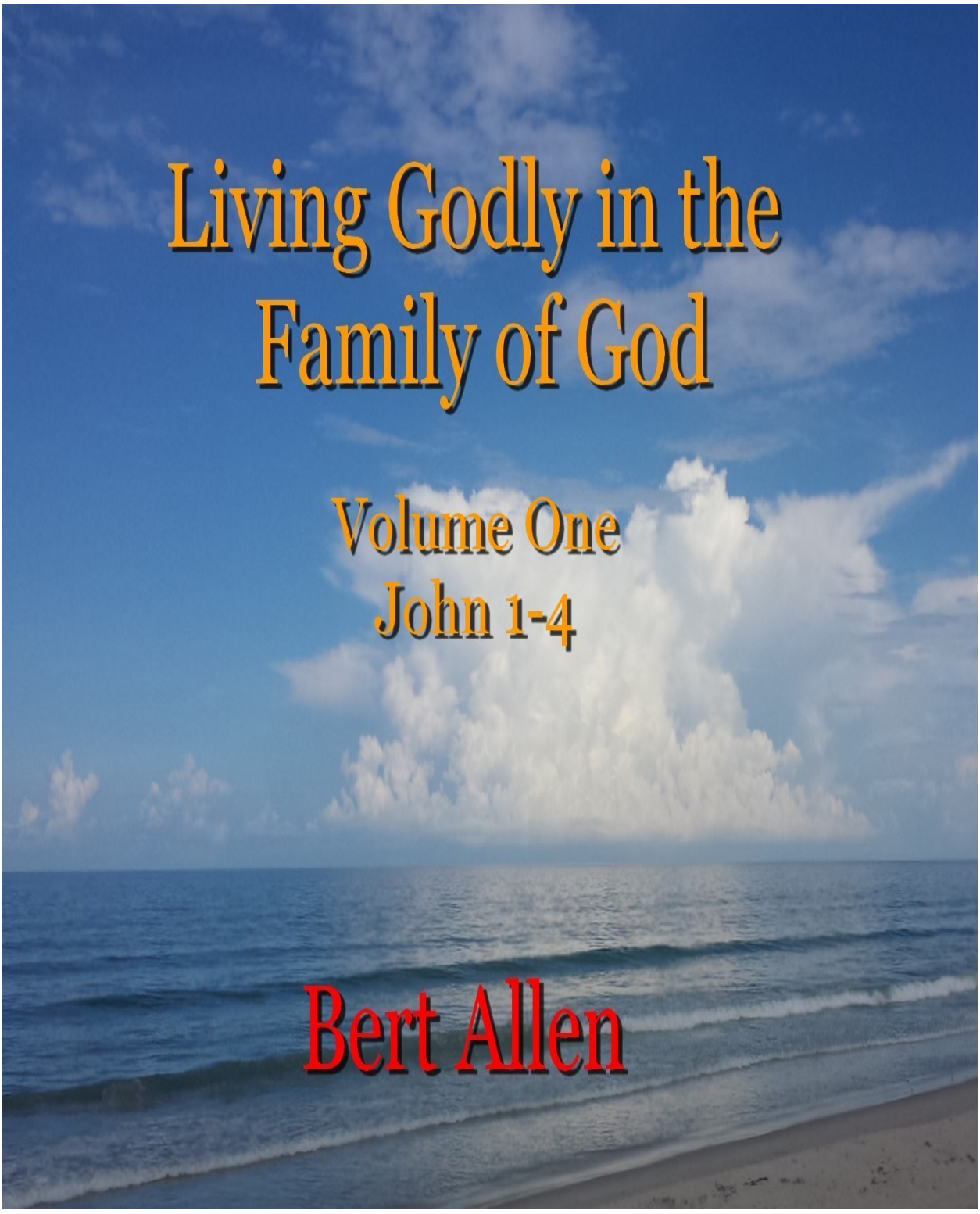
Living Godly in the Family of God
Volume One
John 1-4
Bert Allen

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# Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best.

We have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.

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# 1

# Learning about Godliness and the Word Today

John started his Gospel in the Beginning, just like Genesis started. John wrote every word under the inspiration of God, Who breathed out those words. As we read through the Gospel of John we will see what it means to live Godly in the family of God.

Only people who have been born from above will ever see the kingdom of God and enter the kingdom of God. No matter how many nice things you believe about Jesus, unless a day came in your life where you were born again, then you missed everything God has to say to you. He loves you and wants you to receive the free gift of eternal life today.

As we pass through the Gospel of John, we will see that Jesus is the Word, Who is God, and made all things. We will also see John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus. We will also see Jesus go to a wedding with His disciples and work a cool miracle. We will also meet the Woman at the Well, Pallet Man, Man Born Blind, Lazarus, Mary, Martha, and the disciples. But most of all, we will learn more about Jesus, the Son of God, and His great love for all people. Yet, He warns everyone that if you disobey the Son of God, then the wrath of God abides upon you.

Jesus will explain in detail what it means to have eternal life, through eating His flesh and drinking His blood. Jesus meant that we must spiritually partake of Him, so that He becomes our life. He teaches us and leads us as the Great Shepherd, Who laid down His life for the sheep, so that He may take it up again.

We will also see Jesus crucified, after preparing His disciples for His death with explicit prophecies of things to come. Jesus loved His own and never stops loving His children.

After three days, Jesus arose from the dead. His ministry after His resurrection continued as before, except that Jesus turned the sorrow of the disciples into joy, which no one could take away from them.

The Gospel of John closes with Jesus talking to Peter and the other disciples. He commanded Peter to shepherd His sheep, because Peter loved Jesus, even after his notorious failures in triplicate. John did not write down everything Jesus did and said, but John did include every word God wanted us to know so that we would love Him more.

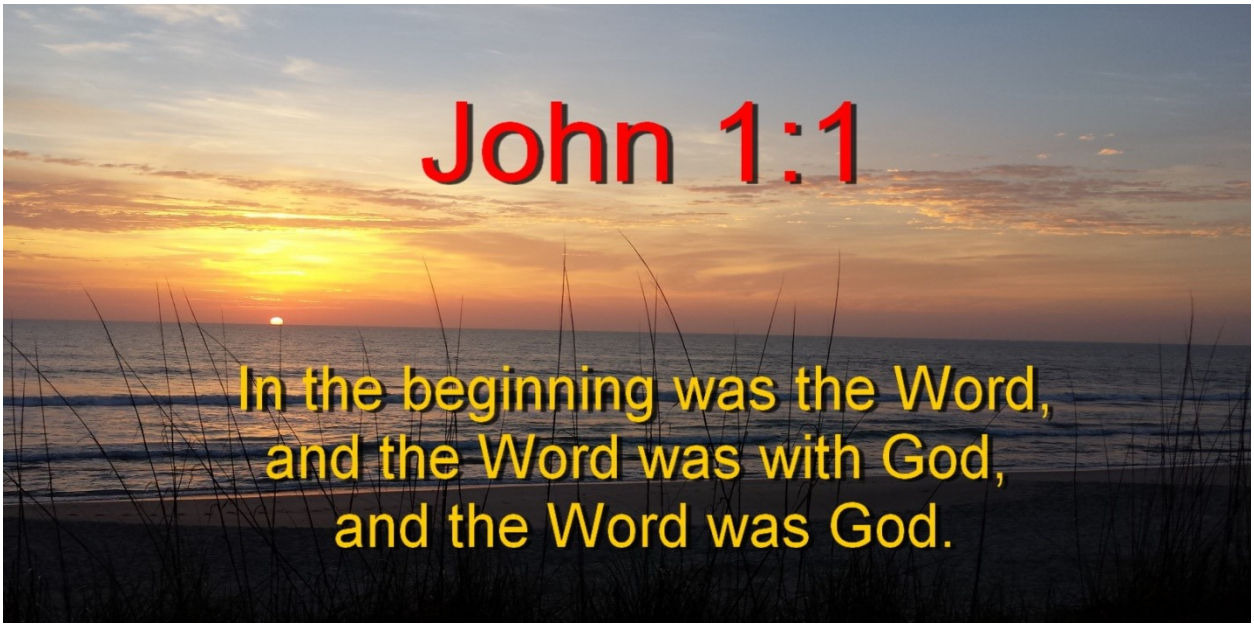
Two parts of the Gospel of John appearing in many English Bibles have extremely weak textual support: John 5:4 and John 7:53-8:11. God inspired only the original autograph of the Bible. Therefore, we have an obligation to compare manuscripts (copies of the autograph) to see which manuscripts actually have the text of the original autograph. The textual evidence indicates those verses were not in the autograph, but added later. Therefore, they are not inspired and I omitted them from this work.

As you read through the daily messages, I suggest you ask Jesus to open your mind so that you will understand each verse in John, one day at a time. Having understood the verse, I pray that you will love God more and put into practice the truth He teaches us. May God bless you and may you read and heed His word.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day One

# The Word Today




Why did John begin his Gospel with “In the beginning”? John wanted us to see Jesus as eternal God who took flesh and dwelt among us. While Matthew, Mark and Luke each wrote just what God inspired them to do, each of them began their Gospels at different points in time.

John wants us to know several things about the Word. First, in the beginning was the Word. No matter how far back you go, Jesus will always be there, because He is eternal God. Therefore John said in the beginning was the Word.

Second, the Word was with God. John reveals the Trinitarian nature of God in that Jesus was God and with God at the same time.

The Word was God. John had this remarkable way of putting the truth in simple terms. In this case he proclaimed that Jesus was God, full deity, just like God the Father.

# *In The Beginning*

1. **In the Beginning**. As we begin our study of the Gospel of John, we note that John opened his Gospel by referencing "In the beginning." John intended to focus upon the eternality and deity of the Word of God.

2. **Genesis**. Just as the Book of Genesis opened with the words "In the beginning," so also the Holy Spirit moved John to open his Gospel the same way.

3. **Eternal Truth**. John revealed three truths about the Word: (a) the Word was in the beginning--meaning the Word was eternal, without a starting point and the Word was not created; (b) the Word was with God--meaning that the one God eternally exists in more than one Person: Father, Son, Holy Spirit; and (c) the Word was God--declaring the deity of the Word.

4. **Shine Forth**. John revealed the Word and the Word will shine forth in glory throughout the Gospel of John.

5. **Took Flesh**. The Word took flesh and dwelt among men. The Word, as we will see in John 1:14ff., glorified God by accomplishing the entire plan of God for His life, death and resurrection.

6. **By Faith Alone**. Living Godly in the Family of God means the Word of God has come into our lives because we received Him by faith alone.

7. **Eternal Glory**. We rejoice today because the Word left His eternal glory to humble Himself and live among men, giving His life a ransom for many, like us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God knowing that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we think of Jesus as the eternal Word.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when know that Jesus left the glories of eternity and heaven to die on earth for us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we can look back at the beginning to gain insight into today. We will see Jesus back there, here today, and with us for all eternity. He has always been God, and He lives with each believer today. Will you live Godly today by remembering that Jesus has always been there, and will always be with us for eternity?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Two

# With God Today




We know that the Word was in the beginning with God, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. John started his gospel in the beginning, but not the beginning of God, nor the beginning of the Word, because neither God nor the Word had a beginning.

John opened his Gospel with a description of the beginning. The Word was in the beginning with God. John used the term “He” to describe the Word, so that we know the Word was a Person. John will use many words as symbols of deeper truths. He wrote with simple language to express lofty concepts.

God revealed to John that the Word was already there with God in the beginning, and was with God, and was God. We have a very nice, simple way of looking at one God, with three distinct divine Persons. Each Person is God, and was with God, all at the same time. Notice that the Bible does not present three Gods, but one God eternally existing as three Persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

# *He Was*

1. **A Person.** Writing as God moved him, John revealed that the Word in John 1:1 was a "He" in John 1:2. In this case, the masculine pronoun indicates the Word was a Person.

2. **Eternal Existence.** The Word was in the beginning, existing from eternity past as "He."

3. **Not Created.** The Word was not created. God always existed and God was never created.

4. **Created All Things.** The Word created all things. All things except God were created by God the Word.

5. **Elohim.** As God, the Word created all things on earth. Genesis reveals the creation by Elohim of the heavens and earth. So, we know that Jesus was included in the term Elohim, because Jesus is God and Creator of the heavens and earth.

6. **We Bow.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we bow before the Word, our Creator, and delight in Jesus our Savior, because they are One and the same Person.

7. **He Took Flesh.** We rejoice today in Jesus, the Word of God. He always existed, yet took flesh to be our Savior, laying aside His glory.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God knowing that Jesus created all things.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we trust Jesus to keep us, just as He always has been God and with God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we ponder that Jesus was in the beginning with God, and loved us even then.**

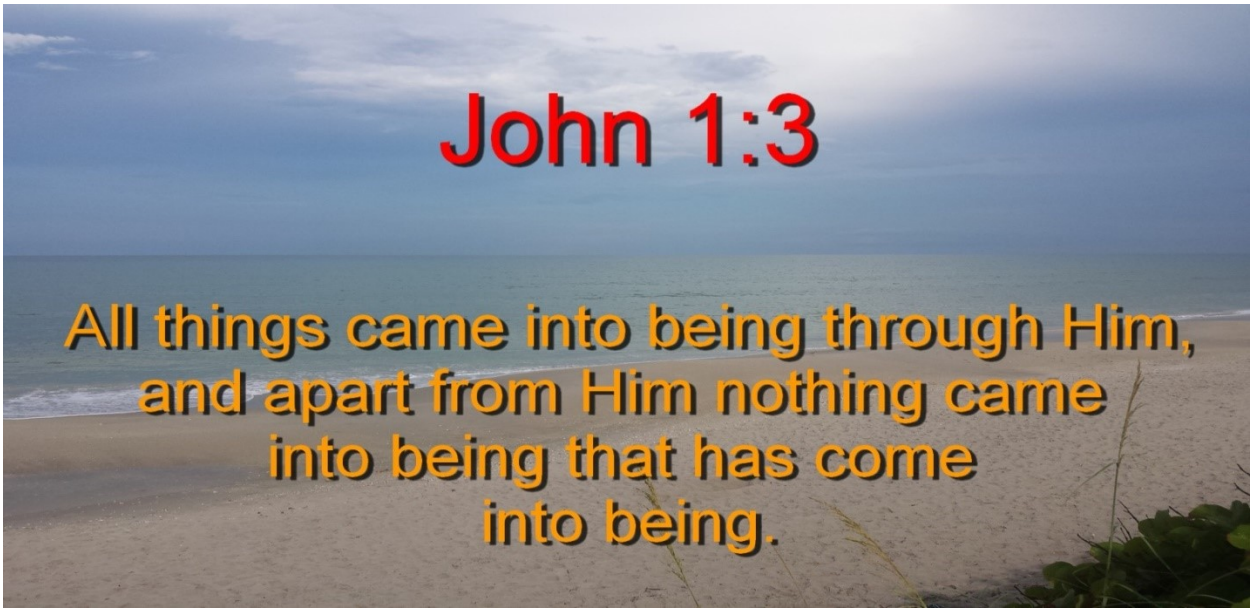
## Application for Today

Today, tomorrow, and the next day, Jesus will be there. He was in the beginning with God, and remains with God today. As God, Jesus takes good care of us each day. Will you live Godly today in the family of God by remembering that Jesus was in the beginning with God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Three

# All Things Today




Have you ever wondered where all the stars came from? Astronomers discover new galaxies, black holes, and all kinds of new things in space. Other people talk about string theory, folding time and space, and moving faster than light.

When I look into the night sky, I see more stars than I can count. The more I look, the more stars I see. Depending on where you are on our planet, you can see even more stars with clear air. In the day time, the sky looks bluer and the stars at night look more plentiful. You may be able to see the Northern Lights, the Southern Cross, the North Star, or many other constellations.

God said He created everything, including the farthest galaxies and the earth around us. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being. So, we know for sure that God had a plan for all creation, and He created everything just the way He wanted it to be.

# *All Things*

1. **The Word Created All.** The Word created all things. Take a moment and consider the height, width and depth of that truth.

2. **Came Into Being.** All things came into being through Him. We know God created angels, which cannot die. Yet, some of them fell into sin.

3. **Power.** In my life, when I see how complicated things, people and life may be, I can always rest in the power of Jesus Christ.

4. **Absolute Authority.** When I encounter difficult people, I know that the Word created them all and has absolute authority over every living being as Creator.

5. **Heals.** When my friends go in for surgery, I know who created that body and He knows just how to heal it, according to His good pleasure.

6. **Loves.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know the Word, the Creator of all things, and He loves every member of the family of God.

7. **Worship, Serve, Rejoice.** We rejoice today in the Word, God in the flesh, who made all things, including me, so that I might worship, serve and rejoice in Him for all eternity.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God knowing that Jesus created all things.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we trust Jesus to keep us, just as He always has been God and with God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we ponder that Jesus was in the beginning with God, and came to earth for us.**

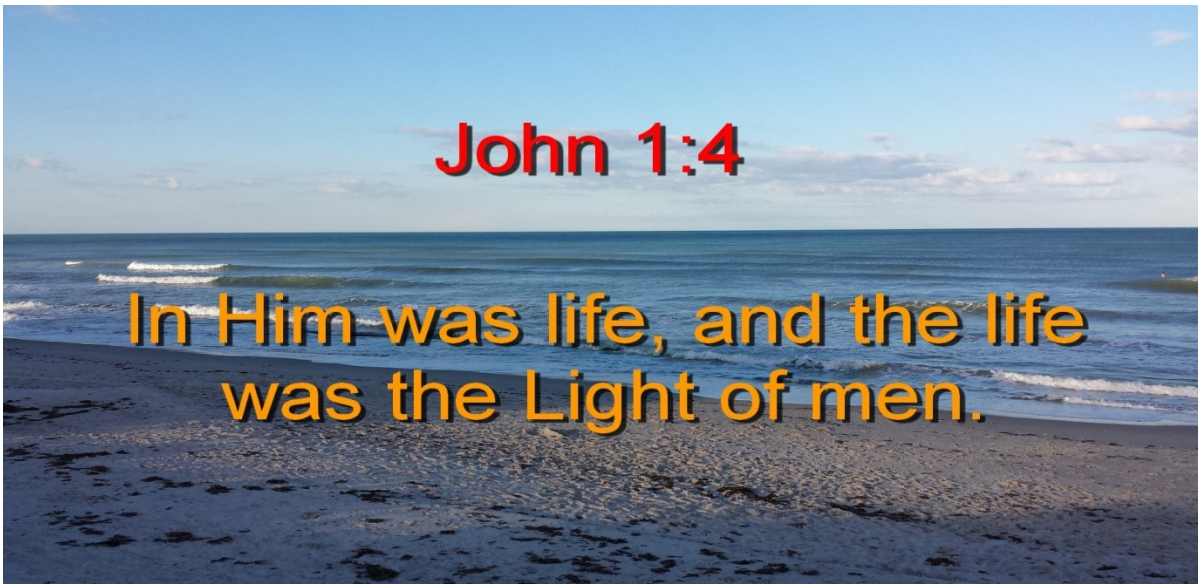
**Application for Today**

Today we may look around us and see many things God has created. We know that all things came into being through God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by worshipping God as Creator of all things?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Four

# The Light of Men Today




In Jesus was life. As God, He has life in Himself. No one gave life to God. He gave life to all people who received the life from Him.

Jesus was also the light of men. As the light of men, Jesus was already shining before He created the earth and before God created the first man, Adam. In Jesus was the life. He existed before the earth and the first man. Because Jesus is God, He was the life when He walked in the flesh among men.

I like to use the title for Jesus, Light of Men. He alone provides the words of eternal life, and He enlightens every man coming into the world. When Jesus took flesh and dwelt among men, He shone with the glory of God before them.

As God, Jesus is the spiritual light of men. He is not like the moon that reflects the light of the sun. Jesus is like the sun, that burns with light from within. The

unlimited light of Jesus shines upon all men. The light of Jesus exposes men and their deeds. God linked life in Jesus and Jesus as the light of men. Jesus will proclaim those wonderful truths throughout the Gospel of John.

# *In Him Was Life*

1. **The Word was Life.** In the Word was life. As we know, Jesus is the Word. Jesus declared that He had life in Himself.

2. **Life in Himself.** Jesus created all things and gave life to every living being. Take a moment and meditate upon the depth of the truth that Jesus has life in Himself.

3. **Light of Men.** The life in Jesus was the light of men. Jesus directly connected the life in Himself with the light of men.

4. **Life and Light.** We know that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. Therefore, Jesus gives both life and light to all men.

5. **Divine, Supernatural Life.** Jesus also emphasized "the life." The word "the" here marks the life in Jesus as divine and supernatural. Jesus makes people alive, and shines light upon every man He created.

6. **His Light.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know that Jesus gave each one of us life, and He shines His light upon our lives.

7. **His Life.** We rejoice today in knowing about the life within us. Jesus gave it to us as a special gift. He put His life in us and shines from within the believer. Happy Day!

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God because we know that Jesus was Light and He is the Light of men.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we walk in the light with Jesus and enjoy the free gift of eternal life in knowing God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we share the life and Light of Jesus with other people.**

**Application for Today**

Today see the Light of Jesus shining all around us. He provides life to all things and sustains our lives with His Light, life and love. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as you walk in the light and life of Jesus in you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Five

# The Light Shines Today




I have seen attorneys in court completely fail to comprehend what was happening. One time I saw three appellate justices ask an attorney if he said a certain phrase during the trial in the lower court. Three times the justices asked specific questions about what the attorney said and each time the attorney denied saying such things. The attorney never realized that the justices were reading to him from the transcripts of the trial, which recorded his own words verbatim. By the third time, the attorney should have realized that the justices had the transcript and were reading it to him. That appeal went very badly for that attorney and the client. My client had a good day on appeal.

People tend to think that they can live in darkness and tell lies, hoping other people will believe those lies. They fail to comprehend the truth, even when it shines upon them.

Jesus said He was the Light shining in the darkness. He shone perfectly before people. Even so, the people He created did not comprehend the light, just like the attorney did not comprehend that the justices were reading from the transcript.

# *The Light Shines*

1. **The Light was in Jesus.** The glorious truth shines. In this case, the light was in Jesus. The light shines in the darkness.

2. **The Light Shines.** The darkness here continues the spiritual theme in the passage. Jesus shines in the darkness.

3. **Light Exposes Sins.** Jesus brought light and life to the world in creation and manifested the light as a man walking on earth. Most people rejected Jesus because their deeds were evil and they feared the light. The light of Jesus exposes our sins and shines the way to salvation in Jesus alone. Jesus loves to forgive sins by faith alone.

4. **Darkness did not Comprehend.** The darkness did not comprehend the light. Just because the light from Jesus shines upon a person does not mean that person comprehends the light.

5. **Jesus Brings Light.** Jesus loves to bring light into darkness. His very presence in our lives brings both light and life to all that we are.

6. **We Comprehend.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we comprehend the light of Jesus by faith alone. Without saving faith in Jesus, we live in darkness.

7. **We Know Jesus.** We rejoice today because we comprehend the light of Jesus in our lives. By faith alone we know Jesus and enjoy His presence each day.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God knowing that Jesus created all things.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we trust Jesus to keep us, just as He always has been God and with God.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we ponder that Jesus was in the beginning with God, and has always been there for us.**

## Application for Today

Today, the Light still shines in the darkness and the darkness still does not comprehend it. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by letting the Light of Jesus shine forth from your words and actions?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 2

# Learning about Godliness

# And the Light Today

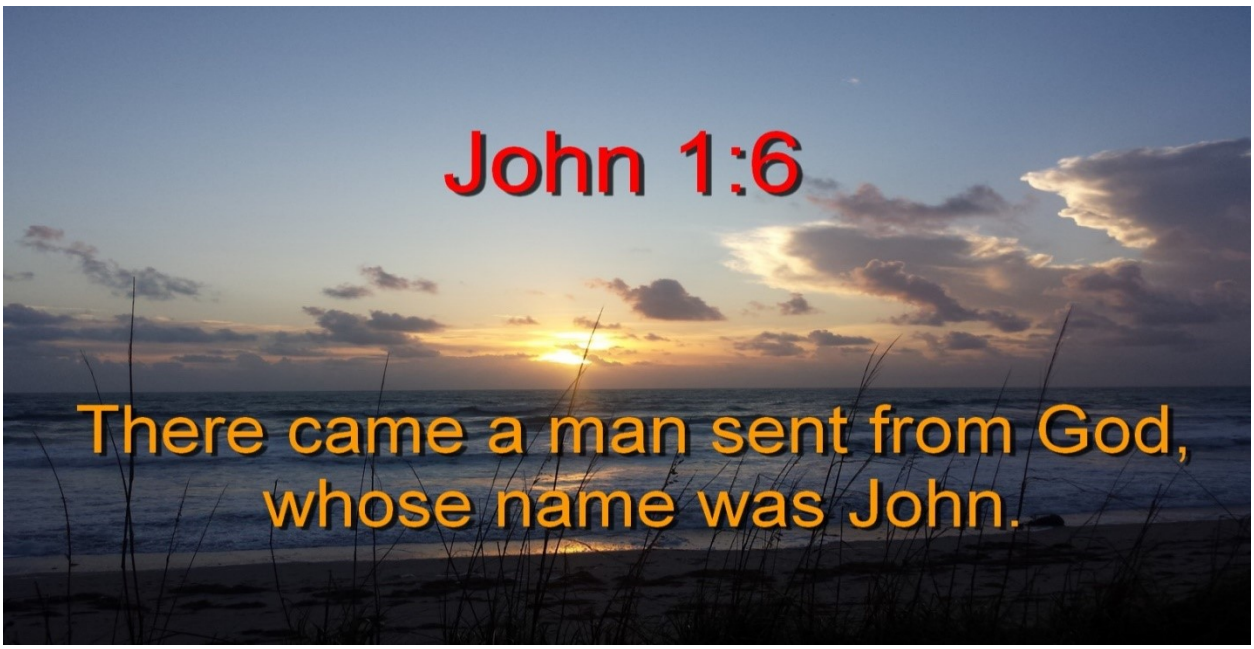
God sent John the Baptist to testify about the Light. God intended that all believe through John. John was not the Light, but God sent him to testify about the Light. The true Light comes into the world and enlightens every man. The Light made the world, and the Light came into the world. His own did not receive Him. As many as did receive the Light, God gave them the power to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His name. They were born of the will of God. Jesus is the Light.

When the Light came into Cana of Galilee, Jesus attended a wedding. Mary, His mother, came and told Him that they had run out of wine. Jesus transformed water into wine. Only the servants and a few others knew what Jesus had done. This work of power was the first sign Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. He then went to Capernaum, along with His mother and His brothers and His disciples and stayed there a few days.

When the Light went into Jerusalem, Jesus cleansed the temple of business. He drove out the money changers, along with their oxen, sheep and doves. He poured out their coins and overturned their tables. Zeal for His Father's house consumed Him. He prophesied that when the Jews destroy this temple, in three days He would raise it up. He spoke about the temple of His body. Many believed in the signs Jesus performed, but they did not all have saving faith, because they had not been born from above.

# Day Six

# Sent from God Today




John wrote the Gospel of John, but mentioned John the Baptist as being sent from God. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all mentioned John the Baptist in their Gospels. Matthew wrote that John the Baptist came, preaching repentance, for the kingdom of God was at hand. Mark quoted Isaiah the prophet to introduce John the Baptist as the prophesied one who would prepare the way for the Messiah. Luke introduced John the Baptist through his parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth. Only John introduced John the Baptist as having been sent from God, in keeping with John's direct emphasis upon God's activity.

John was not God in the flesh like Jesus, but only a man. The word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. He came into all the district around the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the

forgiveness of sins. Crowds went out to hear him and be baptized. People began to wonder if John the Baptist was the Christ, but he denied it and said that the Messiah was coming, but he was unworthy to untie the thong of His sandal.

# *John*

1. **God Sent.** God sent a man. Those words convey great purpose and meaning.

2. **A Man.** Not only did Jesus bring life and light into the world, but God also sent a man.

3. **John.** The name of the man sent from God was John. Later Jesus will tell His disciples that He was sending them just as the Father sent Jesus into the world.

4. **Right Time.** As God unfolded His plan of salvation in Jesus by faith alone, God put the right people in exactly the right places at precisely the right time.

5. **Specific Mission.** God sent John on a specific mission for God.

6. **He Still Sends.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we appreciate all the people God sent as part of His plan to bring salvation in Jesus by faith alone. He still sends people today.

7. **His Purposes.** We rejoice today as we meditate upon the wide and deep plans of God. He sends people for His purposes, to accomplish His will, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and share His love for the world.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we know that God sends people to prepare hearts to listen to Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we proclaim repentance and forgiveness from sins only through Jesus Christ.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we know that God sent every believer to earth for a specific purpose, including doing the works God prepared beforehand.**

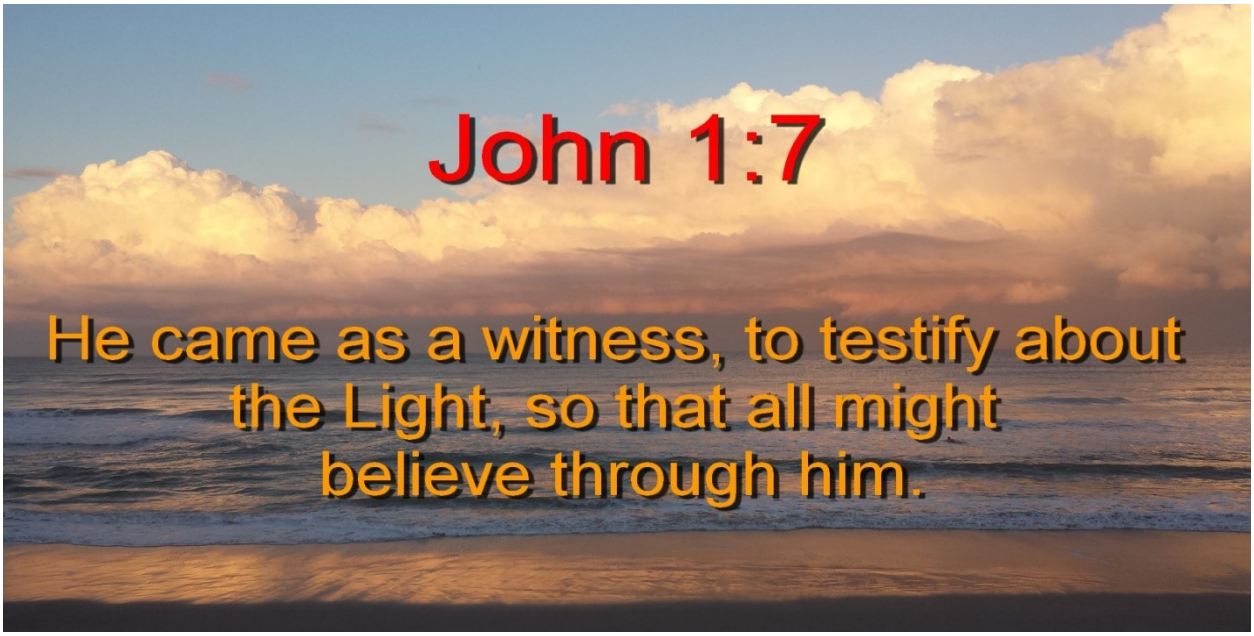
**Application for Today**

Today, we live with purpose, knowing that God sent us to use our spiritual gifts to His glory. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by fulfilling God's purpose in sending you forth into the world?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seven

# Walk in the Light Today




John the Baptist came as a witness. God sent Him to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through Him. Faith makes all the difference, but not just any kind of faith about anything you choose to believe. Your faith must be in the Light, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to earth and took flesh for a very specific purpose. He came to give His soul a ransom for many. Jesus certainly healed many people and cast out many demons. He also fed people, and proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor.

Jesus died because we are all sinners. The wages of sin is death, so that we all deserve the death penalty. Yet, God loves us and offers us the free gift of eternal life. We receive that free gift by faith alone. We believe that Jesus died for our sins, and He forgave us. We now have peace with God having been justified by faith alone.

# *All Might Believe*

1. **God's Plan.** God has a plan for all to believe. What a wonderful plan.

2. **God Sent John.** As part of that plan, God sent John to testify about the Light (Jesus Christ).

3. **Independent Witness.** John served as an independent witness to the Light. Not only would Jesus Himself proclaim that He was the Light, but John would bear identical testimony even before Jesus began His public ministry.

4. **Preparing the Way.** John would testify to the Light by preparing the way for the Light. People must be spiritually prepared by God for the Light.

5. **All Might Believe.** Notice that the witness bears testimony about the Light so that all might believe. The plan of God remains the same today. As believers, we serve as witnesses to the Light by bearing testimony to the Light so that all might believe in Him.

6. **Bearing Testimony.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we serve as witnesses bearing testimony to the Light so that all might believe.

7. **Faithful Testimony.** We rejoice today because God uses faithful witnesses to bear faithful testimony concerning the Light so that all might be saved.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we follow God's plan for everyone to believe in Jesus for salvation and life.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we seek opportunities to be a witness to testify about the Light.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when both our actions and our words testify about the Light and people believe because of our Godly testimony.**

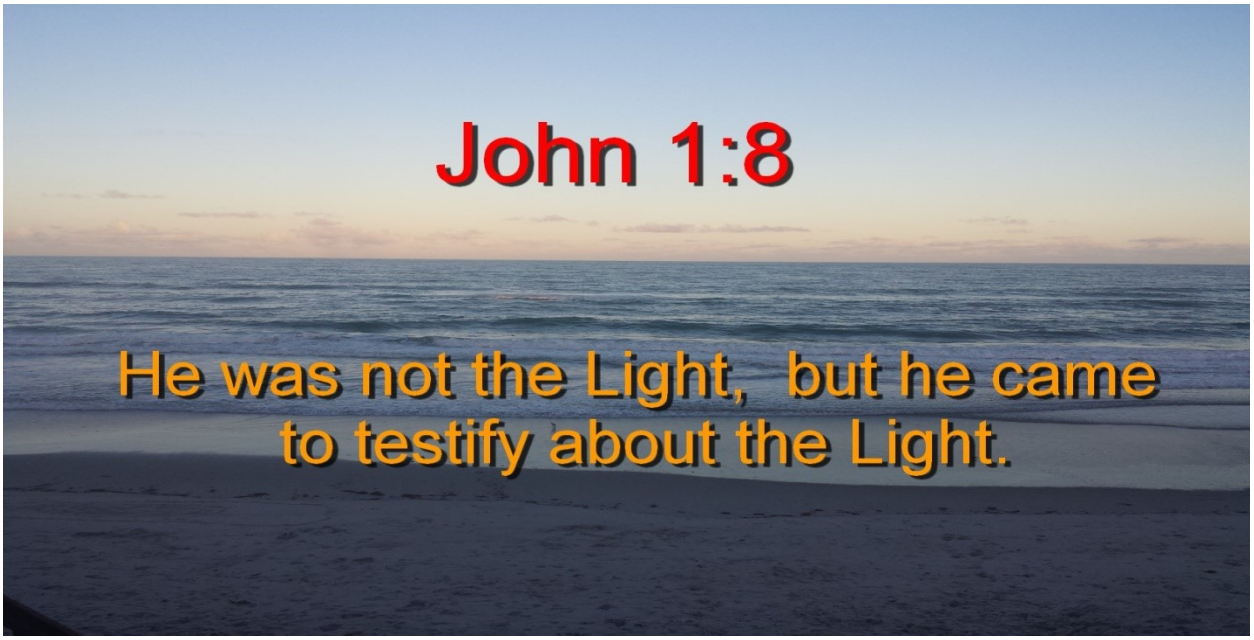
## Application for Today

Today, we are living testimonies to the grace and love of God. At times our testimony shines brightly for Christ Jesus, and other times we bring shame upon His name. But each day we have a new opportunity to walk and testify. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by testifying with your actions and words about the forgiveness of sins and salvation in Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Eight

# Not the Light Today




John the Baptist never got too big for his britches. He knew he was not the Light, but that he came to testify about the Light. Even so, Jesus said that no one born of women was greater than John the Baptist. By fulfilling the life mission that God gave to each one we complete the work He has given us to do.

Jesus now abides in each believer. Indeed, we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption. God has empowered us to use our spiritual gifts to accomplish the life mission given by God to each one of us. Only when we keep the perspective that we are not the Light, but witnesses of the Light can we live Godly in the family of God.

I have seen people who seem confused about who is the Light. Jesus is the only Light and Life of Men. His Father sanctified Him and sent Him into

the world to save people by grace through faith. We will never be the Light, nor the Savior, nor Jesus. We are His servants, messengers, children, and friends, but we must never forget He is our Lord, Master, Savior, King, Priest, Word, and eternal God. Being great in the eyes of God means we are the servant of all.

# *Testify about The Light*

1. **John's Place.** John's place in the plan of God was to be clearly distinguished from the Light (Jesus Christ).

2. **God's Intent.** Even so, God intended that John testify about the Light.

3. **John Came into Being.** John 1:3 and John 1:6 contain the Greek word for "came into being." John "came into being" so that God could send him into the world on a mission.

4. **John Recognized Jesus.** John never claimed to be the Light, but exalted the Light (Jesus Christ) above himself because John recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world, God in the flesh.

5. **John Testified.** Testifying means we speak the truth about what we know. We can only testify to facts we know; otherwise, our testimony may be false.

6. **I Testify.** Living Godly in the family of God means that I have been sent by God to testify about the Light, Jesus Christ.

