

21 Day Journey Into The Bible

“Jesus Walks on Water” – John 6:1-71

February 18, 2007

Overview of Our Study Together

21 DAY JOURNEY INTO THE BIBLE				
<i>A Chapter by Chapter Study of the Gospel of John</i>				
Outline	Time	Content	Text	Date
Prologue		Introducing Jesus	John 1:1-18	Jan 7
Public Ministry of the Son of God	A Few Years	Jesus Calls His First Disciples	John 1:19-51	Jan 14
		Jesus Changes Water Into Wine	John 2	Jan 21
		Jesus Says, “You Must Be Born Again”	John 3	Jan 28
		Jesus Talks with a Sinful Woman	John 4	Feb 4
		Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man	John 5	Feb 11
		Jesus Walks on Water	John 6	Feb 18
		Jesus Teaches at a Convention	John 7	Feb 25
		Jesus Deals with an Affair	John 8	Mar 4
		Jesus Heals a Blind Man	John 9	Mar 11
		Jesus Claims to Be God	John 10	Mar 18
		Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11	Mar 25
		Jesus Receives an Extravagant Gift	John 12	Apr 22
Private Ministry of the Son of God	A Few Hours	Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet	John 13	Apr 29
		Jesus Promises to Send Help (1)	John 14	May 6
		Jesus Talks About Productivity	John 15	May 13
		Jesus Promises to Send Help (2)	John 16	May 20
		Jesus Prays for His Followers	John 17	May 27
Passion of the S.G.		Jesus Gets Arrested and Crucified	John 18-19	Apr 1
Post-Resurrection Appearances of the Son of God	A Few Days	Jesus is Resurrected from the Dead	John 20	Apr 8
		Jesus Restores Peter	John 21	Apr 15

Brief Outline of John 6

- 6:1-15 – Jesus feeds the 5000 (Miraculous Sign #4)
- 6:16-24 – Jesus walks on water (Miraculous Sign #5)
- 6:25-59 – Jesus in the synagogue: “I Am the Bread of Life” (I Am #1)
- 6:60-71 – Many disciples turn back

Five Questions to Ask Myself from John 6

- 1) **Am I going through any tests right now?** (vv.1-9)
 - Key verse: v.6
 - Philip failed this test (v.7); Andrew got a B-minus (vv.8-9)
 - As you think about this concept, do not think about a mean drill sergeant who wants to flunk all the weakling recruits. Think about a loving Parent

who lovingly gives his small child little tests to help the child grow and mature.

- Some examples and principles of testing in the Bible:
 1. God tested Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac (Hebrews 11:17).
 2. God tested Hezekiah by withdrawing the feeling of His presence for a period of time (2 Chronicles 32:31).
 3. God wants you to pass the tests of life so He never allows the tests you face to be greater than the grace He gives you to handle them (1 Corinth 10:13).
 4. We are instructed to test ourselves (2 Corinth 13:5).
 5. One of the ways that we are tested is by the praise we receive (Proverbs 27:21).
 6. God promises to reward us in response to our testings (James 1:12).
- Application #1 – What tests have I been going through? _____
 _____ How have I been doing on my tests? _____
 Any confessions I need to make to God? _____ What
 steps do I need to take to handle these tests in a more God-pleasing way?

2) **Am I being a good steward?** (vv.8-15)

- Key verse: v.12
- Two observations about Jesus from this section:
 1. Jesus is extravagant – He multiplied more bread and fish than was necessary to feed all these people (v.13; Mark 6:43). Jesus loves to lavish us and to provide more than we could ask or think (Eph. 3:20).
 2. Jesus is a good steward – He was insistent that nothing be wasted (v.12). Jesus cares that resources be stewarded well and not wasted.
- Application #2 – How am I doing at being a good steward of the resources that God has provided my family and me? Is there any area of my life where I am being wasteful? Am I teaching my children good stewardship? An action step for me here would be: _____

3) **What am I afraid of?** (vv.16-24)

- Key verse: v.20
- Someone has counted that the phrase “fear not” occurs 365 times in the Bible – one for each day of the year!
- God does not want us to be afraid but to trust in Him.
- *2 Timothy 1:7 - For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*
- *Isaiah 43:1-2 – This is what the Lord says – He who created you... “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When*

you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God.”

- **Application #3** – Are there any areas of my life where I have been living in fear? Lord, I confess my fear as a lack of trusting You. I now give You my fears about _____ and put my trust in You. Lord, I trust You with _____.

4) What am I looking to for life, sustenance, energy, and pleasure? (vv.25-59)

- Key verses: vv.35, 48, 51
- What is the purpose of bread? It nourishes us, gives us energy, tastes good, and allows us to live.
- **Application #4** – What am I looking to for life, sustenance, energy, and pleasure? Lord, I confess the substitutes that I have been looking to: _____ I believe that You are the only truly satisfying source of life. You are the Bread of Life and I choose to feast on You.
- Additional issues in this section:
 1. *The “I Am” Statement* (vv.35,48,51) – This is the first of seven “I Am” statements that Jesus makes in the Gospel of John. The use of this term is an illusion to Exodus 3:13-15 where God reveals that His name is “I Am.” Jesus is claiming to be God! John places special emphasis on this by listing seven (the perfect number) of the times that Jesus does this.
 2. *The Manna Issue* (vv.30-33,48-51) – Many of the Jewish teachers taught that, when the Messiah came, he would do another manna miracle. It was widely believed that Jeremiah had hidden the jar of manna kept in the ark and that the Messiah would reveal himself by producing the hidden manna, and then by causing new manna to fall from heaven. Jesus dispels these false expectations and explains something that is infinitely better... but which they do not understand or receive.
 3. *The Calvinism Debate* (v.44) – Calvinists use John 6:44 to teach total depravity, unconditional individual election, and irresistible grace. Wesley-
Arminians respond with John 12:32. For longer discussion see message on October 22, 2000.
 4. *The Lord’s Supper Debate* (vv.53-56) – Many of my Roman Catholic friends teach that, during the Eucharist, the bread and wine literally change into the literal body and literal blood of Jesus Christ – that the recipient of Communion literally partakes of Christ who is being sacrificed in the Mass itself to atone for sins. Some teach that taking Communion is essential for salvation (vv.53-54). I have concluded that John 6:53-56 is an analogy. Jesus Himself indicates in John 6:63 that all the words He had just spoken were spiritual words. All of Jesus’ “I Am” statements appear to be analogies (6:35; 8:12; 10:7,11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). The parallel between John 6:40 and 6:54 strongly indicates this as an analogy and that belief is the means of salvation (not taking Communion). Other Scriptures would agree with this: Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Rom 3:28; 4:4-5.

5) Is any of Jesus’ teaching “too hard” for me? (vv.60-71)

- Key verses: vv.60-61,66-67

- **Application #5** – What teachings of the Bible do I find “too hard”? How will I respond... like Verse 66 or like Verses 68-69? Some teachings that I find hard are...
 - ❑ The command not to lust or commit adultery with my eyes (Matt 5:27-30)
 - ❑ The command to give 10% plus of my income back to God for His Kingdom purposes (Leviticus 27:30-33; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)
 - ❑ The command to submit to governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7), to submit to husbands (Ephesians 5:22-24), to submit to parents (Ephesians 6:1-3), to submit to our employers/bosses (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25), and to church leaders (Hebrews 13:17)
 - ❑ The command to sacrifice our wants/desires/needs for the sake of fully loving our wives (Ephesians 5:25-33)
 - ❑ The command to fully meet our marriage partner’s sexual needs (1 Corinthians 7:2-5)
 - ❑ The command to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15,25) and to confront those who have hurt us (Ephesians 4:25-27; Matthew 18:15-18) and to seek peace in all our relationships as far as it depends on us (Romans 12:17-21)
 - ❑ The command to build other people up with our words (Ephesians 4:29), to not talk about others behind their backs (Ephesians 4:31), to use our tongues for good, not evil (James 3:1-12), and to not gossip (Proverbs 11:13; 16:28; 20:19; 26:20)
 - ❑ The command to not be selfish but rather to put others before ourselves (Philippians 2:3-11; Romans 12:3; Mark 12:31)
 - ❑ Other: _____
- **Application #6** – Let’s bless our community with “The Church Has Left the Building.” Take 10 door hangers per family unit. Pray for 10 homes in your neighborhood. Don’t knock on their door rather just walk slowly on the street in front of their house and pray blessing, salvation, a church home, spiritual growth, blessing on marriage/parenting, blessing on finances/job. And then hang the door hanger on their front door. You can sign your first name on it if you’d like. If possible, try to do this on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 21). We will not have a worship service on the GF campus on Feb 21... rather this will be our spiritual act of worship to leave the building and bless all these homes. Email a short testimony (2 sentences) of how your prayerwalk went to graceprayer@whatisgrace.org

Challenge to Memorize 10 Scriptures over These 21 Sundays

- ❑ John 1:14, John 3:30, John 5:19

Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Read John 6 and use these sermon notes to discuss the 5 questions that this chapter brings up. As you discuss, reread the sections of Scripture you are discussing. As you feel comfortable, share your applications with each other.