

St. John L28 – Lessons 22-27 Study Summary

Lesson 22 – John 8:12-30

The Light of the World

- Q1, 8 – Jesus is our Light in this world. He reveals God to us, and in us, to ourselves. He sheds light on God's Word so that we can understand "life." He exposes the dangers of unknown darkness and guides us to avoid them (if we're willing...). If we have seen and known Jesus, we have seen and known the Father. He is the Light so that we should *not* remain in darkness about true life.
- Q4 – Most people who oppose and reject God the Father, Jesus the Son, Christians, and the Bible do so from an 'outsider' perspective. They don't know God, and so they don't accept God as man's Creator, God's righteous standards, universal sin, God's Plan of Salvation, etc.... They're hostile towards God, us, and the Bible, rejecting all attempts to acknowledge or honor Him in our world.
- Q5, 7 – Jesus claimed to have come from 'above.' He came down from heaven to earth, but earth was not His destiny. He then cautioned the crowd that, "unless you believe that I am He --- (the One sent by the Father) --- you will die in your sins." People who do not know Jesus as Savior are bound to die in their sins.

Lesson 23 – John 8:31-47

The Truth Sets Us Free

- Q1 – True believers should aspire to become Jesus' disciples --- those who abide in God's Word and know the truth. Knowing the truth sets us free from sin.
- Q4 – Jesus spoke of TWO fathers who influence life on the earth: His Heavenly Father, and Satan, the devil. He describes the devil as "a murderer from the beginning who does not stand in the truth." "When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." TRUTH is not found in Satan, only lies and death!
- Q6 – Knowing that people respond differently to the Gospel (belief or rejection); and that:
- many simply live life with their eyes and ears closed towards God;
 - Satan, in fact, blinds the mind of unbelievers;
 - people who are perishing consider God's Word foolishness;
 - the Holy Spirit must reveal God's Word for people to grasp its meaning...
- Witnesses should faithfully share the Gospel of Jesus as Savior and Deliverer, but understand that only the Holy Spirit can bring those who hear new life (salvation) through belief in God's Word!

Lesson 24 – John 8:48-59

"I AM"

- Q1 – Demonic activity clearly existed in Jesus' day. Ephesians teaches that believers today do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces in heavenly places (powers of darkness). Paul cautioned Timothy (1 Timothy 4) that in the last days deceitful spirits will gain followings among believers by misleading them with teachings involving "insincere lies."
- Q3-5 – When challenged with essentially, "who do You think You are?" (v.53), Jesus claimed to be the Son of the Heavenly Father. He also told them that He was greater than Abraham, that before Abraham was, "I AM." The Jews knew that by this He claimed to be the eternal God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so they immediately took up stones to kill Him as a blasphemer!

Lesson 25 – John 9:1-7, 35-41

A Blind Man Healed

- Q1 – There are numerous scriptural references indicating that personal or familial sin can be the cause of divine judgment and punishment expressed as individual sickness or physical handicap. Hence, we begin this chapter with the disciples questioning Jesus about why the blind man was blind, because of his sin or that of his parents. Jesus taught this instance was to bring glory to God. He also taught in Matthew that good and bad things similarly happen to good and bad people. Author's opinion is that while it is possible sickness or handicap can be the result of sin, the

majority of time Christians and non-Christians experience these things from sin's negative impact upon all mankind (creation --- which longs for God's ultimate redemption)!

Q5 – Jesus referred to Himself as the “Son of Man” over 80 times in the four Gospels. This title shows His unity and connection to all mankind.

Q6 – In John 3, Jesus shared that He did not come into the world to condemn the world, but to save it. But in John 9 He says that He DID come into the world for judgment. In chapter 3, He addresses potential believers, but in chapter 9 He is confronting the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. He came to judge the religious leaders because they had the faith life all wrong (as condemned by God by the prophets like Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Malachi). In God's view, they were more like wolves in sheep's clothing, devouring instead of protecting God's people.

Lesson 26 – John 9:8-34

The Pharisees Interrogate the Healed Blind Man

Q3 – The healed blind man was amazed by the Pharisees dilemma. Many of them accused Jesus of being a sinner because He provided healing to the blind man on the Sabbath (breaking the law by working on, not honoring, the Sabbath). Others pondered, “How can a man who is a sinner do such things?” The blind man commented, “We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His Will, God listens to him.”

Q5 – The blind man's parents feared being put out of the synagogue. Excommunication is a disciplinary action of the church whereby sinning “brothers or sisters” are expelled from church worship and gatherings by the elders (1 Corinthians 5). While outside the church, they are to be excluded from social activities even beyond church programs. This hurts both the offenders and their family/friends in the church. Galatians teaches that the primary goal of elder discipline is not “gotcha!” but “let's restore you by making things right!”. Excommunication need not be permanent. Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians that when repentance is eventually present, we are to show both forgiveness and love in welcoming individuals back so that they are not overwhelmed by excessive sorrow (2 Cor. 2).

Q6 – When the Pharisees came back at him again, the blind man basically said, “I told you, but you're not listening. What do you want to hear?” 2 Timothy 3 & 4 teaches us that people today are rejecting God's truth to find and listen only to speakers saying what they want to hear, those who will validate their life views formed apart from God's Word.

Lesson 27 – John 10:1-21

The Good Shepherd

Q1-3 – When Jesus speaks of Himself as the Shepherd, and the door and sheep, He's teaching us that believers who put their faith in Him will hear and follow His voice, and that He offers direct access to God the Father (He is the ONLY way). For us “sheep” to hear and recognize His voice, we need to focus on God's Word and observe daily/regular prayer times. Psalm 23 and John 14 point to the truth that believers are destined to abide in heavenly places prepared for them!

Q4 – The devil and evil did not triumph over Jesus. Rather, He surrendered His life willingly to fulfill the Father's plan and provide a way of salvation. He told Pilate that yes, He was a King, but not of an earthly kingdom. If it was, His followers would have fought to secure His freedom.

Q5 – Jesus said in v.16 that He had other sheep. The Jews --- God's chosen people --- are the “original” sheep, and, according to Romans 10 and 11, the “other” sheep are the Gentiles. Jesus said His intent is to unite the two flocks into one since He has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, creating for Himself “one new man in place of two” (Ephesians 2). Social distinctions are now eliminated; it's all about faith in Christ (Colossians 3).