7. **The Light Appeared.** We rejoice today because the Light appeared and shines in the darkness; Jesus shines always as the only Savior of all mankind. As believers, we know Him and can testify about the Light.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we testify to others that we are not the Light, but we testify to the Light.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we are not confused about who is the Master and who is the servant of the Master.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we present powerful, clear testimony to the Light, emphasizing Jesus the Light, without putting the spotlight on ourselves.**

## Application for Today

Today, we can testify to the Light, while making it clear we are not the Light. Will you live Godly in the family of God by letting the Light shine in your life, without any selfish ambitions?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Nine

# The True Light Today




As the Light, Jesus enlightens every man. Although the Light shone perfectly in the world, the darkness did not comprehend it. In fact, Jesus created all things and the majority of His human creations did not recognize Him, worship, and turn to Him for salvation. John will spend time developing this theme of people rejecting Jesus. In our verse for today, John emphasized that Jesus was the true light.

The true Light has a particular purpose: to enlighten every man. We know that light travels as waves with photons. When light falls upon an object, we see colors and shapes. Only some light waves are visible to the human eye. When the Light of Jesus falls upon a person, it enlightens every man.

When Jesus shone as Light upon the earth, men loved darkness rather than Light, for their deeds were evil. Other people may claim to be light from God, but the devil disguises himself as an angel of light. Indeed, even now many anti-Christs have gone out into the world. Yet, Jesus was the true Light, and He enlightens every man. In God there is no darkness at all.

# *Enlightens Every Man*

1. **The True Light.** The true Light enlightens every man. We have already seen that the Light shines in the darkness.

2. **Illuminates.** Notice the word "true." The Holy Spirit chose that word "true" as a special designation of the Light. God is truth, speaks the truth, and never lies, just as there is no darkness in God at all. Jesus is God. This Light shines the truth everywhere. It illuminates humans with the truth shining forth from God Who is truth.

3. **Enlightens.** Now we see God draw a special relationship between the true Light and humans. The true Light enlightens all humans.

4. **Shines.** In other verses, this same Greek word translated "enlightens" means to shine upon. As we see here in John 1:9, the true Light shines upon all men, but it does not mean all men go to heaven. Salvation always rests upon faith in Christ alone.

5. **Exposes Sin.** As the true Light shines upon all men, men will decide what happens next and how they will respond to the truth. The Light exposes our sins, but also blazes the path of salvation by grace alone through faith.

6. **Shines Forth.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we enjoy the true Light that shines upon us, because the true light came to shine forth upon men.

7. **We Know.** We rejoice today in the true Light because Jesus Christ came into the world to shine truth upon all men. By His grace, He saved us in truth so that we know the true Light and love Him forever.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we know that the true Light enlightens every man.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we let the true Light shine from our lives.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of the God when we see Jesus enlighten lives around us.**

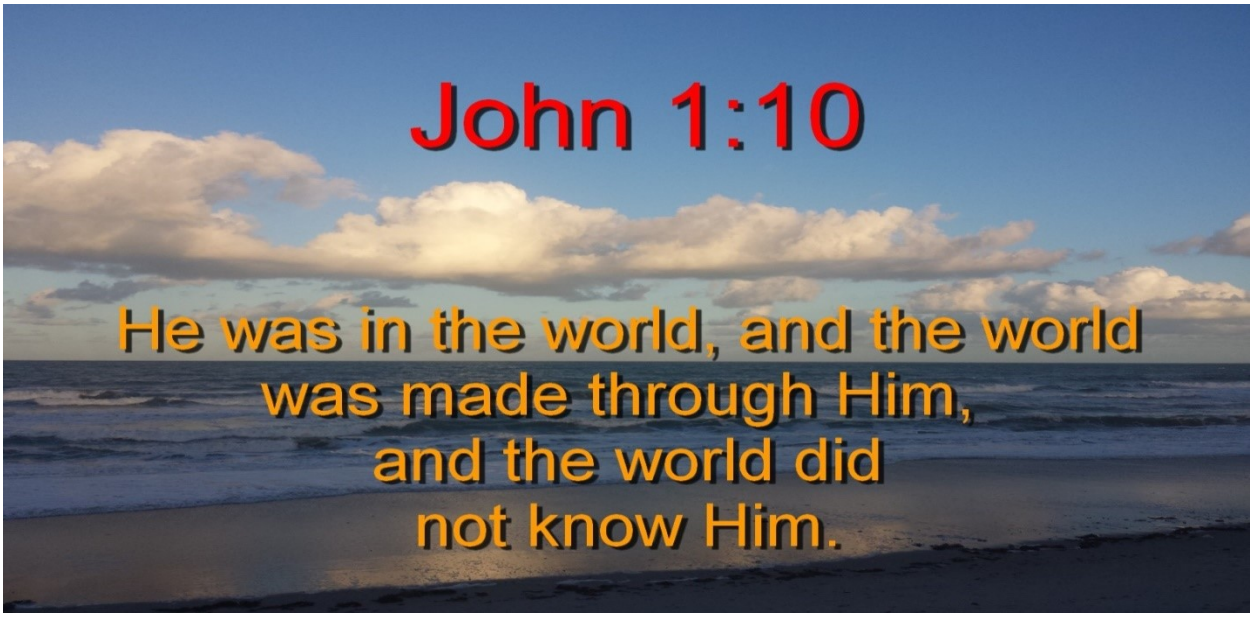
**Application for Today**

Today, Jesus enlightens all men. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by seeing Jesus enlighten people around you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Ten

# In the World Today




Have you ever failed to recognize someone? For many years I sat at a beach every day and talked with people from all over the world. As I met people, I knew that many of them were just visitors and I would never see them again.

At other times, I met people and we became friends for years. At times, when I had not seen someone for a long time, that person would walk up to me and greet me by name. As I searched my mind to put a name to the face before me, I came up blank. At times, I am sure that it showed on my face, because they would remind me of how I knew them. My mind forgets more and more as I get older and older.

Jesus came to earth and took human flesh. The Creator of the world, and all things in it, was Jesus. When He walked through Israel, the very people He created did not know Him. Those same people claimed to be the

people of God, and worshipped God in the temple in Jerusalem and attended feasts, offered sacrifices, and tried to keep the Old Testament Law. Even so, the vast majority of those people never knew the God of the Old Testament, Who was Jesus.

# *Did Not Know Him*

**1. In the World**. Did the world know Jesus? No, Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know Him. Jesus was in the world, having taken flesh and walked among men.

**2. Jesus Made the World**. Jesus made all things that came into existence. He was before all things and created all things, except God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all participated in creation.

**3. Only Jesus Took Flesh**. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit did not die on the cross. Only Jesus took flesh and gave His soul on the cross so that He might redeem sinners like us. No one took the life of Jesus away from Him; He laid it down and He took it up again by His authority.

**4. Did Not Know Him**. Jesus described eternal life as knowing God, and Jesus Christ Whom He sent. When Jesus came into the world, having created the people of Israel, they did not know Him.

**5. Knowing God**. Knowing Jesus means that you know God the Father Who sanctified Jesus and sent Him into the world. If you know God the Father, then you will know God the Son. You cannot know one without knowing the other.

**6. Loving God**. Living Godly in the family of God means if you know God the Father, then God the Father will reveal God the Son to you. God the Father and God the Son love you, and created the plan of salvation based upon that love for sinners like us.

**7. <u>Creator</u>**. We rejoice today because Jesus created all things, and gave His life so that we would not go to the Lake of Fire for all eternity. He bore all our sins on the cross, so that we might live for Him and know Him.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we walk with the Creator each day.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we know our Creator better each day.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when know that God created us to live with Him forever, as the family of God.**

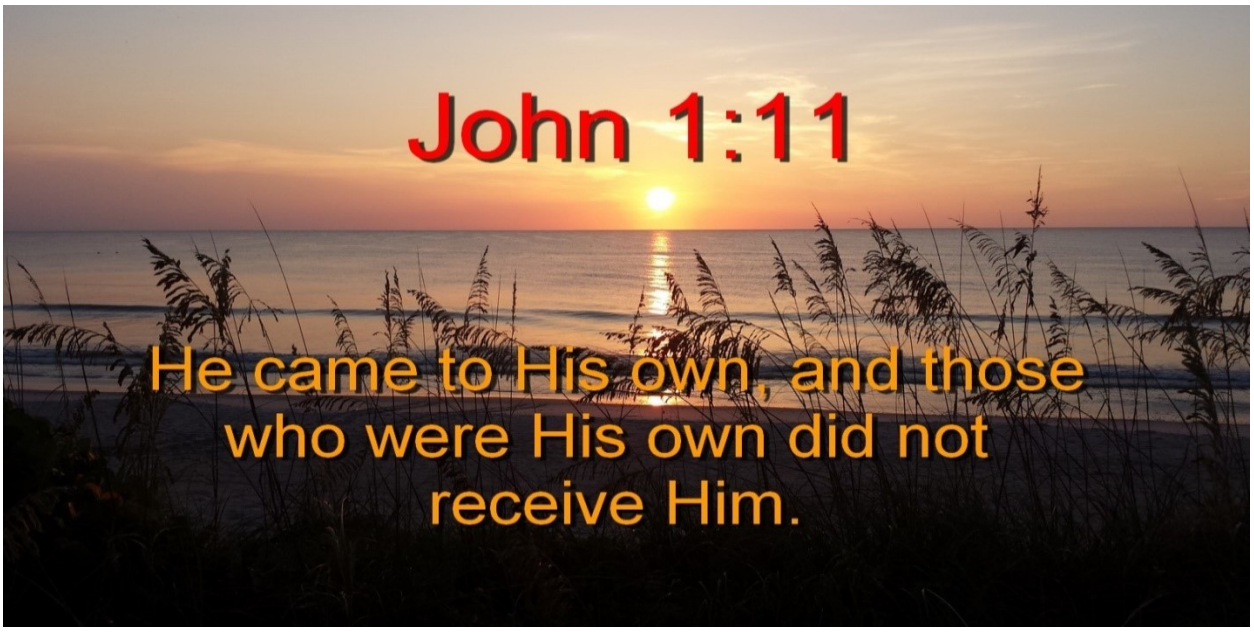
## Application for Today

Today, we know the Creator by faith. He opened our hearts to understand His sacrificial love for us. Will you live Godly today as you walk in the love of your Creator?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Eleven

# Did Not Receive Him Today




Have you ever been really disappointed by someone? We expect a person to be nice to us, and then they act very badly. We expect someone to be glad to see us, and they could not care less about us. We have all kinds of expectations and hopes about people, but they often fail us in one way or another. Except we are all the kind of people who let other people down from time to time.

Jesus knows all things. He knows the thought in every heart, and He knows how people will react to Him. At times, when people disappoint us, we give up on them and decide not to go any further with them. Yet, Jesus knew exactly that the very people He created would reject Him. The people He loved hated Him.

Jesus came to His own people on earth. God called the Jews a people for His own possession. He gave them the Law, the Temple, Covenants, and many other blessings, but they rejected Him. Even so, He loved them and gave His life on the cross for everyone on earth. But only those people who accept become the children of God who live in the family of God.

# *His Own*

1. **God-Man.** John presented Jesus as the eternal Word, Who clothed Himself with flesh through the womb of Mary, and lived among men as a man. Jesus is the God-man.

2. **Creator.** Jesus, however, never ceased from being God, the Creator of all things.

3. **Savior.** As the Creator of all men, He walked among men, teaching with amazing authority, healing the sick, casting out demons, and bringing salvation to everyone who received Him as Savior by faith alone, according to the Scriptures.

4. **His Own.** His own creations, and particularly His own chosen people of Israel, did not receive Him.

5. **Unbelief.** The tragedy of unbelief lies with people who never knew God, but consider themselves children of God by birth or works or both.

6. **Rejected.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we recognize that the Jews as a group rejected Jesus, even though He was a Jew and the Creator of all people and the One and Only Messiah of Israel. Because of their unbelief, we as Gentiles were grafted into the program of God; one day, by faith, Israel too will look upon Jesus Whom they pierced and will mourn. Then they will receive salvation by faith alone.

7. **We Receive Him.** We rejoice today in the plans of God, saturated with grace poured out upon sinners like us. By grace we receive Jesus, and know Him as God our Savior.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we understand that many people will not receive Jesus, their Creator.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelievers.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we remember that we all rejected Jesus before He adopted us into His family by His love, grace and mercy.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we know that God loves the people who reject Him today and Jesus died for their sins. Will you live Godly today as you share the love of Jesus Christ with the people around you who reject Him as Savior?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twelve

# Children of God Today




Why would Jesus let you into heaven? Many people have many answers to that question. One woman told me that she loved animals and that would be the reason God would let her into heaven. Most often I hear people say that they have been pretty good and so God should let them into heaven.

Jesus gave very clear teaching regarding getting into heaven. He said you must believe in His name. He meant that you must be born again, so that you become a child of God. Only by believing in His name can you become a child of God.

Therefore, we know that without being born into the family of God, you have no hope of getting into heaven. But Jesus loves you and wants you to

receive the free gift of eternal life right now. You can always trust Jesus to tell you the truth and never lie to you. He said if you receive Him today, then you will be born again into the family of God. If you confess Jesus as Lord with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus died on the cross to pay the death penalty for your sins, and that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, right now.

# *The Free Gift*

1. **Free Gift.** Salvation has always been a free gift of God. Salvation has many aspects and many wonderful blessings.

2. **The Right.** One blessing of salvation brings the right to become the children of God. Notice the word "right." The Greek word means power, authority, military power to command, power in teaching, just to name a few. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth.

3. **Children of God.** Therefore, we know that Jesus gives the power and legal right to be children of God. We tend to overlook the full and varied blessings of being a child in the family of God. We love to see the promises of Jesus for all believers.

4. **Only Believers.** Only believers receive the gift of the right to join the family of God. Jesus preached that most people enter into the broad gate leading to destruction. Few have faith to receive the free gift of God.

5. **His Name.** Finally, "the Name" ("hashem" OT Hebrew) identifies Jesus as Yahweh of the Old Testament, and the only Savior sent from God as God in the flesh.

6. **Worship.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we bow our hearts in worship that God gave us the free gift of the right to become children of God, with all the attendant blessings of living in His family.

7. **Christ of God.** We rejoice today because we live in the family of God, because we believe in the name of Jesus, the Christ of God, and received the free gift, with all its blessings and powers.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God because we received Jesus as Savior by faith alone.**

- **We live more Godly when we praise God for the free gift of salvation in Jesus alone.**

- **We live mutually Godly as we know that God has adopted all born-again believers into the family of God.**

## Application for Today

Today, we know that we are members of the family of God by faith, because we received Jesus as Savior. Will you live Godly in the family of God today knowing that you are part of the family of God that spans millennia and includes people from all over the world who share the same family with you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Thirteen

# Born Today




How are we born into the family of God? Jesus explained that no one entered the family of God by the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man. Jesus declared that only by the will of God can a person enter the family of God.

Every born-again believer enters the family of God at the moment of spiritual birth. They become a child of God and members of the family of God. Only by the will of God do people enter the family of God.

God does not will for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance and receive His Son, Jesus, as Savior. If God is not willing for any to perish, then will everyone go heaven? No, Jesus said that we must receive Him as Savior in order to go to heaven.

# *The Will of God*

1. **The Children of God.** John has revealed that God gives believers the right to become children of God, and such we are.

2. **Will of God.** Next, John linked (a) being born into the family of God with (b) the will of God.

3. **Not Born of Blood.** John emphasized that we are not born of blood. It appears he meant that human bloodlines (genealogy) had nothing to do with being born into the family of God. Being a Jewish descendant by the blood of Abraham never brings salvation.

4. **Not Born of Flesh.** John also declared that we were not born by an act of the flesh. The Holy Spirit made the point here that your fleshly birth had nothing to do with being born into the family of God.

5. **Family of God.** John also proclaimed that human will had nothing to do with being born into the family of God.

6. **Selected.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know that only the will of God caused us to be born into the family of God. He selected me to be born into His family.

7. **Gracious Love.** We rejoice today in knowing that God chose each child in His family. Not one of us deserved to be chosen by God, but He lavished His gracious love upon us and gave us the right to become children of God by faith alone. Even our faith is a gift of God, so that no one may boast.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by the will of God.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we act like the children of God.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as look upon other believers as born of the will of God, just as we were.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we know that we are in the family of God by His will, not our own. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by treating all other believers as children of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 3

# Learning about Godliness and Flesh Today

God opened the Gospel of John with the revelation that the Word was in the beginning with God and was God. God then described the Light, who came into the world. God then revealed how the Word became flesh and dwelt among people.

The Word is Jesus, and He was full of grace and truth. The disciples testified that they saw the glory of the only begotten of the Father in Jesus, the Word.

God sent John the Baptist and he testified about Jesus. John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus was the One who came after Him, but has a higher rank than John, because Jesus existed before John, even though he was born of Mary after John was born of Elizabeth. When the religious establishment asked John about who he was, John said he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the paths of the LORD," quoting Isaiah the prophet. John baptized with water, but declared that he was unworthy to loosen the thongs on the sandals of Jesus.

John saw Jesus and said: "Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!" John said he did not recognize Jesus, but John came baptizing with water so that Jesus may be manifested to Israel. John said he saw the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven and He remained on Jesus. God said, "He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, He is the one Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."

# Day Fourteen

# We Saw His Glory Today




Have you seen the glory of God? Jesus explained that if you had seen Him, then you had seen God the Father. Jesus also said that God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.

John explained that the Word that was with God, and was God, became flesh. Therefore, we know that Jesus was God who became flesh and lived among men. He did not shine with the visible glory of God, but He glorified God in all that He did. He did not seek His own glory, but the glory of God the Father Who sent Jesus into the world.

When Jesus took flesh, He was born of the virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit caused Mary to conceive Jesus in her womb. Jesus grew up in size and wisdom. He was truly a man, and also God at the same time. He was the God-Man. As the God-Man, Jesus was unique, like no other before Him or after

Him. Although all believers are children of God, God the Father called Jesus His unique Son, because He had always been God—never born, never created, but always God.

# *The Word Became Flesh*

1. **Took Flesh.** This verse revealed the identity of the Word in John 1:1. Only Jesus was God Who took flesh and was born, lived and died, as a human. He is also the first fruit of the resurrection.

2. **Dwelt among Men.** Jesus, the Word, also dwelt among men. The Word actually means He "tabernacled" among men, similar to God's presence in the Old Testament tabernacle.

3. **We Beheld.** John revealed many things about the glory of God. Here, the Holy Spirit revealed that the disciples and others beheld the glory of the Word, even when the Word was clothed with real human flesh.

4. **Only Begotten.** The glory they saw was the glory of God, shining through the only begotten from the Father, as He did the works of His Father. This term "only begotten" means unique, one of a kind, and does not mean the Word was born of the Father; the Word always existed, with God and as God.

5. **Grace and Truth.** The Word, dwelling among men, was full of grace and truth, just like you would expect God to be. By grace Jesus took flesh to give His soul a ransom for many. Jesus proclaimed that He was the way, the truth and the life, the only way to the Father.

6. **Glory of God.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we worship Jesus because He is God, Who took flesh, dwelt among men, and displayed the glory of God, full of grace and truth.

7. **Faith in Him.** We rejoice today because Jesus laid aside the majesty of heaven to live and die for lowly people, sinners, condemned by sin, so that by faith in Him, we might enjoy eternity with Him, living in peace.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we see the glory of Jesus.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we see Jesus full of grace and truth in our lives.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we see the glory, grace and truth of Jesus in the lives of other members of the family of God.**

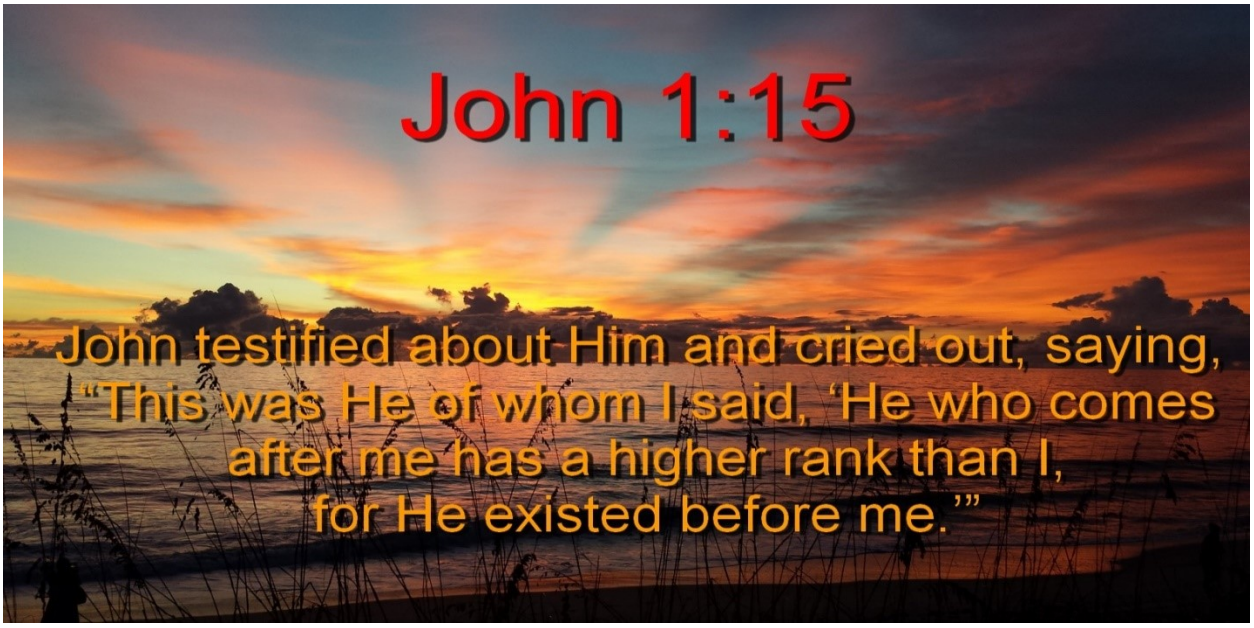
## Application for Today

Today, we may see the glory of Jesus in the lives of people born again by the will of God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by living in the grace and truth of Jesus in your life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifteen

# Higher Rank Today




When was Jesus born? As God, Jesus was never born, but has always existed. As man, Jesus was born in Bethlehem about 2000 years ago. Eternal God, Jesus, took flesh and lived among people on earth.

John the Baptist testified that Jesus existed before him. John meant that even though his mother gave birth to him before Mary gave birth to Jesus, Jesus existed before John. As God, Jesus always existed and John knew that fact.

John also testified that Jesus had a higher rank than John. In other words, because Jesus was God, John knew that Jesus was infinitely higher in rank that John. You may recall that Jesus said that among those born of women, no one was greater than John the Baptist. Therefore, we understand

that John meant that Jesus was truly God in the flesh, the God-Man, fully God and fully human.

# *Grace upon Grace*

1. **Spiritual Activity.** John then continued his revelation of Jesus dwelling among men. The Holy Spirit used John to reveal more than the physical acts of Jesus. John saw the spiritual activity of God in the Person and works of Jesus.

2. **Fullness.** John first described the "fullness" of Jesus. This term "fullness" was used in Colossians 2:9 to describe the fullness of deity dwelling in bodily form in Jesus. John meant that the disciples and others received the presence and blessing of God by receiving Jesus as Savior (John 1:12). We become partakers of His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

3. **We Received.** We must not overlook the importance of receiving Jesus into our spiritual lives. We "received" emphasized a completed act, with nothing left behind or omitted. When we receive Jesus by faith alone, Jesus, the fullness of God, comes into our lives.

4. **Grace Upon Grace.** John also revealed that we received "grace upon grace." The word "upon" is literally "anti" here. I think of ocean waves rolling to the beach. I am seeing them as I write this study. One wave follows the next wave. So grace comes from Jesus. He bestows one blessing of grace after another. We receive one free gift of grace after another. Consider also Barnabas who had spiritual eyes to see the grace of God at work in Antioch (Acts 11:23).

5. **Gifts of Grace.** In my life today, I have seen many wonderful gifts of grace from God. He helps me with His grace all day, every day.

6. **Presence of Jesus.** Living Godly in the family of God means that I have received the fullness of Jesus as God and I enjoy grace upon grace in my life every day. Every member of the family of God enjoys the same presence of Jesus and grace upon grace.

7. **He Lives in Me.** We rejoice today as people who have received the fullness of Jesus Christ. He lives in me and I receive grace after grace, wave upon wave, gift after gift all day long--all from Jesus.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we recognize that Jesus has a higher rank than we do and that He existed before us.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we honor Jesus as God with our lives.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God knowing that Jesus outranks all of us, and we should always listen to Him.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may humble ourselves before Jesus, our God and Savior, who existed before us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today knowing Jesus who existed before all of us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixteen

# As He Walked Today




Do you love to do things your way? Many people love freedom to do their own thing in their own way. They want to kill babies in the womb, have sex with anyone at any time they want, and worship anyone or anything at any time. They want to say whatever they feel like saying and earn money doing anything that pays.

Jesus completely rejected lifestyles that reject Him. He offered freedom based upon eternal truths. If a person says that they abide in Jesus, then that person ought to walk in the same manner that Jesus walked. In other words, if Jesus lives in you by faith, then Jesus ought to control you.

So many people today hate the idea of control. They think that someone "controlling" them means they no longer control themselves and they hate such ideas. Jesus commanded every believer to let Him control the life of every believer. He promised an abundant life for doing so.

# *The Same Manner*

**1. <u>Walk Equals Talk</u>**. Do we say we love Jesus but do not walk like Jesus? We ought to walk like Jesus each day. John taught us about love perfected. He also taught us about the importance of matching walk with talk.

**2. <u>Ought To Walk</u>**. Jesus expects us to do what He commanded us. We "ought" to walk in the same manner He walked. Ought implies an obligation or duty.

**3. <u>Power and Obedience</u>**. God commanded us to do many things. Yet, God never commanded us to do things we are incapable of doing. With every command, God also provides the spiritual power to fulfill that command. So, when God says walk like Jesus, He promises the power to walk like Jesus all day, every day. What we do with the infinite power of God remains our choice. We can obey and live in God's power, or we can do our own thing, and reject His power and purpose for our lives. Power and obedience go hand in hand.

**4. <u>Learning</u>**. In order to walk like Jesus, I need to learn from the Bible how Jesus walked through life. I can read about His life in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

**5. <u>Bible Truth</u>**. I frequently hear my friends tell me about things in the Bible, but those things are not in the Bible. Most often my friends saw a movie or a video and never realized many things in the movie or video were never in the Bible. They know so little about the Bible that they have no idea when movies or other things add to or subtract from the Bible. Remember that the devil wants to tell us what Jesus was like, but he lies about Jesus. We

should never accept movies or videos at face value, but compare them to the Bible to see if they are true.

**6. Bible Study**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we walk like Jesus. We spend time reading the Bible and talking with Jesus. Praying while you read the Bible really helps you understand what Jesus says in the Bible.

**7. Ought To Rejoice**. We rejoice today because Jesus promised us joy when we walk with Him. He did not exclude times of sorrow, suffering and pain, but He promised joy. We live in joy by walking as Jesus walked. Walking like Jesus brings me peace and joy, because I ought to walk like Him. I abide in Him as I talk like Him and I walk like Him.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God because we have all received the fullness of Jesus.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we live in grace upon grace.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we recognize that all believers have received grace upon grace, because we have all received the fullness of Jesus.**

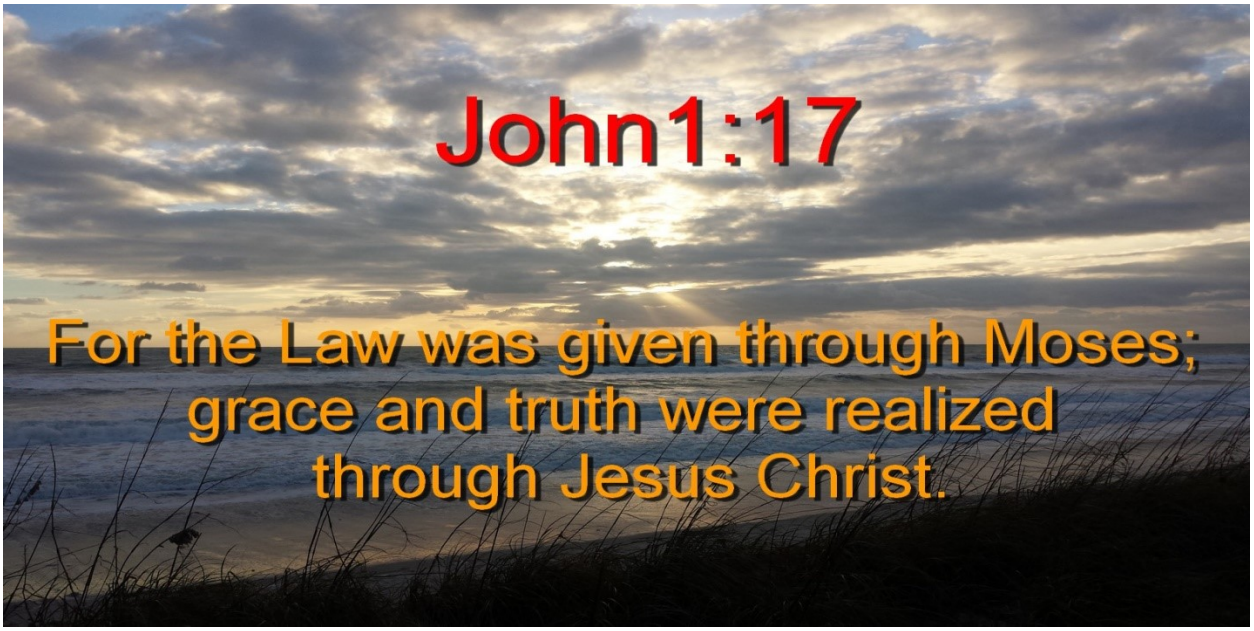
## Application for Today

Today, we can live in the fullness of Jesus abiding in us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by walking in grace upon grace?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventeen

# Grace and Truth Realized Today




Why did God give the Law to Moses? The sacrifices under the Law served as a reminder year by year of how sinful people were. The Law is holy, righteous and good. Yet, by the works of the Law no one would be justified.

What the Law could not do, Jesus did. Grace and truth were realized through Him. When He died on the cross, the Just for the unjust, He laid down His soul as a ransom for many. No one took His life from Him, but He laid it down on His own initiative.

In the Old Testament and in the New Testament, salvation was always by faith in God alone. Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Jesus, and saw it and was glad. Yet, before Abraham was, Jesus existed as God from eternity past.

In the fullness of time Jesus was born of a virgin and grace and truth came to fulfillment in Him. John saw His glory, full of grace of truth. Jesus

walked among men as a real man, but totally God as well. Jesus brought God's love for His creations to earth in the flesh, which He sacrificed once and for all, so that all the requirements of the Law were fulfilled in Him. He Who knew no sin become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. We have died to sin, and now live to righteousness, all because of Jesus following His Father's plans, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

# *The Law Was Given*

1. **Contrast**. John contrasted: (a) the Law given through Moses and (b) grace and truth realized through Jesus Christ.

2. **Law Through Moses.** Notice the Law "was given" through Moses. Moses received the Law ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator (Moses himself). The Law was added because of transgressions and could never make anyone righteous.

3. **Direct Revelation.** Moses did not create the Law. Moses received the Law as a direct revelation from God.

4. **Holy, Righteous, Good.** So, the Law could never bring righteousness and salvation, although it was holy, righteous and good.

5. **Grace and Truth Realized.** Notice that grace and truth were "realized" through Jesus Christ. The same root word for "came into being" appears here as "realized." We could translate the verse as "grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ." He is the promised Savior, the Redeemer. Please recall that John 1:14 revealed Jesus the Word was full of grace and truth, and John 1:16 revealed that we have all received of His fullness.

6. **Saved from Sins.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we worship and praise Jesus because He manifested grace and truth in the flesh and fulfilled the requirements of the Law. Jesus saved us from our sins by grace through faith. He is the truth, the way and the life.

7. **Every Scripture Fulfilled.** We rejoice today because Jesus fulfilled every Scripture regarding His death, burial and resurrection. He brought grace and truth into our lives as only He could. What a wonderful Savior, full of grace and truth.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we enjoy the grace and truth of Jesus Christ each day.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we no longer live under the Law, but in the freedom of the perfect law of liberty in Jesus our Lord.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we extend the grace and truth of Jesus to every other member of the family of God.**

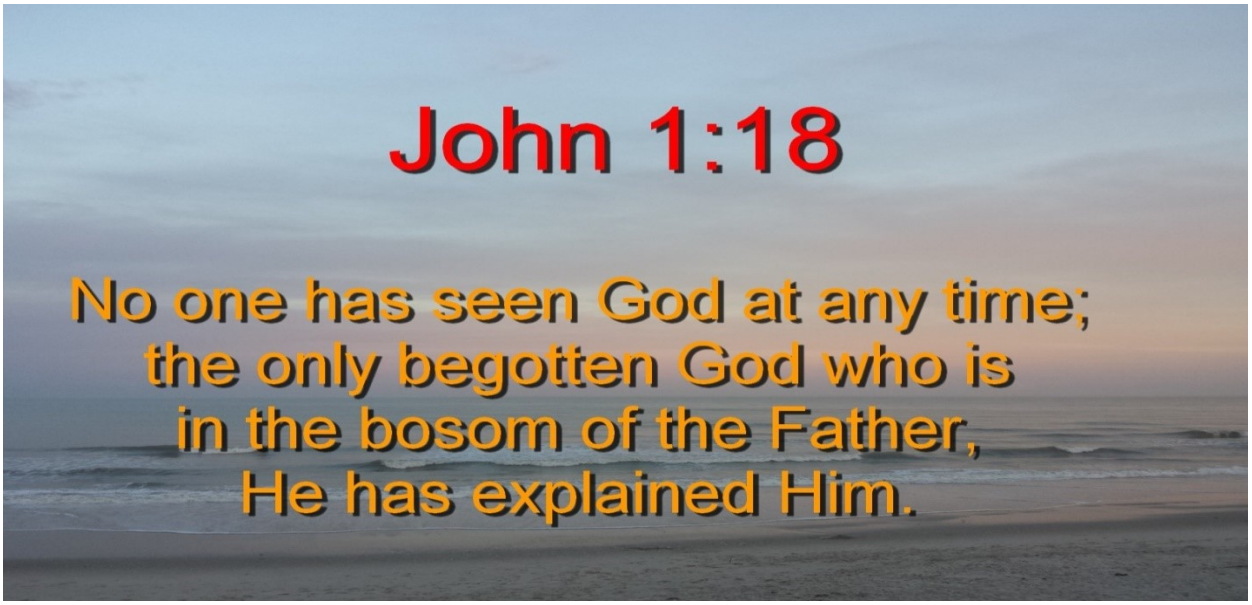
## Application for Today

Today, we may call our siblings in the family of God "Beloved." Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing the grace and truth of Jesus with other people today?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Eighteen

# The Bosom of the Father Today




No one has seen God at any time. In the physical world, we see things as light reflects from the object into our eyes. Inside our eyes, cells interpret the light waves striking our retinas inside our eyes. We have rods in our eyes that help us see small things and details. The cones in our eyes help us see colors. Neither rods nor cones, created by God, help us see God with our physical eyes.

God is spirit. You cannot see spirits with your physical eyes, but it does not mean they are not there. God is everywhere, all the time. You cannot go somewhere and escape the Spirit of God.

When Jesus took flesh and lived among men, God revealed to some people that Jesus was God, the Word in flesh. God became a man, but without sin. Because Jesus was really God and really man, when people looked at Jesus with their physical eyes, they saw God in Jesus, and Jesus as God, whether they knew it or not.

Jesus explained the Father. Jesus has always been in the bosom of the Father. For all eternity, Jesus and the Father have always been supremely close. The Father sanctified Jesus and sent Him into the world. The Father used Jesus to explain Himself to the world. Jesus was the only begotten, unique Son of God.

# *He Has Explained Him Today*

1. **Not Seen.** No one has seen God. You might pause and ponder that idea. Because God is spirit, our physical eyes cannot perceive Him. Because of His holy, radiant glory, we cannot look upon Him.

2. **God Seeks.** Yet, God seeks people to know Him and worship Him. Because we cannot see Him, He must reveal Himself to us.

3. **Jesus Reveals.** God has revealed Himself in many ways. In these last days, He has revealed Himself through Jesus. Jesus, in turn, reveals the Father to us.

4. **Jesus Manifests.** Jesus has explained the Father. The root idea is to lead out, to manifest openly. Jesus perfectly revealed the Father.

5. **Only Begotten.** Jesus perfectly revealed the Father because: (a) Jesus is the only begotten (unique, not born) God; and (2) Jesus is in the bosom of the Father. Only Jesus could reveal the Father in the way Jesus did. The Father and Son enjoy a unique, eternal, loving relationship, with no fighting between them, ever.

6. **We See God.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see the unseeable God, because Jesus, the only begotten God, has explained the Father, and He did so from the bosom of His Father.

