

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 2



Week 23

“Not Looking Back”

Study: Matthew 8:19-22, Luke 9:57-62

Reading: Matthew 19:16-30

Memory: 1 John 1:9

When my wife was a teenager, she was driving with some of her friends in a nearby city when they saw a motorcycle rider with a cigarette in his mouth. This fascinated them because it was somewhat strange, but while they were looking at this person, my wife did not see that the car in front of them had stopped and she rear ended them. Needless to say, she learned her lesson about not looking around her, but to always look ahead.

Today, we are going to read how Jesus wants us to look at Him and not to be distracted from His call on our lives by earthly possessions, family or friends.

What Does the Bible Say?

We have seen that sometimes placing the Gospels in chronological order is a little difficult. This can be true of the passage today as we jump all the way back in the book of Matthew to chapter 8. The reason we do this is because of where Luke places this passage in his order of events. Again, keep in mind that writing in those days wasn't always done chronologically but was sometimes done topically. It should also be noted that an event recorded in different places could have actually been two different events that happened at different times, and that Jesus sometimes said the same thing to different people.

Matthew and Luke record how a man came to Jesus and told Him that he would go with Jesus wherever He went. Jesus responded to this man by describing how animals have houses, but that He didn't have a house to live in. Jesus wasn't saying that He never had anywhere to sleep, only that He had no permanent dwelling. We are not given this information in great detail, but it appears that this man valued a home and land. In order to fully follow Jesus, this man would have to be willing to give up His home and go wherever Jesus wanted him to go. He would have to give up the security he held so dear to him and surrender his most precious possession in order to follow Jesus (Mt 8:19-20, Lk 9:57-58).

Jesus asked a different man to follow Him, and this man desired to follow, but first wanted to go and bury his father. Jesus responded by telling the man to “let the dead bury the dead.” This sounds quite harsh on the surface, as if Jesus was prohibiting the man from going to his father’s funeral, but that is not the case. What the man was actually telling Jesus was that he would follow Him after his father died. Once again, Jesus was saying that His followers must be willing to give up their dearest possessions for His cause. In this case, following Christ meant that he would have to leave his home and family (Mt 8:21-22, Lk 9:59-60).

Luke recorded another type of person who wanted to follow Jesus, but described how this man wanted to first go home and say goodbye to his family. What we are not told is where his family lived and we are not given any other circumstances surrounding this. From the response of Jesus in verse 62 it seems that the man wanted to do more than just say a quick goodbye. Perhaps his home was a distance away or the man’s parents would not be happy that their son would choose to follow Jesus. Whatever the case, it appears that Jesus was telling the man that if he chose to go back home first, he would not end up following Him. He illustrated this by describing how a person who was plowing a field should not look back at where he was but should look ahead. If a person cultivating his land would look back, his rows would not be straight and he could destroy some of his crop. The idea was that followers of Christ need to look forward rather than to let their family, friends and past experience hinder the calling and direction of God today (Lk 9:61-62).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Is there anything hindering you from fully following Christ? Are you letting family interfere with what God has called you to do? Are you allowing personal possessions to keep you from completely selling out to Christ? Are you willing to forsake everything for the cause of Christ? Jesus was not saying that you can’t have any earthly possessions or can never talk to your family if you follow Him but was describing how those things should not be placed in front of Jesus. Many times, God will give His followers a nice home or allow them to be around their family, but there are other times where following Him means giving up everything. Take time today to evaluate your life to see if there is anything that is keeping you from fully following Christ.

What did a man declare to Jesus (vs 57)?

Why would you applaud this statement?

What did Jesus say about the foxes and birds (vs 58)?

What point was Jesus trying to make?

****We are given no context about this man, so we can’t be exactly sure of why Jesus said this. It appears that He was challenging the man’s statement. It is one thing to talk about commitment, faithfulness and surrender, but another thing to live it out in your life.*

What did Jesus call another man to do (vs 59)?

What did the man want to do before following Jesus (vs 59)?

How do you make sense of the response of Jesus (vs 60)?

What did Jesus want the man to do (vs 60)?

How do you balance this out with other Scripture teachings about taking care of your family?

What scenario was presented in verse 61?

Why do you think this man wanted to go home first and say farewell to his family?

How did Jesus respond to this man’s request (vs 62)?

What happens when a man is plowing and he looks back?

