

# John 7-12



Papyrus 66: An image of page NB (52) of Papyrus 66, a codex of John's Gospel from about AD 200.

**All Saints Bible Studies**

**Term 2, 2017**

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## Study One John 7:14-52

## Is Jesus the Christ?

John now focuses on the growing controversy around Jesus in three areas – His authority, his identity and the unbelief of the Jewish leaders.

### Read John 7:14-24 Authority

1. The Jews express amazement at Jesus' teaching.
  - a. What is the reason for their amazement?  
*See also John 3:11*
  
  - b. (i) In verse 17 what does Jesus suggest can be done to test the truth of his claim in verse 16 to speak from God?  
  
(ii) How do we apply this test today?
  
  - c. Why does Jesus introduce Moses and the Law in v.19?  
*See also Deuteronomy 5:1-5.*
  
2. In verses 21-24 how does Jesus show the double standards adopted by the Jews in law keeping?

### A little more:

What is “correct or righteous” judging?

See also 2 Chronicles 19:4-7, Micah 3:9-11, Colossians 2:16-19 and Romans 14:10-12.

## Read John 7:26-44      Identity

John now looks at three small scenes – 25-31, 32-36 & 37-44 - that centre on the critical question – “Is Jesus the Messiah?” In each of these scenes Jesus makes statements that evoked varied responses in his hearers.

3. a. List the claims that Jesus makes.

b. John uses these statements to bring together key teachings about Jesus. What are these teachings and why are they important?

*See also: Matthew 11:27; John 13:33-36 & Isaiah 44:1-5.*

b. What evidence influenced some to think that he could be the Messiah?

c. Why did the majority reject his claims?

d. Each scene mentions that there were attempts to arrest or seize Jesus. Why were these attempts unsuccessful?

**Read John 7:45-52. Unbelief**

4. What explanation do the temple guards give for their failure to arrest Jesus?
  
5. a. How do the Pharisees explain their unwillingness to believe in Jesus?  
  
b. What do the statements by the Pharisees indicate may be their real concern?
  
6. What is significant in Nicodemus' use of the Law as the foundation for his appeal to his fellow Pharisees?  
*See also Deuteronomy 1:16 & 17:2-4.*

**Reflect:**

*Note the difference between the approach (i) of the chief priests and the Pharisees and (ii) of Nicodemus to the investigation into the actions and claims of Jesus.*

*How do we see these approaches reflected in our own society and how can we try to respond to it?*

## Study Two

### John 8:12-30

### The light of the world.

Light and God have long been associated. In the OT this was frequently expressed, as in Psalm 27:1, “The Lord is my light and my salvation.” Jesus is now launching a major discourse in which he claims to be the Light of the world.

### John 8:12-20

### A dispute about the testimony of Jesus.

1. What is the significance of the claim Jesus makes for himself in v.12? *See also Exodus 3:11-14*
  
2. Why would the Pharisees consider his testimony invalid? *See also Numbers 35:30 and John 5:31.*
  
3. In his response to the Pharisees in vs.14-18
  - a. Note the claims that Jesus makes about himself.
  
  - b. Explain the contrasts he points out between himself and the Pharisees? *See also John 7:45-52.*
  
  - c. Whom does Jesus call as his witness? Why? *See also John 5:37*

4. What does the question of the Pharisees in v.19 suggest they really want?
5. Explain why there was a rebuke in Jesus' answer to their question?      *See also John 3:10-11 and 5:37-40.*
6. Why wasn't Jesus arrested at this time?

**John 8:21-30      A dispute about the identity of Jesus**

7. a. What caused the Jews to wonder if Jesus was planning to kill himself?
  - b. Explain what Jesus meant when he spoke the words of warning in vs.21 and 24?
  - d. In vs.23-24 what contrasts does Jesus draw between himself and those to whom he is speaking?
8. Again the question of the identity of Jesus is raised.
    - a. What is the initial response of Jesus to their question?  
*See also Isaiah 9:6-7*

b. How does he clarify his meaning for them in vs.28-30?  
*See also Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14, 5:19 & 12:32*

c. In these words from Jesus, what would be likely to cause his listeners to believe in him?

**In review:**

Why does John continually use words linking Jesus to the Old Testament?

What points of contact do we have now as we seek to talk about the gospel to people with no prior links to the concept of a coming Saviour?

## Study Three    John 8:31-59    Whose side are you on?

Jesus discerns the inadequate, shallow nature of people's faith and issues an ominous warning to those who would later deny him.