7. **We Know Jesus and the Father.** We rejoice today because we know Jesus and the Father by faith alone. We believe the truth about Jesus Who explained the Father to us. They both love us dearly.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we hear Jesus explaining the Father to us.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we see Jesus in the bosom of the Father.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we all hear Jesus, see Jesus, and walk with Jesus each day.**

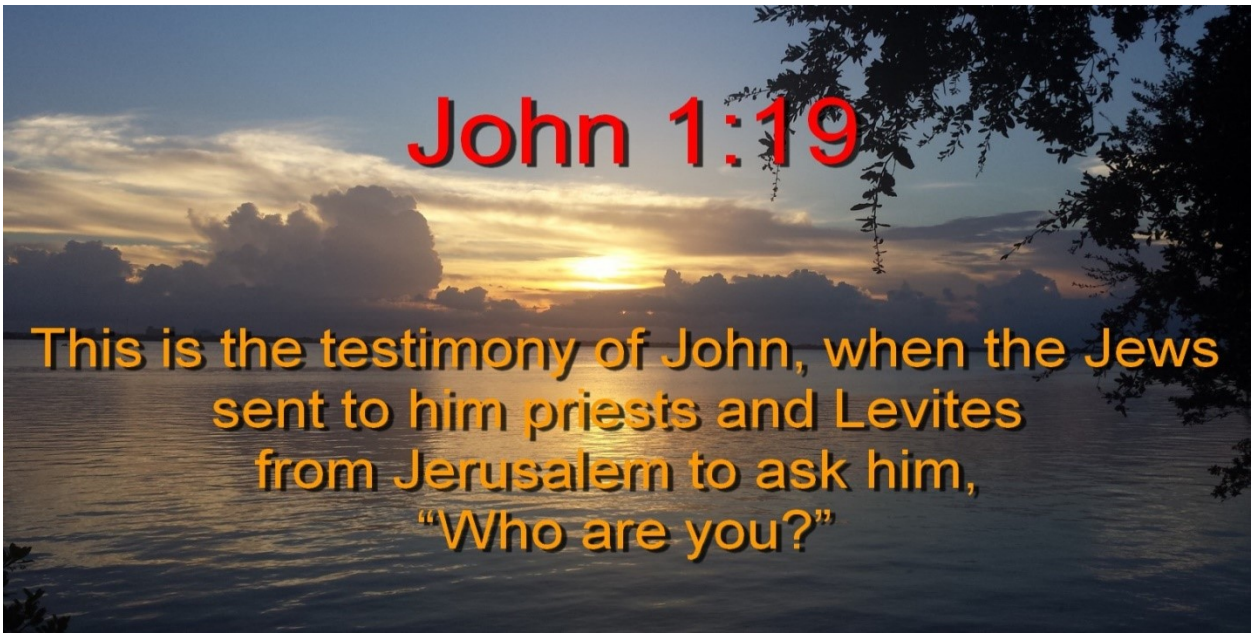
## Application for Today

Today, we may see Jesus, hear Jesus and walk with Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by walking with Jesus, fixing your gaze upon the author and perfector of our faith, and listening to Him because He has the words of eternal life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Nineteen

# The Testimony of John Today




Testimony in court makes all the difference. Much of what people say outside of court amounts to hearsay and cannot be admitted in court. Witnesses in court can be cross-examined and probed for the truth. Therefore, witnesses available for cross-examination in court may provide a better view of the truth.

One day the Jews in Jerusalem sent a man to inquire of John the Baptist. They knew that first-hand testimony would be important. They had taken notice of the all the things John was doing, and the crowds coming out to see him.

They started with a simple question: "Who are you?" God wrote down that question because it is important for everyone bearing witness to Jesus. We must always remember that people want to know who we are so that they can evaluate our testimony to them. If we are talking about Jesus as Savior,

then we can expect people to be asking us: “Who are you?” We should be ready to give an answer from Scripture.

# *Who Are You?*

1. **Simple Questions.** Simple words can plumb the depths of our lives. Simple questions evoke searching inquiries within us.

2. **Who Are You?** John the Baptist faced a simple question, with simple words, "Who are you?" John knew precisely who he was, what answer to give, and how to present testimony for Jesus Christ.

3. **Priests and Levites.** We can always learn great things by reading the Bible. John the Baptist understood that the Jews in Jerusalem had sent priests and Levites to ask that simple question.

4. **Who Asked and Why.** Before we answer a question, we often do well to consider who asked and why. Motives behind questions often matter.

5. **More Questions.** John the Baptist will provide an answer that will only provoke more questions. Questions always deserve our attention, even if we do not answer them. You may recall that Jesus declined to answer more than once.

6. **Truthful Answer.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we expect people to ask questions. We can also expect people to ask us, "Who are you?" We should be ready with just the right, truthful answer.

7. **Children of God.** We rejoice today because every believer knows we are children of God, and permanent members of His family. We know how to let people know we are in the family of God and they too can be adopted into it by faith alone.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we expect people to ask us "Who are you?"**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we have a clear understanding of why people would ask us that question.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we remember that everyone in the family of God must live as if people are answering questions about Jesus by looking at our lives and the way we live before them.**

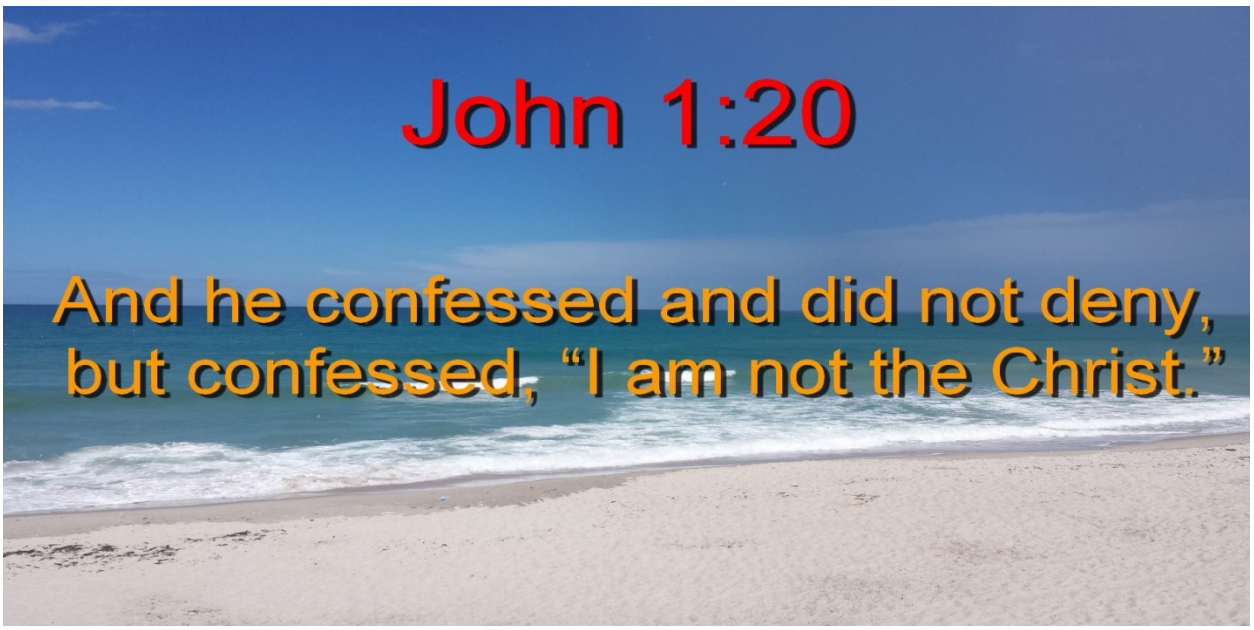
## Application for Today

Today, we expect people to ask us: "Who are you?" They may not use those exact words, but they will want to know why we are proclaiming Jesus to them. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by letting people know who you are by the way you live for Jesus each day?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty

# I Am Not the Christ Today




John the Baptist confessed Jesus. Confession means that you say the same words that God says. You tell the truth. You obey God because He commands us to always tell the truth. When we do not tell the truth, we lie, whether we know it or not.

The Jews in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to John to question him and his ministry preparing the way for the Messiah. Those Jews were very concerned about their own position and the crowds going out to hear Jesus.

Jesus did not choose the priests and the Levites to proclaim the arrival of Messiah in the flesh. In fact, God rejected those groups because they claimed to know God, but never knew God at all. If they had known God, then they would have recognized Jesus and accepted Him as the Messiah sent by God to the world and honored Him. They also would have loved Jesus if they loved the Father who sent Him.

When the Jews asked John, “Who are you?”, John confessed and did not deny Jesus. During the course of church history, many people have denied Jesus over the centuries. In fact, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times in one night. Peter later swore and cursed that he did not know Jesus. Even so, Jesus still loved Peter and put him right back into service to tend the lambs of Jesus. In contrast, John the Baptist did not deny Jesus, but confessed Jesus.

# *Confessed and Did Not Deny*

1. **John Confessed.** John the Baptist confessed to priests and Levites asking, "Who are you?" This same root word for "confessed" means to say the same words.

2. **Not The Christ.** So, here John the Baptist says the truth, the same words, that God says. John had perfect clarity about himself. He was not the Christ and confessed the same.

3. **Did Not Deny.** Notice also that John the Baptist did not deny anything. Confessing Christ stands opposite of denying Christ. At many points, we must make an immediate decision about confessing the truth or denying the truth.

4. **The Truth.** Notice too that John the Baptist told the truth about himself, to the very people who sought him to answer about the Christ. People are still seeking Jesus today. It matters what we say to them.

5. **Messenger.** Confessing that we are not the Christ remains vitally important. No matter how large our ministry in geography or numbers, we are never the Christ, but a messenger of Christ, testifying about Him.

6. **Confess, Not Deny.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we confess Christ and never deny Him. We always confess that we are not the Christ.

7. **Jesus, The Christ.** We rejoice today because we love to confess Jesus as the Christ, never denying Him, but always denying ourselves.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we confess Jesus before people.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we do not deny Him.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we confess Jesus as one family living before people as the children of God.**

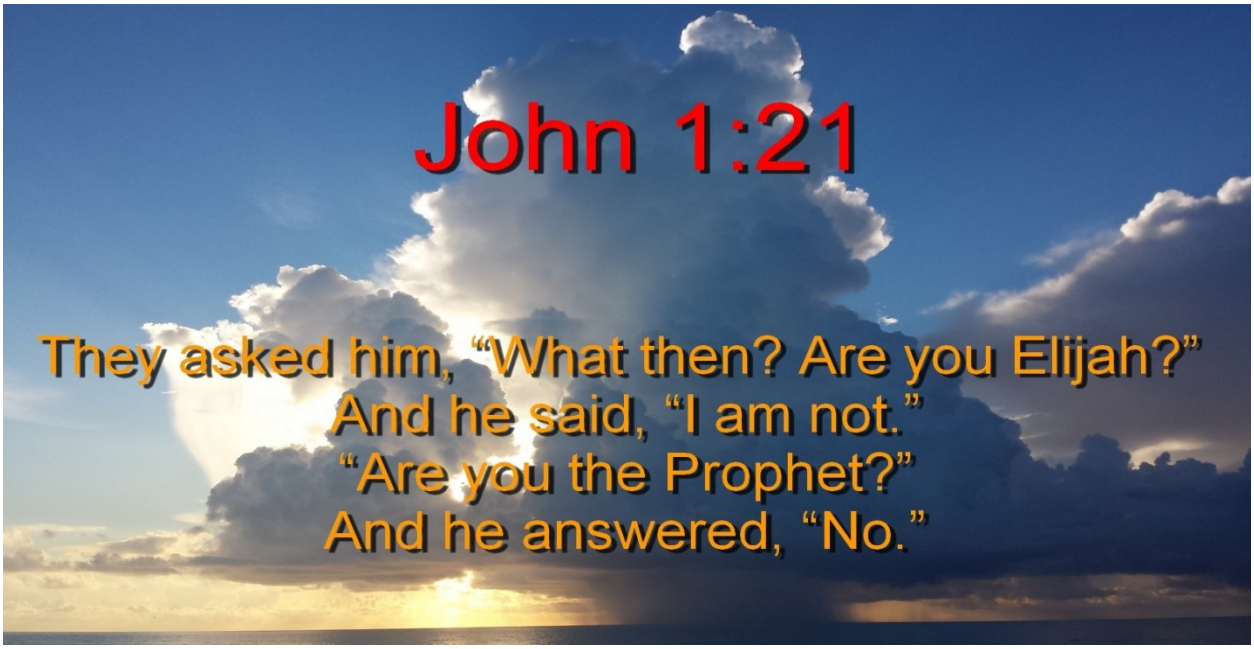
## Application for Today

Today, we may confess Jesus and not deny Him. Will you live Godly in the family of God today while you confess Jesus to the people around with your words and actions? You confess Jesus and walk in the Light and not cause my family members in Christ to stumble. What we do today will affect them for good or for bad. Our choices today ripple into other lives. Will you rejoice today with choices you make?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty One

# Are You Elijah Today




John the Baptist faced questions from the religious establishment in Jerusalem. They wanted to know if he was Elijah, or the Prophet. They were expecting Elijah to come and prepare the way for Messiah. They wanted to know if John was Elijah.

John answered them, No, I am not Elijah or The Prophet. Jesus said that John was Elijah (Matthew 11:14). So, how could Jesus say that John was really Elijah? Jesus said that all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John the Baptist came. Jesus said that if the crowd could accept it, John himself was Elijah. Jesus meant that spiritually John the Baptist was Elijah, and fulfilled the prophecy in Malachi 4:5-6.

# *The Prophet Today*

**1. <u>Who?</u>** The priests and Levites wanted to know who John the Baptist was. They had some choices in mind from the Old Testament.

**2. <u>Restoration.</u>** In Malachi 4:5-6, the Old Testament closes with a prophecy about Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that God will not come and smite the land. John the Baptist did not see all the hearts turned to Jesus. The people crucified Jesus.

**3. <u>Elijah?</u>** Therefore, we can understand the specific questions of the priests and the Levites. They wanted to know if John the Baptist was actually Elijah. In fact, the Holy Spirit specifically applied the Malachi passage to John the Baptist in Luke 1:17. Jesus also applied the Malachi passage to John the Baptist in Mark 9:11-13 and Jesus declared that John the Baptist was Elijah in Matthew 11:14.

**4. <u>Denial.</u>** So, how could John the Baptist deny that he was Elijah? Jesus said the people did to John whatever they wished, just as it is written in Mark 9:13.

**5. <u>Isaiah.</u>** The answer lies in John 1:23, where John the Baptist applied Isaiah 40:3 to himself, and, quite significantly, not the Malachi passage about the great and terrible day of the Lord. John did not stir up the unbelieving Jews to expect the great and terrible day of the Lord, with Jesus bringing the kingdom of God physically to earth and vanquishing His enemies. Instead, John the Baptist was preparing the way of the Lord, Who appeared as the Lamb of God, to take away the sin of the world.

**6. <u>Best Answer.</u>** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know how to trust God to provide the best, truthful answer to the audience before us.

**7. <u>Truth About Jesus.</u>** We rejoice today that God loves to use people who will testify to the great love of Jesus by telling the truth about Jesus and about yourself. Jesus is the Lamb of God!

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we tell the truth.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we testify about Jesus by not focusing upon ourselves.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all testify about Jesus and tell the truth about Him to the world.**

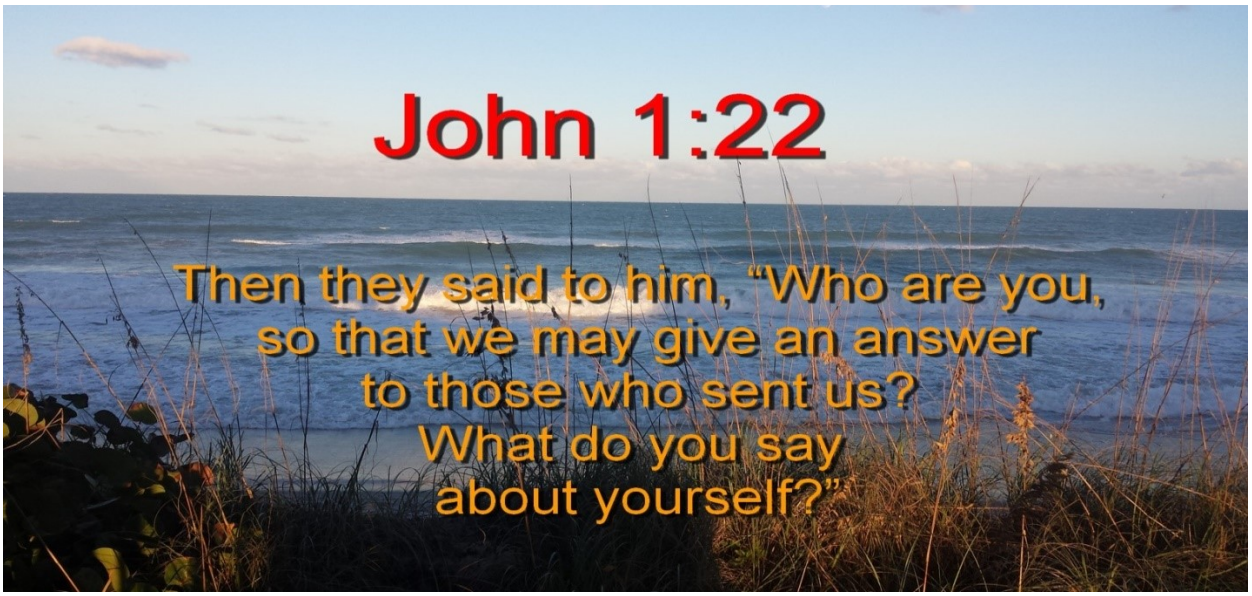
## Application for Today

Today, we may live as testimonies to Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by recognizing the people around you seeking Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty Two

# Who Are You Today




Who are you? The religious establishment sent messengers to John the Baptist because they wanted to know who John the Baptist was. He confessed that he was not the Christ, nor Elijah. Even so, the messengers pressed John the Baptist. They needed to give an answer to the people who sent them.

At times in our lives, people will really want to know who we are. In fact, when people ask us questions like that, then we can share Jesus with them. Often, people watch people who live for Jesus.

For many years I sat at a beach park most afternoons. I propped up a Bible and sat at a table, waiting for the Lord Jesus to send people to hear about Jesus and read the Bible. I met many kinds of people from all over

the world. Many people came up and asked me who I was and what I was doing. Some people told me they had seen me there for years, but never stopped before to talk. I really enjoy talking with people and reading the Bible with them. I always brought two Bibles with me to the beach.

# *Sent Us*

**1. Who Are You?** John the Baptist told the messengers who he was not. They asked him specific questions and he denied he was Elijah or the prophet.

**2. Persistence.** The messengers knew they had to give an answer to the religious leaders who sent them. They wanted to learn more about John the Baptist.

**3. Mission**. You may recall that God sent John the Baptist with a particular mission—to prepare the way of the Lord and to turn hearts.

**4. What Do You Say?** When people ask us to talk about ourselves, we have an excellent opportunity to speak up for God. It really matters what we say to them.

**5. Yourself**. The entire ministry of John the Baptist was about promoting Jesus and preparing hearts to receive Him as Savior. Therefore, when asked about himself, John the Baptist would direct attention to Jesus.

**6. Sent Us**. Living Godly in the family of God means that we know that God sends us on missions for Him each day. He intends for us to talk about Him and confess Him before men.

**7. Answer**. We rejoice today because we know the answer to the question about who we really are—we are the children of God, bought with the blood of Jesus Christ, and commissioned to make disciples in all the world to everyone who will receive Jesus as Savior.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we expect people to ask us who we are.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we give answers about ourselves that focus upon Jesus, Who is our life.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all testify of the love and grace of Jesus Christ to people seeking to know who we are.**

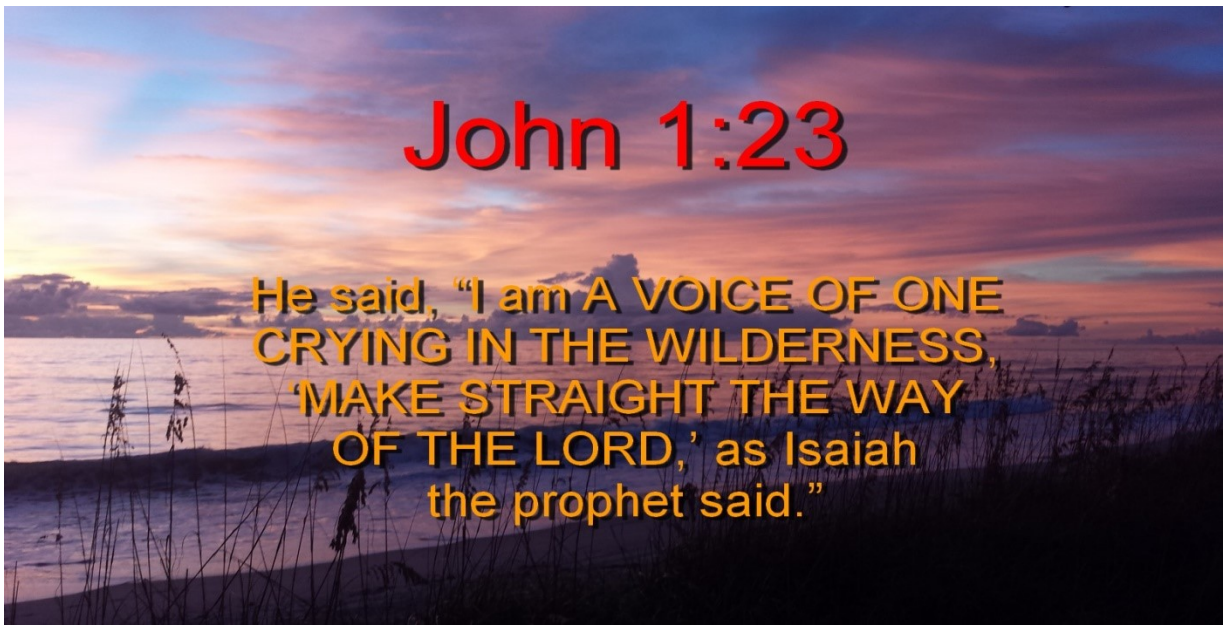
**Application for Today**

**Today someone may ask you who you are. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by testifying about Jesus, in Whom our lives are hidden today?**

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty Three

# Crying in the Wilderness Today




Why did John the Baptist quote Isaiah the prophet? He quoted Isaiah because he fulfilled that prophecy and conducted his ministry in the wilderness. God sent John the Baptist to bear witness to the Light, Jesus Christ.

Imagine the Lord leading you out into the wilderness to meet many people. Usually, people do not go out into the wilderness and draw many crowds to them. People usually go where the crowds are and then minister to the crowds.

John the Baptist had a clear mission from God, and he knew that God had already described that mission in the Old Testament. Isaiah

the prophet wrote his message about seven hundred years before John and Jesus were born of women.

# *Make Straight*

1. **Isaiah Prophecy.** John the Baptist identified himself with the Isaiah prophecy about making straight the way of the LORD. John the Baptist did not reference here the Malachi passage about the physical reign of Messiah upon earth.

2. **Audience.** The audience counts. The priests and Levites opposed the ministry of Jesus, which would begin shortly and publicly. The Isaiah prophecy perfectly described the place and ministry of John the Baptist. He labored in the wilderness, making straight paths for the coming Messiah, Jesus.

3. **Repentance for Sin.** John the Baptist preached a baptism based upon spiritual repentance for sin. John testified consistently about Jesus, God in the flesh.

4. **Wilderness Ministry.** Notice also that the wilderness ministry of John the Baptist drew large crowds from Jerusalem and Judea into the wilderness for the purpose of repentance. We should remember that God can use us in very unusual places to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. **Way of the LORD.** In the case of John the Baptist, the way of the LORD led through the wilderness physically, but spiritually people repented of their sins in the wilderness with John the Baptist.

6. **Minister Where God Leads.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we must minister for God wherever He leads us. We must go where He sends us. When we get there, we must speak for Him, to all the people He sends to us. We never know whom God may send to us in the wilderness, but we can be sure God sent them to us for ministry.

7. **God Sends the People.** We rejoice today, even if we are in the wilderness. We know the wilderness may be a place of great ministry, because God sends the right people to us so that we may minister for Jesus every day, even in the wilderness.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we understand the mission God has gifted us to fulfill for Him.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we go where God sends us to minister for Him, even if it means going into the wilderness.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we support other members of the family of God as they move out into their ministry areas.**

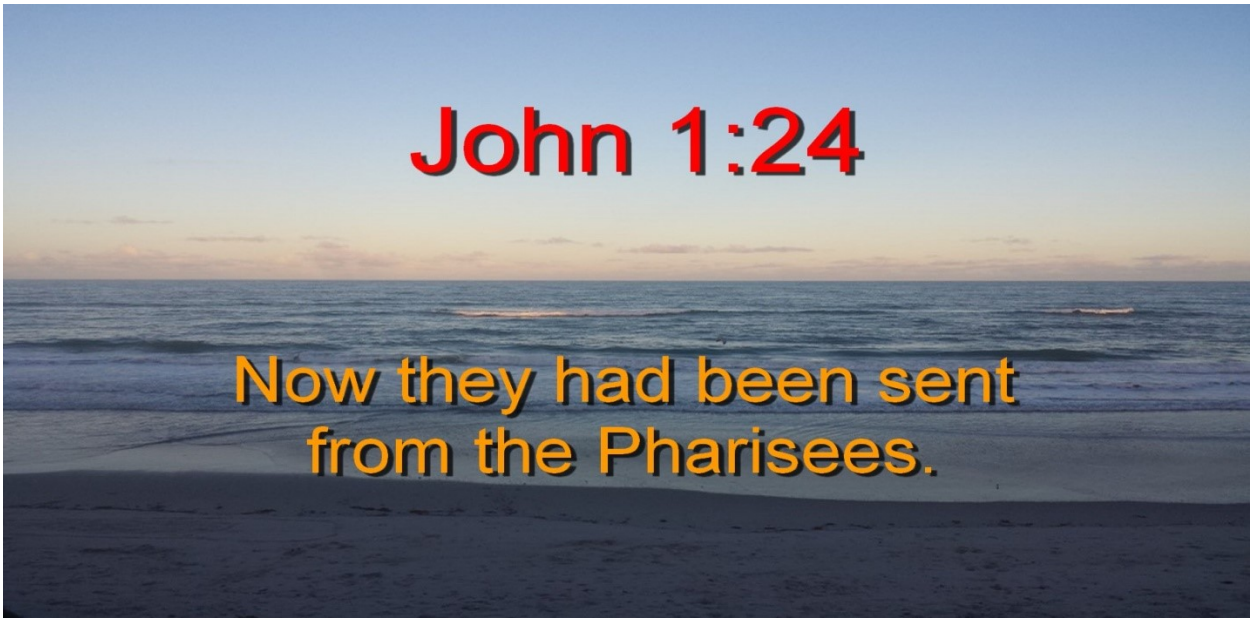
## Application for Today

Today, we may see our lives as fulfilling Scripture, because Jesus sent all the disciples into the world, just as the Father sent Him into the world. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by going where Jesus sends you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty Four

# Pharisees Today




Who were the Pharisees? They were very religious people who laid heavy religious burdens upon other people, but did not even touch those burdens with a finger. They often opposed Jesus, and argued with Him about many things. Jesus called them hypocrites for saying and teaching one thing, but doing the opposite in their own lives.

Pharisees on the outside seem very pious, but inside they are full of dead bodies and tombs. They know many verses in the Bible, but do not know the God who wrote those verses.

People like the Pharisees may be very religious, but they never knew God. They studied the Bible, but never understood it. To them, keeping the Law of Moses would send a person to heaven. Jesus taught that no one can

keep the Law of Moses, and it was never able to save anyone. God gave the Law of Moses so that they would know about sin and have faith in a Savior who would take away their sins. Jesus came, died on the cross, and all the sins of the world were laid upon Him. He died for us. The Pharisees did not know Jesus, because they did not know God the Father.

# *Sent*

1. **Pharisees.** John explained that the Pharisees (very religious Jews) sent the people to question John the Baptist.

2. **Sadducees.** The Sadducees (also very religious Jews) often opposed the Pharisees. The Sadducees said there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledged them all (Acts 23:8).

3. **Jesus Warned.** Jesus warned His disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:11).

4. **Hypocrites.** Jesus pronounced woes upon the scribes and Pharisees, calling them hypocrites, and making their proselytes (converts) twice the sons of hell as they were themselves (Matthew 23:15).

4. **Heavy Burdens.** The scribes and Pharisees tie heavy burdens upon others, but they themselves do not move them with a finger (Matthew 23:4).

5. **Jesus Opposed.** The Pharisees loved honor, respect, and being called Rabbi by men, but Jesus opposed their practices (Matthew 23:5-11).

6. **Religious Opposition.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we expect opposition from religious groups. Any religious group that opposes Jesus are sons of hell, just like the religious Pharisees. Jesus used very strong language.

7. **Jesus Triumphed.** We rejoice today because Jesus always triumphed over all opposition. Jesus laid down His life on His own authority

and took it up again by His own authority. In Jesus, we have eternal life and the evil one does not touch us.

**Summary for Today**

- **Living Godly in the family of God means that we know a Pharisee today when we see one.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we avoid the practices of the Pharisees, like hypocrisy.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by encouraging each other to avoid the leaven of the Pharisees.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we can expect Pharisees to tell us all about the Law of Moses and lay heavy religious burdens upon us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by avoiding all hypocrisy and religion that is only skin deep?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twenty Five

# Why Are You Baptizing Today




Why are you baptizing? The messengers from the Pharisees heard John the Baptist say he was not Elijah, nor the Prophet. So, they wanted to know why John the Baptist was baptizing people. They had been sent to get answers and had to return with answers.

John the Baptist baptized people as they came out to the wilderness to hear John the Baptist. He preached that the kingdom of God was near, and they should repent.

Great crowds of people came out to hear John and were baptized. Naturally, the Pharisees and other parts of the religious establishment wanted to know what was going on with John the Baptist.

The Pharisees studied the Old Testament prophets and knew that the Messiah was coming. They also knew that Elijah would come first and the Prophet spoken of by Moses would also appear. John the Baptist denied he was Elijah, or the Prophet. He was the voice crying in the wilderness.

# *Christ, The Prophet, Elijah*

1. **Answers, More Questions.** The priests and Levites had been sent to obtain answers from John the Baptist. His first answers prompted more questions.

2. **Jews Expected.** As we have seen, the Jews expected three people to come to Israel: (a) the Christ; (b) Elijah; and (c) the Prophet.

3. **Prophet.** John had plainly declared he was not any one of those three persons. The first two are obvious, but the Prophet apparently refers to the prophet of Deuteronomy 18:15. Moses prophesied there that God would raise up a prophet like Moses and the people should listen to him.

4. **Why Baptize?** They wanted to know why John the Baptist baptized. If he did not have the authority of any of the three, then why was he baptizing?

5. **Quoting Isaiah.** John had already told the people who he was and why he was baptizing, even quoting Isaiah to describe his mission.

6. **Activities Questioned.** Living Godly in the family of God means that our Godly activities will often prompt questions about who we are and why we are doing such activities.

7. **Testify.** We rejoice today when people bring questions about our Godly activities. We can humbly testify about the loving salvation of Jesus Christ, just like John the Baptist.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we expect unbelievers to ask about the things we do for God.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we accept the opportunities to answer questions that open the door to testimony about Jesus.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join with others doing things that provoke questions about what we do for God.**

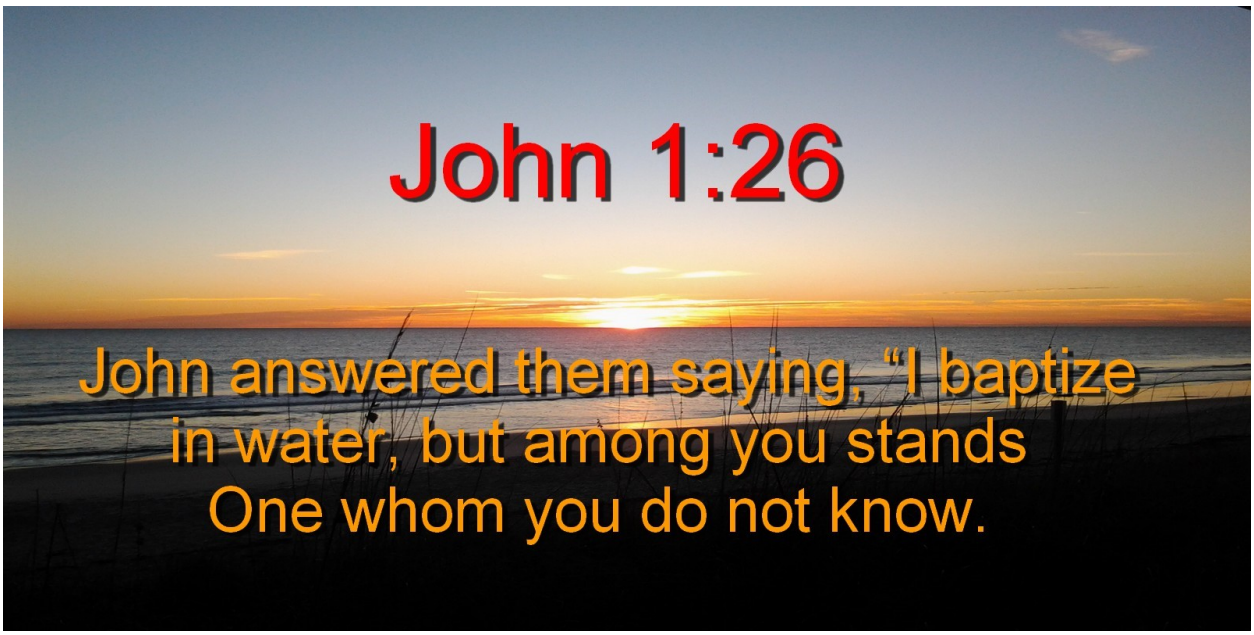
## Application for Today

Today, religious people may ask us questions about why we are doing things. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by having a ready answer for those who ask us about our ministries for God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twenty Six

# I Baptize in Water Today




Do you know Jesus? In the New Testament, people thought they knew Jesus, but they did not recognize Him as God in the flesh, sent to give His soul a ransom for many. Likewise, many people think they know God the Father, but they do not know Jesus. Jesus said if you knew God the Father, then you would know His Son, Jesus.

John the Baptist said that God's own people, the Jews, did not know Jesus. John the Baptist came to prepare the hearts of people to receive Jesus as Messiah and Savior.

John the Baptist baptized people with water as part of their spiritual repentance. Water alone never washed away sin, so more than water baptism was required. God sent John the Baptist to earth so that people who lived in darkness would be spiritually ready to see the Light of Jesus and respond in

faith to Jesus, believing He was the Son of God, sent to give His soul a ransom for all.

# *You Do Not Know*

1. **Jesus as God.** John the Baptist consistently focused his testimony upon Jesus and His divinity. John the Baptist presented Jesus as God, pre-existent and worthy of all honor.

2. **Testify About Jesus.** The Jews asked John the Baptist why he baptized. John always found a way to testify about Jesus.

3. **Do Not Know.** Here, John the Baptist testified that Jesus was among them, but they did not know Jesus. John the Baptist knew Jesus as God. The Jews did not.

4. **Already Arrived.** The word "among" means here that Jesus has already arrived and is dwelling in the middle of them. Jesus had done nothing publicly to draw the attention of Nazareth, Capernaum, or other places yet, but He would soon.

5. **Omnipresent.** Jesus had been and continued to stand among them. Have you ever thought much about where is Jesus today? He promised believers that He is with us, even to the end of the age. As omnipresent God, Jesus is everywhere at once. Jesus also lives in us, so that we now live our lives by faith in Him.

6. **We Know Him.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see Jesus spiritually standing among people today, and they never knew Him. But we know Him, and love Him, even though we have never seen Him. We are blessed.

7. **Stands**. We rejoice today because Jesus stands with us and in us today. By His abiding presence in our lives by faith, we stand tall in Him as we bow before Him, seeking to know Him better today and love Him more.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we repent of our sins and turn to Jesus, even after being born from above.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as know Jesus as God, Lord, Savior, and Messiah.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we stand with other believers in the knowledge that Jesus stands with us, and we in Him, for all eternity.**

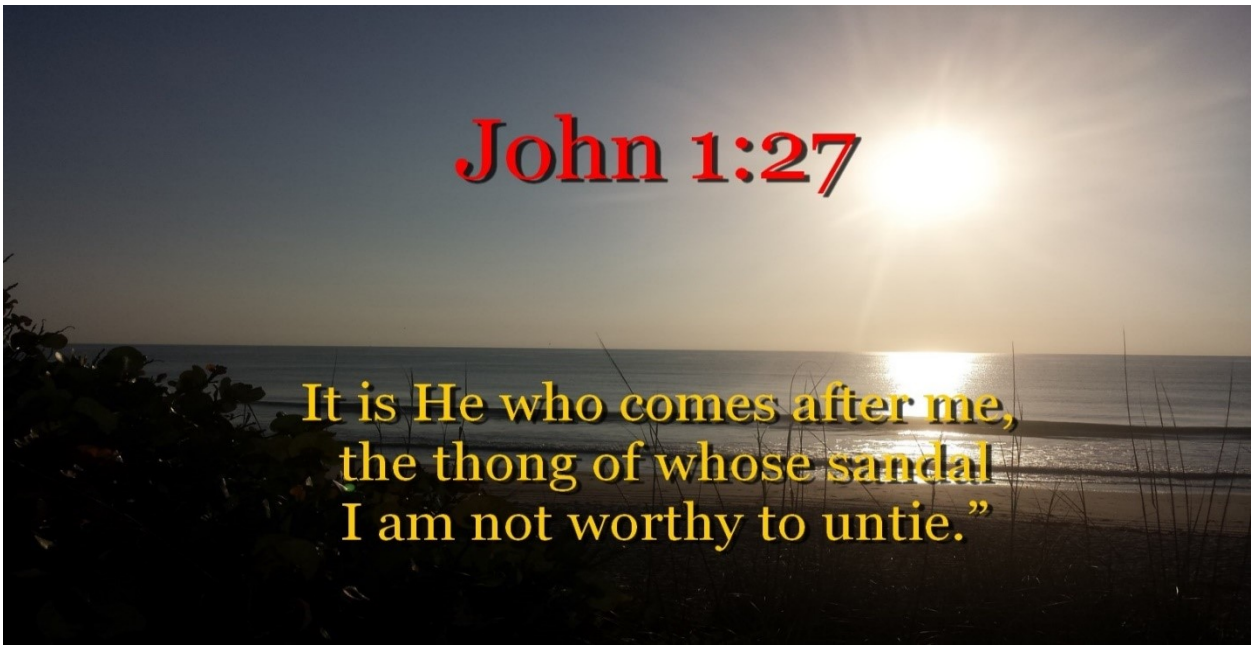
## Application for Today

Today, we live Godly in the family of God by knowing Jesus better as we go through the day. Day by day we know Jesus better. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by seeking to know Jesus better by reading His Word, seeing Him work around you, and drawing you to Himself?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty Seven

# Comes after Me Today




People tend to mock people who consider themselves unworthy of God. A smug attitude lies behind that attitude, saying they are worthy of everything, because they deserve it.

