

The Gospel of John

A True Story/My Story

(week 6)

1. Begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you clarity as you read.
2. Then with pen in hand, begin to mark it up and write thoughts and questions in the margin.
3. After spending time reading, underlining, circling, and making notes, answer the questions for each passage.

Use the following questions to guide your time in the Word:

Before you read and meditate upon each passage, ask God to help you to know Jesus.

- A. What does this teach me about Jesus (His message, His values, what He is passionate about)?

- B. How does this knowledge challenge, change, and/or inspire me (in my beliefs, in my actions)? How is this knowledge affecting my story?

- C. Who is God calling me to share this knowledge with today (in word and/or deed)?

DAY 1

John 8:31-59 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Challenge to the Claim to Be Children of Abraham

31 Jesus spoke to the Jews who had believed him. "If you obey my teaching," he said, "you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free."

33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's children. We have never been slaves of anyone. So how can you say that we will be set free?"

34 Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. Everyone who sins is a slave of sin. 35 A slave has no lasting place in the family. But a son belongs to the family forever. 36 So if the Son of Man sets you free, you will really be free. 37 I know that you are Abraham's children. But you are looking for a way to kill me. You have no room for my word. 38 I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. You are doing what you have heard from your father. "

39 "Abraham is our father," they answered.

Jesus said, "Are you really Abraham's children? If you are, you will do what Abraham did. 40 But you are looking for a way to kill me. I am a man who has told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham didn't do the things you want to do. 41 You are doing what your own father does."

"We have the right to claim to be God's children," they objected. "The only Father we have is God himself."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me. I have come here from God. I have not come on my own. God sent me. 43 Why aren't my words clear to you? Because you can't really hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the devil. You want to obey your father's wishes. From the beginning, the devil was a murderer. He has never obeyed the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his natural language. He does this because he is a liar. He is the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you don't believe me! 46 Can any of you prove I am guilty of sinning? Am I not telling the truth? Then why don't you believe me? 47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you don't hear is that you don't belong to God."

Jesus Makes Claims About Himself

48 The Jews answered Jesus, "Aren't we right when we say you are a Samaritan? Aren't you controlled by a demon?"

49 "I am not controlled by a demon," said Jesus. "I honor my Father. You do not honor me. 50 I am not seeking glory for myself. But there is one who brings glory to me. He is the judge. 51 What I'm about to tell you is true. Whoever obeys my word will never die."

52 Then they cried out, "Now we know you are controlled by a demon! Abraham died. So did the prophets. But you say that whoever obeys your word will never die. 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died. So did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

54 Jesus replied, "If I bring glory to myself, my glory means nothing. You claim that my Father is your God. He is the one who brings glory to me. 55 You do not know him. But I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him. And I obey his word. 56 Your father Abraham was filled with joy at the thought of seeing my day. He saw it and was glad."

57 "You are not even 50 years old," they said to Jesus. "And you have seen Abraham?"

58 "What I'm about to tell you is true," Jesus answered. "Before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 When he said this, they picked up stones to kill him. But Jesus hid himself. He slipped away from the temple area.

Day 2

John 9 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Makes Claims About Himself

9 As Jesus went along, he saw a man who was blind. He had been blind since he was born. 2 Jesus' disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned? Was this man born blind because he sinned? Or did his parents sin?"

3 "It isn't because this man sinned," said Jesus. "It isn't because his parents sinned. He was born blind so that God's power could be shown by what's going to happen. 4 While it is still day, we must do the works of the one who sent me. Night is coming. Then no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 After he said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud with the spit. Then he put the mud on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him. "Wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam means Sent. So the man went and washed. And he came home able to see.

8 His neighbors and people who had seen him earlier begging asked questions. "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" they asked. 9 Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No. He only looks like him."

But the man who had been blind kept saying, "I am the man."

10 "Then how were your eyes opened?" they asked.

11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed. Then I could see."

12 "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

The Pharisees Want to Know How the Blind Man Was Healed

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 The day Jesus made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath day. 15 So the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied. "Then I washed. And now I can see."

16 Some of the Pharisees said, "Jesus has not come from God. He does not keep the Sabbath day."

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such signs?" So the Pharisees did not agree with one another.

17 Then they turned again to the blind man. "What do you have to say about him?" they asked. "It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

18 They still did not believe that the man had been blind and now could see. So they sent for his parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered. "And we know he was born blind. 21 But we don't know how he can now see. And we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is an adult. He can speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The leaders had already made this decision about Jesus. Anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why the man's parents said, "He is an adult. Ask him."