### Read John 8:31-47    A Paternity Dispute.

#### A. Verses 31-38

1. a. Who are true disciples?
  - b. What is the reward for true discipleship?
  
2. a. Explain the basis for the strong objections of the Jews to what Jesus is saying?  
*See also Psalm 105:55-10 and Psalm 41:8-9*
  - b. What should it mean to be a descendant of Abraham?  
*See also Genesis 15:1-6*
  
3. a. Jesus teaches them about slavery and freedom in vs.34-35? What strong image does he use?
  - b. How does the claim Jesus makes for himself in v.36 make clear the foundation of true freedom? ?



6. What does Jesus reaffirm in response to these charges?

7. Why are the Jews infuriated to the point of violence?

*See also Exodus 3:13-14*

**Reflect and discuss and pray:**

*Why is it so important to have God as our Father?*

*Why might people with a spiritual foundation regress?*

*Are there people in this situation for whom I should be praying?*

## **Study Four. John 9:1 – 41**

## **The Blind See**

A blind beggar by the roadside was a common figure in Jesus' day. In a dry and dusty climate blindness was a common malady. Jesus healed many blind people some of whom had been blind only for a few years. This man had been blind from birth.

### **Read John 9:1 – 12. A healing.**

1. a. What does the question in v.1 reveal about the disciples' understanding of sin?
  - b. How does Jesus reframe their understanding of this situation? *See also John 5:14*
  
2. How is the blind man involved in this healing?
  
3. What is revealed by the man's response to the scepticism of his neighbours?

### **Read John 9:13 – 38 An investigation**

4. a. In vs.13-17 what assumptions bring division to the Pharisees?

b. What does the question of the Pharisees in v.17 to the man born blind reveal about them?

c. Why would the blind man call Jesus a prophet?  
*See also Isaiah 42:1-7*

6. a. Rather than give Jesus credit for healing the blind man what other explanation do the Pharisees suggest?

b. How do the man's parents set the record straight and why are they cautious in their response?

7. a. In v.24 the Pharisees claimed to know that Jesus was a sinner. How does the man challenge their claim?

b. What is the result of the man's resolute defence of Jesus and how did the people justify their actions?

- d. Note the man's answer in vs.30-33. Are there guidelines here to help us in talking about Jesus? *cf. 1 Peter 3:13-17*

**Read John 9:35-41      Spiritual blindness**

8. a. How does the two fold response of the man to Jesus' self-revelation indicate that his faith is genuine?

- b. Explain the words of Jesus in verses 39 & 41.

**In review:**

- How does this episode illustrate Jesus' statement in John 8:12 that he is "the light of the world"?
- How does the miracle confirm that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah? (*cf Isaiah 35:5*)
- How is it a sign of the work of God *See 9:3 & 4 cf. 37 & 38.*

**Study Five**      **John 10:1-21**      **The Good Shepherd**

1. Describe what you know about the role of a shepherd in the Middle East at the time of Jesus?

**Read John 10:1-10**      **The gatekeeper**

2. Once again Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees.
  - a. How does Jesus describe the relationship between the shepherd and his flock?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What aspects of this description are most comforting to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How does the behavior of a the thieves and robbers differ from that of the good shepherd?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Why should the Pharisees have understood what Jesus was saying?      *See 2 Samuel 7:7-8 and Ezekiel 34:1-16*

e. i. What does the shepherd offer that the thieves and robbers can never give? *See v.10*

ii. Explain what this means.

**Read John 10:11-18      The good shepherd.**

3. How does Jesus emphasise the depth of his care for his sheep in vs.11-13? *Cf. 1 Samuel 17:34-37.*

4. According to v.14 what is the relationship between Jesus and his sheep?

5. Who are the other sheep to be brought in?  
*See Isaiah 56:6-8; John 11:51-52 & 17:20.*

6. What do vs.17-18 teach about the relationship between the Father and the Son?





c. What new understanding does Martha now reveal?  
*See also Psalm 118:26; Luke 2:11; Matthew 16:13-16 and John 6:14.*

4. Mary now approaches Jesus with grieving followers behind her. How does her greeting to Jesus differ from that of Martha in v.21.

5. In his account of this meeting with Mary and the Jews with her, how does John show the humanity of Jesus?

6. a. How did the Jews respond to the presence of Jesus?

b. What does this reveal about them?