In contrast, John the Baptist considered Himself unworthy of Jesus. He was a human sinner, separated from God by sin. Jesus was God in the flesh, and sinless God. John the Baptist knew he was a sinner and created by Jesus.

John the Baptist did not exalt himself before the crowds coming to see him. He also did not exalt himself before the people asking him questions about who he was and why he did the things he was doing. John the Baptist confessed Jesus to them, and explained he was unworthy to untie the thong of His sandal. John chose words to express the contrast in rank between Jesus and John the Baptist.

# *Not Worthy*

1. **Humility.** John the Baptist provides a great example of humility. He comprehended his standing and relationship with Jesus.

2. **Higher Rank.** Humility means a lowly attitude, where Jesus remains higher than we are in rank, power, honor, glory and all good things. Jesus is eternal God, and we are His lowly, but beloved, friends.

3. **Came After.** Jesus came after John the Baptist, who made the ways of the Lord straight.

4. **Unworthy.** John the Baptist provided a perfect example of humility. John the Baptist said he was unworthy to untie the thong of the sandal of Jesus.

5. **Sandals and Slaves.** Jesus walked often on dry, dusty roads, and the dust clung to His feet and sandals. Slaves washed feet and removed sandals. John the Baptist said he was not worthy to even untie the thong of His sandal. John the Baptist personified great humility from a minister of God about whom Jesus said of John the Baptist that no one greater has arisen of those born of women.

6. **Thongs.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we live in humility before Jesus; we are not worthy to untie the thong of His sandal either.

7. **Love.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves unworthy people, like us, and empowers us to pursue great ministries for Him.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God today as we confess that we are not worthy to untie the thong of the sandal of Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we know that Jesus loves people who are unworthy of Him.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we recognize that all members of the family of God were unworthy of the love of Jesus, but He loved us anyway.**

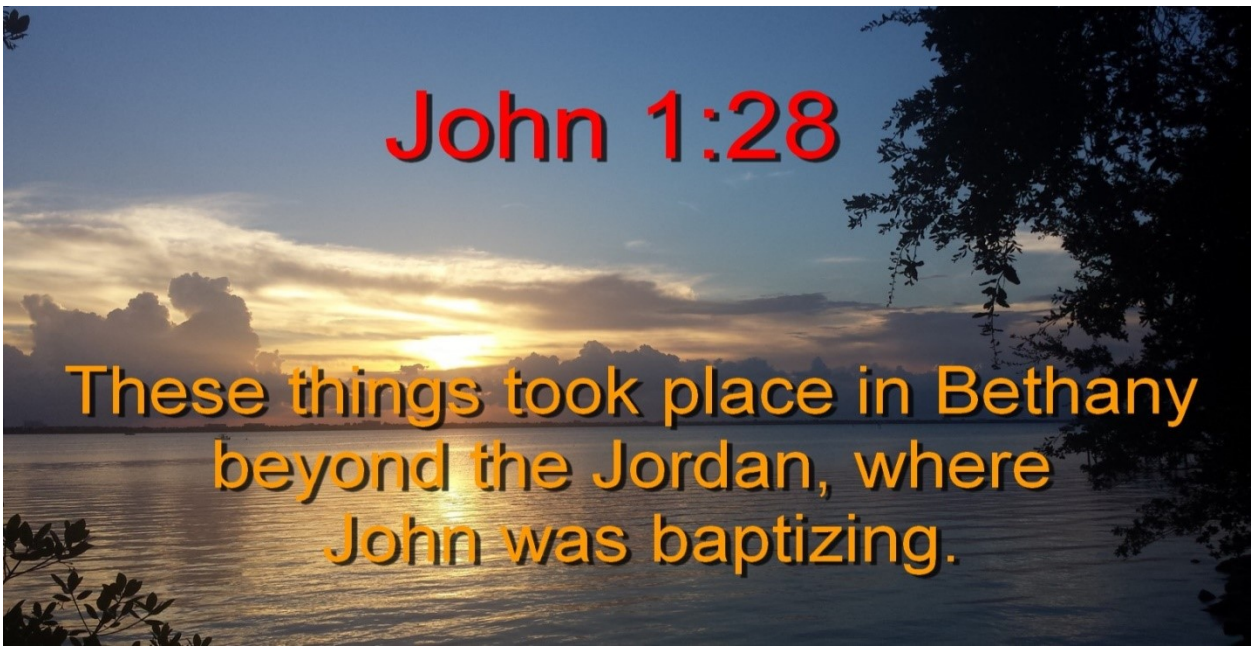
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by recognizing that Jesus loves the unworthy and ungodly and has made us holy and blameless by His loving power in our lives. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as you know that Jesus loves people who are unworthy to untie the thong of His sandal?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty Eight

# Bethany beyond the Jordan Today




Bethany beyond the Jordan was not the same Bethany as the village near Jerusalem, at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The village of Bethany was about a Sabbath day's journey from Jerusalem (Acts 1:12), situated on the busy road to Jericho. Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived in the village of Bethany. John the Baptist was living and ministering in the wilderness, and people were going into the wilderness to see him. Yet, John the Baptist needed water to baptize people.

John the Baptist was baptizing when the messengers from the Pharisees came to question him. John steadfastly baptized people because God sent him to prepare the way for Jesus.

Some archeologists place Bethany beyond the Jordan in the Jordan valley, north of the Dead Sea. Sufficient water there provided a place for John

the Baptist to carry out water baptism. John the Baptist served God by preaching repentance, because the kingdom of God was at hand. John baptized large crowds coming from Jerusalem and other places. They came to John for baptism, and he drew the attention of religious officials. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan river at Bethany beyond the Jordan.

# *John Was Baptizing*

1. **Bethany beyond the Jordan.** Although some archeologists have located a site they believe, the exact location of Bethany beyond the Jordan remains uncertain today. The contemporaries of John knew the location. As with many locations, finding them today after hundreds of years remains cloudy. Our faith does not rest upon locating the place, but upon the Person of Jesus Christ.

2. **Details.** Notice that John loved to provide details, so that we know John wrote about historical events.

3. **Location.** Just because we may not be certain today of the location does nothing to prove it never existed.

4. **Trustworthiness.** The historical trustworthiness of the events described in the Bible has been challenged repeatedly by liberals who do not believe the Bible is true and accurate.

5. **Revelations.** Jesus repeatedly affirmed that Moses, Isaiah and others received revelations from God and wrote them down. As the God Who cannot lie, we can trust the total accuracy of His revelations and recorded events.

6. **Word of God.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we receive the Bible as the Word of God, unlike any other book. Jesus said God's word sanctifies our lives in truth.

7. **God Sends Us.** We rejoice today in the truth of the Bible. John the Baptist labored in the wilderness, but we serve Jesus in towns, cities, and all

kinds of places. Each of us has a special work for God prepared beforehand by God that we should accomplish His will, no matter where He sends us. What joys we have to serve Jesus.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts at the places God sends us, even a wilderness.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we believe God has a purpose for us to be where God sends us.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we encourage believers around us, knowing that God sent them to the same place so that we would minister there together.**

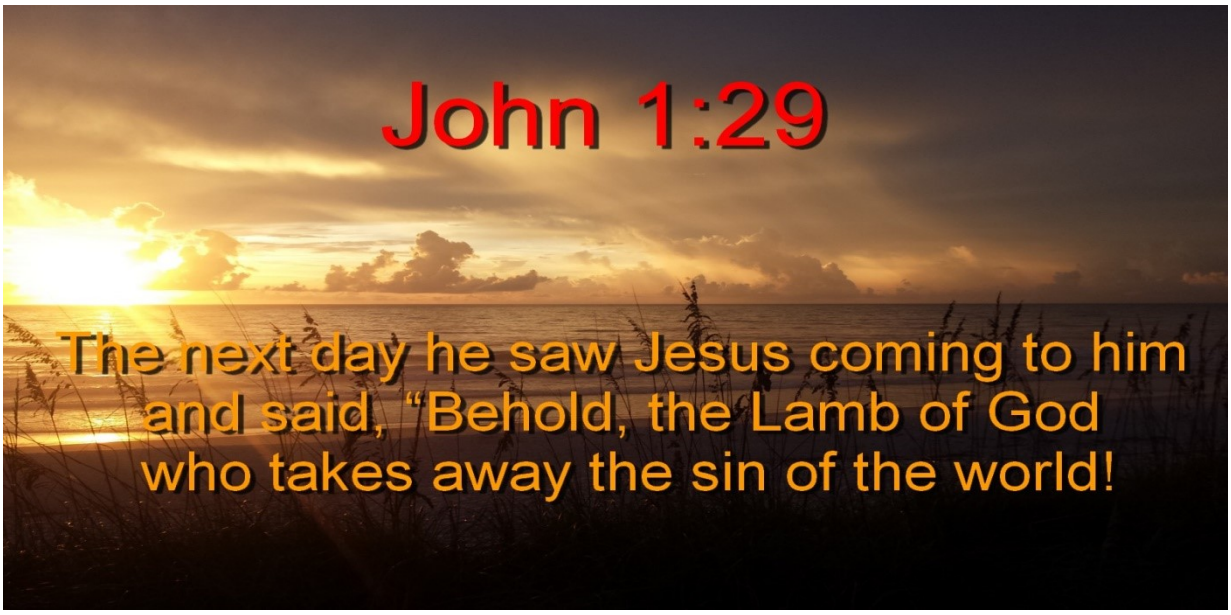
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God, knowing that God sent us to the place of His choosing. Will you live Godly in the family of God today, knowing that God has a ministry purpose for you to be where you are?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Twenty Nine

# The Lamb of God Today




Do you remember a day in your life when you met Jesus? You recognized Him as your Savior, Who died on the cross for you. You believed that He died in your place on the cross and received the free gift of salvation by faith alone. If you do not remember that day, then click here and learn more.

John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Lamb of God. In the Old Testament, God required Jews to sacrifice lambs at Passover to commemorate God delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt. The Jews had to sprinkle blood on their door posts and lintels so that the death angel would Passover their houses.

The Passover lamb was a symbol of atonement by blood sacrifice. Jesus shed His blood for our sins and laid down His life for us. He alone accomplished what no animal sacrifice could ever produce: forgiveness of

sins. Only Jesus, as God in the flesh, could redeem us and pay the death penalty we all deserved as sinners.

John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God. God sanctified His Son and sent Him into the world to sacrifice Himself as the Lamb of God. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus appears as the Lamb of God, slain for sinners, but yet alive forevermore.

# *Jesus Coming*

1. **Saw Jesus.** John the Baptist saw Jesus. Imagine how you would feel the first time you met Jesus face to face after preaching about Him and preparing the way for Him.

2. **Meet Jesus.** Do you remember what it was like to meet Jesus? Do you recall what it felt like to know for sure your sins have all been forgiven? Do you recall the day you were born again?

3. **Lamb of God.** John the Baptist applied a very particular title to Jesus: "the Lamb of God." As a Jew, John the Baptist knew about the special Passover lamb, slain and sacrificed to cover sins.

4. **Blood.** What the blood of lambs, bulls and goats could never accomplish, Jesus fulfilled with His death as the only Lamb of God. Jesus paid the death penalty for us and His blood applied to our hearts by faith alone makes us eternally clean and forgiven. Do you remember what it felt like back then? Is salvation even sweeter today?

5. **Atonement.** John the Baptist also described Jesus as the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. In the Gospel of John, the "world" did not know Jesus. Jesus died for the sins of all men, but only personal faith applies that atonement effectively to our lives, one person at a time.

6. **Takes Away Sin.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

7. **Faith.** We rejoice today because we know the joy of the Lamb of God, who personally took all the sins of each believer away by faith alone. I remember the joy of sins forgiven, and delight in Jesus frequently.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we look upon the Lamb of God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we remember that Jesus sacrificed Himself for us.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we identify Jesus as the Lamb of God to other people.**

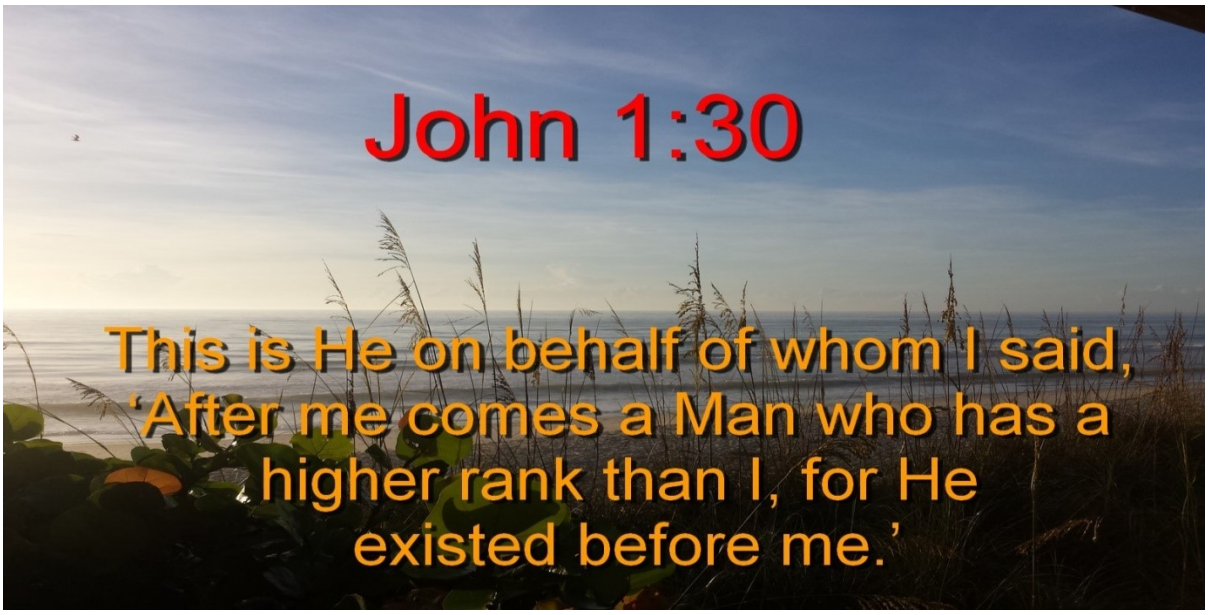
## Application for Today

Today, we see Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as you behold the Lamb of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Thirty

# Comes a Man Today




Did you notice that John the Baptist spoke on behalf of Jesus? John the Baptist had never met Jesus face to face, and yet he spoke on His behalf. John the Baptist confessed Jesus before people and baptized many people.

John the Baptist repeated his prior testimony, without waiver or conflict. John the Baptist told the truth. John the Baptist testified that Jesus comes after John, but Jesus had a higher rank than John the Baptist. As servants of Jesus Christ, we should always remember that Jesus has a higher rank than us, and we should treat Him accordingly in all we do and say.

John the Baptist also testified that Jesus existed before John the Baptist was born. As eternal God, Jesus always was. Jesus, the Word, was God and with God. Jesus, the Word, was in the beginning with God, because He was God.

# *After Me, Before Me*

1. **Glory and Deity.** John the Baptist linked eternity past with the appearance of Jesus in the flesh. The Gospel of John emphasizes the glory and deity of Christ.

2. **Identification.** John the Baptist identified Jesus as the One John the Baptist had been speaking about during his baptizing ministry of repentance in the wilderness.

3. **Rank.** Jesus took flesh after the conception of John the Baptist, but Jesus has a higher rank than John the Baptist. Jesus has always been the Son of God, and fully divine, just like His Father.

4. **Proclaimed.** John the Baptist also proclaimed repeatedly that Jesus was coming. John the Baptist trusted the Word of God which he preached.

5. **Before.** Jesus ranked higher than John the Baptist because Jesus existed before John the Baptist. John described Jesus as "protos," meaning Jesus existed first, before John the Baptist. John the Baptist knew that Jesus was eternal God in the flesh and testified truthfully about Jesus.

6. **God in the Flesh.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we recognize Jesus as God; the Son of God took flesh, lived, died, was resurrected and will come again to earth. He was and is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

7. **Our Sins.** We rejoice today because Jesus humbled Himself for us, to take away our sins through great suffering and death, so that we might proclaim the excellencies of His love as members of His family.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family God as we proclaim that Jesus has a higher rank than us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we testify consistently about Jesus with our words and deeds.**

- **We live mutually in the family of God as we proclaim together that Jesus existed before all of us, and, therefore, He has a higher rank than all of us.**

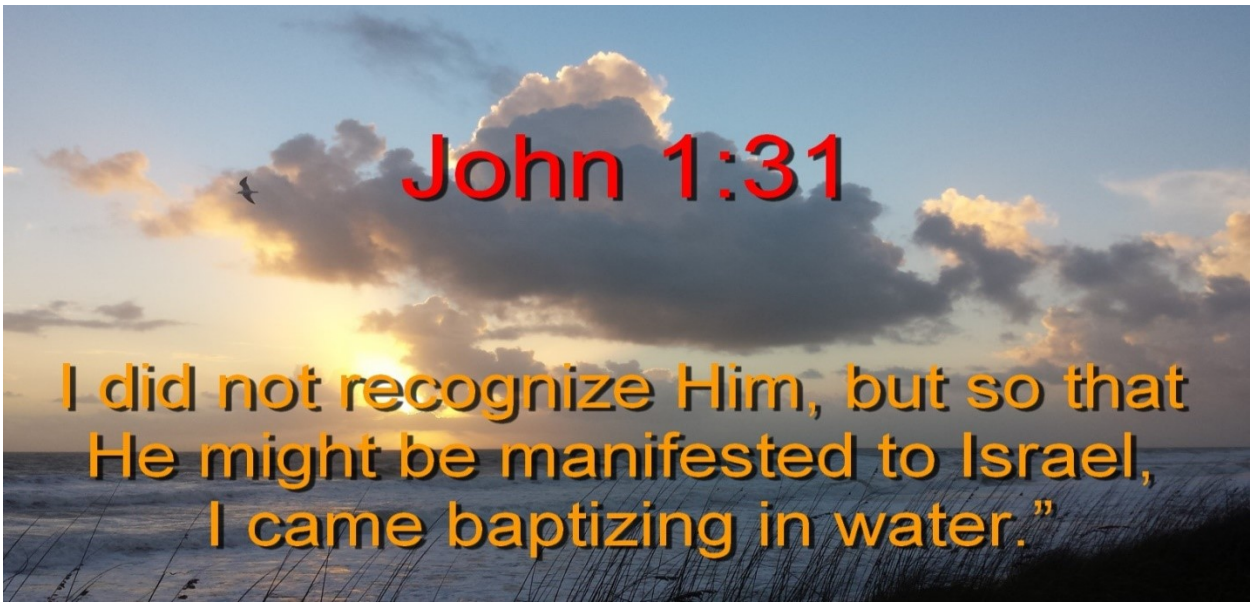
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus to others. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by proclaiming that Jesus existed before all of us and has a higher rank than us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Thirty One

# I Did Not Recognize Him Today




How did John the Baptist manifest Jesus to Israel? By baptizing people. John the Baptist was sent from God to prepare the hearts of the people of Israel to accept Jesus, the Messiah.

John the Baptist admitted that he did not recognize Jesus. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would have no stately form or majesty, that people would be attracted to Him. In other words, Jesus was not a standout from the crowd. He did not have an attractive appearance.

In obedience to God, John the Baptist baptized people. God sent him to baptize and prepare people spiritually to meet Jesus. John the Baptist came particularly to the people of Israel.

# *Baptizing in Water*

1. **As Isaiah Prophesied.** John the Baptist did not recognize Jesus. As Isaiah prophesied, so Jesus was not attractive and had no regal look.

2. **Man Among Men.** Jesus lived as a man among men for many years. He began His public ministry with miracles after His baptism with water.

3. **Water Baptism.** John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus through water baptism. Water baptism never saved anyone, for salvation comes by faith alone.

4. **God's Plan.** In His infinite wisdom, God prepared a plan to manifest His Son to Israel, His chosen people, and to all the world.

5. **John's Crucial Role.** As we have seen, John the Baptist played a crucial role in recognizing, proclaiming, baptizing, and manifesting Jesus.

6. **Manifested.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we love Jesus because He first loved us and manifested Himself as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

7. **Gave His Soul.** We rejoice today because Jesus manifested Himself and took all our sins upon Himself, once and for all. We live, because He gave His soul a ransom for many, and God raised Him from the dead.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by manifesting Jesus to people.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we use our spiritual gifts to manifest Jesus to others.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all follow God's plan to use our individual spiritual gifts to the glory of God.**

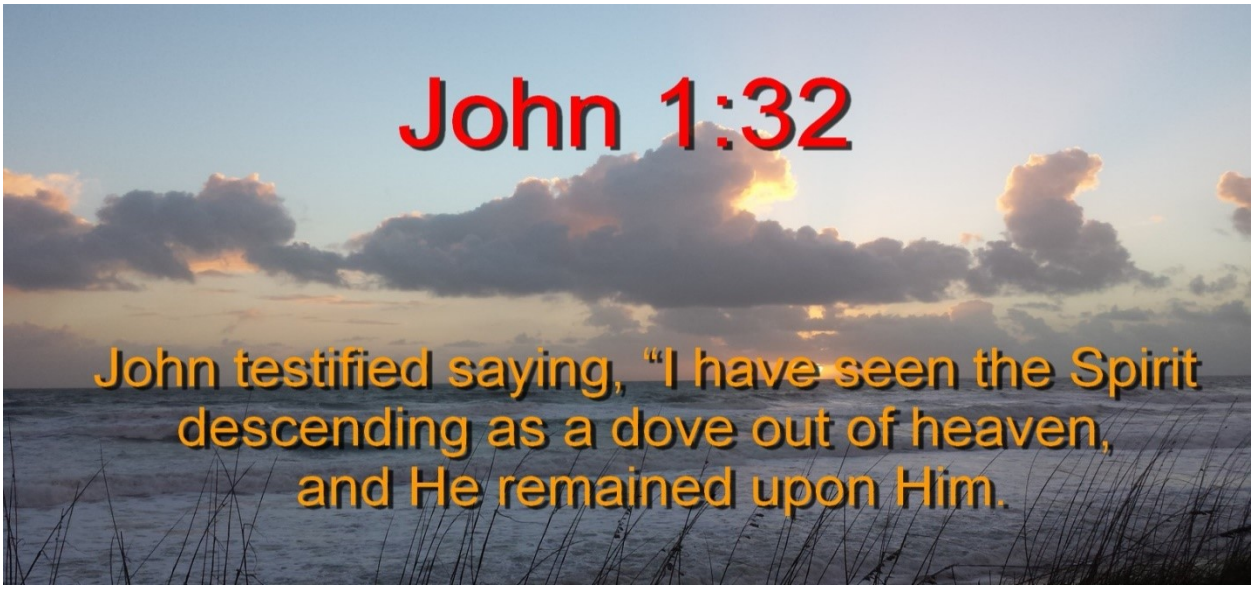
## Application for Today

Today, we may live to manifest Jesus to other people. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by manifesting Jesus to people around you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Thirty Two

# I Have Seen the Spirit Today




How did John the Baptist recognize Jesus? He saw a dove descend out of heaven and land upon Jesus and stay there. That was a truly remarkable day. Unforgettable Day.

Jesus did not stand out from the crowd. He appeared to be an ordinary guy. He did not look like a king or any kind of special guy. He was a normal looking person, and not shining with the glory of God in His physical appearance. God planned to look just like us, a normal guy.

While Jesus looked normal, He did very unusual things. In fact, God identified Jesus to John with a dove. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descended and remained upon Jesus. We know we cannot see spirits unless they manifest themselves.

# *The Spirit Descending*

**1. I Saw.** John the Baptist explained how he recognized Jesus as Messiah. John the Baptist saw the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus.

**2. Dove.** Notice that John the Baptist witnessed the Holy Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven. Many of you know I have doves sit in my lap daily at the beach. Those doves are wonderful, but not one of them is the Holy Spirit descending upon me.

**3. Holy Spirit.** Jesus explained that His disciples had the Holy Spirit with them, just like Old Testament believers. After Jesus arose from the dead, the Holy Spirit began to indwell believers, never leaving them. Now, at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit enters the new creature within us and remains in us.

**4. Him.** Notice too that the Holy Spirit is a "Him" here. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, just like God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit can be lied to and grieved. The Holy Spirit brings fantastic fruit into our daily lives.

**5. Recognized.** The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove so that John the Baptist would recognize Jesus. Jesus had always been God, but He did not always shine outwardly with His glory when He took flesh.

**6. Three Divine Persons.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we understand and believe that God eternally exists as three divine Persons (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit), all being one God. Jesus stood in the Jordan River on earth, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven upon Him, and the Father spoke from heaven--remember the baptism of Jesus. We can use this passage to explain the Trinity to people.

**7. Attuned.** We rejoice today because of the faithful ministry of John the Baptist, spiritually attuned to recognizing both Jesus and the Spirit. God still helps people to recognize God today.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by recognizing Jesus as God in the flesh and remembering that He looked normal.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we know that God manifested Jesus as Savior to us so that we would manifest Him in our lives.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as all the saints join together and live to manifest Jesus to the world.**

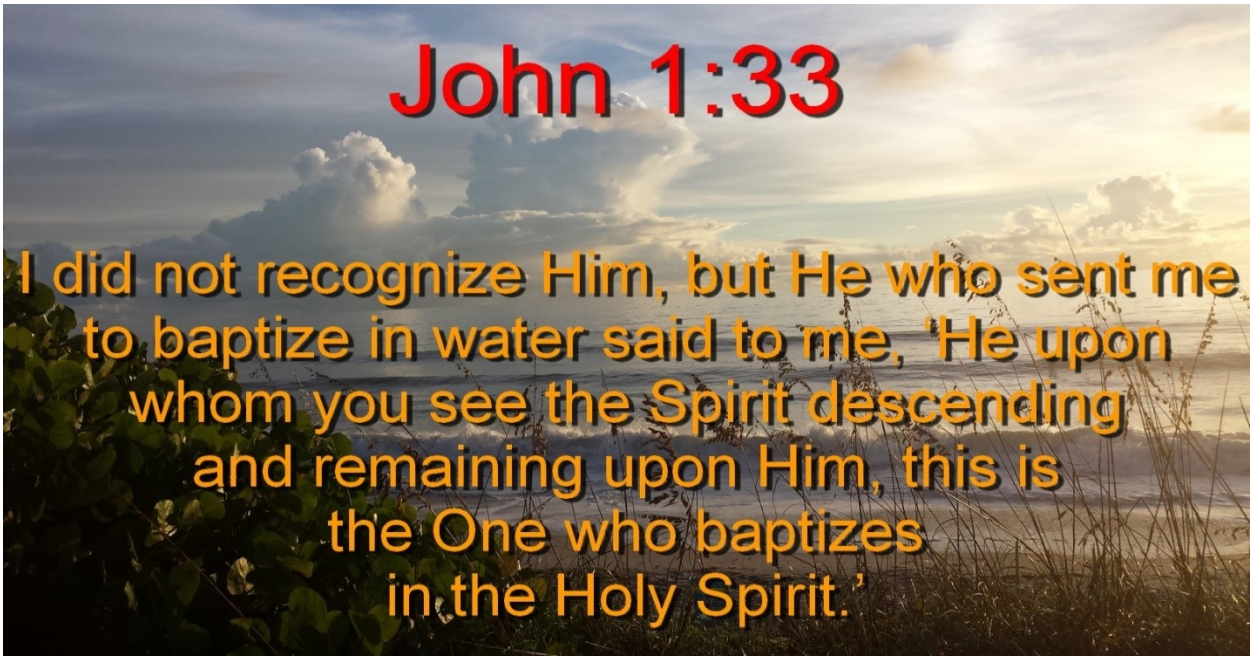
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God today by recognizing Jesus in the things He does for us today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by seeing Jesus at work in the lives of people today?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Thirty Three

# Confesses the Son Today




How did John know how to identify Jesus? God the Father spoke directly to John the Baptist. He told John the Baptist what to look for. The Holy Spirit would descend upon Jesus and remain upon Him. That Person would be the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist was sent on a mission to manifest Jesus and prepare the hearts of Israel, and others, to receive Jesus as Savior. But, John the Baptist did not know who the Messiah was. He needed some perfect way to identify Messiah when he saw Him. God gave John the Baptist a perfect way to identify the Messiah. Notice that John the Baptist ministered for Jesus before He could identify Jesus. John the Baptist carried out his life mission by faith. God the Father told John about the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus and that Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit.

# *Descending and Remaining*

1. **God Spoke.** John the Baptist continued to testify about Jesus. John the Baptist explained how God identified the Lamb of God to John the Baptist.

2. **Identification.** As we have seen in Isaiah 53, Jesus had no royal appearance nor was He attractive. John the Baptist was not given a physical description of Jesus, but rather a spiritual means of identification.

3. **Dove.** The Holy Spirit would descend and remain upon the Lamb of God. John the Baptist saw the dove descend and remain upon Jesus at the baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist identified Jesus by following the revelation of God about identifying Jesus.

4. **Reveal.** God loves to reveal His Son, Jesus, to everyone who seeks Him in faith in the word of Christ.

5. **Jesus Baptizes.** Jesus baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit. Notice that the Holy Spirit descended and remained upon Jesus. Jesus would later baptize believers with the Holy Spirit, beginning at Pentecost, after the ascension of Jesus to heaven (Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

6. **God the Father.** Living Godly in the family of God means that God the Father revealed Jesus Christ to each one of us who have saving faith in Him. By faith in the word of Christ, revealed in the Bible, we stand in Christ and know Him as our Savior. Flesh and blood have not revealed Jesus to us, but our Father in heaven revealed Jesus to us.

7. **Father, Son, Holy Spirit.** We rejoice today because God the Father revealed Jesus to us and He baptized us with the Holy Spirit. We have a relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we remember that Jesus baptizes people in the Holy Spirit.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we remember that Jesus baptized each of us in the Holy Spirit at the moment of spiritual birth.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live together as one family, baptized by Jesus in the Holy Spirit to be His body.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live as one church, baptized by Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by manifesting Jesus to the world through the Holy Spirit living within us?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Thirty Four

# Son of God Today




Did John the Baptist offer personal testimony about Jesus? Yes, we have his firsthand testimony that he saw and testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

John the Baptist was well known before the public ministry of Jesus began. Large crowds came out to see him and be baptized. John came to bear witness to Jesus, the Light of the world.

John gave unequivocal testimony that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, in human flesh. John saw the dove descend upon Jesus and remain upon Him. God the Father revealed the Son of God to John the Baptist and John the Baptist testified to Jesus being the Son of God.

# *Have Seen and Have Testified*

1. **Eyewitness.** John the Baptist personally knew Jesus. This personal, eyewitness testimony was indisputable and rock solid.

2. **Testimony.** Personal testimony really counts. John the Baptist provided a critical link between the revelation of God identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God and the public testimony that Jesus was the Son of God. John the Baptist gave credible, powerful testimony to the divinity of Jesus.

3. **Detailed.** John the Baptist gave detailed testimony about the means of identification. John the Baptist saw the Holy Spirit descend and remain upon Jesus.

4. **Everyone.** John the Baptist then testified to everyone that Jesus was the Lamb of God and the Son of God.

5. **Son of God.** John the Baptist linked the revelation about Jesus to Jesus being the Son of God in the flesh. God had taken flesh and John the Baptist saw Him and testified about Him.

6. **Personal.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we testify to our personal relationship with Jesus, the Son of God. We see Him in the pages of the Bible, and feel His power and presence within us, while His great love envelopes us.

7. **Not Seen Him.** We rejoice today because we too love Jesus, even though our physical eyes have not seen Him; yet, we love Him because He first loved us.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we testify to having Jesus dwell in our lives.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we share with others the glory of having the Son of God living with us all the time.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we recognize that the Son of God has joined all His children together into the family of God so that He would live in all of us at the same time.**

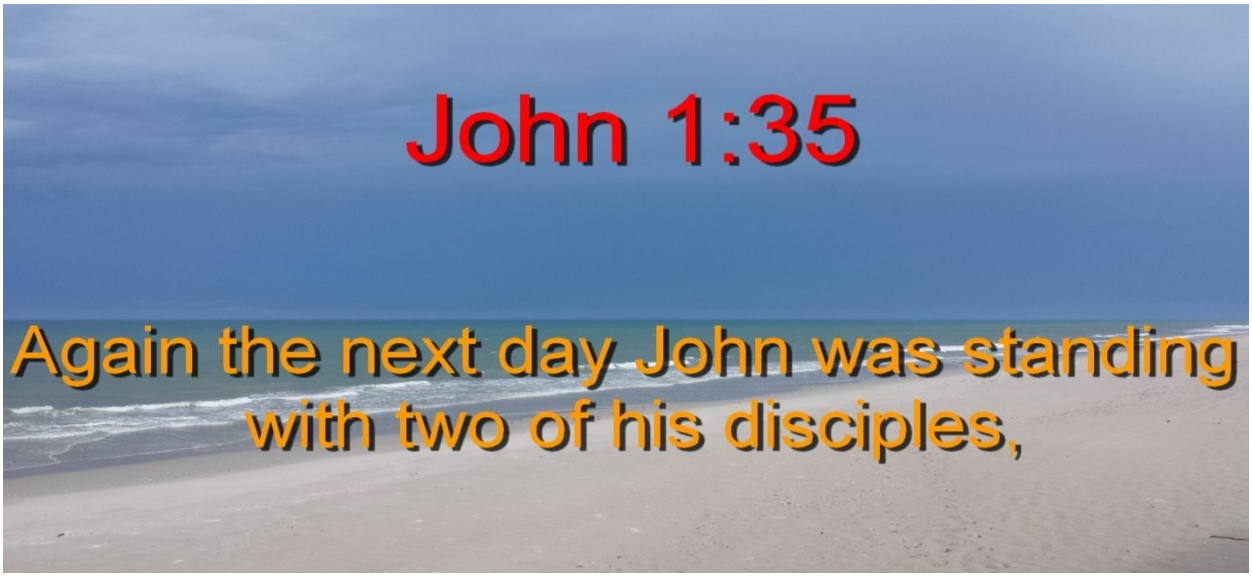
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by testifying that Jesus is the Son of God and He lives within us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by testifying to people that Jesus lives within His children?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Thirty Five

# Standing Today




Luke followed a timeline of events in consecutive order in presenting his Gospel of Jesus Christ. John did not follow a timeline of events, but he did present some events following a careful timeline.

On the day after John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Son of God, John the Baptist was standing with two of his disciples. Are you making disciples today? Do you have two disciples you could be standing with? Jesus commanded all believers to go out and make disciples of all the nations, teaching them and baptizing them.

John the Baptist was not only baptizing, but making disciples and they were with him in the wilderness. Jesus also made disciples, and still makes disciples today.

# *Two of His Disciples*

1. **Next Day.** The next day can be a very important day in our lives. Have you ever pondered how much yesterday may link to today when you are following behind Jesus? Today will never be yesterday, but the next day will always be today when speaking of yesterday.

2. **Daily.** What persiflage? No, God loves to remind us that He works in our lives day by day, with an eternal plan at work.

3. **Testimony.** Although John the Baptist boldly testified of Jesus, God had further testimony for John the Baptist to offer.

4. **Disciples.** John the Baptist also had disciples with him. You may recall that Jesus commanded His disciples to go into all the world and make disciples.

5. **Follow.** Are you making disciples for Jesus and following His plan? The disciples of John the Baptist apparently heard all the testimony of John the Baptist about Jesus. It will come as no surprise when some of his disciples will follow Jesus.

6. **Plans.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we live next-day lives today. Jesus has long range plans for us, including standing with the disciples we are making for Him.

7. **Life.** We rejoice today because we love the next day. God has graciously given us another day of life to follow Jesus. We can make disciples and stand with them today, the next day.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by standing with disciples we make for Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God in the family of God when we look forward to the next day to serve Christ Jesus.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we stand together in Christ, making disciples every day.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we make disciples for Him and stand with them. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by standing with your disciples?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Thirty Six

# Looked at Jesus Today




What are you looking at? People often notice what other people are looking at. We know exactly what John the Baptist was looking at. He was looking at Jesus, the day after he recognized Jesus as the Son of God.

When John the Baptist stood there with two of his disciples, he looked at Jesus and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." That moment in time marks a great event. John sees Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

John the Baptist knew his entire ministry was to prepare the way for Jesus. John the Baptist must decrease, but Jesus would increase. John said "Behold, the Lamb of God" and the two disciples standing with them heard him identify Jesus.

# *Behold, The Lamb of God!*

1. **Lamb of God.** John the Baptist continued his testimony for Jesus. Speaking with two of his disciples present, John declared that the Lamb of God was before them.

2. **Recognized.** John the Baptist had previously recognized Jesus because John the Baptist had witnessed the Holy Spirit descend and remain upon Jesus.

3. **Identified.** In turn, John the Baptist then identified Jesus to his disciples. Notice how John described Jesus.

