

St. John L35 – Lessons 29-34 Study Summary

Lesson 29 – John 10:22-42 God the Father & Jesus the Son -> are One!

- Q1 – Hannukah, the Feast of Dedication, is not recorded in the Bible. Rather, it comes from the time between the Old & New Testaments when the Maccabee family revolted against Antiochus Epiphanes for sacrificing a pig in the Temple. They drove these Greek Syrians out of Israel and purified the Temple. The celebration comes from having just enough oil to light the Temple lamps one day, but, miraculously, the lamps remained lit 8 days until new, purified oil could be produced. Thus, it has become known as a celebration of lights.
- Q2 – Jesus communicated His claim to deity many times: 1) In Nazareth reading Isaiah’s prophecy; 2) at the Temple declaring Himself “I AM” in relation to Abraham; and 3) at the Hannukah Feast when He declared Himself to be, “The Son of God.” Each time, the Jews tried to kill Him.
- Q4 – Jesus told the Jews that if they had trouble believing His declarations, they should still believe in Him based on the miracles they had seen Him perform before their eyes.

Lesson 30 – John 11:1-16 Lazarus Dies

- Q1-3 – Beyond His disciples, little is known about Jesus’ friends and acquaintances. One such family was in Bethany, comprised of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Jesus and His disciples visited there several times. Martha was a hard-working, servant-minded woman, while Mary was very devoted to Jesus’ teachings. When Lazarus became sick and on the verge of death, Jesus was in a little town about 20 miles away. He purposely delayed returning, and then got word Lazarus had died.
- Q4 – Jesus used this moment to teach about walking in the light while it is still the day. Christians must understand there is only so much time to be about the works for God the Father, and we must look carefully to how we walk (live) in the world. Jesus resolved to now go to Lazarus despite the danger of being so close to Jerusalem, and His disciples agreed to go with Him.
- Q5 – “Walking in the Light” means first and foremost to live daily in obedience to God’s will and ways. We need to imitate Jesus, to walk through life as He did. We also need to inculcate into our children that we are people of the day, people of the light. It is not appropriate for our youth to run wild during the night unsupervised, likely to lead them into dangers and legal troubles. We should foster a life rhythm of enjoying family and friends during the day, and resting at night.
- Q6 – Many times when the Bible says people are asleep in the Lord, this actually means they have died.

Lesson 31 – John 11:17-44 Resurrection: Sorrow to Joy!

- Q1-2 – Lazarus had been dead and buried for 4 days before Jesus arrived on the outskirts of Bethany. At his house, Martha and Mary were accompanied by many Jews who had come to console them. Martha found Jesus first, then informed Mary that Jesus wanted to see her.
- Q3-4 – Martha declared to Jesus that she believed Him to be God’s Christ, the Anointed One, and the Son of God prophesied to come into the world. Jesus responded that He was THE resurrection and THE life. Anyone living and believing in Him would live again (eternally).
- Q5 – Mary came weeping, acknowledging Jesus’ power and ability to heal, and regretting that He had not come while Lazarus still lived --- to heal him. Jesus wept, too, upon seeing her deep sorrow.
- Q6 – Those supporting the family in sorrow critically wondered why Jesus had not come more quickly, and when Jesus asked for Lazarus’ stone to be rolled away, even Martha expressed concern about the possible stench this action would release.
- Q7 – Jesus prayed aloud, thanking the Father for this opportunity to allow the crowd to see and acknowledge that He, indeed, was sent by the Father. He commanded Lazarus to come forth out of the tomb, then directed folks to unbind Lazarus’ grave cloths.

Lesson 32 – John 11:45-57

The Plot: Jesus Must Die!

- Q1-3 – When the Pharisees learned of the resurrection of Lazarus, they convened a council to discuss three potential problems: 1) people would likely flood towards following Jesus now; 2) if they didn't do something, Rome might eliminate their positions in the country; and 3) if Rome perceived Jesus as a threat to lead a rebellion, Israel might be crushed militarily. However, none of the Pharisees are identified as becoming believers in Jesus themselves from this miracle...!
- Q5-6 – The current High Priest, Caiaphas, followed his father-in-law, Annas, in that role. He quieted the council and “prophesied” that it would be better for Jesus to die for the nation rather than risk having Rome come fight against them. What was prophetic in this statement was that Jesus’ death on a Roman cross would be the essential step that brings salvation to the world!
- Q7 – Jesus’ death eventually occurred during Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread). There is great symbolism in this: a lamb shedding its blood to save the inhabitants within the home, and Jesus being known as the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world, and whose shed blood brings people both forgiveness and salvation today.

Lesson 33 – John 12:1-11

Jesus Anointed

- Q1 – At a dinner in Jesus’ honor in Bethany, two days before Passover, Mary showed up with an expensive flask of pure nard perfume and anointed Jesus with it. This event is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John. (There is a different, but similar, event in Luke, but it involves a Pharisee, a sinful woman, and occurs a year or so earlier in another area of the country.)
- Q2-4 – The value of the perfume was about a year’s wage for common people. Mary was scolded by many in the room (Gospel of Mark), and verbally challenged by Judas the disciple. Jesus told them to leave her alone, that she had done a beautiful thing for Him and was preparing His body for burial. Jesus declared that her kindness and generosity would forever be remembered.
- Q5 – Christians need to balance worship and service in their lives. Worship is the better choice, the ‘good portion’, while we will always have the poor with us as an opportunity to serve.
- Q6 – John reports that Judas Iscariot was a thief, always helping himself to the disciples’ moneybag.
- Q7 – As a result of his popularity and presence, risen Lazarus was added to the Pharisee’s list of people to be killed soon, along with Jesus.

Lesson 34 – John 12:12-26

The Triumphal Entry

- Q1-2 – Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 by riding into Jerusalem on an unriden colt (foal) of a donkey. Bringing with Him salvation for the people, this King would be known for His humility and righteousness. The palm branches used by the people that day came from date palm trees.
- Q3 – Passover/The Feast of Unleavened Bread was one of 3 annual feasts with mandatory attendance requirements for Jewish males. They were required to attend and bring an appropriate tithe.
- Q4 – The eyewitnesses of Lazarus’ resurrection incited the crowd’s enthusiasm by pointing him out walking with the procession behind Jesus on the colt.
- Q7-8 – Jesus’ “hour” had finally come. He taught that a grain of wheat must die and be buried in the ground for it to bear fruit, referring to his own pending death and resurrection. Those who follow Jesus in this life, focused on the eternal life that He promises believers, will be blessed and honored by the Father. Christians, whose citizenship is in heaven, are simply pilgrims in this present world.