**Read John 11:38-44      Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead**

7. How does Martha indicate that she has not yet fully understood what Jesus said to her in v.23?

8. a. What is the purpose of Jesus in being at the tomb? *Cf v.4.*

b. How does Jesus accomplish this purpose?

9. What evidence is there that Lazarus was really dead?

**In review:**

Of what spiritual blessing is this miracle a sign?

What might the two sisters learn from this miracle?

What might the disciples learn from this miracle?

## Study Seven

## John 11:45-12:11

## A deadly plot

The raising of Lazarus provided the final trigger for the resolve of the Jewish leadership to have Jesus arrested and tried for blasphemy. Chapter 11 forms the bridge between the public ministry and the death and resurrection of Jesus as Chapter 12 begins with his anointing by Mary.

### Read John 11:45-57      The plot

1. Reactions to the resurrection of Lazarus were mixed. What did the people do?
  
2. The chief priests and Pharisees called a meeting.
  - a. Why are they concerned about the actions of Jesus?  
*See also 1 Kings 9:6-7, 2 Chronicles 36:15-19, Psalm 27:4.*
  
  - b. What truth has Caiaphas expressed?  
*See also Isaiah 49:5-6 & John 10:16*
  
3.
  - a. Where does Jesus now go and who accompanied him?
  
  - b. How was the search for Jesus organized?

### **Overview:**

What conflict is represented in the actions and words of the chief priests and Pharisees? *Cf. John 7:47-49; 9:16-17.*

### **A little more:**

Think about a situation in which we see a conflict in our society between the truth of the words of Jesus and the distortion of that truth for societal goals by those who speak with authority but no understanding? How can we respond to these situations?

### **Read John 12:1-11      The anointing**

4. a. Describe the setting for the meal Jesus ate six days before Passover?

c. What was the cause of the conflict during dinner?

d. What important lessons does Jesus draw from this conflict?

e. Why did the crowd gather?

f. Consider the lengths to which the chief priests were prepared to go to break down the influence of Jesus.

g. Why were they planning such strong action?

**A little more:**

Remembering the actions of Mary, suggest some ways that we can publicly honour Jesus today.

## **Study Eight**     **John 12:12-36**     **The Servant King**

The story of the triumphal entry is one of the few incidents in the life of Jesus which appears in all four Gospel accounts (Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19).

This highly public scene stands in marked contrast to the intimacy of the anointing by Mary, and is itself an event full of contrasts.

### **Read John 12:12-19**     **Jesus enters Jerusalem.**

1. Explain the significance of the welcome given to Jesus in vs.12-13.     *See also Psalm 92:12, Revelation 7:9; Psalm 118:25-26, John 1:49.*
  
2. What meaning can we take from the symbolism of the choice of Jesus to ride on a donkey?  
*See also Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 40:9.*
  
3. a. Compare v.16 with John 2:2, 14:26 and 20:9. What can be learnt about the faith and understanding of the disciples from these verses?

### **Reflect:**

- b. Have we ever found ourselves in a similar situation about relating the link between our faith and understanding?

4. Compare vs.17-19 with vs.9-11, noting the attitudes of the people involved and identifying similarities and differences.

**Read John 12:20-36      Jesus predicts his death**

5. The term Greeks is used to refer to any Gentile. What does their presence at the Passover festival indicate about them?
6. Jesus transcends the request of the Greeks through Andrew and Philip by speaking about himself.
  - a. Compare the statement in v23 with *John 2:4, 7:30, 8:20 and 7:6 & 8*. What has changed?
  - b. What is the meaning of “the hour”?  
*See also John 12:27, 13:1, 16:32 and 17:1.*
  - c. In what terms has John previously written about the glorification of Jesus? *See John 1:51, 3:14 & 8:28 and compare Isaiah 52:13-15*

5. Jesus now uses an agricultural example to talk about his, glorification? Explain this image in v.24.
  
6. In v.25-26, what does it mean to love and hate life?  
*See also Mark 8:31-38*
  
7. a. How is the humanity of Jesus and his understanding of his purpose shown in his prayer in v.27?  
  
b. How is Jesus validated in his purpose?
  
8. a. This is Jesus' last recorded interview with the people in John's gospel. In vs.30-33 what does he want them to understand?  
  
b. Why was the crowd confused?
  
9. Jesus now uses the familiar terminology of Light and Dark to make a final appeal to the people.  
What choices does he offer and what are the consequences of those choices? *See also John 3:19-21 & Ephesians 5:8-11*

**Prayer:** Use Psalm 24 as you pray through this study.



**But these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

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**John 20:31**