4. **Described.** The words and titles we use to describe people make a big difference. John chose the words "Lamb of God" to describe Jesus. Jews familiar with the Law of Moses would understand the Passover lamb; John the Baptist described Jesus as the sacrificial lamb of God.

5. **Prepared Disciples.** John the Baptist had many great qualities. In this case, John knew the ministry of Jesus must increase, while his ministry would decrease. John the Baptist fulfilled his ministry, in part, by preparing disciples to leave his ministry and follow Jesus, the Lamb of God.

6. **Divine.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we recognize the divine supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ and the divine humility of the Lamb of God.

7. **Sacrificed Himself.** We rejoice today because the Lamb of God willingly and lovingly sacrificed Himself once and for all. He died so that we now live by faith and enjoy life eternal in Christ. Great joy indeed!

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God to people around us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we recognize that Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb who took away our sins.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we proclaim together: "Behold, the Lamb of God!"**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God to disciples standing with us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by proclaiming, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Thirty Seven

# Two Disciples Today




Are you making diciples? John the Baptist had two disciples with him. They heard him speak about Jesus and they followed Jesus. A primary goal of making disicples is to have the disciples follow Jesus, and not us.

Disciples listen to us. What we say often matters to them. John the Baptist looked at Jesus and spoke about Him. In our lives, we too can speak about Jesus and tell people that Jesus was the Lamb of God.

What we say each day makes a difference to the people around us. We can identify Jesus to people today so that they can follow Jesus. Notice that the disciples followed Jesus and John the Baptist had no complaints. At all times, we serve Jesus by preparing other people to follow Jesus. We minister on behalf of Jesus and for His glory, not ours.

# *They Followed Jesus*

1. **Identified.** John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Son of God and the Lamb of God.

2. **Deity.** Jesus displayed in the flesh the full deity of God as the Son of God. He was God and did the loving work of God among men.

3. **Humility.** Jesus simultaneously displayed the humility of God as the Lamb of God. Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many, because He came to seek and to save the lost.

4. **Listen.** The disciples of John the Baptist listened to John the Baptist talk about Jesus. Disciples listen and learn. We must be more like John the Baptist who spoke so well about Jesus that our disciples always know they must follow Jesus and not us.

5. **Follow.** The believers we disciple must follow Jesus, and not us. They listen to us, so we must always be sure they constantly hear about Jesus.

6. **Talk.** Living Godly in the family of God means we talk about Jesus so that people become disciples of Jesus, who follow only Jesus, the Lamb of God and the Son of God.

7. **Love.** We rejoice today because we follow Jesus. We love Jesus, the Lamb of God and the Son of God.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by seeing Jesus today.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God by identifying Jesus as the Lamb God today.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by encouraging disciples to follow Jesus today.**

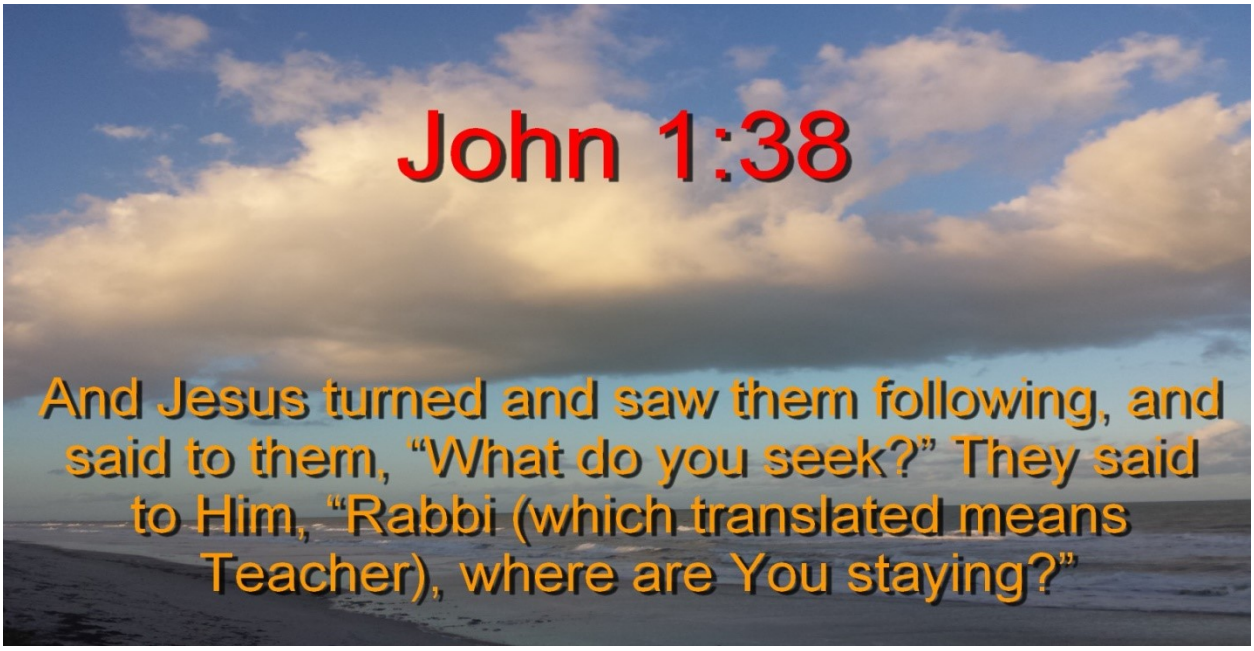
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by making disciples who follow Jesus today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by making disciples who follow Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Thirty Eight

# What Do You Seek Today




Have you turned and seen someone following you? Depending on what you see, it can be happy or not so happy. One day my wife and I came to my regular beach the day after a hurricane blew through the area. A pair of doves came to my lap each day to eat food I brought for them.

I drove into the parking lot at the beach, and things looked pretty normal after the hurricane. The winds did not exceed a hundred miles an hour and so the damage was fairly small. But I came with my wife looking for the doves, to be sure they were alright.

As soon as we got out of the car, the doves came to the nearest table and landed, looking at us. As we walked toward our usual table in the pavilion, the doves flew from table to table looking straight at us. We were happy to see them, and they looked happy to see us. They could not wait to

eat out of my lap, even though we had been separated for one day, but it had been very stormy.

# *Where Are You Staying Today*

**1. <u>Accomplished.</u>** The testimony of John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. The work of John the Baptist has been largely accomplished and the way made ready for Jesus.

**2. <u>Attention.</u>** As the two disciples of John the Baptist followed Jesus, He turned to them. We will see Jesus give special attention to many people in our study of the Gospel of John.

**3. <u>Seekers.</u>** Jesus also began the conversation with them. "What do you seek?" Jesus has a great way of focusing attention upon just the right thing with His questions. Jesus identified them as seekers.

**4. <u>Rabbi.</u>** The two disciples addressed Jesus as Rabbi, a title of honor and respect, which Jesus accepted (John 13:13). Jesus was a Teacher, and His teaching with authority amazed the crowds.

**5. <u>Where?</u>** The disciples sought to know where Jesus was staying. They apparently wanted to stay with Him, or at least stay in touch with Him.

**6. <u>Followers.</u>** Living Godly in the family of God means that we must be followers of Jesus, seeking Him, talking with Him, asking Him questions, and listening to Him.

**7. <u>Leads.</u>** We rejoice today because we know that Jesus takes a personal interest in each one of us. The living God who humbles Himself to take notice of things in heaven and on the earth knows the number of the hairs on our heads and cares personally for us. We follow Him and He leads us, talking gently and lovingly with each one of us.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by seeking Jesus today.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we spend time with Jesus, staying with Him today.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join others in staying with Jesus, and walking and talking with Him today.**

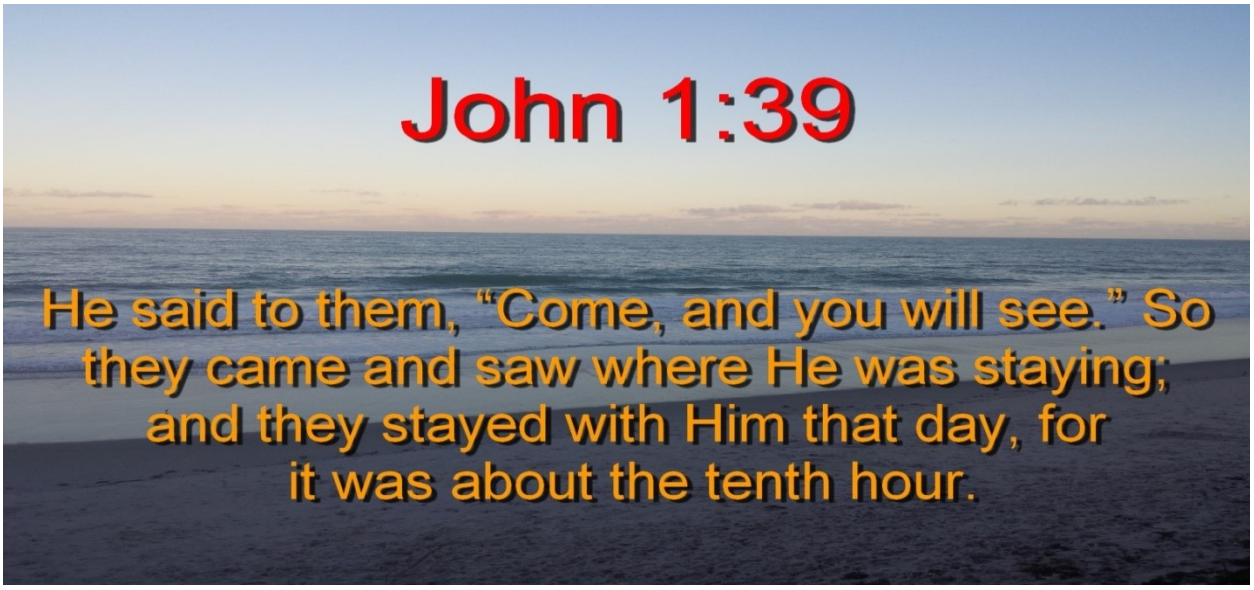
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by seeking Jesus and staying with Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by walking and talking with Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Thirty Nine

# Come, and You Will See Today




Has anyone ever invited you to come and see something? Jesus invited two disciples of John the Baptist to come and see where He was staying. Notice that the question of the two disciples implied they did not know where He was staying. In other words, it was not obvious where Jesus was going to stay for the night.

Jesus said foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man had nowhere to lay His head. As Jesus traveled throughout Israel, He moved from place to place. If you followed Jesus, He was going to be on the move.

Jesus moved for different reasons. Some opponents sought to kill Him, but that did not stop Jesus from preaching, teaching, and working miracles wherever God sent Him. Following Jesus did not mean a cozy place to stay each night, but a cozy Savior to follow. Jesus said He never lost a single

disciple, because He kept each one, except for Judas Iscariot, the son of destruction.

# *They Stayed with Him*

1. **Come and See.** Jesus draws people to follow Him. He invites people to come and they will see.

2. **Relationship.** Being in Christ means that we have a deep spiritual relationship with Jesus, Who rose from the dead and now lives in us.

3. **Stay.** Jesus desires His children to be always with Him. We hear His voice, calling us to come and stay with Him so that we may live in love, grace and peace with Him.

4. **Eternity.** The disciples stayed with Jesus, for the rest of eternity. Jesus never has temporary relationships with His children.

5. **Lives.** Jesus loves living in relationship with born-again believers. I cannot fathom the wonders of staying with Jesus each day; yet He lives in me every day, and His mercies are new every morning.

6. **Invitation.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have accepted the invitation from Jesus to come, and you will see. He uses us today to harvest souls for Him.

7. **Drawn.** We rejoice today because Jesus has drawn us to Himself and promised we would never be separated from Him for all eternity. We see that Jesus has all goodness and deity.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by staying with Jesus all day today.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God by being with Jesus today.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by living together in the family of God and staying with the family and with Jesus today.**

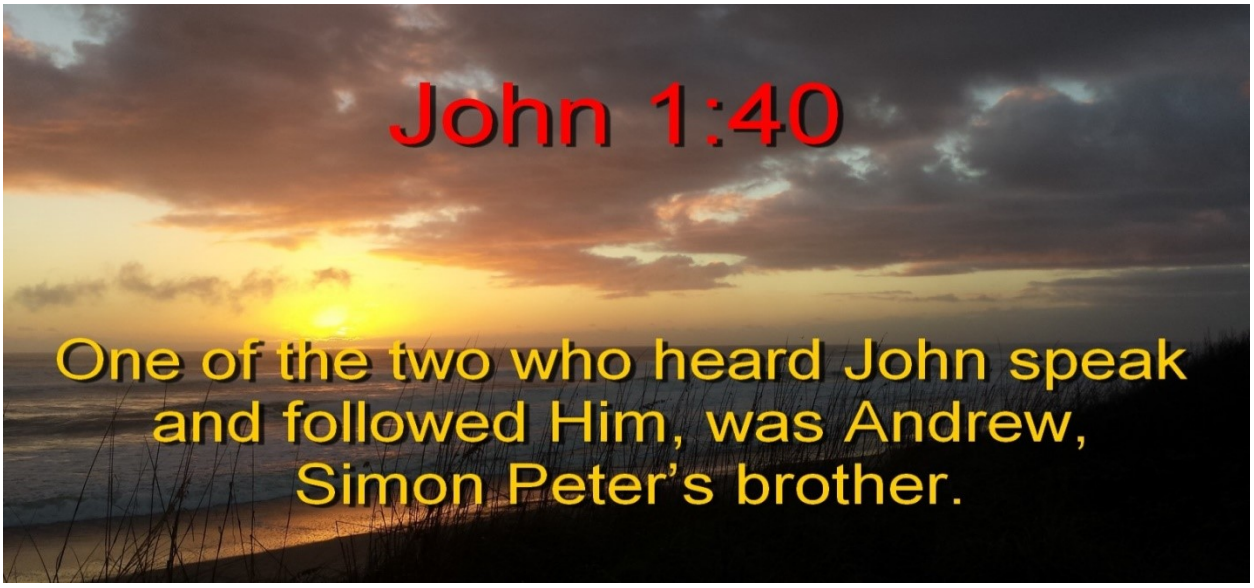
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we live together with Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by staying with Jesus, and watching Him?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty

# Simon Peter's Brother Today




Did you have a brother growing up? Simon Peter and Andrew grew up together. John the Baptist had two disciples with him, and one of them was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

Andrew was the kind of brother who looked out for his brother. When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to Andrew and the other disciple, Andrew and the other disciple followed Jesus.

Andrew then found his brother, Simon Peter, and told him, "We have found the Messiah." Many brothers have found the Messiah, Jesus Christ, but have never told their own family about their salvation.

If you have a brother or sister today, and you have never told them about how you found Jesus as your Savior, please take time today to call that

brother, sister, mother, or father and let them know about the day you found Jesus and accepted His free gift of salvation.

# *Andrew*

1. **People.** As we travel through the Gospel of John, we will meet many people. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist and one of the first disciples of Jesus.

2. **Andrew.** Andrew heard Jesus speak in John 1:39-40. I meet many people at the beach, and many people tell me stories about how God spoke to them. Jesus spoke through the Old Testament writers and likewise through the New Testament writers. Those authors wrote during a period of roughly two thousand years. We can still hear Jesus today by reading the Bible, but He also leads us daily with His presence in our lives.

3. **Hearing and Following.** We must appreciate the link between hearing Jesus and following Jesus. We do not blindly walk through darkness. Instead, the voice and presence of Jesus guide us. We hear His voice (the Bible) and follow Him, like a shepherd leading His sheep with His voice. Jesus shines in our lives and on the path before us. We constantly leave darkness behind.

4. **Family.** Jesus often uses family teams. In fact, all believers belong to just one family--the family of God. On a human level, people with the same physical father may have complementary ministries. One loud and the other quiet--both effective for Christ. Likewise, physical brothers may share in the same ministry, but have completely different spiritual gifts.

5. **Introduce.** Andrew ministered for Christ by bringing people to Christ. We can see here that Andrew met Jesus and followed Jesus. Andrew loved to introduce people to Jesus.

6. **Listen.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we listen to Jesus and follow Jesus. Listening and following go hand in hand.

7. **Serve.** We rejoice today because Jesus is speaking to each one of us, as we are listening and following Jesus. We serve a risen, living Savior.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus today.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we think about our physical brothers and sisters, and where they stand with Jesus Christ.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all become disciples of Jesus, who follow Him as one family.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by bringing our family members to meet Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by introducing family and friends to Jesus for the first time?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Forty One

# We Have Found the Messiah Today




Do you remember the day you found Jesus? Andrew found Jesus, and could not wait to find his brother, Simon Peter. Andrew and Simon Peter would both become part of the twelve disciples who followed Jesus for years.

Andrew had a clear, simple message for his brother, Simon Peter: "We have found the Messiah." The term "Messiah" means anointed one in Hebrew, and the term "Christ" means anointed one in Greek.

Andrew had been spending time with John the Baptist, so he was familiar with the message of John the Baptist about the coming Messiah. John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance, and prepared the hearts of people to receive Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

# *He Found First*

1. **Brother.** Andrew found first his own brother Simon. Some disciples, like Andrew, love to work quietly in bringing people to Christ.

2. **Everyone.** Some disciples, like Andrew, understand the immediate need for everyone on earth to recognize Jesus as Messiah.

3. **Loved.** Some disciples, like Andrew, act immediately to find their loved ones and bring them to Jesus. Perhaps you have loved ones who need you to bring them to Jesus.

4. **Messiah.** Some disciples, like Andrew, have a clear and simple message: "We have found the Messiah."

5. **Fulfilled.** The term "Messiah" means anointed one in Hebrew. In Greek, the term "Christ" means anointed one, and therefore Jesus Messiah means the same as Jesus Christ. Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah (John 4:25-26). Jesus also said that all the things written about Him in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44).

6. **Invite.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we let our loved ones know that we have found Jesus Messiah, the Savior of the world. We invite them to come and see Jesus.

7. **Introduce.** We rejoice today because we have the privilege of being known by Jesus and the honor of introducing our loved ones to Him as Messiah and Savior.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by when we find people we love and tell them about Jesus, the Messiah.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we invite them to meet Jesus, and invite them to come with us to see Jesus.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we realize everyone in the family of God met Jesus somewhere, some time, and often someone introduced them to Jesus.**

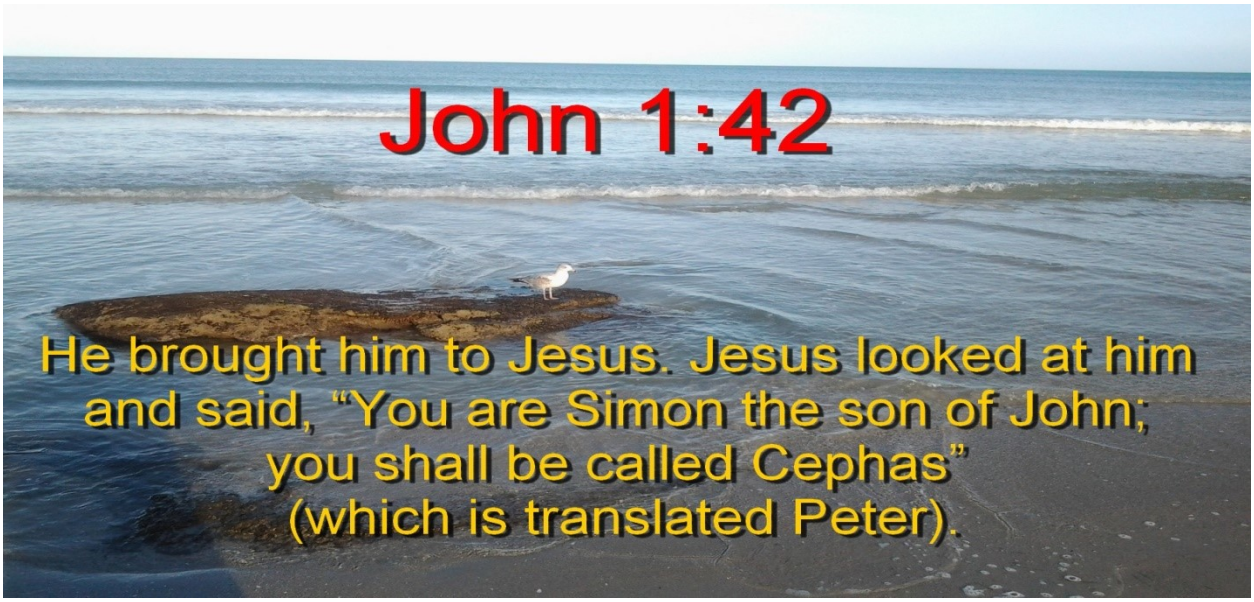
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by finding people we love and telling them we have found the Jesus the Messiah. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by telling someone you love about Jesus the Messiah?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty Two

# Purifies Himself Today




What name did Jesus give to Simon Peter? Jesus said he would be called Cephas, which translated means Peter. Jesus had a marvelous way of introducing Himself to people.

At times, Jesus gave new names to people. At other times, people already had new names. Many names in the Bible have special meaning, and the parents obviously chose the name for a particular purpose.

God sent an angel to tell Joseph to name the child Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Likewise, the angel Gabriel told Mary to name the child Jesus.

You may also remember that an angel told Zacharias to name his son John. No one among the relatives of Zacharias was named John, but Zacharias went with the name given by the angel.

# *Cephas*

1. **Brought**. Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus. We have seen that Andrew brings his loved ones to Jesus.

2. **Jesus Knows**. Jesus not only knew Peter, but wants both Andrew and Peter to know that He knows them upon sight.

3. **Cephas**. Jesus also gave Simon a new name, "Cephas." This term means rock in Aramaic.

4. **Name**. Jesus intended Peter to know his new name and its significance. Jesus would use the faith of Peter to build His church.

5. **Disciples**. At this point, Jesus has Andrew, plus the other disciple of John the Baptist, plus Peter following Him. Jesus always made disciples who would learn from Him and make more disciples in turn. They denied themselves, took up their cross, and followed Jesus.

6. **Learn**. Living Godly in the family of God means that we learn from Jesus as His disciple. We also make disciples for Him.

7. **Follow**. We rejoice today knowing that Jesus knows all about us, and has great plans for our lives. As we follow Him, He uses our lives for His glory.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by bringing family and friends to meet Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we introduce people to Jesus, counting upon Him to know everything about the people we bring to Him.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we gather together in following Jesus, and He calls us by name.**

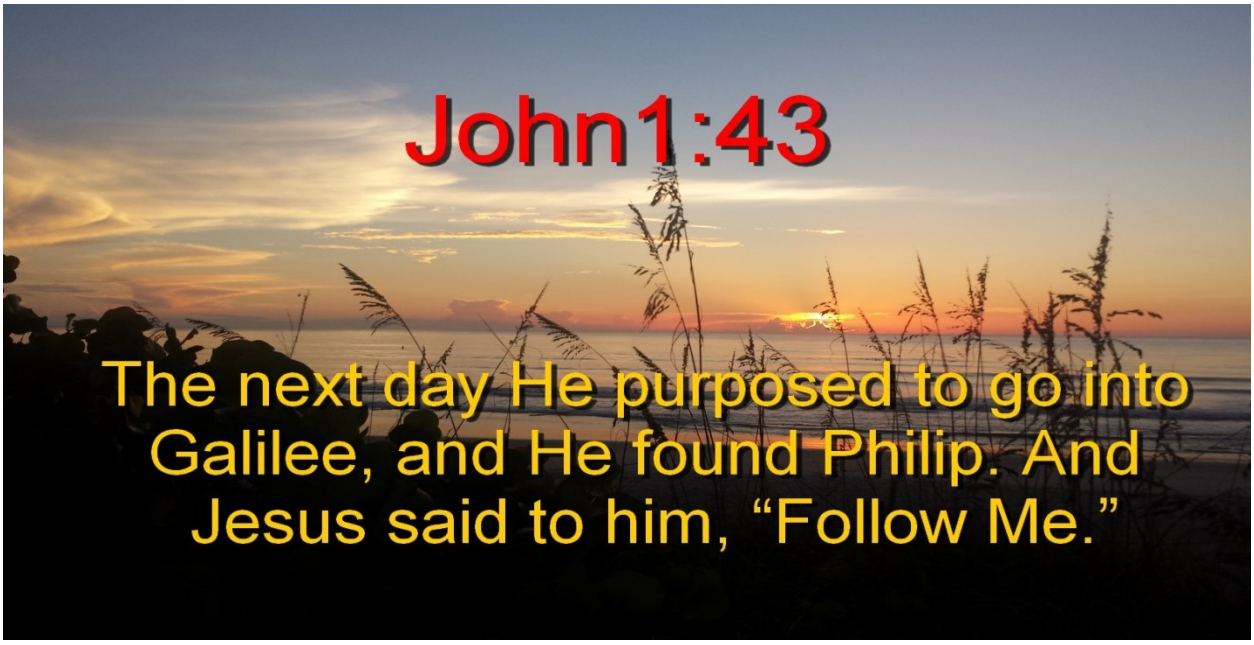
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to know the people we bring to Him. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by counting upon Jesus to receive whoever receives Him by faith that He is the Messiah?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty Three

# He Purposed Today




Did you find Jesus, or did Jesus find you? John explained that both are true. Jesus found Philip, but Philip will say, "We have found Jesus." As God in the flesh, Jesus always knew exactly who He was looking for and where to find him.

As a human being, Philip was looking for the One spoken about by Moses and the prophets—the Messiah, Savior. Jesus found Philip and Philip believed he had found Jesus the Messiah and Savior.

Once Jesus found Philip, he said: "Follow Me." Notice the command here. Jesus found Philip and then commanded Philip. Jesus issued many commands over His lifetime, but none happier than "Follow Me." Every one who obeys that command from the heart finds eternal life in Jesus as they

receive the free gift of eternal life from Jesus by grace through faith. Many people followed Jesus, but only those who heard the good news and accepted Jesus by faith received the free gift of eternal life.

# *Philip*

1. **Philip.** Jesus had begun calling His disciples. Next He called Philip.

2. **Plan.** Notice how Jesus "purposed" to go into Galilee. Jesus lived according the plan of God, with divine purpose in all that He did.

3. **Follow.** God loves for us to trust Him for purpose in all we do. Where we go, who we meet, how we talk--all we do should follow God's purpose.

4. **Daily.** Daily purpose flows out of life purpose. As we move through each day, we live out the plan of God He prepared for our lives.

5. **Found.** Jesus found Philip. We will see later that Philip says Philip found Messiah. In our lives, Jesus calls us individually to walk with Him each day, and to go where He goes, and say what He says.

6. **Calling.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we love the purpose of Jesus in calling each of us to be His disciples, each day for the rest of our lives.

7. **Serve.** We rejoice today because God included us in His purpose. He recorded our names in heaven for salvation. We serve Him today, knowing His individual love, purpose, and calling upon our lives.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by living according to the purpose of God for our lives.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we seek to follow His plan every moment of every day.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live with others in the family of God according to the purpose of God.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following the purpose of God in our lives. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by seeking God's purpose for your life?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Forty Four

# Bethsaida Today




Do you live in your hometown? Many people move away from their hometowns. I was born in a hospital in Melbourne, Florida and grew up in Melbourne Beach and Indialantic, Florida. I have lived in California and Texas, and in Tampa and Gainesville. I lived in apartments for more than twenty years, and moved more than fifteen times to different places. I always looked forward to getting back to the Melbourne, Florida area, my earthly home.

My wife was born in Birmingham, Alabama. She was raised in the southeastern suburbs of Miami. We met in Tampa, Florida and she joined me in my travels to California, Texas and back to Florida. For a time, we worked in different cities in Florida and commuted on weekends to be together. Thankfully, that did not last that long, and we are happy to be together again in the Melbourne, Florida area. We have many happy memories of Florida, California, and Texas. We both met Jesus as Savior in Florida.

# *City of Andrew and Peter*

1. **Details.** The Bible provides specific details about people. The Bible always presents the truth, even in the historical details.

2. **Hometown.** God knows your hometown, and everything you did growing up. God recorded the details of certain lives in the Bible. Philip, Andrew and Cephas were all from Bethsaida, their hometown.

3. **Galilee.** During the incarnate ministry of Jesus, He spent time in Galilee. In fact, the prophet had declared hundreds of years earlier that a great light would dawn upon Galilee of the Gentiles (Matthew 4:15-16).

4. **Bethsaida.** As Jesus travelled through Galilee, He preached in the synagogues and in the open air. Three of His disciples apparently grew up in Bethsaida.

5. **Repent.** Bethsaida witnessed many miracles of Jesus, and yet the city did not repent and receive Christ as Savior. Jesus pronounced woe upon them.

6. **Family.** Living Godly in the family of God means that people in the family of God come from hometowns scattered all over the world. We are one family, from different places, with one Savior and one faith.

7. **World.** We rejoice today because God calls people from all over the world to join His ministry team as a disciple. He purposed to find us and to call us, one person at a time. Living with God for eternity in the New Jerusalem fills our hearts with joy and gratitude.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God because God called us from many hometowns across the world.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we recognize that God finds people all over the world to join His family and now our citizenship is in heaven.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God, although we have been called from hometowns in many countries, many cultures, and many languages, but by the same Savior.**

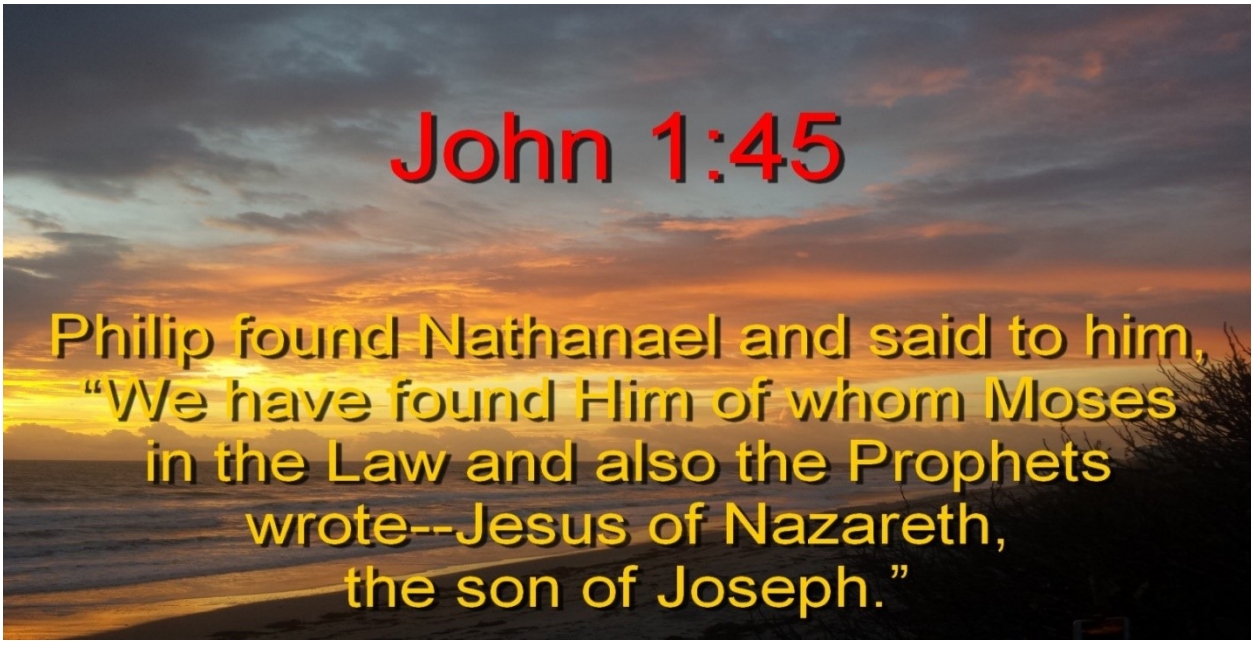
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God and follow His purposes for our lives, wherever He leads, no matter our hometown. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and follow Him as He leads you to where He wants you to minister for Him?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Forty Five

# We Have Found Him Today




What do we say to family members about Jesus? Philip said that "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Notice the family chain of multiplication here. Jesus found Philip and Philip finds Nathanael. I remember that when Jesus found me, I could not wait to tell others about His forgiveness and salvation. I was a very happy boy. My sins were forgiven and I had eternal life.

Also notice the very precise description of Jesus. Moses and the prophets spoke about Him. He was Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. Details in Scripture always matter.

# *Nathanael*

1. **Nathanael.** Philip found Nathanael, like Andrew found Cephas. Notice the phrase "we have found Him."

2. **Jesus Found Philip.** Jesus purposed to go into Galilee and Jesus found Philip (John 1:43). Jesus with divine calling found Philip and called him.

3. **Philip Found Jesus.** Yet, Philip said he found Jesus. From the perspective of Philip, it seemed he truly found Jesus.

4. **Plan.** God exercises His sovereign will to select and call individuals to salvation and His service. At times, the called people do not even understand the greater plan of God.

5. **Philip Found Nathanael.** Philip identified Jesus as the One spoken about in the Law and the Prophets. Philip knew the significance of "finding" Jesus and immediately "found" Nathanael to share the great news.

6. **Messiah.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we recognize Jesus as the Person described by Moses in the Law and by the prophets. Jesus was and is the promised Messiah.

7. **Know.** We rejoice today because we know Jesus. He purposed to find us, and to call each one of us by name to follow Him. Our Savior knows each one of us completely and eternally. He loves us forever.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by finding our physical family members and letting them know we have found Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we join with family members in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join ministry teams devoted to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with cities all over the world, often starting at home.**

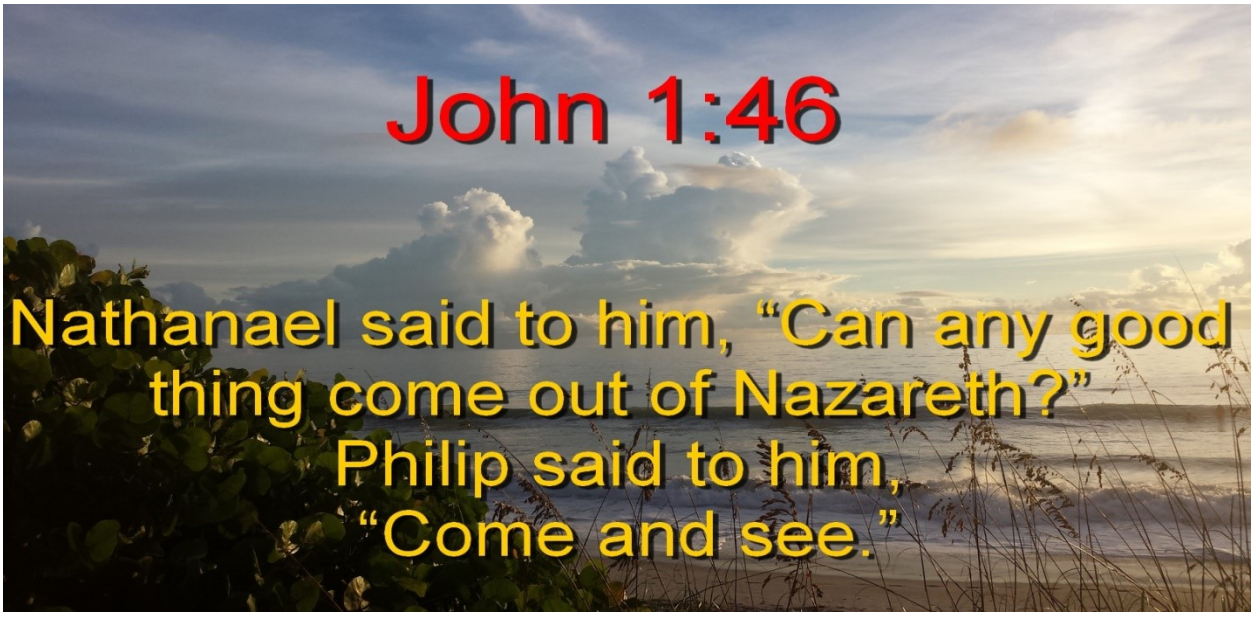
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with members in our physical family. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by finding the members of your physical family and sharing your joy in Jesus with them?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Forty Six

# Come and See Today




Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? We should always expect people to ask us questions when we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

Nathanael knew that the city of Nazareth had a terrible reputation. You may recall that when Jesus went there, and preached salvation in Him, the people were enraged and tried to throw Him over a cliff. He eluded their grasp and continued ministry elsewhere. He brought His disciples to Nazareth before He sent them out so that they could see that His own relatives, His own family, and His own hometown rejected Him. The disciples would experience many forms of rejection and they had seen Jesus rejected by His hometown and many other places.

Nazareth sounds like Las Vegas, Nevada. Las Vegas is also known as Sin City. Nevada has legalized prostitution in its borders. Many people go to Las Vegas to indulge in the lusts of the flesh and of the mind. Yet, Las Vegas has believers who call it their hometown. Nathanael doubted anything good could come out of Nazareth. Today, faithful disciples can come from any hometown.

# *Any Good Thing?*

1. **Messiah.** Philip found Nathanael and told Nathanael about finding Messiah. Notice the immediate reaction of Nathanael.

2. **Nazareth.** Nathanael had a very dim view of Nazareth, the place where Jesus grew up. You may recall Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

3. **Perceptions.** Nathanael expressed his negative perceptions about Nazareth with his question about any good thing coming out of Nazareth.

4. **Known for Evil.** We learn from this verse that Jesus grew up in a place known for its evil, not its good. I think of Las Vegas, a place known for immorality and idolatry. Yet, even in Las Vegas, God has people who speak up for Him.

5. **Skepticism.** Nathanael listens to what people tell him, and analyzes what they say. His first opinion of Jesus the Nazarene is skepticism based upon his perception of Nazarenes. Nathanael, however, will meet Jesus and drop his skepticism immediately.

