

JOHN 5-6

May 27, 2012

To the teacher: You obviously do not have time to cover all of the material that is here. These notes can all be used for your own personal growth but they are more than class time will allow. I want you to discuss **Chapter 6** *first* this week because it is so rich and applicable to people today. You will then need to prioritize what you will do out of **Chapter 5**.

There is an enormous amount of material in John chapters 5 and 6 that applies to our lives. Because John 6 is so rich, we will start there and then go back to chapter 5 and cover what we can.

6:5 Why was Jesus asking about buying food if He indeed could turn stones to bread?

- Jesus did not always do miracles. He healed only one man at the pool. Some women traveled with Him and financed their ministry expenses (**Luke 1:1-3**). In this case Jesus wanted us to understand the He can handle the problems that we cannot (**6:6**). Sometimes Jesus asks us to do what we *can't* do so that we can see what He *can* do.

6:1-14 Jesus feeds the 5,000 men (plus women and children) in these verses. Here we learn much about how God provides for our needs. What do we learn in verse 7?

- We need access to God's resources; ours often are not enough.

What do we learn in verse 9?

God always asks for what we have before He gives us what He has. **See the back half of Revelation 3:20**. We give Him our life and then He gives us His life. We trust Him with our resources (**Luke 6:38**) and He then trusts us with His (**Luke 16:10-13**).

What do we learn in verse 11?

- If you want God to multiply your resources, be grateful for what you have.

What do we learn in verses 11 to 12?

- The people ate *as much as they wanted...they were filled*. God, if He chooses, is able to give us everything we want...not just what we need. **See Psalm 37:4 and Matthew 6:33**.

What do we learn in verse 12b?

- Good stewardship includes taking care of what we have.

What do we learn in verse 13?

- When you give to God, you can end up with more than you started with. Giving is not primarily about giving or getting what you want; it's about relationship. God wants to reveal Himself to you as you trust His ways and see Him take care of you.

6:26 What does verse 26 tell us about how people relate to God?

- Some seek to use Him while others seek to love and serve Him. He knows the difference (**John 2:25**).

6:44 Do we find God or does He find us?

- He finds us. The natural man does not seek after God (**Romans 3:10-12**) and does not understand spiritual things (**1 Corinthians 2:14**). God draws us to Himself and reveals Himself to us (**John 6:65**).

This part just needs to be read to the class

John 6:26-65 can be a confusing passage. We are not going to discuss this section but I do suggest that you read the passage later with these thoughts in mind. Jesus talks about being the bread of life. The Jews only survived in the wilderness by consuming the bread that came from heaven. We can only have life by having Christ and His life *in* us. This was made possible by the cross. On the cross Jesus' broken body pictured man's rejection because Jesus was righteous like God (**John 3:19**); the shed blood pictured the Father's rejection because Jesus was now bearing sin like men (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). The Lord's Supper / Communion is a picture of us fully receiving Christ who is the Bread of Life and the Living Water (**John 4:10-14**).

6:66-68 What do **verses 66 to 68** tell us about true Christ-followers?

If we really know Him, we just *can't* leave Him. Something so real has happened inside of us that we just cannot get away from it. Have people read the following passages: **2 Corinthians 5:17**; **John 10:27-29**; **1 John 2:19**. (Be sure that **1 John 2:19** is read from the NIV or the New American Standard.)

Now let's look at **chapter 5**.

5:2-4 In **verses 2 to 4**, an angel apparently had at least one time stirred the water and healed people there. If not, all of those people would not have been there.

5:9 What do we know about this crippled man from **verses 5-9**?

- He had been this way for **38 years** (**vs. 5**). The man was played the role of a "victim"; he blamed his problem on no one helping him (**vs. 7**). He also had a "dirty emotional window." The answer to Jesus' question in **verse 6** was "Yes! I want to be healed." Instead, he blamed his condition on no one helping him. In **verse 9** we see that he did do what Jesus told Him to do.

How many of you thought it curious that Jesus only healed the one man that day when so many were sick? What might we learn from this?

- It is not God's will that everyone be healed (in this life).

This man's entire life changed when he did what Jesus told Him to do. Let's brainstorm a little on how people's lives would be different if they simply did what Jesus told them to do. What happens to people who don't do what Jesus tells them to do? How will life be different if we do what He tells us to do? Categories to think about include spiritual life, ministry, missions, marriage, family, friends, habits, addictions, etc.

- See what you get.

5:14 In **verse 14**, what do the words of Jesus tell us about this man's condition?

- It was likely the result of some sin.

What do the words of Jesus in this verse say to us today?

- We can bring great harm and pain into our lives by being out of God's will. Because David wasn't on the battlefield (where the king belonged) he ended up committing adultery and murder (**2 Samuel 11**). Because Jacob did not return to the land of his birth (but settled in Shechem), his daughter was raped and his sons committed mass murder (**Genesis 31:11-13; 33:18-19; 34:1-35:15**).

5:17-19 In **verses 17 to 19** we see that God is up to something; He is building His Kingdom. Jesus joined His Father in what He was doing. This is the Christ-follower's calling: to discover what God is doing and to join Him.

5:24 Look at **verse 24**. What does it really mean to “believe”?

- We behave everything we believe; all the rest is just religious talk. If we really believe that Jesus is who He claimed to be, then that changes *everything*. We came from Him, were made by Him, are going to Him, and were made for Him. Doing what He wants then matters more than anything else.

5:29 Look at **verse 29**. Are we saved by our works that we do for God?

- No. **Ephesians 2:8-9** tells us that we are saved by what Jesus did for us.

Why are works always mentioned when the Bible talks about people going to heaven or to hell?

- Our works demonstrate who we really are. **James 2:14-26** tells us that *faith without works* is not real faith at all. Examples of this can be found in **Matthew 25:31-46**; **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**; **Galatians 5:19-21**; & **Revelation 21:8**. In all of these passages those going to hell are identified by how they lived.

5:39 Look at **verse 39**: what does it mean to have eternal life?

It is more than knowing the Bible or information about God. It is more than believing in the existence of God (**The demons believe - James 2:19**). Eternal life is a personal relationship with God (**John 17:3**); it is knowing Him and following Him (**10:14,27**).

5:44 What do you think that **verse 44** means and how does it apply to us today?

- “Glory” here means *approval*. **Romans 3:23** says, “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory (approval...being like Him) of God.” We cannot have God’s approval when we are seeking to be people-pleasers.