In these three situations, the response of Jesus sounds quite harsh. Since we are given little context about these individuals, there are many questions that are not fully answered. Why do you think these situations are recorded and what do you think they are trying to teach?

“If the World Hates You”

Study: John 7:1-9

Reading: John 15:18-27, I John 3:11-24

Memory: 1 John 1:9

Several years ago, when it came time for my wife and I to purchase a van, we took time to pray about buying the right van and took our time to let God provide exactly what we needed. After a few months of prayer and searching, God provided the exact van we were looking for with all the features we wanted. We were so excited after buying the van. On the way home, we drove by a small car that was for sale, which we also needed. Instead of taking time to pray or examine it closely, we thought it was our “blessed day” (more spiritual sounding than “lucky day”) so we purchased the car. The van was one of the best purchases that we ever made, but the car was one of the worst. From that lesson, we learned the great importance of waiting on God for His provision in His time.

Today, we are going to read how Jesus knew the importance of waiting on God and His timing.

What Does the Bible Say?

The time for the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) had come and the brothers of Jesus urged him to go to Jerusalem. The Feast of Booths was celebrated annually to commemorate the Exodus from Egypt and the time that the Israelites spent living in temporary shelters in the wilderness. It was to help remind them how God had given them a permanent home in the land of Israel. Though His brothers urged Jesus to go to Jerusalem, they did not have good intentions. They did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah and they were challenging Him to go to where the crowds would be in Jerusalem and perform great miracles among the massive crowds there. Jesus had been avoiding Jerusalem since He knew that the Jewish leaders were seeking to kill Him, but His brothers were challenging Him to go there and it appears that they were doing this because they knew what would happen to Him (vs 1-5).

Jesus would not give in to their prodding since He knew that it wasn't yet time for Him to die. He would die at a feast, but He specifically knew

that He was going to die at the Feast of the Passover rather than at the Feast of Booths. Though His time had not yet come, Jesus described to His brothers how their time had come. They were living for the world around them and if they did not choose to accept that He was the Messiah and trust in Him, then they would only have the life on earth to live for. They were not hated by the world around them because they were living like the world around them. On the other hand, the world would hate Jesus because He revealed that the ways of men naturally went opposite to the ways of God. Those who didn't want to follow Him and God's prescribed way would be loved by the world, but rejected by God (vs 6-7).

Jesus told His brothers to go on without Him because He was following God's plan and knew that the time was not yet come for Him to die. He chose to skip the first part of the feast and remain in Galilee (vs 8-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you willing to wait and trust God's timing? Do you realize that He knows what is best and when things are best for you? Many people make mistakes and step out of God's plan and timing for them because they are prodded by others. Peer pressure, regardless of how old you are, is a powerful force that can be used for good, but also has very destructive powers. Jesus chose not to give into the prodding of His brothers because He knew that the time for Him to die had not come. He knew that if He went to Jerusalem during a time of a feast that He would die so He chose to stay away and trust His Father's timing.

Do you realize that there will be some people who will not like you if you live the way God wants you to live? Jesus was perfect and living in the perfect will and plan of His Father, yet His brothers did not like Him. This is because they were of the world and Jesus made it evident in this passage and elsewhere that those who are of the world will not be hated by the world. If you have people who dislike you because of your faith, don't get discouraged, you are in good company.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for His perfect timing in your life.*

* *Ask God to help you to trust His way and His timing.*

Thought for the day

Where did Jesus choose to stay (vs 1)?

Why did He not want to go to Jerusalem (vs 1)?

What feast was coming up (vs 2)?

What was this feast for?

What did the brothers of Jesus urge Him to do (vs 3)?

What reason did they give Jesus (vs 3-4)?

Why do you think they tried to use this reasoning?

What does verse 5 make clear?

What did Jesus declare about His time on the earth (vs 6)?

What do you think He meant by telling his brothers that their time was “always here” (vs 6 - ESV)?

What would the world not do to the brothers of Jesus (vs 7)?

How did the world view Jesus (vs 7)? Why?

Does this mean that every single person hated Jesus? Explain.

What did Jesus tell His brothers to do (vs 8)?

What did Jesus emphasize about His choice not to go to the feast (vs 8)?

Why do you think the proper timing was so important to Jesus?

What did Jesus choose to do as His family traveled to Judea (vs 9)?

****It should be noted that Jesus traveled with his family every year to the three feasts. All males were required to attend the feasts and it would have been the common thing for families to travel together to this feast.*

“The Need Is Not the Call”

Study: Luke 9:51-56, John 7:10

Reading: –

Memory: 1 John 1:9

Several years ago, my wife was talking with a lady who had moved from our area and she was relating to my wife how when she went to her new church she asked the pastor’s wife what ministries of the church needed help. The pastor’s wife responded with this simple phrase, “The need is not the call.” When my wife told me about this, a light bulb turned on in my head. That was the phrase that I was looking for and what God had been attempting to teach me for many years. I had seen many people serve God in areas where they were not called to serve, but served in those areas for a variety of other reasons. I saw how this type of service did not bring joy, but instead, often brought discouragement. This phrase put into terms what I had been attempting to work through and has helped free up many people that I have talked to and counseled with. My desire was to free them up to serve Christ the way God has called them to serve and to use the gifts God has given them.

Today, we are going to read how Jesus exemplified this phrase.

What Does the Bible Say?

After Jesus sent His brothers onto Jerusalem without Him for the Feast of the Tabernacles, He waited for a few days and then began a journey there Himself. He must have decided to go in the middle of the feast realizing that there was much less of a chance for Him to get arrested if He was only there for a short time rather than a full week. This was probably also done with the knowledge that He would stir up the anger of the religious leaders enough so that they would want to arrest Him at the next feast.

Jesus didn’t want to draw attention to Himself, so He attempted to go to Jerusalem in a quiet way. He did not go around Samaria like most of the Jews would, but He went through it. He wanted to stay at one of the Samaritan villages and sent some messengers ahead of Him to prepare the way for His coming. The Samaritans rejected Him because He would not stay more than a night. They didn’t like the fact that He was so focused

on going to Jerusalem that He would neglect their religious celebrations. The Samaritans celebrated many of the same feasts the Israelites did since they had Jewish blood in their heritage. It does not say, but perhaps they were celebrating the Feast of the Tabernacles and wanted Him to be a part of their feasts (Lk 9:51-53, Jn 7:10)

James and John saw the rejection of the Samaritan people and asked Jesus if they should attempt to call fire down from heaven to consume the Samaritans. Their understanding was not one of love and compassion for those who rejected Jesus, but was one of indignation. Jesus rebuked this attitude, and though we are not told what He said, in keeping with the doctrine that Jesus taught we must assume that He gave them a lesson on caring for others, even those who didn't accept their message. The disciples must have remembered back to when they were sent out two by two and how they were to shake their feet off at the cities who rejected them. There was a big difference between choosing not to minister in a city anymore compared to consuming that city with fire (Lk 9:54-55).

Jesus didn't get angry or bothered by the rejection, He just continued on to another village that would accept Him (vs Lk 9:56).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you respond when you are rejected because of your faith? How do you react when people become upset at you because you are not able to do what they want because you are following what God wants? If you are living for God and carrying out His calling on your life, there will be times where you will not be able to do some of the things that people want you to do. This is because you are living with a purpose and focus, and though there are many needs all around you, you can't meet everyone's needs all the time. Many servants of God get bogged down trying to bend over backwards for everyone who comes their way. This often leads to discouragement, frustration and many times leads a person into quitting or choosing to sink back into obscurity because they get burned out. There is a difference between burning for God and being burned out because of men. The difference is obedience to God's direction, not to the needs, wishes and desires of others. For Jesus, this meant that He would leave a bad taste in the mouth of the Samaritan village, and though He didn't want to do that, He knew that His Father's business came first. The key for you is to know what your Father has called you to do and to "set your face" on accomplishing that plan.

John 7

What did Jesus decide to do after his brothers had gone to the feast in Jerusalem (vs 10)?

Why do you think He waited?

Why do you think it says He went privately and not publicly (vs 10)?

Luke 9

What was Jesus focused on (vs 51)?

Why do you think Jesus would have to purpose to go to Jerusalem?

****People were always wanting Jesus to come and visit their town or minister in their village. He had constant invitations from others, yet He knew He had a greater purpose.*

Who did Jesus send ahead of Him (vs 51)? Why?

Why do you think Jesus chose to travel through Samaria?

How did this particular village in Samaria respond (vs 53)?

Why didn't they want Jesus to stay with them (vs 53)?

****We are not told the specifics, but as mentioned in the commentary section, it appears that they wanted Jesus to stay with them for a longer period and not just stay at their village for a short time.*

What do you think it means that "His face was set towards Jerusalem" (vs 53)?