6. **Good.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we keep an open mind about people, and avoid pre-judging people before we meet them and get to know them. The head of our family, Jesus, came from a place so

sinful, people doubted any good thing could come from there. Yet, Jesus did, and He alone among men was truly "good."

7. **From Heaven.** We rejoice today because true believers come from some very evil places. Saving faith, not geography, makes all the difference in the family of God. The title Jesus the Nazarene conveyed to many people of His day that He came from sin city. Yet, He actually came from heaven to befriend sinners and save them from the death penalty.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by inviting people, especially members of our physical family, to come and see Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we look past hometowns and see people for who they are spiritually.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we bring people to Jesus, to see Jesus, and hear Him speaking to them about salvation and eternal life in Him.**

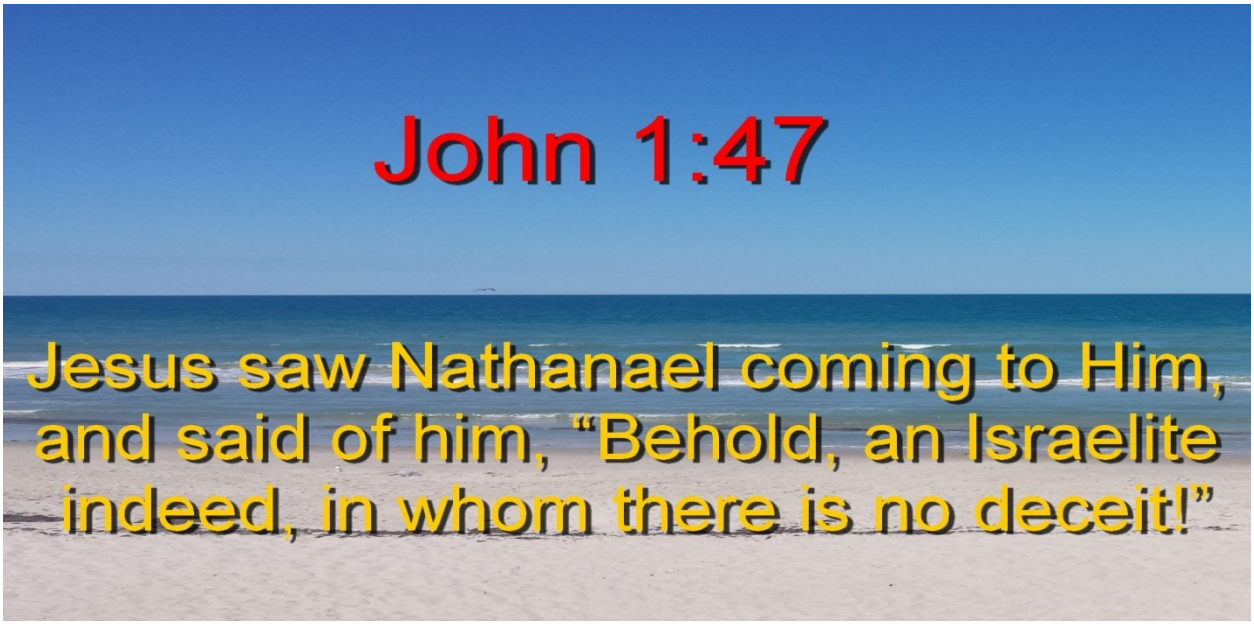
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by inviting people, especially members of our physical families, to come and see Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by inviting people you know and meet to come and see Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Forty Seven

# Jesus Saw Nathanael Today




What did Jesus see in Nathanael? Jesus saw no deceit in Nathanael. Jesus also identified Nathanael as an Israelite. Although we cannot jump to conclusions about people upon first sight, Jesus always knows people before He even sees them. He knows everything about everyone, and still loves us.

Nathanael questioned whether any good thing could come out of Nazareth. Jesus observed that Nathanael was an Israelite, in whom there was no deceit. Jesus mildly implied that some Israelites had deceit. Apparently, what Nathanael thinks, he says. Nathanael does not deceive people with his words, but says what he means. He said he had doubts about Jesus being the Messiah, because He came from Nazareth.

We will also expect that Nathanael will not try to deceive Jesus or other people. He will be straightforward in what he says and does. Nathanael told the truth, without deceit.

# *No Deceit*

1. **Sees.** Jesus always sees you, even before you see Him. We should keep this basic, powerful truth in mind all the time.

2. **Doubts.** Nathanael had preconceived doubts about Jesus, because Jesus came from Nazareth, a bad place.

3. **Truth.** Jesus knew the absolute truth about Nathanael before they met. Jesus never had prejudice or preconceptions. He knows all things. He knows what I am saying and thinking, always.

4. **Deceit.** Jesus described Nathanael as an Israelite indeed, meaning he was very Jewish. Jesus also said that Nathanael had no deceit.

5. **Knew.** Imagine how Nathanael would have felt if he realized that Jesus knew that he wondered if any good thing can come out of Nazareth. Nathanael was not deceitful, but spoke truth, as he saw it; Nathanael had serious doubts about Jesus being the Messiah, because Jesus was a Nazarene.

6. **Believe.** Living Godly in the family of God means we lay aside our doubts and believe that Jesus knows all things, including all things about us individually.

7. **He First Loved Us.** We rejoice today in Jesus because He first loved us, without any doubts, preconceptions, or ignorance of who we were, are and will be. Eternal love and eternal grace: two arms of Jesus hugging us forever.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God because Jesus knows every good and bad thing we have ever done or said, and still loves us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we realize that Jesus knows everything we did yesterday, are doing today, and will do tomorrow.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God because we know that Jesus knows if we are deceitful or not, and we have the reputation with Him which we truly deserve: holy and blameless children of God.**

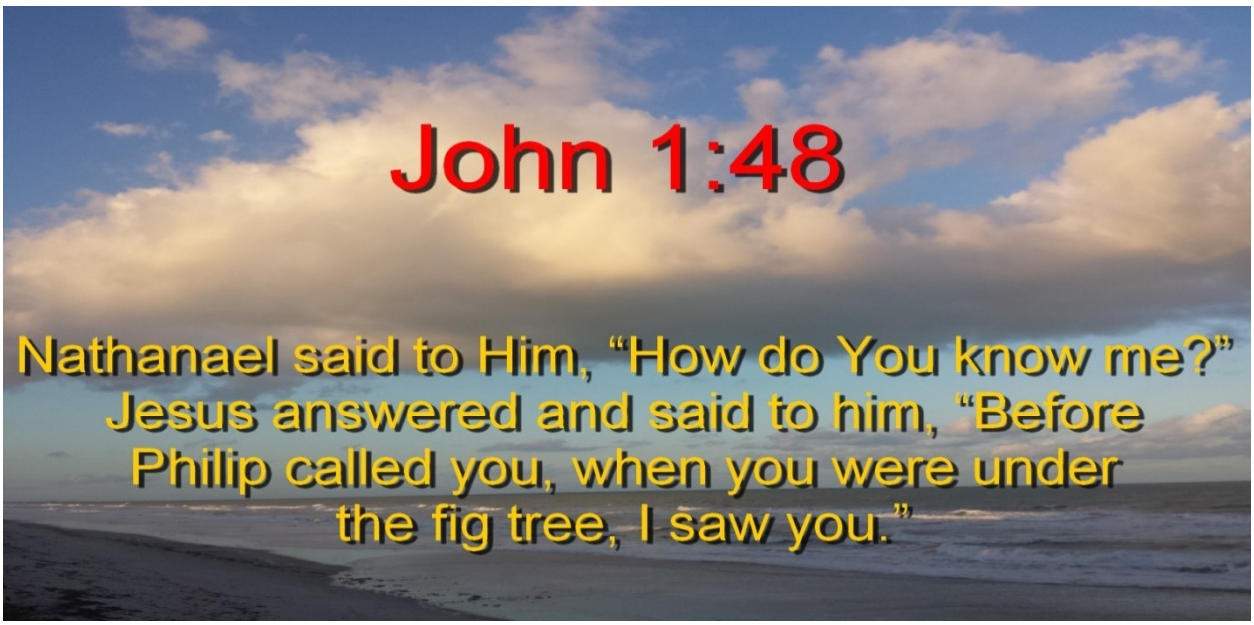
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by remembering that Jesus knows our reputation. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as a person of no deceit?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty Eight

# How Do You Know Me Today




How do you know me? Jesus said, before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you. Jesus has this marvelous way of introducing Himself to people. In this case, Jesus showed His omniscience to doubting Nathanael.

Notice that Nathanael did not dispute what Jesus said about him. Jesus had called Nathanael an Israelite without deceit, and Nathanael accepted that description of himself as truth. Jesus not only saw Nathanael sitting under the fig tree, but Jesus saw into the heart of Nathanael too.

Jesus proved to Nathanael immediately that Something Good could come out of Nazareth. Indeed, Jesus just revealed Himself to Nathanael as Messiah, just as Philip had claimed. Jesus loves for people to come and see Him. He never disappoints anyone who listens to Him with ears to hear and eyes to see.

# *I Saw You*

**1. <u>Quality.</u>** Nathanael had a high opinion of himself. He thought of himself as a person without deceit. Jesus chose to highlight the one quality of Nathanael that would let Nathanael know that Jesus knew all about him.

**2. <u>Knew.</u>** Nathanael was not a man of deceit. Nathanael knew from that one description of him by Jesus that Jesus was not a man of deceit either.

**3. <u>Supernatural.</u>** Jesus gave Simon a new name. Jesus gave Nathanael a supernatural revelation of Nathanael's character: no deceit.

**4. <u>Omniscience.</u>** Jesus also revealed to Nathanael the supernatural vision of Jesus. Jesus sees all things. Nathanael was sitting under a fig tree. Jesus also hears all things, especially about no good things. Jesus displayed His omniscience (knows all things).

**5. <u>God.</u>** Jesus identifies Himself as God in many ways. In this case, Jesus revealed things to Nathanael that removed Nathanael's doubts, by telling Nathanael things Nathanael knew to be true, but required supernatural knowledge by Jesus.

**6. <u>Communicates.</u>** Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus communicates with us using the best means to reveal His love and deity to us. Jesus is the Head of the church, part of the family of God. We bow our knees before the Father, from Whom every family on earth and in heaven derives its name.

**7. <u>Reveals.</u>** We rejoice today because Jesus still speaks to us, primarily through His word, the Bible. Daily He reveals His plans and purposes for our lives, and lets us know His lovingkindness.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by knowing that Jesus knows us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we ask Jesus the questions on our mind.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we listen to people who urge us to talk with Jesus and to listen to Him.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by listening to Jesus answer our greatest questions and He knows our doubts, fears, faith and hope. He knows all about us, and loves us perfectly. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by listening to Jesus speak to you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty Nine

# Answered Today




Do you remember what you were thinking when you met Jesus as Savior? Nathanael was thinking that Jesus was a Rabbi, the Son of God and the King of Israel. Jesus had instantly persuaded Nathanael of His identity.

Jesus accepted the title "Rabbi," but did not allow any of His disciples to accept that title, or any other title. He alone was the Teacher. While men love titles for themselves, and disciples often claim to be the greatest among disciples, Jesus prohibited His disciples from accepting or using any title, because they were all brothers.

Jesus was truly the Son of God and the King of Israel, just as the prophets of the Old Testament had described. Many of the Jews were looking for the King of Israel to come and subdue all their enemies and establish His kingdom upon the earth. While Jesus truly was the King of Israel, His

kingdom was not of the earth, yet. One day, Jesus will return and establish His kingdom upon earth, but that day remains yet future.

# *Rabbi, Son of God, King of Israel*

**1. Revelation.** Revelation from Jesus erased all doubts in the mind of Nathanael about Jesus.

**2. Declarations.** Nathanael declared: (a) Rabbi ("teacher"); (b) You are the Son of God; and (c) You are the King of Israel. These declarations all relate to prophecies about Messiah in the Old Testament.

**3. Identified.** Nathanael identified Jesus correctly and immediately. Jesus was the greatest of teachers, amazing crowds with His authoritative teaching.

**4. Equal.** Jesus is the Son of God. As later chapters of John reveal, being the Son of God made Jesus equal with God, and God Himself.

**5. King.** Jesus is the King of Israel, whose kingdom shall have no end. Yet, Jesus told Pilate later that the kingdom of Jesus is not of this world. Jesus did not come to reign, but to suffer and die, with glory and reigning on earth to follow. Jesus will reign as King of Israel in the future, and sit as God and Son of David on David's throne.

**6. Meditate.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we meditate upon Jesus as Rabbi, Son of God and King of Israel. As believers, we have been adopted into the greatest family.

**7. Resurrected.** We rejoice today because we know Jesus as our Rabbi, the Son of God Who loves us and gave Himself for us, so that He may reign on earth in the future as resurrected King of Israel, and as the King of the entire world. All hail the King of Glory!

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by worshipping Jesus as Rabbi, Son of God, and King of Israel.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we declare Jesus to the world as Rabbi, Son of God, and King of Israel.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God was we bow before Jesus because He is our Teacher, the Son of God, and the Eternal King of Glory.**

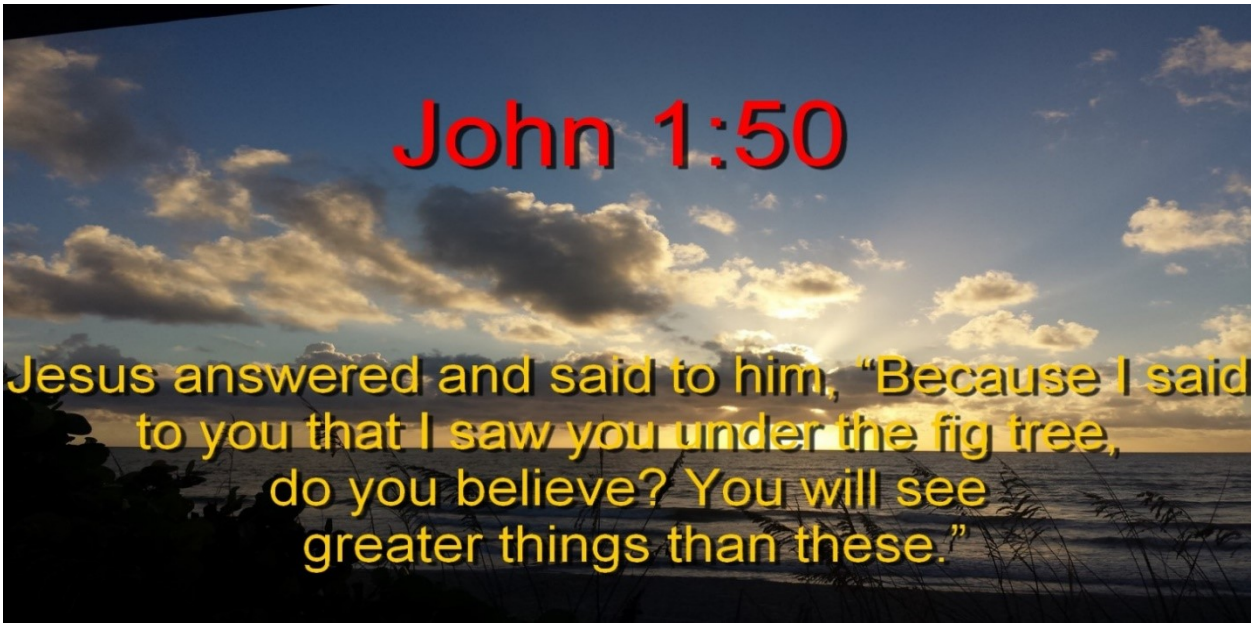
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by recognizing Jesus as Teacher, Son of God, and Eternal King of Glory. Will you live Godly in the family of God today before Jesus, our Teacher and King, the Son of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty

# Love One Another Today




Do you believe? Jesus loves asking piercing questions. He asked Nathanael about the reason he believed that Jesus was Rabbi, Son of God and King of Israel. Jesus loves to strengthen our faith by talking with us.

Jesus probed the faith of Nathanael because He loved Nathanael and wanted to strengthen the faith of Nathanael. Jesus told Nathanael that he would see greater things than Jesus seeing him under a fig tree.

Jesus knows all the future, all the time. He reveals things to us according to His good pleasure, for He spoke the things He received from His Father. Both Jesus and His Father love us, and want us to love others as they love us. In order to promote our love for God, Jesus gave people specific prophesies about their futures. He told Nathanael he would see greater things than the prophecy about the fig tree.

# *Greater Things*

1. **Prophets.** Many people do not know that false prophets do miracles and display supernatural knowledge. Many false prophets try to counterfeit Jesus and His works. They deceive many people.

2. **Flesh.** Jesus certainly revealed Himself to Nathanael, but Jesus will show Nathanael greater works. Jesus was God in the flesh. Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus displayed His glory so that people would believe in Him.

3. **Believe.** Jesus performed a miracle of revelation so that Nathanael would believe in Him for salvation.

4. **Proof.** Jesus also provided further proof of His deity by the works He performed in the Father's name. Likewise, John the Baptist testified to the identity of Jesus as the Lamb of God and Son of God.

5. **Faith.** Jesus worked miracles to promote faith in people for salvation. Physical healing alone will never send a sinner to heaven.

6. **Works.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we expect to see Jesus perform great works today, as He builds His church. We can witness no greater miracle than one sinner receiving eternal life by faith alone.

7. **Salvation.** We rejoice today watching Jesus promote faith in our lives and bringing people to salvation by faith alone. Our Savior lives today!

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by expecting Him to build our faith today.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God of as we praise Jesus for the faith He produces in us as we watch Him perform greater works.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we stimulate one another to love and good deeds as we see Jesus doing greater things in the family of God.**

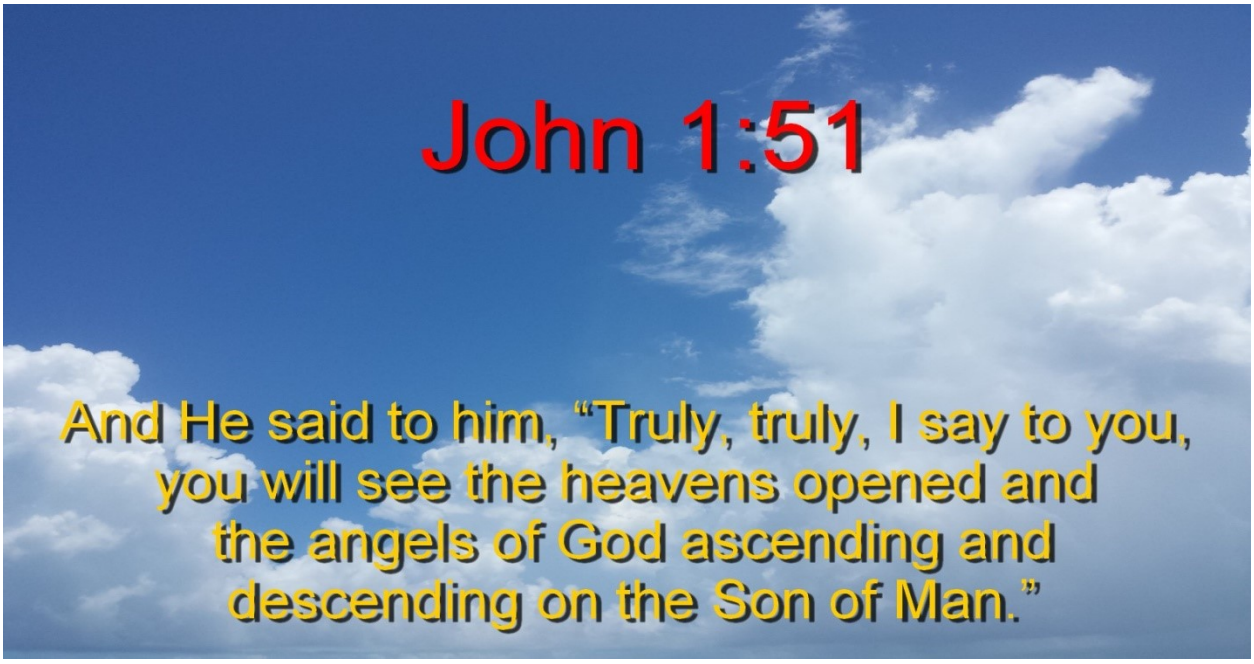
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by seeing Jesus perform greater works today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by worshipping Jesus for the great works He has done in your life and in the lives of people you love?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty One

# Ascending and Descending Today




Why did Jesus tell Nathanael that he would see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man? Jesus made that prophecy because He wanted Nathanael to know the future was very bright for both of them.

In the future, Jesus will establish His throne in Jerusalem after He returns to earth to reign in His Millennial Kingdom. As He returns to earth, He sends forth His angels to gather both the elect and the unsaved to stand before Him in judgment as He sits on His glorious throne in Jerusalem. Nathanael will see those angels ascending and descending upon Jesus at that time. Although I cannot be certain, that seems to be the time Jesus referred to in this prophecy to Nathanael. Notice that unlike some other prophecies indicating that some of His disciples would not taste death until the prophecy

was fulfilled, no such promise exists here. Nathanael may have died before this prophecy would be fulfilled, but the resurrected Nathanael will see the prophecy fulfilled.

# *You Will See*

1. **Opened.** Jesus spoke to Nathanael, but used the plural to describe "you" who will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man (Jesus).

2. **Similar.** Jesus made a similar prophesy that some of His disciples would not taste death until they saw Him coming in His kingdom (Matthew 16:28). See The Kingdom of God and the Taste of Death. Although several similarities exist with Jacob's dream about a ladder and angels (Genesis 28:12), I prefer the explanation that Jesus sent forth angels to collect the unsaved and the saved to stand before Him as He sits on His Millennial Throne in Jerusalem. See Angels Ascending and Descending.

3. **Son of Man.** The title "Son of Man" appears in Daniel 7:13 to describe the Person who receives an everlasting kingdom from the Ancient of Days.

4. **Titles.** In John 1, John records great titles of Jesus: the Word, the Light, Christ, Messiah, Lamb of God, Rabbi, Son of God, King of Israel. Jesus revealed Himself in many ways.

5. **Emphasis.** Jesus used the Son of Man title to describe Himself, emphasizing His humanity, His service, His coming death, burial, resurrection, ascension, His coming on the clouds with great power and glory, and His reign to follow.

6. **Revealing.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see Jesus revealing Himself to us in the Bible, and displaying His loving power in our lives daily.

7. **Truly.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves for us to see Him as He truly is, in all His glory and power.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing the prophecies of Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as the prophecies of Jesus encourage our lives today.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all expect that Jesus could return to the clouds at any moment.**

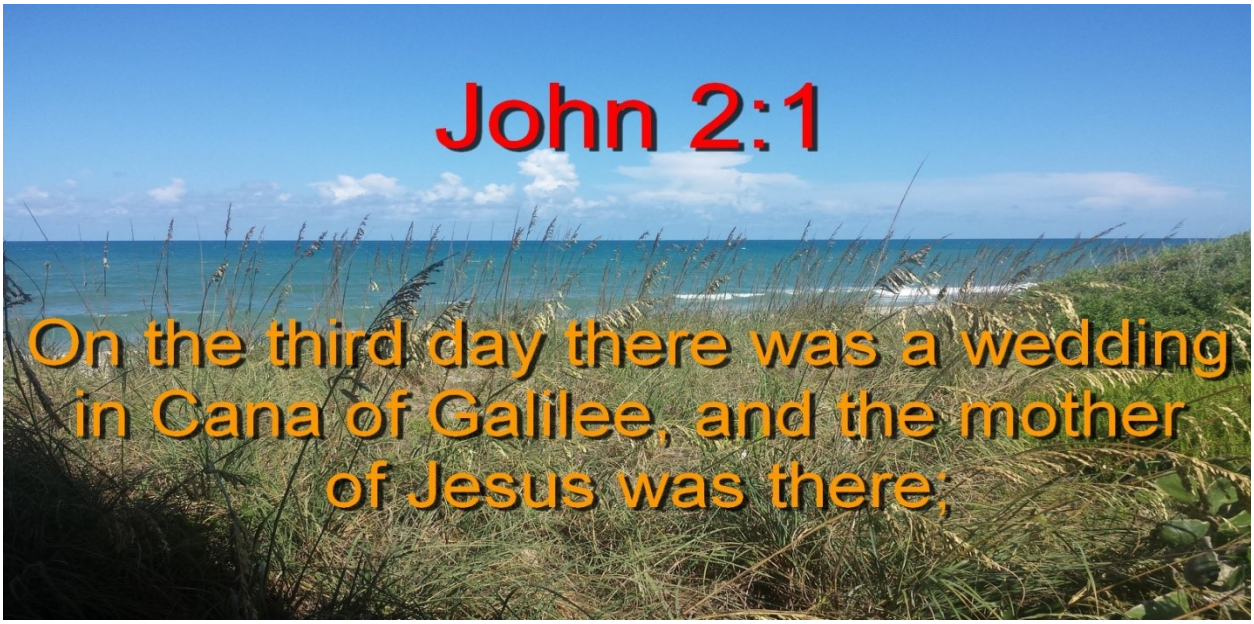
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by looking for Jesus to return to the clouds. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by expecting that the trumpet may sound and we will all be changed in a moment?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Two

# Mother Was There Today




Why did Jesus, with all His disciples, attend a wedding in Cana of Galilee? Because He wanted to display the glory of God so that people would believe in Him.

We do not see many interactions between Jesus and His physical family in the Bible. Jesus did attend a wedding and His mother, Mary, was there. During the festivities, they ran out of wine. Mary came to Jesus and informed Him of the problem.

Jesus worked a miracle that day, but it was a quiet miracle known at first only to Mary and the servants. Jesus was never a respecter of persons. He worked miracles for everyone, some in public and some in relative privacy.

After Mary brought the wine problem to Jesus, she gave excellent advice to the servants: Whatever Jesus tells you to do, do it. Jesus said fill up

the containers with water. They obeyed and it turned into wine. Jesus turned water into wine, about 120-180 gallons of wine, and it was excellent wine. When we obey Jesus, all kinds of great things happen in our lives.

# *Wedding in Cana*

1. **Wedding.** Can you imagine Jesus attending a wedding? What would He do? What would He say? In this case Mary, the mother of Jesus, attended the wedding.

2. **Attended.** Jesus attended social events, including eating meals with all kinds of people--tax collectors, prostitutes, etc.

3. **Ordinary.** God included ordinary human events in the Bible because Jesus transformed ordinary events into displays of His glory, so that people would believe in Him for salvation and that His disciples would have greater faith.

4. **Miracles.** If you attend a wedding, or a dinner, please recall that Jesus worked great miracles at ordinary events.

5. **Third.** Finally, notice the phrase "the third day." Only Luke presented a chronological sequence of events in his gospel. John made no such claim. Yet, John used a few time markers. This "third day" may refer to the third day Jesus spent in Galilee.

6. **Expect.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we expect God to work in the ordinary events in our lives. We never go anywhere without Jesus, and He created marriage in Genesis. God loves weddings between two believers.

7. **Glory.** We rejoice today because God displays His glory in ordinary events, at ordinary times, to promote faith in His disciples. As we see His works, He grows our faith, to walk by faith, day by day.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by expecting God to do great things at ordinary events.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we listen to Jesus, and do whatever He says.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all expect Jesus to perform power works in our lives every day.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by expecting Jesus to display His power and grow our faith each day. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by looking to Jesus to guide you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Three

# The Wedding Today




The day before we got married, my family and I were standing outside at the motel just before a big thunderstorm blew up. We were going to the rehearsal dinner later. It was not raining, but a huge boom of thunder sounded, just after a lightning bolt struck the concrete roof to the two-story motel near where we were standing—not more than 50 feet away. A large chunk of concrete separated from the roof and fell to the ground. No one was hurt, but it caught my attention. From then on, everything went great.

We married where we met and attended college in Tampa. The pastor of the church we attended every Sunday married us. Many of our friends and family had to travel from Melbourne and Miami to attend the wedding. They came to see God join us together in marriage. Since then, we have grown old together. Jesus has blessed us in many ways.

# *Jesus and His Disciples*

1. **Follow.** Jesus called disciples to follow Him. Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding.

2. **Intent.** Jesus intended for His disciples to learn from Him. They learned as He healed the sick, caused the lame to walk, made the blind to see, and raised the dead. They learned that He was the Messiah, the King of Israel, and only Savior.

3. **Learned.** They also learned when they went with Jesus to a wedding. Being a disciple means we learn from Jesus all the time, as we watch Him work in the ordinary lives of people.

4. **Invitation.** Every invitation you receive involves careful consideration. To go or not to go? If I go, then what will I do?

5. **Opportunities.** Never overlook opportunities to watch Jesus at work. Sometimes we think it is just a wedding. Jesus worked a quiet miracle at a wedding for the purpose of building faith in His disciples by displaying His glory.

6. **Accept.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we accept invitations, knowing Jesus will be building His church every day and everywhere.

7. **Glory.** We rejoice today because we live daily learning from Jesus. With every invitation, we make decisions. No matter what, Jesus will be displaying His glory, and teaching us to have greater faith in Him.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by accepting some invitations so that we see Jesus working in ordinary events.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we expect Jesus to display His glory as we meet with others.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as the entire assembly expects Jesus to work in our daily lives to display His glory in many ordinary events.**

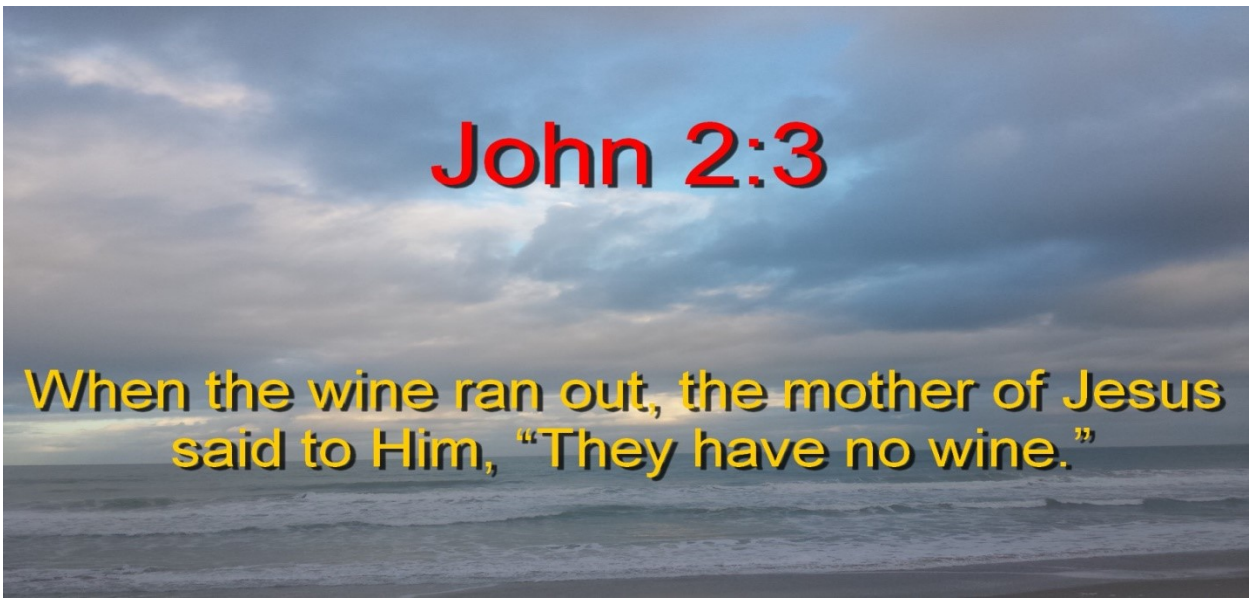
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by accepting some invitations to join others for ordinary events that Jesus can make very special. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by watching Jesus work in ordinary events to make them very special?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Four

# Ran Out Today




Have you ever run out of something at just the wrong time? Jesus attended the wedding, with feasting and drinking. The happy time included many people enjoying the wedding. As they were eating, they ran out of wine.

The mother of Jesus knew that Jesus could solve the wine problem. She spoke just four words to Jesus: "They have no wine." We never need to explain to Jesus how to solve problems. He already knows the best way to solve every problem. He even knows about the problem before we ask Him for help.

When we ask Jesus for help, even to solve ordinary problems, He never promised to work miracles every time we ask. He did promise to help us according to our needs and His will. In this case, Jesus honored His mother by solving the wine problem. But Jesus had a greater goal in mind.

# *No Wine*

1. **Problem.** Having accepted the invitation to the wedding, now Jesus must face a problem He did not create.

2. **Wine.** In planning a wedding, wine will be an important issue. Running out of wine got the attention of Mary. She brought to Jesus the fairly ordinary problem of insufficient wine, perhaps caused by poor planning, poverty, or drunkards en masse.

3. **Knew.** Whatever the cause, Mary knew to bring the problem to Jesus. No one was going to die for lack of wine, but it crimped the festivities for some people.

4. **Guidance.** So often we overlook the need to bring big and small problems to Jesus. He invites us to seek His guidance always, because we follow Him. We know His voice.

5. **Solves.** Mary knew about the power of Jesus to solve problems that seemed unsolvable. Do you know about the power of Jesus to solve problems? Jesus solves problems big and small, getting glory from them all.

6. **Take.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we take our problems to Jesus, expecting Him to glorify Himself in resolving our problems.

7. **Glory.** We rejoice today because Jesus gets all the glory, and He deserves it always and forever. Our worries, fears, and panic highlight our need to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. No wine means no problem for Jesus.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by taking our ordinary problems to Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we expect Jesus to glorify Himself as He answers our prayers for help.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all join together in bringing our problems to Jesus, so that He can solve them according to His grace and mercy.**

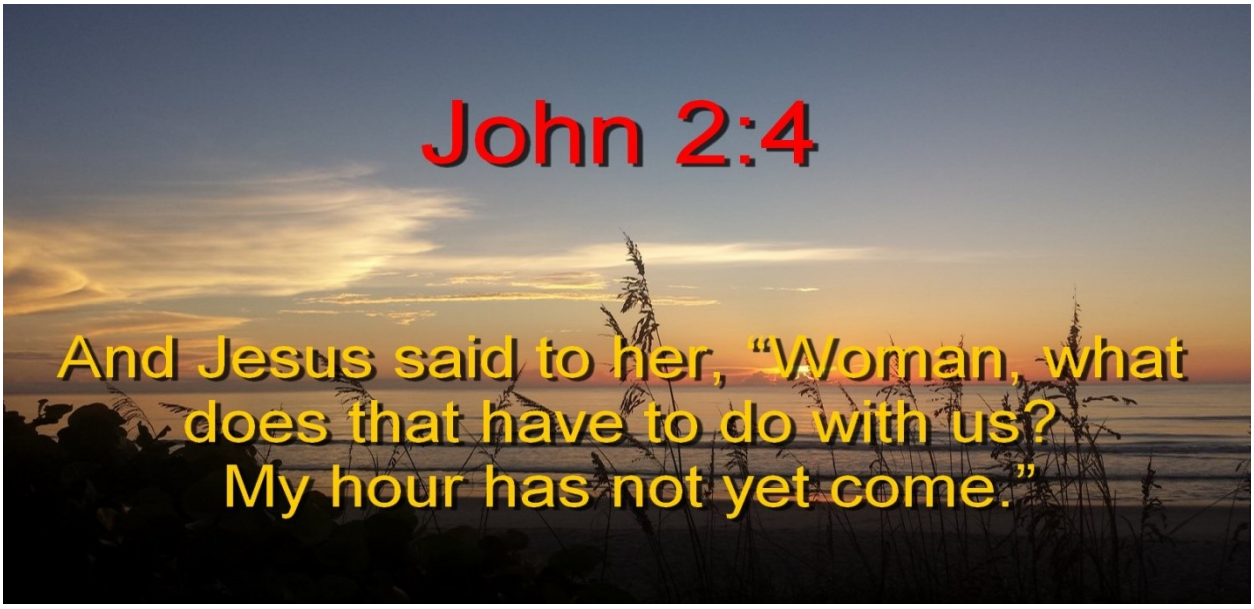
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by bringing our ordinary problems to Jesus and seeking His divine help. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by expecting Jesus to resolve ordinary problems in your life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Five

# To Do With Us Today




Why did Jesus say: Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." Jesus gave that answer because He was always on mission to do His Father's will. He did not come to solve wine problems or to do His mother's bidding. Of course, He obeyed and honored His parents, but He was primarily following His Father's plans, and speaking for His Father and doing the works of God.

Jesus implied that He was not sent to earth to solve everyone's most mundane problems. His hour of sacrifice had not come, but He knew it was coming and what would happen at that hour. He would lay down His life as Savior of the World, The Lamb of God.

Until then, He performed many miracles, some open and some private. Here Mary knew that her Son, Jesus, had the power to solve the wine problem. All that the servants had to do was to obey Jesus.

# *My Hour*

1. **Mother.** Jesus addressed His own mother as "woman." Jesus always honored His parents.

2. **Wine.** Literally, Jesus said, "What to you and me?" He meant that the wine issue was not their direct problem.

3. **Plan.** Jesus followed the plan of God for His life, and He accomplished all the work His Father gave Him to do. Jesus also knew that His hour had not yet arrived. Jesus had the keenest awareness of how one ordinary event fit as a single thread into the tapestry of God's plan for our lives. Jesus lived every moment in that plan with intent. Later in His life, just after eating with His disciples in the upper room and washing their feet, Jesus faced arrest, mocking, torture, crucifixion and death. Jesus said His hour had come for the Father to glorify Jesus, so that Jesus would glorify the Father.

4. **Faith.** Jesus did not provide wine for the entire city, but only for the guests at the wedding. He acted, in part, because His mother brought the problem to Him, without an explicit request for help. Jesus always makes His glory shine, to bring people to faith in Him.

5. **Listens.** Jesus listens carefully when we bring our problems to Him. Mary did not order her Son to do anything. She laid the problem of others before Jesus. She knew that Jesus would do the will of God regarding that problem.

6. **Trust.** Living Godly in the family of God means we lay problems (our own and others') before Jesus. He will do God's will regarding that problem. We can trust Jesus with every problem. He is never too busy to care; He will build faith by showing the glory of God.

7. **Grace.** We rejoice today in the words, "What to you and me?" Jesus solves problems that are not His problem or His mother's problem. Jesus loves to show His grace so that we live in awe of Him, always. We see His glory.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by listening to Jesus answer our questions.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we understand the mission Jesus has for our lives, just as He followed His Father's mission for His life.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all move in unison towards the goals God has set for our lives.**

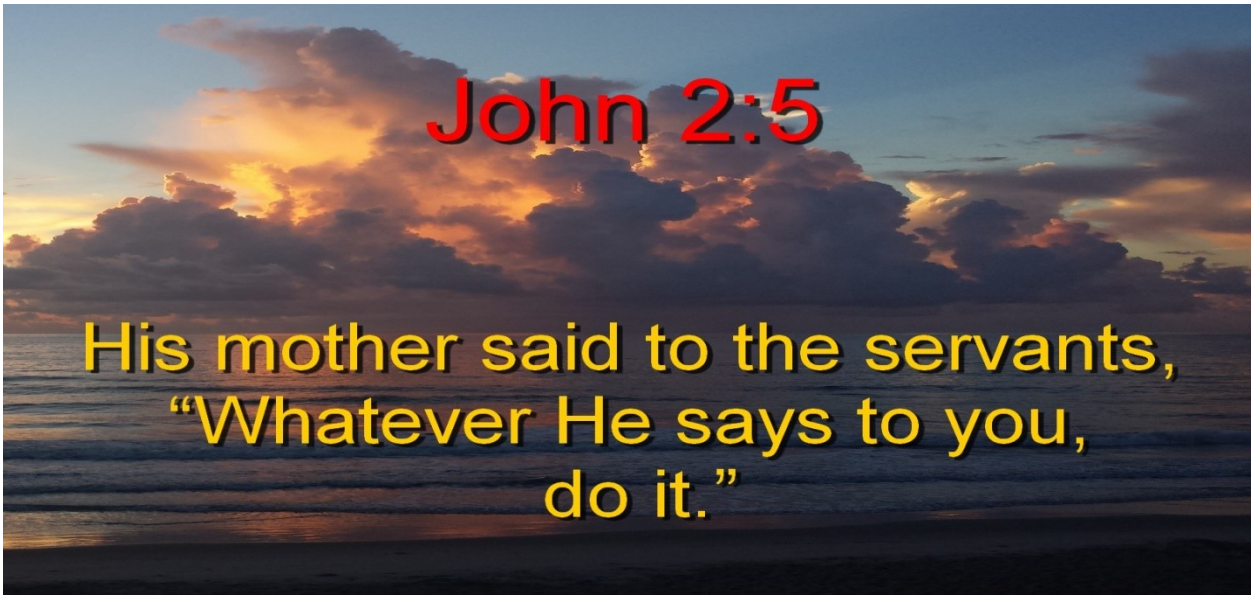
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus as He leads you to God's goals for your life. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by seeking God's goals for your life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Six

# Whatever He Says Today




Why did Mary say, "Whatever He says, do it."? Mary knew things about Jesus, having seen Him grow up without ever sinning. Mary did not know how Jesus would solve the problem, but she trusted that He would.

We can learn a big lesson from the words of Mary. Trusting Jesus does not mean He will follow our directions or achieve our goals. Instead, as loving God, Jesus follows His own plans and achieves His goals.

In this case, Jesus will provide wine, although it was not His problem. Yet, to build faith in the disciples and others, Jesus will perform a quiet miracle and give them the wine. Jesus follows the same spiritual principles today. He wants us to trust Him and for us to do whatever He says, even if it does not make sense to us at the moment.

# *Do It*

**1. Do.** Have you wondered what to do? Mary did not know what Jesus would do to solve the no-more-wine problem, but she perfectly commanded the servants: "Whatever He says to you, do it."

**2. Obedience.** Mary knew that obedience to Jesus solves all problems. Whatever Jesus says, we do it.

**3. Jesus.** Mary did not know how Jesus would solve the problem of no-more-wine, but she knew Jesus would solve the problem, and use obedient servants to solve it.

**4. Promptly.** Obedience means that servants follow the commands of Jesus, even if a command does not make sense to them. Obedience also means you act promptly to implement the command of Jesus.

**5. Listen.** Obedience starts with listening to Jesus, but only ends by doing what Jesus said.

**6. Says.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we listen to Jesus and do whatever He says.

**7. Communicates.** We rejoice today because Jesus communicates with us through the Bible and in our spirits. He bears witness through the Holy Spirit that we are children of God. He loves to lead His children to live by faith in His words.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by doing whatever Jesus tells us to do, like obedient servants.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we learn to trust Jesus to provide the best solutions to our problems, according to His divine plans for our lives.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by joining together in obeying Jesus and following His directions as a team.**

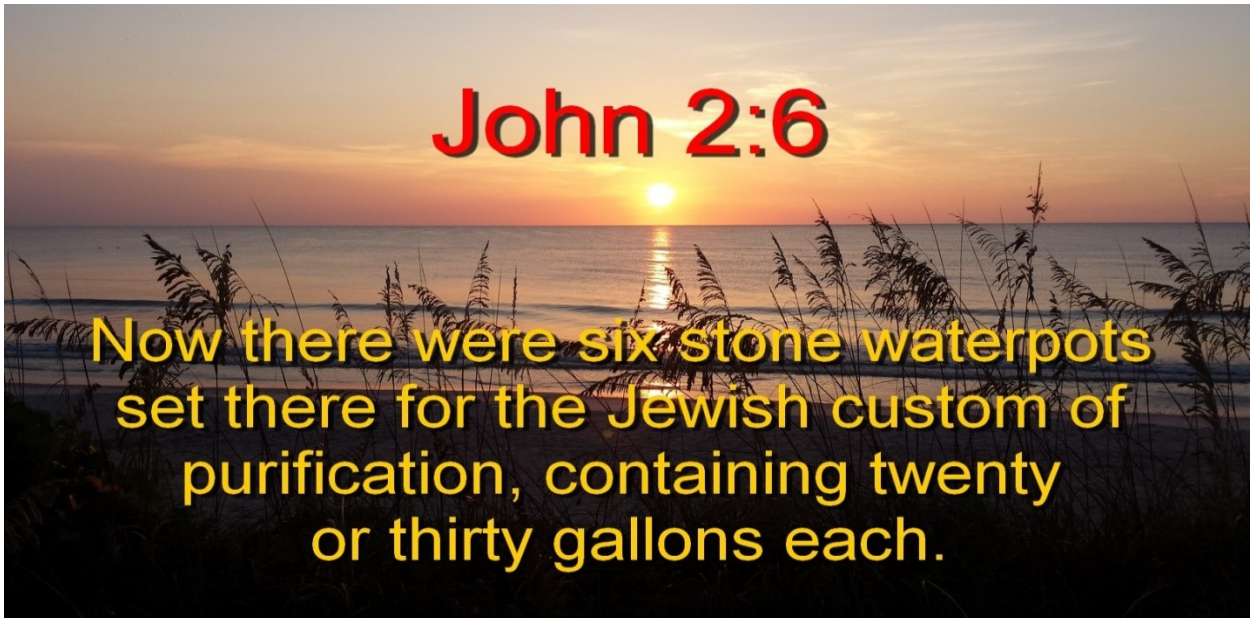
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by obeying Jesus and following His plans. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and listen and obey like a servant and do whatever Jesus commands you to do?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Seven

# Six Stone Waterpots Today




How much wine did Jesus make? Jesus made somewhere between 120 to 180 gallons of wine. Jesus made enough wine for a very large group of several hundred people. That wedding must have been very large indeed.

The Jews followed traditions of washing before meals and at other times. Jesus worked with the available items to solve problems. But Jesus also used His divine power at times to solve fairly ordinary problems.

When Mary brought the problem to Jesus, she knew that Jesus alone would have the absolute power to solve any problem. She also knew from His answer that He was willing to help. The servants were now ready, the water pots were ready, and now Jesus was ready to solve the problem of no wine.

# *Waterpots*

**1. Audience.** John provides clear, internal evidence that he wrote his Gospel to people who did not necessarily know about Jewish purification customs. He intended to write to a broad audience.

**2. 120 Gallons.** Twenty gallons x 6 pots = 120 gallons. He may have made more than 120 gallons. Jesus had plenty of material in the form of water to work with. Jesus made a lot of wine.

**3. Historical.** John also provided historical details that testify to the authenticity of his work, superintended by the Holy Spirit.

**4. Purposes.** John loved to build his account of Jesus fact upon fact, with details, culminating in revelation about the spiritual purposes Jesus pursued as the Son of God, God in the flesh.

**5. New.** John loved to reveal how waterpots used for Jewish customs will satisfy the thirst of the people at the wedding. Jesus did not hesitate to override the custom of the Jews (purification) with a quiet demonstration of His power. He replaced old custom with new wine.

**6. Work.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see Jesus at work, never letting religious customs hinder the work of God. Jesus as Lord did not ask for permission to use the water in the pots, but used what they had to provide what they needed.

**7. Needs.** We rejoice today because Jesus acts as Lord of all, meeting needs, and helping people. He also wanted His disciples to see His glory through the quiet things He did.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by watching Jesus use the materials around us to solve our problems.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we understand the unlimited power of Jesus to increase our faith by solving problems that may seem enormous to us, but very simple to Him.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all trust Him to solve our problems, for the common good.**

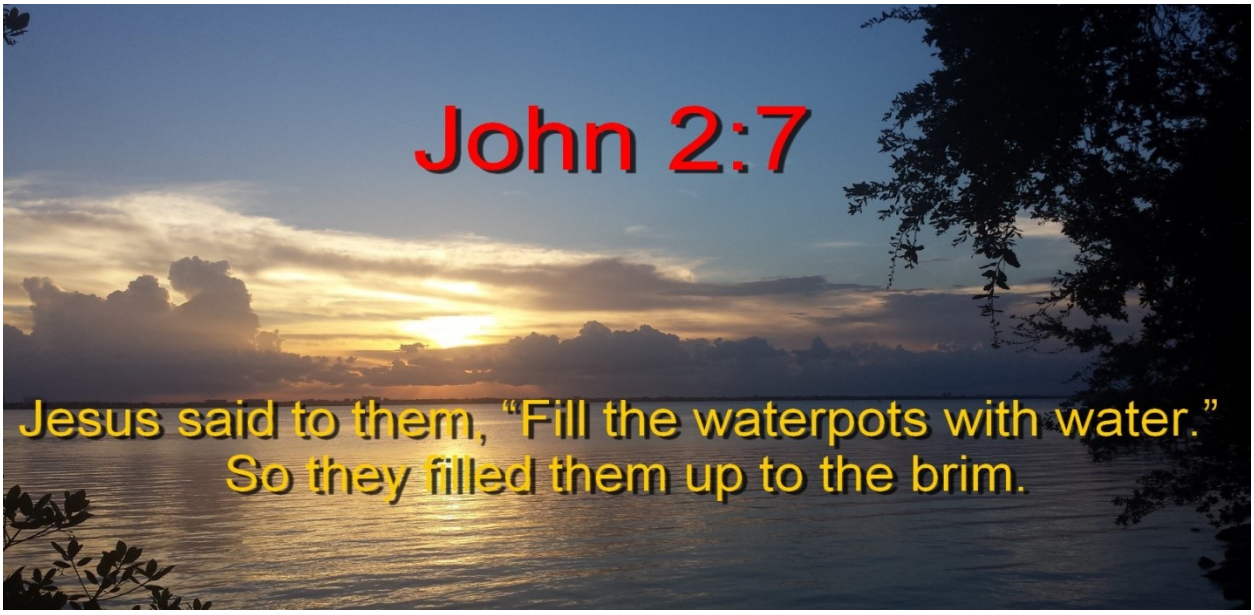
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by trusting Jesus to make perfect wine out of water, as necessary. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to fill the waterpots around you with His wine?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Fifty Eight

# To the Brim Today




Why did Jesus command the servants to fill the waterpots with water? Because He was going to turn that water into wine. Jesus did this quiet miracle with the servants, and the entire group would reap the benefits.

Notice that Jesus commanded the waterpots to be filled to the brim. The details always matter. Jesus was going to provide up to the brim. Jesus not only produces great wine, but he produces just the right quantity of wine.

Jesus gives perfect commandments because He knows the future. The commands He issues today will be in perfect harmony with His total plan. Each command will fit perfectly into the overall picture.

As we obey Jesus and do whatever He says, we can count upon Jesus to fill our lives with His will and achieve His plans. What He tells us to do

right now will produce blessings of obedience today and tomorrow, not only for us, but for other people also.

# *Fill*

1. **Jesus Says.** Jesus said to the servants. John actually used the present tense "says," in keeping with the New Testament style of writing in the moment.

2. **Fill.** Fill the waterpots. In John 4:28, a Samaritan woman brought her waterpot to Jacob's well near Sychar. After meeting Jesus at the well, and accepting Him as Messiah, she left her waterpot at the well; she had received from Jesus a free gift, a well of water inside her springing up to eternal life.

3. **Service.** In John 2:7, Jesus relied upon servants to obey His command immediately and precisely so that He may bless other people through their obedient service.

4. **Others.** Filling waterpots with water seems so mundane and insignificant. As a slave, you fill waterpots for others. Filling waterpots for Jesus will bring wonderful results, and the slaves will know what Jesus has done.

5. **Fills.** Notice Jesus said fill them to the brim. Jesus intended to bring forth great wine, and use the entire capacity. Jesus fills to capacity.

6. **Transforms.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we follow the commands of Jesus immediately and precisely, and He will transform the mundane and insignificant into blessings for those we serve.

7. **Us.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves slaves like us, so that by faith in Him, He uses our lives to bless others and bring glory to God.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by filling water pots to the brim.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we follow the commands of Jesus and demonstrate our love for Him.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all labor together as one assembly to carry out His will, even if it means filling water pots with water.**

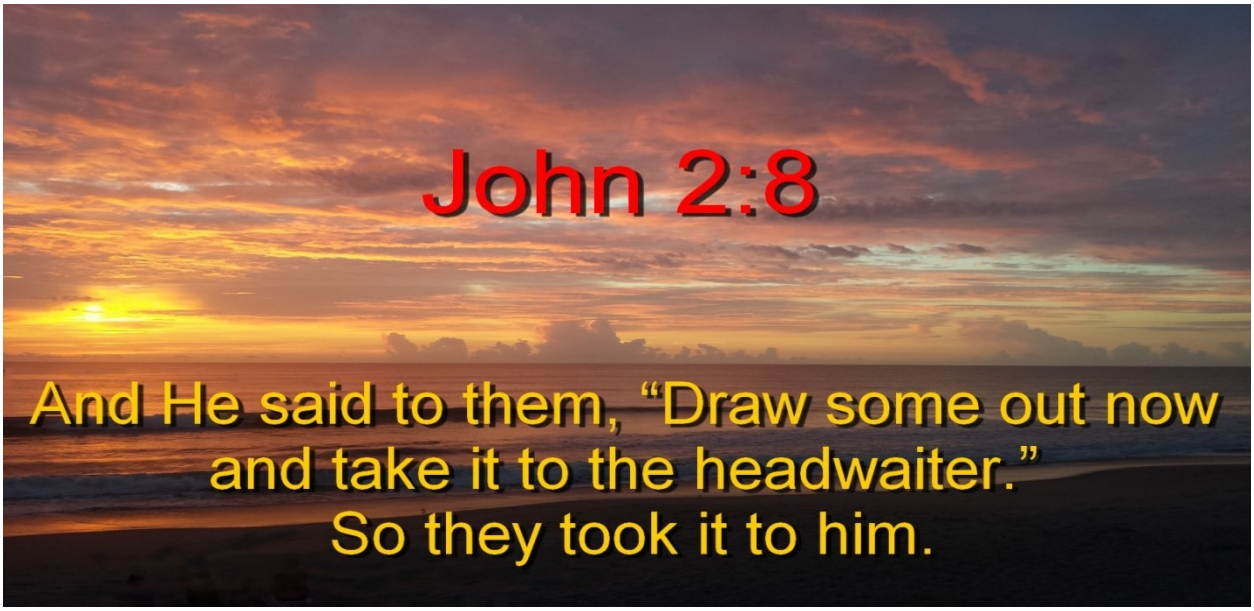
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by filling water pots to the brim. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by obeying Jesus and following His instructions to the brim?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Fifty Nine

# Take It Today




Have you ever considered the commands of Jesus? He told people to do all kinds of things. For example, He told some people to go to the priest, others were to take up their pallet and walk, and others were not to tell anyone about the miracle Jesus had done.

In all cases, whenever people obeyed Jesus, their lives got better. In contrast, when Jesus obeyed the Father, His life in the flesh ended with enormous suffering and pain. Yet, His sacrifice bought our redemption and provided eternal life to us, which is to know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

Jesus promised us eternal life, and in the process, we glorify Him by following His commands and abiding in His love. We draw out the water and take it to the Headwaiter. Jesus provided very specific guidance, and it was easy to follow His command. By the servants' obedience, many people drank the best wine at the wedding feast.

# *Draw Some Out*

1. **Wine.** Jesus knows the water in the waterpots has become wine. He knows, because He turned the water into wine.

2. **Specific.** Jesus directed the servants to take some of the wine to the headwaiter. Jesus provided specific guidance. Notice the command may have seemed very strange to the servants, at least at first. Why take water to the headwaiter when the party lacks wine?

3. **Obedience.** Obedience compels us to follow the commands of Jesus, even when those commands may not make sense to us in the moment.

4. **Commands.** As believers, we must keep in mind that we serve Jesus, not direct Jesus. We must not condition our obedience upon our reaction to His commands.

5. **Perfect.** We must always trust Jesus to see the big picture, the long range, and the complexities of many people doing many things simultaneously. As God, Jesus has all knowledge to make perfect plans that glorify God.

6. **Grace.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we draw out and deliver the grace of God daily, both for our lives and the lives of others.

7. **Guides.** We rejoice today because Jesus guides us with His plans revealed in Scripture, and applied to our lives by the Holy Spirit.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by drawing out the water and taking it where Jesus sends us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we go to the people He wants us to meet and take with us what He wants us to bring to them.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all follow the commands of Jesus and go where He sends us to meet the people He designates.**

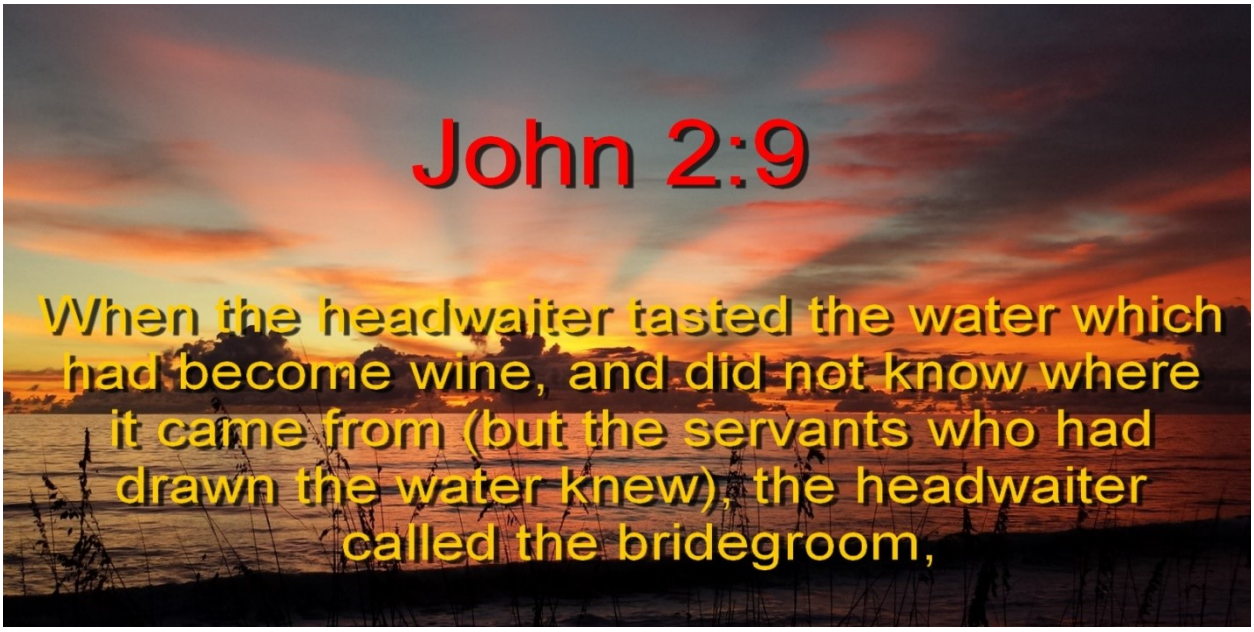
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God, knowing we will meet the people who need what we bring from Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by taking what Jesus gave to you and bring it to the people who need it?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Sixty

# Tasted the Water Today




Have you known the truth about what caused someone else to be amazed? The servants knew the truth about the wine the headwaiter tasted. They knew Jesus had made the water into wine, so that the people would have great wine to drink.

As believers, we know the truth about Jesus. We know He is the Son of God, God in the flesh. We know His love, His humility and His gentleness. We live in His grace and He fills us with His joy, which no one can take away from us.

While other people may marvel at the works of Jesus, without knowing Jesus had done something truly great, we often know what others miss about Jesus. Jesus shows His servants the truth and they get to see His works up close and personal. He works in the lives of servants, and no longer calls them slaves, because they know what the Master is doing.

# *The Servants Knew*

1. **Quiet.** Jesus used servants to work a quiet miracle. He made at least 120 gallons of wine for the wedding party.

2. **Wine.** Jesus made the wine after His mother told Him about the problem of no more wine.

3. **Private.** Jesus did not immediately tell everyone about the miracle. In fact, this miracle seems very private in some ways.

4. **Obey.** If we will obey Jesus, and like faithful servants do whatever He says to us, and expect by faith to see His glory, we will live in awe of the Holy God working among us daily.

5. **Witnessed.** The servants knew all about miracle and witnessed the power of Jesus, God in the flesh, but the headwaiter had no idea. Some see God working, while others benefit from the work of God.

6. **Knowledge.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see Jesus work quietly through our obedience. We receive His blessings with knowledge, while others just partake of the blessing.

7. **Faith.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves to help people in need, working quietly through obedient servants, so that people receive a blessing by grace alone. The new wine cost the beneficiaries nothing, because Jesus loves to build our faith in Him. We know, because we see Him work in our lives.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God as we serve Jesus and see His works firsthand.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we see other people benefit from the works of Jesus, even if they do not know that Jesus helped them.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by serving Jesus with a glad heart because we know His works always produce Godly results for all of us.**

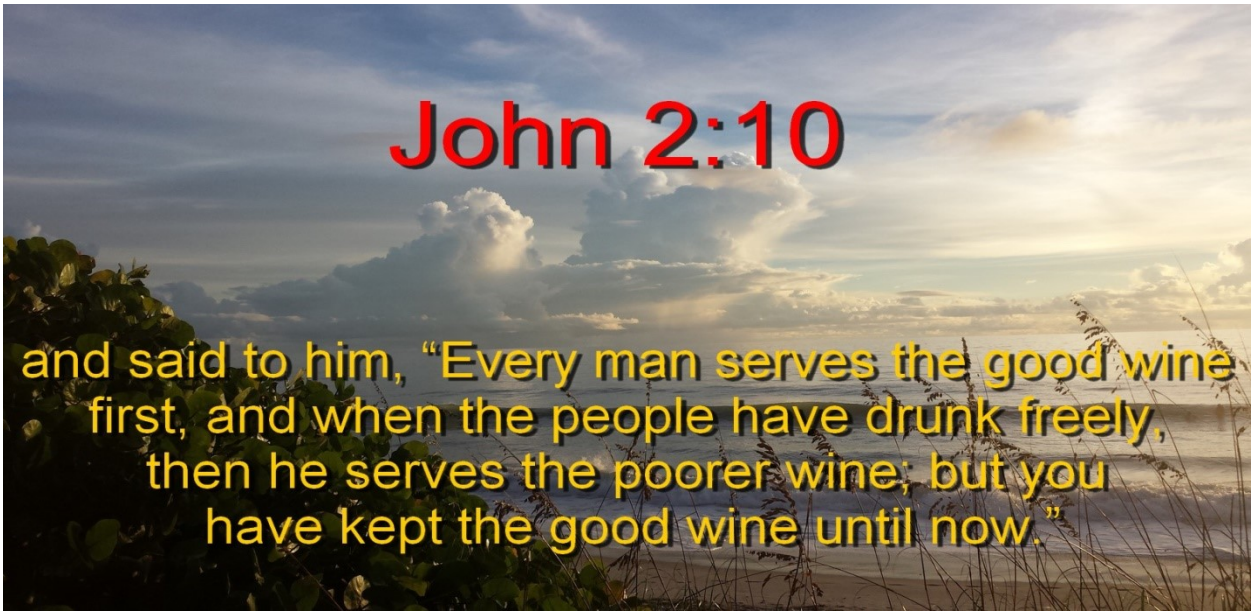
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by serving Jesus so that His works will bless the lives of other people, even if they do not know that Jesus blessed them. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by blessing other people by following the commands of Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty One

# Kept Today




When do you serve the inferior wine at a wedding? Normally, after everyone had drunk freely of the good wine, so they will not notice the inferior wine.

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus solved the problem of the wine running out. He directed the servants to fill waterpots with water and made about 120-180 gallons of wine. He ordered the servant to fill the waterpots to the brim, and they did. He then ordered them to draw out some and take it to the headwaiter. They did so.

When the headwaiter tasted the water that became wine, he remarked that people often save the inferior wine for later, but in this case the new was much better than the first wine. He had no idea what Jesus had done, but the servants knew.

# *The Good Wine*

1. **Knew.** The headwaiter did not know about the wine. The servants knew that Jesus had quietly worked a miracle.

2. **Common.** The headwaiter expressed the common practice of holding the bad wine until everyone had been drinking for a while. Depending upon how much they drank, they may not even have noticed the inferiority of the wine.

3. **New.** The headwaiter praised the new wine. When Jesus worked, the product spoke for itself.

4. **Purposes.** From the passage itself, the headwaiter may not have ever known about the wine miracle. Jesus worked miracles for the purposes of God, and not for the glory of men.

5. **Benefits.** This miracle teaches us how Jesus used His miraculous powers to build faith and glorify God. Jesus, however, targeted specific people to reap the benefits of His miracles. Others remained oblivious.

6. **Right.** Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus leads the way, always. He works according to His plans, at the perfect time, for just the right people. We watch as Jesus builds up the family of God.

7. **Best.** We rejoice today because Jesus often saves the best for last. As we follow Him today, we see Him work in the lives of many people.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by watching Jesus keeping back the good wine until last.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we serve Jesus as He uses us to serve other people.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we serve Jesus together by taking important things to other people.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by serving Jesus as He uses us to serve other people. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by serving Jesus first?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Sixty Two

# Beginning of His Signs Today




What are signs? In the Bible, God used signs to authenticate the ministry of a person. In this case, Jesus performed signs which proved that He was the Son of God, the Messiah, and the Savior of all.

Jesus did His first sign in Cana of Galilee at the wedding. Notice that this sign was a public, obvious demonstration, like healing a lame man in front of a crowd. This miracle was known at first to the servants, but not to all the guests.

The disciples also believed in Jesus. In the Gospel of John, not everyone who believed in Jesus had saving faith, as we will see in the following chapters. God tells us that even the devils believe that Jesus is God, but they do not have saving faith, which is a gift of God. He does not provide help to angels like He does for humans.

# *Manifested His Glory*

1. **Not Every.** Jesus turned water into 120+ gallons of wine. Yet, not everyone knew about it.

2. **Manifested.** John provided divine insight into the purpose and plans of Jesus. In John's Gospel, we see God the Son walking among men, manifesting His glory, and promoting faith in Him.

3. **Signs.** Jesus performed signs that no one else performed, showing His divinity. Nicodemus, in John 3, said that Jesus came from God, because of the signs Jesus did.

4. **Build.** As disciples, Jesus seeks to build our faith in Him. We walk by faith, not by sight. So, when we see Jesus working, we look beyond our sight, to see His glory manifested, for the purpose of strengthening our faith.

5. **Gift.** Jesus keenly understands our faith. He builds our faith, and our faith is a gift from God. Paul prayed that we would be strengthened with power by the Holy Spirt in the inner man so that Christ would dwell in our hearts by faith.

6. **Live.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see Jesus building the faith of the members of His family by the signs He performed and recorded in the Bible for our edification. His family lives by faith.

7. **Salvation.** We rejoice today that our names have been recorded in heaven because we have received the free gift of salvation by faith alone. We see Jesus displaying His glory and growing our faith in Him each day.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by having faith in Jesus for salvation.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by believing the signs Jesus did in the Bible.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all believe Jesus continues to work in our lives so that we will have more faith in Him to glorify Himself in our lives.**

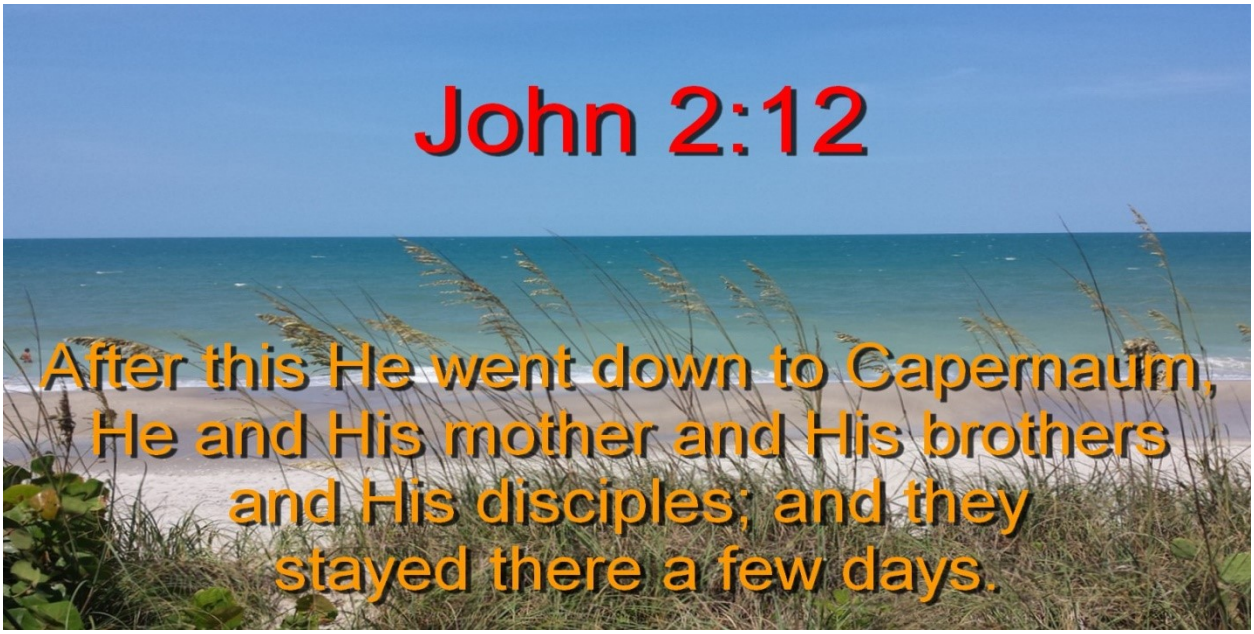
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we believe that Jesus will do great things in our lives, which others may not see. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by believing that Jesus will do things to build your faith in Him?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Three

# Capernaum Today




Did Mary have children after Jesus was born? Yes, she had James, Joseph, Judas, Simon, plus unnamed sisters (Matthew 13:55-56). So, if anyone tells you that Mary remained a virgin forever, they deny the truth of the Bible.

Notice that Jesus traveled with His mother and brothers. They had been together at the wedding, and Mary knew that Jesus would do something to solve the wine problem. When she saw the new wine, it seems like she knew Who had solved the wine problem.

The brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him. They grew up with Him, but His own family did not recognize Him as the Messiah, except for His parents. In many families, one family member gets saved, and the rest of the family then becomes divided. Jesus traveled to Capernaum with His mother and brothers, and Jesus would spend considerable time in Capernaum, where He worked many miracles, but they did not believe in Him there.

# *A Few Days*

1. **Travelled.** Jesus left Cana of Galilee and travelled with His mother, brothers and disciples.

2. **Brothers.** The Bible records that Jesus had brothers: James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. After growing up with their older brother Jesus, they were unbelievers before Jesus was crucified. Afterwards, they were converted (John 7:5; Acts 1:14). James even became an apostle.

3. **Capernaum.** The name "Capernaum" means the city of Nahum, but scholars have not found any evidence linking it to the prophet Nahum of the Old Testament.

4. **Home.** Peter's mother-in-law lived in Capernaum, and the synagogue there played an important role in the life of that city. Jesus taught and worked miracles in Capernaum. Capernaum served as His home base for His Galilean ministry.

5. **Unbelieving.** Jesus also spent time with His family. Mary His mother was a believer, but His physical brothers did not believe yet. We may learn from Jesus that we may make some time to spend with unbelieving family members.

6. **See.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we spend some time with unsaved family members, and they see how we live following Jesus with our friends and other disciples in Christ.

7. **True.** We rejoice today because our true brothers and sisters are the people who do the will of God, having been born again by faith alone. Every family on earth and in heaven derives its name from God the Father. We live in the most loving and awesome spiritual family.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by recognizing that our physical family is not our real family.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we live knowing that our real family are those who do the will of God, and have been born into the family of God by faith in Jesus as Savior.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we travel through life together as members of one holy and blameless family.**

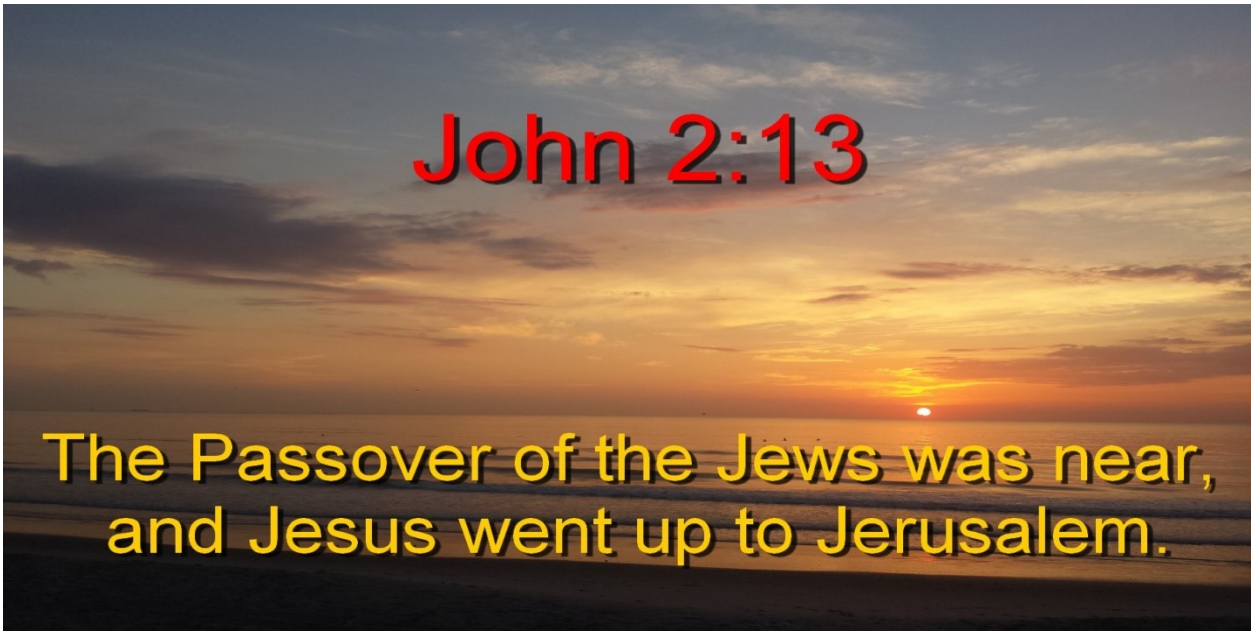
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by remembering that we all have only one family comprised of all the people born of the seed of God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today knowing that your real family consists of the people born from above into the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Four

# Up to Jerusalem Today




Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem? Jesus went up to Jerusalem for Passover. In the Old Testament, God commanded all the people of Israel to go up to Jerusalem to observe Passover. During the time of Moses, God plagued the people of Egypt by sending an angel to kill the firstborn of Egypt because Pharaoh refused to let the people of Israel leave Egypt, where they had been enslaved for centuries.

Jesus fulfilled the Law. He alone fulfilled all the requirements of the Law, and never sinned. The Law itself showed people how sinful they were, and the sacrifices reminded people year by year how sinful they were.

Jesus brought salvation, being witnessed by the Law and the prophets. The Law and the prophets were proclaimed until John the Baptist, but after that the Kingdom of God was proclaimed.

# *Passover*

1. **Command.** By the command of God, Israel assembled three times per year in Jerusalem. Passover was one of those assemblies.

2. **Reminded.** Passover reminded the Jews of the time in Egypt when God killed the firstborn in all that land. God warned the Jews to sprinkle some blood from their Passover sacrifice on the lintel and door posts so that their first born would live, because the death angel would pass over the house with blood.