24 Again the Pharisees called the man who had been blind to come to them. "Give glory to God by telling the truth!" they said. "We know that the man who healed you is a sinner."

25 He replied, "I don't know if he is a sinner or not. I do know one thing. I was blind, but now I can see!"

26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

27 He answered, "I have already told you. But you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

28 Then they began to attack him with their words. "You are this fellow's disciple!" they said. "We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses. But we don't even know where this fellow comes from."

30 The man answered, "That is really surprising! You don't know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does what he wants them to do. 32 Nobody has ever heard of anyone opening the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man had not come from God, he could do nothing."

34 Then the Pharisees replied, "When you were born, you were already deep in sin. How dare you talk like that to us!" And they threw him out of the synagogue.

People Who Can't See the Truth

35 Jesus heard that the Pharisees had thrown the man out of the synagogue. When Jesus found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me, so I can believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you."

38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, "I have come into this world to judge it. I have come so that people who are blind will see. I have come so that people who can see will become blind."

40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this. They asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But since you claim you can see, you remain guilty."

Days 3

John 10:1-21 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

10 "What I'm about to tell you Pharisees is true. What if someone does not enter the sheep pen through the gate but climbs in another way? That person is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him. The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own sheep, he goes on ahead of them. His sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger. In fact, they will run away from him. They don't recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus told this story. But the Pharisees didn't understand what he was telling them.

7 So Jesus said again, "What I'm about to tell you is true. I am like a gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers. But the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I'm like a gate. Anyone who enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out. And they will find plenty of food. 10 A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they may have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. 12 The hired man is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when the hired man sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired man. He does not care about the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. 15 They know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I give my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this sheep pen. I must bring them in too. They also will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I give up my life. But I will take it back again. 18 No one takes it from me. I give it up myself. I have the authority to give it up. And I have the authority to take it back again. I received this command from my Father."

19 The Jews who heard these words could not agree with one another. 20 Many of them said, "He is controlled by a demon. He has gone crazy! Why should we listen to him?"

21 But others said, "A person controlled by a demon does not say things like this. Can a demon open the eyes of someone who is blind?"

Day 4

John 10:22-42 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Another Challenge to Jesus' Claims

22 Then came the Feast of Hanukkah at Jerusalem. It was winter. 23 Jesus was in the temple courtyard walking in Solomon's Porch. 24 The Jews who were gathered there around Jesus spoke to him. They said, "How long will you keep us waiting? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you. But you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name are a witness for me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one will steal them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than anyone. No one can steal them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

31 Again the Jews who had challenged him picked up stones to kill him. 32 But Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. Which good work are you throwing stones at me for?"

33 "We are not throwing stones at you for any good work," they replied. "We are stoning you for saying a very evil thing. You are only a man. But you claim to be God."

34 Jesus answered them, "Didn't God say in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods" '? (Psalm 82:6) 35 We know that Scripture is always true. God spoke to some people and called them 'gods.' 36 If that is true, what about the one the Father set apart as his very own? What about this one the Father sent into the world? Why do you charge me with saying a very evil thing? Is it because I said, 'I am God's Son'? 37 Don't believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But what if I do them? Even if you don't believe me, believe these works. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." 39 Again they tried to arrest him. But he escaped from them.

40 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan River. He went to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed. 41 Many people came to him. They said, "John never performed a sign. But everything he said about this man was true." 42 And in that place many believed in Jesus.

Day 5

John 11:1-16 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Lazarus Dies

1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived. 2 Mary would later pour perfume on the Lord. She would also wipe Jesus' feet with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick in bed. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. "Lord," they told him, "the one you love is sick."

4 When Jesus heard this, he said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory. God's Son will receive glory because of it." 5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So after he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. 7 And then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short time ago the Jews there tried to kill you with stones. Are you still going back?"

9 Jesus answered, "Aren't there 12 hours of daylight? Anyone who walks during the day won't trip and fall. They can see because of this world's light. 10 But when they walk at night, they'll trip and fall. They have no light."

11 After he said this, Jesus went on speaking to them. "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep," he said. "But I am going there to wake him up."

12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking about the death of Lazarus. But his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your benefit, I am glad I was not there. Now you will believe. But let us go to him."

16 Then Thomas, who was also called Didymus, spoke to the rest of the disciples. "Let us go also," he said. "Then we can die with Jesus."