What did James and John ask Jesus if they could do (vs 54)? Why do you think they asked this?

How did Jesus respond to this request (vs 55)?

Why do you think Jesus did this?

“Glorifying the Father”

Study: John 7:11-24

Reading: I Corinthians 1:18-31

Memory: 1 John 1:9

In Psalm 119:99 David said, “I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.” David understood the key to learning was not from listening to the words of men, but was found in understanding and following the words of God.

Today, we will read that Jesus was wiser than all those around Him because He held to the Word of God more than any of the religious teachers of that day.

What Does the Bible Say?

When the Feast of the Tabernacles started, the people were all looking for Jesus and wondering when He was going to show up. There was a great deal of “quiet talk” about Him as the people discussed whether Jesus was leading people the right way or leading them astray. These discussions were often in private because they feared the Jewish leaders would hear them talking about Jesus, which would get them into great trouble (vs 11-13).

Sometime in the middle of the week long feast, Jesus went to Jerusalem and began to teach in the temple. The people who heard Jesus were amazed at His teaching because He knew so much about God and the Old Testament. The only ones who were able to gain knowledge that was close to what Jesus had were those who had studied for years and years, but Jesus was only in His early 30's. The response that Jesus gave was a common one from Him as He deflected the attention and the glory to His Father. He told the people that He was just teaching what He had learned from God. He also related that those who desired to do the will of God in their lives would recognize that His teaching was not through human power and authority, but was that of God. Jesus was presenting a stark contrast between Himself and the religious leaders who sought their own glory based on their own interpretation of the Law. Jesus did not seek His own glory and that was a sign to reveal that He was of God (vs 18).

The Jewish religious leaders were out to kill Jesus and the grounds of

justification that they used was that Jesus did not keep the Law. Yet, Jesus described how none of them kept the Law perfectly and they did not seek to kill each other. Jesus was revealing to them that they had no reason to seek His life. The only reason they sought to kill Him was because of the evil in their hearts (vs 18-20).

In response to His comments, some people listening told him that He had a demon inside of Him, similar to saying “you are crazy” in today’s English. The crowds wanted to know who was trying to kill Jesus. Jesus, referring back to his healing of a paralytic man on the Sabbath (John 5:1-16), described how He did one act that amazed many and that sparked a flame inside the hearts of the religious leader who now sought to put Him to death. Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath and they became angry, but all of them practiced circumcision on the Sabbath and saw nothing wrong with that. There was nothing wrong with circumcising on the Sabbath, just as there was nothing wrong with healing a man on the Sabbath. Jesus challenged the people to judge Him by thinking through issues rather than just blindly believing their religious leaders.(vs 21-24).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you living your life for your glory or for the glory of the Father? Do your actions, reactions, purposes, words and deeds direct people to God and glorify Him or do they seek to glorify yourself? Many people get caught up in self glorification and fail to glorify the One who deserves all the glory. A simple definition of glorifying God is to make Him look bigger in the eyes of others. When you do things and take the credit or the focus, you are receiving your earthly reward. But when you deflect the focus and attention to your Heavenly Father, He is getting the praise and the glory. Take time today to evaluate your life and see who is receiving the honor and glory for what you do and how you live. Even your good deeds can be wrong if they are done to bring glory to yourself and not to God.

Thought for the day

What were the Jews looking for (vs 11)?

Who were “the Jews,” and why do you think they were looking for Jesus?

What arguments were people having about Jesus (vs 12)?

Why were the people afraid to talk openly about Jesus (vs 13)?

When did Jesus show up in Jerusalem (vs 14)?

What did He start doing (vs 14)?

What were the religious leaders amazed about (vs 15)?

What did Jesus declare about His teaching (vs 16)?

How would people know if Jesus was speaking the truth (vs 17)?

What is the difference between biblical teaching and non-biblical teaching (vs 18)?

What had the people accused Jesus of (vs 19)?

What did the crowd not realize about the religious leaders (vs 20)?

What did Jesus declare about healing on the Sabbath (vs 21-22)?

What reasoning was Jesus attempting to use on the religious leaders (vs 23)?

Why do you think many people choose not to listen to logic and reasoning?

How did Jesus tell them they needed to judge (vs 24)?

How do you know if you are judging with right judgement?

How can you make sure you are judging with right judgment?

“Amazement & Unbelief”

Study: John 7:25-36

Reading: John 15:18-27

Memory: 1 John 1:9

My son had a friend in elementary school who was always saying things that sometimes were true and sometimes weren't. We could tell when Brandon had been talking to this boy because Brandon would start stating “facts” that seemed a little bit too amazing to actually be true. When Brandon would say something, one of the first questions I would ask was, “Who did you hear that from?” When he would say he heard it from this certain boy, it would immediately cause me to think that this fact was probably not true. There were a few times that I was amazed that some of what Brandon relayed was actually right, though I had a hard time believing it at first.

Today, we are going to read how the Jews were often like my boy. They heard things from the religious leaders and naturally believed it as truth. After all, these men were supposed to be presenting truth, but also like my boy, they had a hard time discerning between truth and error.

What Does the Bible Say?

Some of the people in Jerusalem were quite confused about Jesus because they didn't understand why the religious leaders were trying to kill Him. It didn't make sense that they were seeking to kill Him yet were allowing Him to teach openly in the temple. This made some question if the Jewish leaders really thought that Jesus was the Christ. Though some started to think that He was the Christ, they had a hard time believing it because they knew that Jesus came from Galilee. There had been a tradition that developed among Jewish teaching which assumed that the Messiah would suddenly come upon them in a somewhat mysterious way. The humanity of Jesus, which should have been a tremendous plus, was one of the things that Satan used to keep people from believing on Jesus (vs 25-27).

Jesus recognized what they were talking about and what they were thinking so He asked the people if they really knew who He was and where He came from. He then told the people that He was sent from God

and they did not know God. Because they did not know God, they did not really know who Jesus was since He came from God and God had sent Him into the world. By this statement, Jesus was declaring and confirming that He was God (vs 28-29).

This statement angered many of the religious leaders and they sought more vigorously to find a way to arrest Him, but they were prevented from doing so by God because it was not yet the time for Jesus to die. At the same time that people were seeking to arrest Jesus, there was another group of people who heard His words and believed what He was saying. They thought about all the signs and wonders that Jesus had done and didn't see how Jesus could do so much and not be the Messiah (vs 30-31).

When the chief priest and head officials of the Jewish religion heard what Jesus was saying to the people, they sent soldiers to arrest Jesus. When they went to arrest Jesus, Jesus described how He would plan to be with them on this earth a little longer but soon would be going back to His Father. They would be looking for Jesus then, but they would not be able to find Him. This statement puzzled the listeners because they were unsure of where Jesus was going to go. Some wondered if He was going to leave the Jews and start teaching to the regions outside Israel that were part of the Roman empire. They had no idea what Jesus meant when He said He was going to a place where they could not be. The people sent to arrest Jesus did not arrest Him at this time, but were amazed at His teaching like the rest of the people were (vs 32-36).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get discouraged when people reject the message of the gospel that you are trying to share with them? Do you wonder if you didn't do a good enough job explaining who Jesus was or what Jesus has done in your life? It is easy to get discouraged when the gospel is rejected and to start thinking that it is your fault, but you must remember that it is not. Jesus Himself was rejected by many men, and at the same time, many also believed. Even when Jesus had performed many signs and wonders among them, many people choose to reject those things and believe that He wasn't the Messiah. Others chose to think deeply about what they had heard and had seen, and a few believed and chose to follow Him. Remember that you are just the messenger and it is your responsibility to deliver the message that God has given you.

What were some of the people confused about (vs 25-26)?

What did it cause some of the people to wonder (vs 26)?

Why do you think the religious leaders allowed Jesus to keep teaching?

What was one of the biggest things that hindered people from believing that Jesus was the Messiah (vs 27)?

What did Jesus say about where He came from (vs 28)?

Why do you think He placed an emphasis on the fact that He came from God (vs 29)?

Who was seeking to arrest Jesus (vs 30)?

Why didn't they arrest Him (vs 30)?

What does this reveal about the protecting hand of God?

What did many people do (vs 31)?

What was one of the things that helped convince the people that Jesus was the Christ (vs 31)?

Why did the religious leaders finally choose to send men to arrest Jesus (vs 32)?

What did Jesus say about being with the people (vs 33)?

What would they not be able to do (vs 34)?

How did this confuse the people (vs 35)?

What did they think Jesus might have meant (vs 35)

What do you think Jesus actually meant?

What does this reveal about the fact that Jesus chose to die on the cross?

“The Living Water”

Study: John 7:37-52

Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-9, I Peter 5:1-7

Memory: 1 John 1:10

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus was careful in His timing and with what He said knowing that He did not want to stir the anger of the religious leaders to the breaking point just yet. He waited until the last day of the feast to declare that He was the living water. Anyone who chose to believe in Him would find their spiritual thirst quenched. Jesus described that He was the fulfillment of Ezekiel 47:1-9 and Zechariah 13:1 because He was the living water predicted in those verses that would bring cleansing and restoration to the land of Israel. The term “living water” was a significant one in those days because it contrasted the “dead water” that was found in many of the cisterns. Because of the lack of water, most water was stored in large dugout cisterns in the ground that were used to catch rain water during the rainy season. Living water was water that would flow, like a river or spring. It was water that was somehow moving due to water systems. This living water was refreshing and desired far above the “dead” water found in most places. This was also a contrast between the life that Jesus provided compared to the deadness of the teaching of the religious leaders. The living water specifically was referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit (vs 37-39).

The claims and teachings of Jesus amazed the people. Some thought that He was the prophet spoken of by Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15,18 while others thought He was the Messiah, the Christ. The confusing part was how Jesus could be the Christ if He came from Galilee. They knew that the Messiah would be the offspring of David and would come from Bethlehem, the city of David. Most did not realize that Jesus had been born there many years before (vs 40-42).

This caused division among the people and confused those who had been sent to arrest Him. Some wanted to, but no one was willing to take the first step to arrest Him. This did not settle well with the main religious leaders as those who were sent to arrest Jesus described that they were amazed by the way that Jesus spoke. These were men who heard the religious leaders speak all of the time, but they realized that

there was something different about Jesus. The Pharisees declared that Jesus was a deceiver and the simplicity of the crowd allowed much of them to be deceived. Since they were the spiritually elite, the religious leaders were not tricked by what Jesus said. They thought they were smarter than the “accursed” or “damned” crowd who were just simpletons and not studied in the Law as they were (vs 43-49).

Though some said that none of their ranks believed Jesus, one who did believe, or at least was starting to believe, was Nicodemus. He was the one who came to Jesus in secret at night and was told that He must be born again (John 3). He spoke up and asked the leaders about giving Jesus a fair hearing before they choose to condemn Him. Most of them didn’t like what Nicodemus had to say and accused him of being from Galilee, too. Their proof that Jesus was not the Messiah was that He came from Galilee and it was certainly clear that the Messiah would not come from that city (vs 50-52).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you experiencing the living water that Jesus provides? Are you finding your spiritual thirst satisfied with Him? Jesus was not just talking about the satisfaction that comes on the day you trust Him as your Savior, but reveals that your spiritual thirst will be continually quenched when you look to Him. The evidence of this will be a life that is free from the cares and worries of this world. I am not saying that you will live a carefree life that isn’t serious and focused, nor am I saying that things will always work out the way you want. The cares of this life can be eased when you can cast your burdens on Him, and that living water will refresh you and strengthen you. Jesus is the source of life, the abundant life, for all who look to Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for being your source of spiritual life.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust Him to provide life for you.*
- * *Praise God because He has the ability to give you life.*

Thought for the day

What did Jesus declare on the last day (vs 37-38)?

Why do you think we are told that He waited until the last day?

What was Jesus equating the “living water” with (vs 39)?

How is the Holy Spirit like living water (vs 39)?

Why do you think it is important to understand this as a believer?

What were some people convinced of (vs 40)?

What did the words of Jesus cause others to think about Him (vs 41)?

What was the main thing that continued to cause confusion about Jesus being the Christ (vs 42)?

What did most people not realize?

What was the division over Jesus about (vs 43-44)?

Why do you think the people were divided over this’?

The officers that were sent to arrest Jesus did not arrest Him. Why did they choose not to arrest Jesus (vs 45-46)?

What were the Pharisees concerned about (vs 47)?

What proof did they use that Jesus was not the Messiah (vs 48)?

What view of the crowds did the religious leaders have (vs 49)?

Who spoke up (vs 50)?

How did he attempt to bring reason and order into the situation (vs 51)?

Why did they choose not to listen to Nicodemus (vs 52)?

Why do you think they let their emotions rule over rational thought?

Memory Verses

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