3. **Jesus.** As a Jew, Jesus kept the Law of Moses, but as God, Jesus disdained the rabbis' traditional explanations of the Law. The rabbis invalidated the word of God for the sake of their traditions.

4. **Law.** Jesus came to fulfill all the requirements of the Mosaic Law. The obedience of Jesus to the Law and His sacrificial work brought the end of the Law of Moses for all believers today.

5. **Blood.** The Law of Moses could never take away sins; by faith, the blood of Jesus washed away all sins of every believer, having nailed the decrees of condemnation to the cross.

6. **Passover.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we no longer keep the Law of Moses, but live under the perfect law of liberty in Christ. Jesus went to the Passover in Jerusalem, but Jesus is our Passover.

7. **Bulls and Goats.** We rejoice today because Jesus freed us from the law of sin and death, doing what the blood of bulls and goats could never do: take away sins. Jesus died once for all, so that by faith alone He forgives our sins, and we do not come into judgment, but have passed out of death into life. The precious blood of Jesus the Lamb of God takes away our sin forever.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that Christ is our Passover, the Lamb of God, given for us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we join together in praising Jesus for His grace in taking our sins away through His sacrifice on the cross.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God because the blood of the Passover Lamb, Jesus, covers all our sins, once and for all time.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we remember that Jesus satisfied all the requirements of the Law for us, so that we live to righteousness through faith in Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by praising Jesus, our Passover Lamb?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Sixty Five

# Has Come in the Flesh Today




Why do people seek to make a profit in God's house? Because they overlook their predecessors selling oxen, sheep and doves and the money changers sitting at their tables in the temple. Today, people sell all kinds of things in church buildings, on their tables, including Christian books, artwork, and many other things.

At Christ Assembly, we oppose all profit related to selling Christian books, articles, and magazines. Furthermore, restricting access (online or otherwise) to journals, publications, and other items written for the edification of Christians also violates the commands to avoid profiting from

the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God directed believers to make voluntary offerings to support the work of Christ, not charge people for blessings and edification. Christ Assembly does not seek or accept donations, and provides access to articles and books intended to edify believers without charge. At this point, the ministry receives support through private means; at some point, it may accept voluntary donations.

# *Selling*

1. **Animals.** The people of Israel offered animal sacrifices in the temple at Jerusalem. Therefore, oxen, sheep and doves were for sale in the temple, so people could buy them, and deliver them to the priests for sacrifice.

2. **Money.** The money changers financed the operation. They acted to facilitate commerce in the temple. On the surface, the sellers and the money changers all seemed to help people keep the law.

3. **Surface.** Jesus keenly observes all things and knows all things. Jesus looks beyond the surface appearance of religious things.

4. **Found.** Notice that Jesus "found" the sellers and money changers in the temple. Just as Jesus "found" Philip, so also Jesus found the money changers. He also purposed to go to Jerusalem.

5. **Practice.** Jesus always accomplished the works His Father prepared for Him. The selling of animals in the temple seemed a long-established practice, with the approval of the religious leaders in charge of the temple service. Yet, what men promoted as accepted religious and commercial practice in the temple was not acceptable to Jesus. Jesus alone took action to overthrow not only the tables of the money changers; He also challenged the entire religious establishment.

6. **Traditions.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we must evaluate all religious practices according to the Bible. Religious traditions

often invalidate the teaching of the Bible. We must be careful to examine all things, and hold on to the good.

7. **Sanctified.** We rejoice today because Jesus looks beyond the surface of religious traditions and religious people. He sees the truth always, and offers gracious guidance to all who will open their ears to hear Him. Ultimately, Jesus leads believers into all truth, using the word of God to sanctify us in the truth. Sanctified living means holy and happy living in Christ, the Lamb of God.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by opposing sales of journals, articles, and other works intended to edify believers. Non-profits should seek voluntary donations, not mandatory payments for blessings and edifications.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we edify believers through using our spiritual gifts for free.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we donate to support people using their spiritual gifts to the glory of God.**

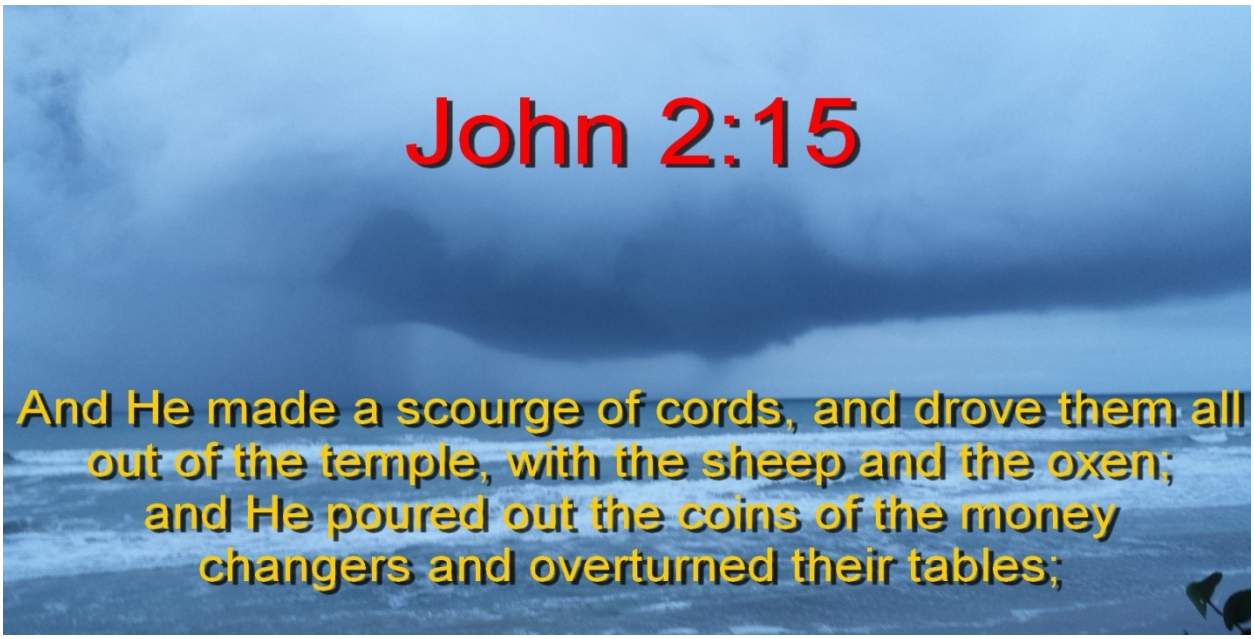
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by avoiding all appearances of buying and selling in any house of God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by freely giving the things God has freely given to you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Sixty Six

# Out of the Temple Today




Why did Jesus make a scourge of cords? He used it to drive all of the money changers and people selling animals (with their sheep and the oxen) out of the temple.

Jesus took strong, bold action. He challenged the practices of the religious establishment and drove the money changers and the people selling animals for sacrifice out of the temple. Jesus did not seek permission from anyone before acting, because He acted on behalf of His Father, the God of Israel.

When people think of Jesus as a humble and meek man, He certainly was. But He was also strong and courageous. He acted upon His convictions and stood up for righteousness.

# *Scourge*

1. **Action.** Jesus took decisive action to stop religious people polluting the truth of God. He acted publicly, forcefully, and immediately.

2. **As LORD.** Jesus did not seek permission, but as LORD of all things, He made a scourge to remove the money changers and the animals from the temple.

3. **Obedient Jew.** You may recall the account of Jesus visiting the temple when He was twelve with His parents. In fact, Jesus went to the temple three times per year, being an obedient Jew. This time, however, Jesus took action.

4. **Holy Place.** Jesus used the scourge of cords to drive the businessmen from the temple. He also removed the animals. Jesus knew that the temple was built for the worship of God and a holy place of assembly for the people of God to call upon Him and offer sacrifices.

5. **Public Demonstration.** Jesus poured out the coins. Jesus did not take the coins, but made a public demonstration of the impropriety of doing business in the temple. By pouring them out, He showed that buying and selling had no place in the temple.

6. **Acted Like God.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we follow Jesus and watch Him take decisive action. Jesus acted like God all the time, while living in the body of real human flesh.

7. **Full Authority.** We rejoice today because Jesus always acted as God, with full authority. He cleaned out the temple, and publicly and forcefully removed the people and animals defiling the holy place God had established. We follow the Mighty King.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus as He takes strong and decisive action today.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God today as we oppose buying and selling in the church.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by joining together to worship and pray, without the interference of buying and selling in churches.**

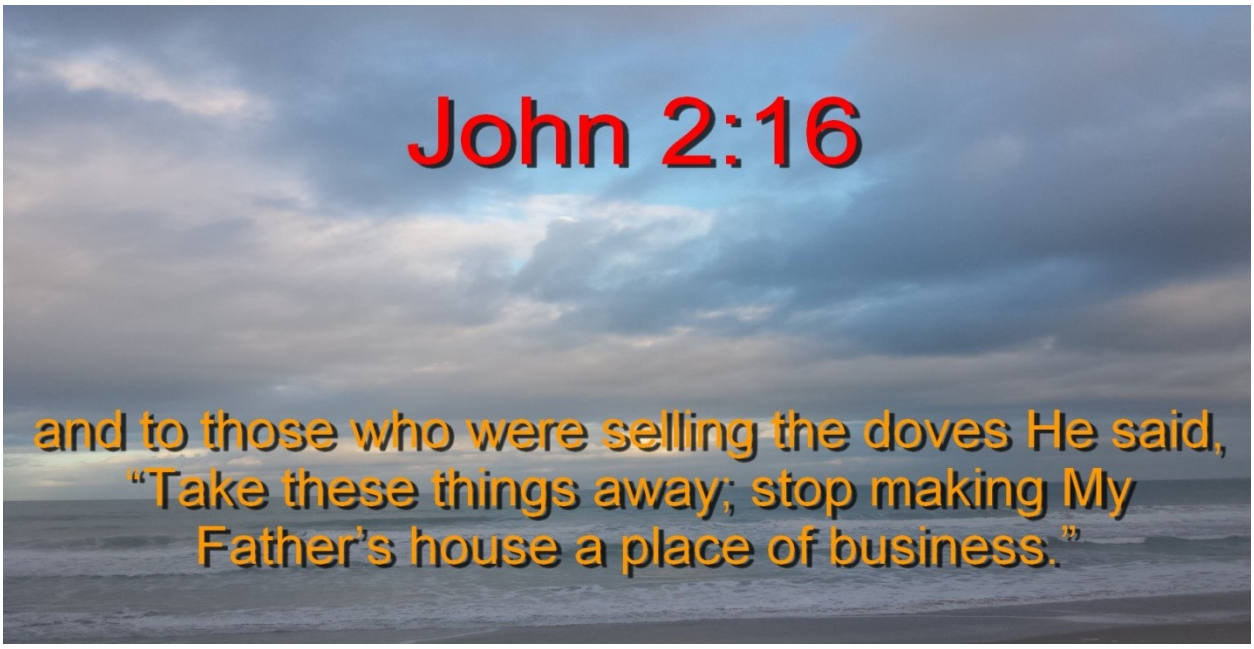
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus as He stands for righteousness and opposes all buying and selling in churches. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and oppose all buying and selling in the church?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Seven

# Place of Business Today




Why did Jesus say: "Stop!"? Think about the powerful effect that one word has. Jesus used that word to command the people to stop plying their trades in the temple.

Jesus noticed that people were selling doves in the temple. Under the Old Testament Law, if people could not afford larger animals, then they could offer doves. So, people sold doves in the temple where they could be offered for sacrifice immediately.

Jesus ordered people to stop making His Father's house a place of business. When people are selling books, tapes, videos, gifts and other things on church property, they forget that Jesus said stop making His Father's house a place of business.

# *Stop*

1. **Polluted.** Jesus cleaned out the temple because people had polluted it by doing business in the temple.

2. **Results.** At times, Jesus gave very simple and direct commands: "take away" and "stop". At times, Jesus used very negative words to promote very positive results.

3. **Holy.** In our lives, we should see that many people today mix business with the holy place of God. While God certainly promotes Christian business, He never makes a holy place a place of business.

4. **Worship.** The buying and selling of anything should not be done at places dedicated to worship, even if the merchandise is Christian material. The place of business should never be the place set apart for worship.

5. **Profane.** People always have a tendency to profane the holy things of God with business. Jesus reacted forcefully to business locations inside holy places and publicly condemned such practices. Today I see many churches selling merchandise in their buildings where they worship.

6. **Business.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we keep holy places free from business, especially buying and selling.

7. **Clean.** We rejoice today because Jesus cleansed His Father's house, zealously removing business people buying and selling. He loved a spiritually clean and holy house.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by keeping God's house free from business.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we encourage others to avoid doing business in the church buildings.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we make the church building a place for believers to gather in the Name of the Lord, without business interference.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by keeping church buildings free from business. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by remembering that the church building is a place where God's family assembles to worship God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Eight

# From the World Today




How much zeal do you have? Jesus was very zealous for God. He intensely did the will of God. In the case of money changers and people selling animals in the temple, Jesus had great zeal for the house of God.

Jesus even made a scourge of cords and drove the sellers, money changers and animals out of the temple. He did not ask permission, but acted on zeal alone.

When Jesus acted with zeal to clean the temple, He fulfilled prophecy. In Psalm 69:9, the David exclaimed that "zeal for Your house has consumed me." Just like David prophesied regarding Messiah, Jesus was consumed with zeal and cleansed the temple.

# *Remembered*

1. **Remember.** Often memory plays an important role in our lives. Today we remember things that happened earlier.

2. **Memory.** God makes memories for us, and controls our memory through the Holy Spirit (John 14:26).

3. **Planted.** In this passage, Jesus planted memories with His disciples that the Holy Spirit would later link up with Scripture.

4. **Zeal.** Jesus also displayed zeal. Zeal means intense drive, high intensity, determined and active.

5. **Acted.** Jesus zealously acted to drive the animals and money changers from His Father's house. He made the memories, like planting treasure to be brought forth later.

6. **Links.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see Jesus making memories so that the Holy Spirit will later link up the word of God with those memories.

7. **Holy Spirit.** We rejoice today as we remember the great things Jesus has done; the Holy Spirit helps us recall the event and how it fits with Scripture. We love Jesus more as we remember His actions.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by being zealous for God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we let our zeal for God help us do the will of God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in zeal for God to clean out things that dishonor God.**

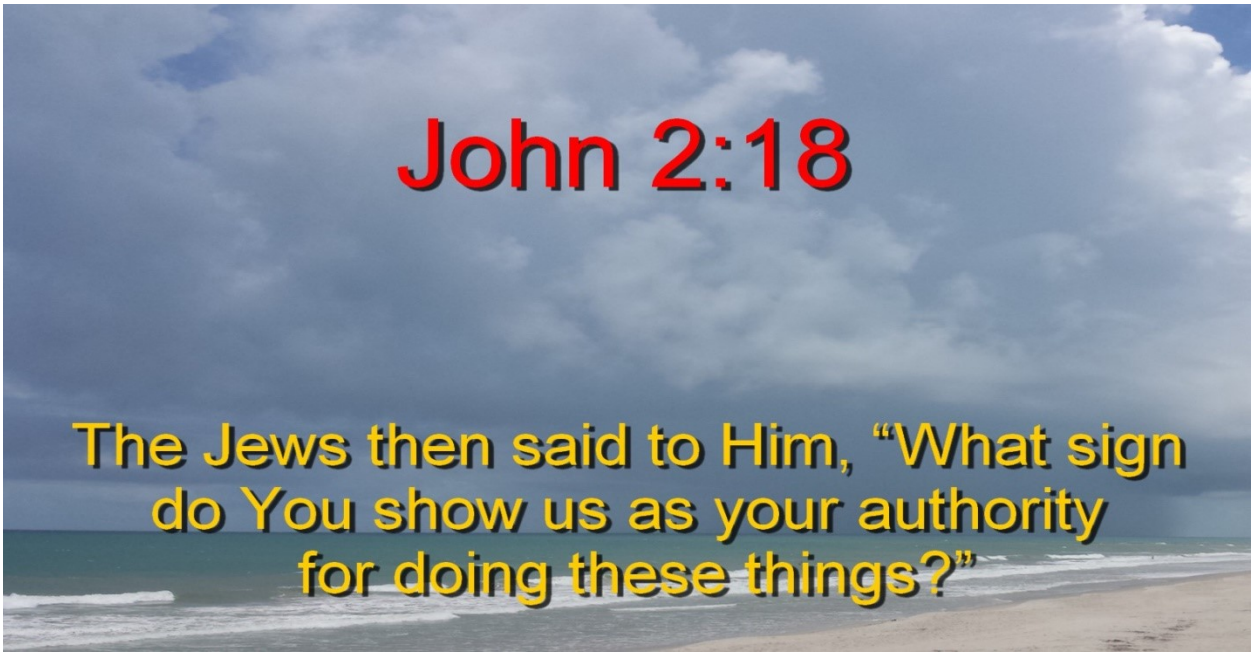
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by acting with zeal for God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today with zeal to do God's will in your life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Nine

# The Spirit of Truth Today




Why did the people in the temple want a sign from Jesus? Because Jesus had just exercised divine authority to cleanse the temple from those doing business in the temple.

The Jews wanted some kind of authentication from God that Jesus was acting from God. They completely missed that Jesus was fulfilling prophecy as God in the flesh.

As God, Jesus has unlimited authority. Jesus used His authority to do the will of His Father, who sanctified Him and sent Him into the world. In this case, while the Jews sought a sign, Jesus had already shown them a great sign by cleansing the temple. They did not understand that God was standing in their midst.

# *Sign*

1. **Sought.** During the earthly ministry of Jesus and the apostles, the Greeks sought for wisdom and the Jews sought a sign. In John 2:18, the Jews sought a sign from Jesus to confirm that He acted with God's authority.

2. **Powerful.** The Jews had witnessed a powerful demonstration of God's holy, omnipotent authority when Jesus cleansed the temple, but the Jews did not know Jesus or the Father Who sent Him.

3. **Comprehend.** People frequently sought signs, but did not comprehend the greater testimony of God standing before them: God in the flesh, Jesus Christ.

4. **Traditions.** The Jews had approved the buying and selling in the temple. Yet, Jesus acted in complete disregard of their traditions and practices.

5. **Challenged.** Jesus squarely challenged the authority of the religious leaders. They sought to understand His authority, but it did not seem to dawn on them that they were opposing the authority of God. Jesus performed many miracles and God confirmed Jesus as Messiah and the Lamb of God with many signs.

6. **Signs and Wonders.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we see many signs and wonders in the Bible that confirm Jesus as God in the flesh, the Savior of mankind. We are His children, washed in His blood, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

7. **Supernatural.** We rejoice today because Jesus demonstrated so many supernatural works that even Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, testified to Jesus that no one could do the works Jesus did except that God was with Him. Jesus provided many convincing proofs of His authority, and particularly that God sent Him to give His life a ransom for many.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by trusting Jesus to act with divine authority, even without performing signs and wonders.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we know that Jesus performed many signs and wonders, including the miracle of His resurrection.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by trusting God without demanding signs from Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by counting upon the authority of Jesus to lead us in our daily lives. Will you live Godly in the family of God today without demanding signs from Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy

# Destroy This Temple Today




Did the Jews destroy the temple? Yes, they destroyed the body of Jesus, which was called "this temple." When the Jews sought for a sign to prove His authority to cleanse the temple, He told them that if they destroyed this temple, in three days He would raise it up.

Jesus, we will see, was actually talking about the temple of His body. Notice that Jesus will raise up the temple in three days. Therefore, we know that Jesus knew from the beginning of His pubic ministry how He would die, how long He would be in the grave, and then He would raise His body from the dead.

When the Jews asked for a sign, Jesus provided a great sign for them, but they did not understand that He was speaking about the temple of His body. Even so, He gave them a sign, which they did not comprehend, but

would certainly prove the authority by which He acted in cleansing the temple.

# *Raise It Up*

1. **Answer.** Jesus often gave powerful answers to questions. The Jews asked for a sign and Jesus gave a precise answer.

2. **Destroy.** Notice the word "Destroy." The precise meaning is an imperative, like a command. Jesus is not ordering them to destroy the temple, but speaking prophetically of their murderous actions in the future. He indicated that they would, indeed, destroy the temple absolutely in the future.

3. **Raise.** Jesus also promised that He Himself would "raise" up the temple. Jesus used a word occurring only here in the New Testament. He emphasized that He Himself would raise up the temple. Notice the contrast: the Jews destroy, but Jesus Himself raises.

4. **Sign.** Jesus just gave a powerful sign to the Jews regarding the authority He possessed to clean out the temple. Jesus gave them the temple sign.

5. **Consequences.** People often ask God for things without understanding what they are asking. People also cannot fully comprehend the larger and longer consequences of their prayer request, if answered as prayed. We must rely upon the Holy Spirit to help us when we pray.

6. **Comprehend.** Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus loved to answer questions. At times, His answers were so deep and wide that people would not comprehend them until later, if at all.

7. **Answers.** We rejoice today because Jesus answers prayer and provides answers, all according to His will. He never acts robotically, but perfectly and righteously.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by knowing that Jesus listens to questions and provides perfect answers.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we understand that Jesus provided perfect proof that He acted with the authority of God in cleansing the temple.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all expect Jesus to use His divine power to help us follow Him in all things, just as He laid down His life and took it up again.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by living in the power and authority of Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by looking back to the resurrection of Jesus as proof of His divine power and authority?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy One

# Forty Six Years Today




Why did the Jews say it took forty-six years to build the temple? Because they were thinking about Herod's temple, not the body of Jesus. The Jews in the audience had no conception that Jesus was revealing His resurrection to them.

As God in the flesh, the body of Jesus was the temple of God. God indwelled the body of Jesus. Jesus had the power to lay down His life and to take it again. No man could take His life away from Him against His will. If you planned on killing Jesus, then He would only die if He wanted to die then and there. In this case, Jesus planned on dying and then taking up His life in the body three days later. Taking up His life included His bodily resurrection.

Resurrection means bodily resurrection. Jesus was going to be raised from the dead, meaning He would take up His life and God would raise His body from the dead, as the First One of the resurrection.

# *Three Days*

**1. Answered.** Jesus had provided an answer to the Jews' request for a sign. The Jews did not comprehend His answer.

**2. Forty-six Years.** In about 966 B.C., King Solomon built the first temple. In 586 B.C. or so, the Babylonians destroyed the first temple. Ezra began building the second temple about 538 B.C. or so. After the temple fell into disrepair, King Herod began renovation of the temple, apparently coinciding with the forty-six years described in our verse today.

**3. Three Days.** No temple had ever been built in only three days. It had always taken years, even decades.

**4. Raise Up.** Jesus said three days to raise up the temple. This time period should have been a very strong clue to the Jews that Jesus was not talking about the physical temple.

**5. Did Not Understand.** The Jews requested a sign from Jesus because He cleansed the temple. Jesus gave them a sign. The Jews did not understand the sign; they never accepted that Jesus always spoke the truth.

**6. God Reveals.** Living Godly in the family of God means that only with God's help can we comprehend what God revealed to us in the Bible. Without first being born again, we cannot understand spiritual things.

**7. Truth.** We rejoice today because God loves to reveal truth to His family of born-again children. We understand that Jesus always told the truth and always prophesied the future without error of any kind. God loves His children. He wants us to know many things so that we praise Him for His marvelous works.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by understanding that our bodies are the temple of God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we live in our bodies, treating them as the temple of God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we treat the bodies of others as the temple of God.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by treating our bodies as the temple of God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by treating your body as the temple of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Two

# He Was Speaking Today




Why did so many people fail to understand what Jesus was telling them? Because they were thinking in purely physical terms, not in spiritual terms. Jesus said that He revealed things from faith to faith. In this case, faith in people puts them in spiritual communication with God.

God speaks to us in spiritual terms. Unless He gives us ears to hear and eyes to see and a heart to understand, then we will not hear His message to us. Paul said that a natural man (unsaved) cannot understand spiritual things, because they are spiritually appraised.

When the crowds heard Jesus, they had hard hearts, because they rejected Jesus as Messiah. Therefore, they would hear, but not understand; they would see, but not see; they would hear, but not hear.

# *The Temple of His Body*

1. **Sign.** The Jews requested a sign from Jesus regarding His authority. He told them: Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

2. **Comprehend.** The Jews said it took forty-six years to build the temple and they did not comprehend His meaning.

3. **Body.** John explained in his Gospel that Jesus meant the temple of His body. Jesus prophesied that the Jews would destroy His body, but He would raise His body three days later.

4. **Proof.** Jesus gave the greatest sign possible: His death, burial, and resurrection. God furnished proof to all men that judgment awaits all unsaved men, and Jesus will be the Judge.

5. **Evidence.** Some people seek signs, but ignore the evidence all around them about God's loving salvation for sinners who call upon Him.

6. **Raised.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we understand that Jesus raised Himself from the dead, both laying down His life and taking it up again. Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would still be lost in our sins. Because of His resurrection, by faith we live with Jesus forever.

7. **Lives.** We rejoice today because Jesus lives, the first fruit of the resurrection. He promised we too will receive resurrected bodies one day, when He returns to the clouds.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing the signs Jesus performed.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we appreciate the spiritual perception God has given to believers.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by sharing the spiritual perception that God has given us a part of spiritual life in Him.**

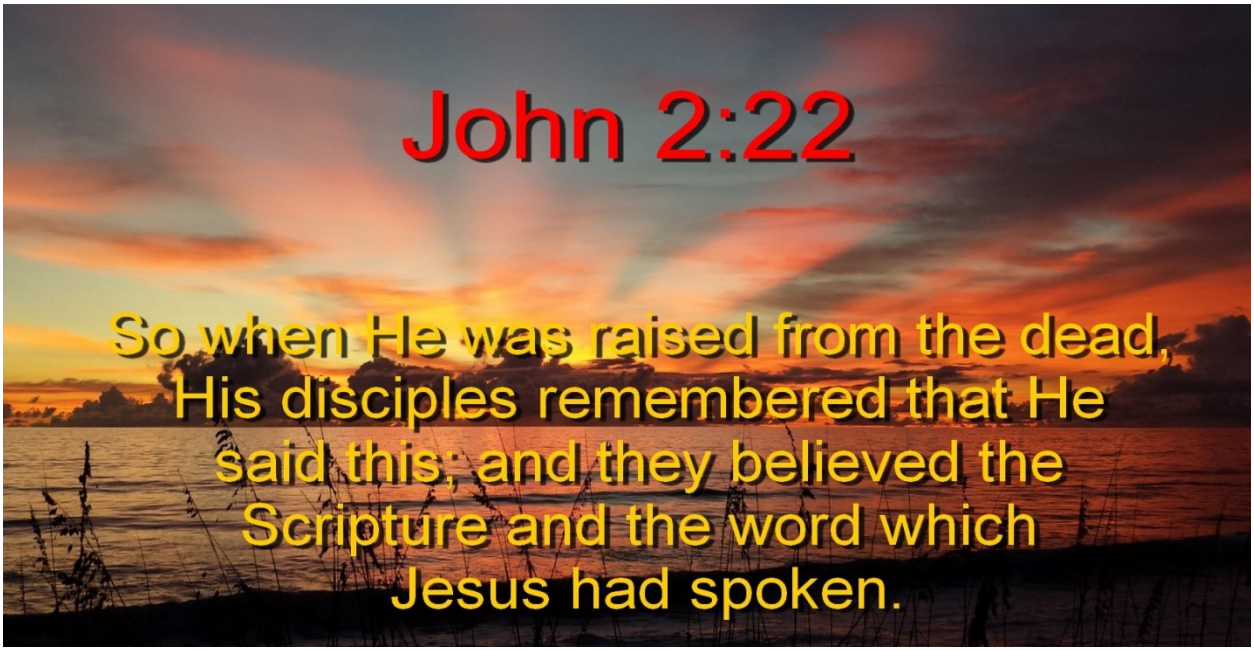
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by counting upon the spiritual perception God has given to us to understand His Word. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by exercise your spiritual perception of God's Word?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Three

# His Disciples Remembered Today




Have you ever suddenly remembered something? The disciples heard Jesus say that He would raise up the temple in three days, but years later remember what Jesus had said about His resurrection.

We may not always understand what God tells us right away. It may be years before we grasp the significance of a verse we read previously. In this passage, the disciples only understood what Jesus was saying after they saw with their own eyes the fulfillment of the prophecy about the temple.

God often opens our eyes to Scripture over time. What we read today in the Bible may not make sense until later when we see before us what God was talking about in the Bible. God loves for us to recognize His power working in us every day, so that we believe Him and love Him more.

# *The Scripture and the Word*

1. **Remember.** Jesus does things today that we will remember tomorrow and then believe both the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

2. **Understand.** The Jews never really understood the sign Jesus gave them about His resurrection. Even the disciples did not understand at first.

3. **Link.** Jesus seeks to build specific areas of faith in our lives, beyond our initial salvation. Here, we see the link between our memory, our faith, the Scriptures and the word of Jesus.

4. **Scripture.** God brings memories of Bible passages and events in our lives together so that we have greater faith in the Scripture and the Word of Jesus. We now see how Scripture and the Word of Jesus apply to our lives, and so we live by faith and enjoy His love.

5. **Children.** At times, we see children, and remember the passage where Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them. People tried to stop the children coming to Jesus, but Jesus welcomed the children and said the kingdom of God belongs to such children. We must be like those children in the arms of Jesus. Our faith in Jesus, the Scriptures, and the word of Jesus grows day by day as we walk in faith.

6. **Words and Works.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we remember the words and works of Jesus in the Scripture, and then believe more, because we have seen them come true before our eyes.

7. **Lives.** We rejoice today because our memories bring us to Jesus. He lives and works today, so that we have greater faith in Him.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering the Word of God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as God grows our faith, day by day, in the Word of God lived out in our lives.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by encouraging others by telling them about God's loving activity in our lives each day.**

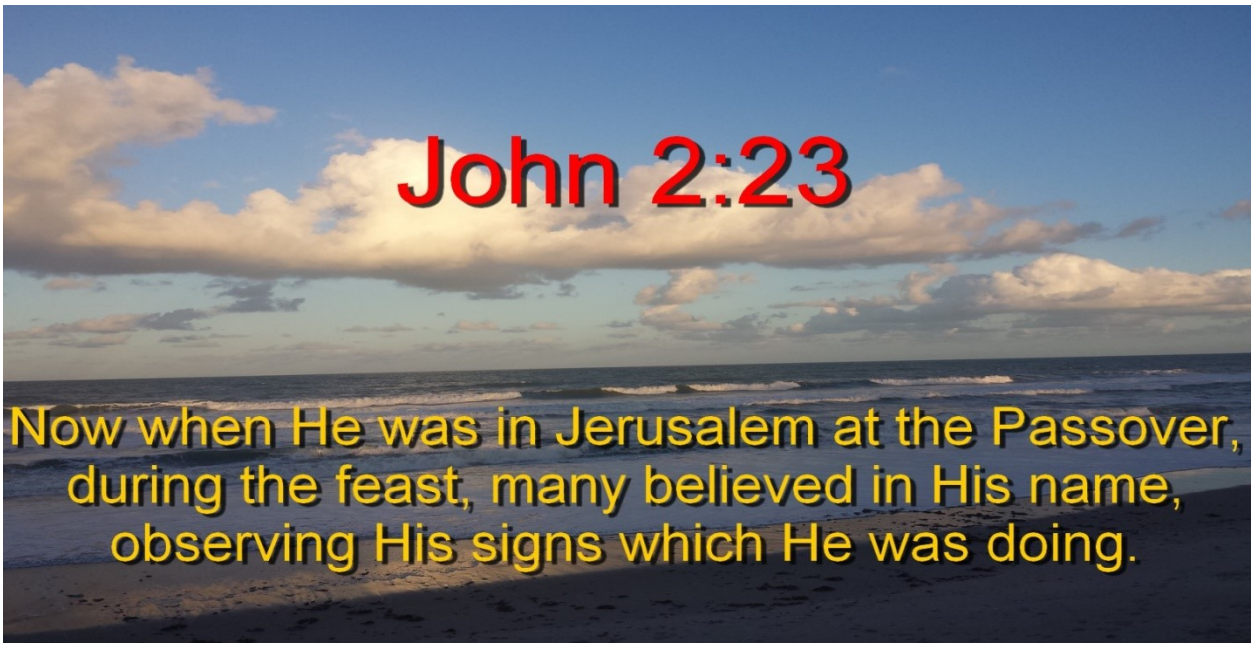
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by remembering the Word of God and living in that revelation today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by remembering His Word and seeing it fulfilled in your life?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Seventy Four

# During the Feast Today




Did many believe in Jesus? Yes, at the Passover Feast in Jerusalem many people believed in Him there. The text links their faith to seeing the signs He was performing. In other words, for some of those "believers," they only believed while they were watching the signs, but did not have saving faith. We will see in the next passage what saving faith looks like.

Jesus performed signs to authenticate His ministry and to help people in their lives. He intended that people see the signs and believe in Him. In fact, He commanded people to believe in Him.

Remember that the Jews asked for sign to prove His authority to cleanse the temple. Jesus gave them the sign of the temple being restored. They did not understand and they did not believe for salvation. It always matters what you believe.

# *Observing His Signs*

1. **Attended.** Jesus attended both the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Passover, as Jews were commanded in the Old Testament.

2. **Signs.** While Jesus attended the Feast and the Passover, He performed signs. Many people witnessed the signs.

3. **"Believe".** Some people "believed" in the name of Jesus. Be careful here. As we will see here, and elsewhere in the Gospel of John, the word "believe" does not always mean saving faith.

4. **No Signs, No Faith.** Some people believed only as long as they observed the signs He did. These people believed, but did not have saving faith, as we shall see. No more signs, no more faith.

5. **Receive.** Jesus performed many signs so that people would have saving faith in Him. They had to receive Him by faith as Savior, God in the flesh, Who takes away their sins.

6. **Faith.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have saving faith in Jesus, and not just faith that Jesus can work miracles and perform signs.

7. **Died.** We rejoice today because we believe that Jesus died for us, and we have received the free gift of salvation by faith alone. We love to confess Jesus as Lord, and we believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing all that Jesus said to us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we believe and live our faith in Jesus.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in living by faith, not by signs alone.**

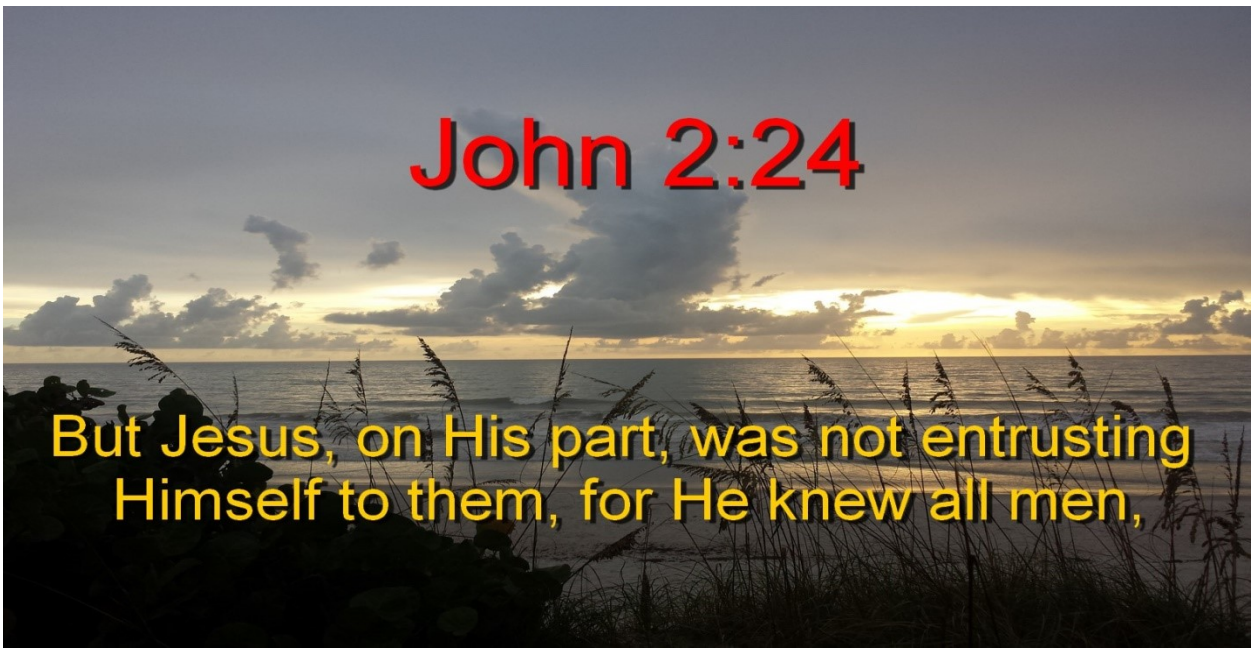
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we live out our faith in Jesus, and not limiting our faith to believing His signs. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by enjoying your faith in action, without the necessity of seeing new signs today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Five

# Not Entrusting Himself Today




Did Jesus entrust Himself to the people who believed His signs at the Feast? No, Jesus did not entrust Himself to them because He knew all men.

We should be very careful to entrust our lives to God, and not unsaved people. Jesus always knows the people around us. God intends for us to have our faith in Him, and to entrust our lives to Him on a moment by moment basis.

Jesus knows all about the people and can distinguish the saved from the unsaved. The unsaved may say nice things about Jesus, and believe His signs, but they have never known Him as Savior. We should always avoid entrusting our lives to unbelievers, no matter what they say about Jesus.

# *He Knew*

1. **Saw.** John used sort of a play on words. