Maris. The Via Maris was an ancient travel route that existed long before the time of Jesus, but in the days of Jesus it would have been a paved road that was kept up by the Roman Empire. This route was a major trade route that went from Egypt to Mesopotamia and passed through the nation of Israel right along the Sea of Galilee. It was on this road that Jesus met and called Matthew.

Matthew was a tax collector who was sitting in his “office” when Jesus called him. There were two main types of tax collectors in Bible days. One went around and collected individual taxes and the other established an “office” on the main roads and would tax those moving goods in and out of the area, somewhat like a customs fee of our day. It makes the most sense here to understand that Matthew was one of the customs tax collectors who had a thriving business along one of the major trade routes of the day. Tax collectors were not liked by most Jews since they were



The Via Maris - from followthe rabbi.com

viewed as traitors who chose to sell out to Rome for money. They were also despised because they were known to take advantage of the people. Most tax collecting positions were franchises that could be bought. The tax collectors were required to pay the Roman government a certain amount and anything they charged above that was theirs to keep. This often led to high rates of taxation which the people had to pay in order to move their goods and live in the land. It was in this setting, and to a tax collector named Matthew, that Jesus said, “Follow Me.” (Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:13, Luke 5:27).

The call to discipleship was not a simple call because Jesus was asking Matthew to forsake all that he had to become a follower. Matthew would have to leave His lucrative source of income and forsake what He had known in his life up to that point to follow Jesus. Yet, there was something different about Jesus than all the other rabbis Matthew had known. Matthew had been despised and rejected by the other spiritual leaders, but Jesus treated him much differently. Jesus reached out to him while other religious leaders rejected him. Though it is not stated, it appears that Matthew had heard the message of Jesus a few times and no doubt had seen the multitudes of people traveling the Via Maris to come and see Jesus. Matthew had been spiritually moved and stirred and was ready for the call of Jesus.

After his calling by Jesus, Matthew invited Jesus to a feast where he had also invited many of his tax collector friends because he wanted them to have a chance to see and hear Jesus. Jesus openly accepted the invitation and was eating with the tax collectors when the pharisees came and tried to disrupt the party. They started talking to the disciples and attempted to rebuke Jesus for choosing to eat with such vile people. Jesus overheard what they were saying to the disciples and interrupted their rebuke by describing how He had come to bring healing. He used a simple, but powerful illustration that described how doctors would spend their time with sick people trying to heal them rather than with healthy people who didn't need to be healed. Jesus wasn't saying that the Pharisees were spiritually healthy but that *they thought* they were. They didn't see their need to be healed from their sin, but many of the tax collectors knew they needed to be forgiven. Jesus was not going to waste His time trying to convince the self-righteous that they needed a Savior but was going to help the sinners have their eyes opened to the great forgiveness He offered (Matthew 9:10-13, Mark 2:14-17, Luke 5:28-32).

Matthew 9:10-13

Where was Matthew sitting (vs 9)?

What did Jesus ask Matthew to do (vs 9)?

How did Matthew respond (vs 9)?

Why do you think Matthew responded this way?

****People had been coming in droves to see Jesus from many distant places. Matthew would have seen this influx of people and would have known a great deal about Jesus before Jesus called him.*

Where did Jesus go to have a feast (vs 15)?

****Mark reveals that this was at the house of Matthew.*

Who did Matthew invite to the feast (vs 15)?

Why do you think that these are the people who Matthew invited?

What did the religious leaders not like (vs 16)?

Why didn't they like the tax collectors?

****The tax collectors were often looked at as traitors since they worked with the Roman government.*

Who do you think the “sinners” were (vs 16)?

****This was probably a general term that religious leaders gave to people who didn't follow the Jewish teachings. Most likely they didn't care about the Old Testament law either.*

What did Jesus say in response to the religious leaders (vs 17)?

What did He mean by this?

How is this a good example for you to follow today?

“Not Stuck In Tradition”

Study: Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22, Luke 5:33-39

Reading: Philippians 3:1-21

Memory: Psalm 51:15

What Does the Bible Say?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus with a fairly sincere question. They noted how they and the Pharisees fasted on a regular basis and practiced a life of self-restraint while the disciples of Jesus often went to feasts and didn't fast as others did. Throughout the Bible, there are recorded times of fasting when the people were in a difficult situation or when individuals really wanted answers from the Lord about a difficult decision or trial they were going through. According to the law, they were only required to fast on the Day of Atonement which happened once a year. The Pharisees practiced fasting twice a week and thought that the more they chose to inflict self suffering upon themselves, the more they would earn the favor of God. It had become an outward work and even the disciples of John were involved in this. This does not mean all of them saw it as a work to earn God's favor. For some it would have been a time of heart felt devotion to God (Matthew 19:14, Mark 2:18, Luke 5:33).

Jesus responded to the question by using the illustration of a wedding. The wedding feast was not a time for fasting, but a time for rejoicing. It was a season of life where people would take a week or two (or longer) to celebrate the joyful occasion. During this time, many involved would not work or participate in the day to day routine, but would spend time feasting and rejoicing. Jesus pictured Himself as the bridegroom, relating how it was not time for His disciples to fast but to rejoice. There would be a day coming when He would be gone which would give way to the necessity for His followers to fast. Just as when a wedding feast was over, it would be time to get back to work. Jesus was describing how fasting was not meant to become a religious duty but was to be done seasonally with great purpose (Matthew 19:15, Mark 2:19, Luke 5:34-35).

Jesus went on to give two illustrations to help explain how He was not attempting to get His disciples to fall in line with their traditional religion and religious duties. He described how no one would put a new piece of cloth as a patch on old clothing. When the clothing would be washed, the

new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth that would not shrink with it. He also described how no one would put new wine in old wineskins. Wineskins were bags that were made out of animal skin and were used to store new wine. The reason that animal skins were used was because of their elasticity. As the wine would ferment, it would cause gasses and the animal skins would expand with it. But once an animal skin had been used and expanded, it would dry and lose its elasticity. If you attempted to put new wine in old wineskins, the fermenting wine would break open the bag and all the wine would be lost (Matthew 19:16-17, Mark 2:20-22, Luke 5:36-38).

Luke then added a statement that Matthew and Mark did not add. He described how people who were satisfied with their old wine wouldn't want to try any new wine. This describes how people who like their way of life aren't willing to try new things but would rather just stick to what they have always known. The point of the illustrations was that the Pharisees were stuck in their man made traditions and Jesus wasn't going to attempt to get His disciples who were full of new life to try to squeeze that life back into the man-made traditions of the Pharisees (Luke 5:39).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Jesus is not teaching that we should always be trying something new and different. There are things that are passed down from generation to generation that are very helpful to our spiritual lives. Yet there will be times when we need to change the way we carry out the unchanging truth and minister based on the culture we are in or the changes in culture. We can do this without changing the message or veering from the timeless principles of the Word of God.

The new that Jesus was talking about wasn't necessarily new at all. It was actually a reverting back to serving God from the heart which was first required of Adam and Eve. It was "new" because it was in great contrast with the norm of society which had caused religion to become a ritual and a list of do's and don'ts. Jesus did not want His followers trapped in a man made religious system, but He wanted them to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 5:24). He wanted them to follow God from their hearts and not just to try to impress God or others with their religious devotion.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the freedom to worship Him.*
- * *Ask God to help you not to be trapped in man-made rules.*

Luke 5:33-39

Who is “they” in verse 33? (See Matthew 9:14)

What were they concerned about (vs 33)?

Why do you think they had this question?

What illustration did Jesus use in His answer (vs 34)?

What was the obvious answer to the question in verse 34?

What did Jesus say was coming (vs 35)?

How does this reveal that Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen?

Why do you think the disciples would need to fast once Jesus was gone (vs 35)?

****If you look at fasting in the Old Testament and the purpose of it, it was to call upon God for help or deliverance. It was also used as a time of repentance and turning back to God. Since Jesus was directly with His disciples there was no need for them to call on God to help them since He was already physically there with them.*

What was the purpose of the illustration in verse 36?

How was the illustration in verse 37 similar to verse 36?

What does Jesus say about new wine (vs 38)? What do you think He meant with this illustration?

Why would a person not want to try new wine (vs 39)?

What are ways that you have found yourself or others stuck in traditions or religious ideas that have made change difficult?

Why is it important to realize that change is necessary at time?

How can you know the proper balance between keeping things new and fresh and at the same time clinging to unchanging truth?

“Great Opposition”

Study: John 5:1-18

Reading: —

Memory: Psalm 51:15



Model of the pool of Bethesda

What Does the Bible Say?

There were a variety of feasts held in Jerusalem throughout the year and three were mandatory for males to attend. We are not sure what feast this was that Jesus went to attend. We do know that He was in Jerusalem during a feast time and was by the pool of Bethesda. The pool of Bethesda actually had two pools that were connected to each other and were used for a variety of purposes. Excavations reveal that water from the pool was used to fill watering troughs for animals which makes sense since it was located near the Sheep Gate. The term for “pool” used in the Greek is also a word that indicated that diving and swimming would take place in this pool. John described how many lame and sick people would lay beside the pool. Many of the newer Bible versions omit the end of verse three and verse four because some of the earlier manuscripts do not contain those verse. They first appear in manuscripts that are dated after 400 A.D. and seems to have been added somewhere along the way as an explanation of

how some thought that the waters were stirred. It appears that it was a common belief that the first person in the water after it was “stirred” would be healed so many sick and lame would be there in an attempt to be healed (vs 1-5). What we do know for sure is that the man that Jesus came across had been lame for 38 years and that Jesus approached him with an interesting question. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed. All types of speculation surrounding this question have been given, but most of it is speculation. Some people attempt to make more of this statement than there really is, but we see from the man’s response that others beat him into the water when the water was stirred (vs 6-7).

Jesus simply told the man to take up his bed and walk. This man had not used his legs for 38 years, but in an instant, he was able to stand up and walk. This type of healing was incredibly miraculous when we realize that even after some minor surgeries today, it takes people many months of rehabilitation to walk correctly (vs 8-9).

The religious leaders weren’t pleased that the healing took place because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath and this was against their man-made laws. They also rebuked the man for carrying his mat on the Sabbath day because this was also described as “work.” The man wasn’t sure what to say and told the religious leaders how the man who healed him told him to take his mat with him. When the religious leaders asked who healed him, the man really didn’t know. There were so many people around and he was so thrilled to be healed, he hadn’t taken much time to think about the person who did the healing (vs 10-13).

It is very interesting that John recorded how Jesus found this man later in the temple. The way it is written makes it appear that Jesus sought out this man. Jesus told him that he had been healed and challenged him to stop sinning. The comments of Jesus appear to indicate that the man had become lame because of a specific sin and if the man went back to purposefully sinning, he could become lame again. (It is not fully clear if that was the case.) The man did go back to the religious leaders and told them that it was Jesus who healed him (vs 14-15).

This enraged the religious leaders and they set out to persecute Jesus. Jesus simply told them that He was just carrying out the work that His Father had been doing. He was declaring that He was the Son of God, which further outraged the religious leaders. They started to think of ways that they could have Jesus killed because He not only broke their man-made religious laws by healing on the Sabbath, but also claimed to be the Son of God (vs 16-18).

Why was Jesus in Jerusalem (vs 1)?

What pool was described in verse 2?

Who surrounded these pools (vs 3)?

****The pool would have been a place for beggars to gather because it was a public place where many people would come. As mentioned in the commentary, the KJV and other Bibles that come from later manuscripts add a reason why this man was by the pool, though it is not clear if that is accurate.*

How long had this man been an invalid (vs 38)?

Why do you think Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed (vs 6)?

Why do you think the man answered Jesus the way he did in verse 7?

****Archeological evidence has revealed that there would be a gate that would open up and let water into the pool at certain intervals. This would cause the water to “stir.”*

What did Jesus tell the man to do (vs 8)?

What did this man have the ability to do (vs 9)? Why was this so amazing?

Why were the Jewish leaders upset at this (vs 9-10)?

What did they want to know (vs 12)?

Why do you think Jesus found this man (vs 14)?

What did the man tell the religious leaders (vs 15)?

What does John explain in verses 16 and 18?

What does this reveal about the hearts of the religious leaders?

What do you think Jesus meant by the statement He made in verse 17?

“The Power to Judge”

Study: John 5:19-36

Reading: I Corinthians 15:12-58

Memory: Psalm 51:15

There are many events that hold baking contests as part of their events. To determine the winners, judges are often picked at random to help determine the winners. Judging for these contests is always interesting because there is not much criteria to judge on other than taste. The problem with this is that everyone likes different tastes and most of the items being judged are not all the same type of baked goods. There are cherry pies judged against apple pies and key lime pies. There are brownies judged against chocolate chip bars. I have personally had to judge at a few of these contests and have realized that it all comes down to what individuals like and don't like. It is based on personal opinion.

Today, we are going to see that Jesus has been given power to be the judge of the world, but His judgment will not be based on any feelings or emotions. It will be based on the truth and will be a righteous and pure judgment. The judgment of Jesus will not be based on likes or dislikes but based on who accepted the truth and who rejected it.

What Does the Bible Say?

After Jesus had made the Pharisees very angry with His comments about being equal with God, He started to clarify what He meant. He described how He was the Son and God. He could do nothing apart from His Father's power, direction and leading. The Father was going to give Him greater power and ability than they had seen through this healing. This greater power was the power to give life. Jesus was given the right and privilege by the Father to determine who He will give life to. Those who chose to reject the Son were also choosing to reject the Father. These statements would have pierced the hearts of the Pharisees who said they honored God but were already seeking ways to kill Jesus (vs 19-23).

Jesus stated that those who chose to hear the words that He was saying and chose to believe in Him would be the ones who would have eternal life. This life will be fully experienced at the resurrection where those who have died will be raised from the dead and will experience the fullness of eternal

life. Jesus was passing down eternal life to all those who believed in Him just as the Father had passed eternal life down to Him. Jesus had the authority to give out eternal life and to spare others from judgment because He was the Son of God (vs 24-27).

The power to transcend death had been given unto Jesus and it should not have amazed those who had seen His power. One day, Jesus will resurrect all men. Those who have believed on Him will be resurrected to everlasting life, while those who have rejected Him will be resurrected to everlasting damnation. This judgement will not be based on who is liked or disliked, because there is none of that with God. It will be a judgment based on the character of God and the rules that God has established for eternal life, which is a belief in the Son of God as the only way to the Father. This will be a fair and righteous judgment (vs 28-30).

Understanding that His statements alone were not proof that He was the Son of God, Jesus declared that there were other witnesses to prove that He was the Messiah. John the Baptist had come before Him and had declared that He was the Son of God. Jesus didn't need the proof because He knew who He was, but John's testimony was given as proof so that others would hear and believe. For a while, the Pharisees liked what John had to say and some believed him. They believed that John was from God and now they should believe that Jesus was the Son of God because He was doing many more and greater things than John ever did (vs 31-36).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you understand and fully believe that Jesus is the only way to God? Though this is foundational truth to our faith, it must be understood that there is no other way. Society today attempts to tell us that there are many roads to God and you are narrow minded if you want to think that there is only way in Jesus. It might be narrow minded, but, most importantly, it is biblically minded. All roads don't lead to heaven, and, in fact, all roads but one lead directly to hell. Let this inspire you not to back down or quit sharing the truth. Boldly understand that Jesus is the only way and without believing in Him, those around you who do not know Him will be sentenced to eternal damnation. One day you and all those who have believed in Him will have your souls united with your bodies at the resurrection of the dead. You will spend eternity with Him in an immortal body and you will rejoice in your salvation for all eternity.

How does Jesus begin this part of His teaching (vs 19)? Why do you think He used this phrase at this point?

What did Jesus declare about His actions (vs 19)?

What did Jesus say He would continue to do (vs 20)?

What did God have the ability to do (vs 21)?

What had God given to Jesus (vs 22)?

Why would verse 23 have been a direct rebuke to the Pharisees?

What powerful statement did Jesus make in verse 24?

Why do you think Jesus used the term “Truly, Truly” in verse 24 and then again in verse 25?

What authority had God given to Jesus (vs 26-27)?

What did Jesus say was going to happen (vs 28-29)?

What does this reveal about the fact that only one of two things happens after the resurrection?

Why do you think Jesus took a great deal of time to declare that He was not acting on His own, but from the direction of His Father (vs 30-31)?

What else did John mention as further proof that He was the Son of God (vs 32-33)?

Why did Jesus not need man’s testimony (vs 34)?

How had the religious leaders viewed John for a while (vs 35)?

What did Jesus declare about what He was saying (vs 36)?

Why was the message of Jesus far more powerful than the message of John (vs 36)?

Memory Verses

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.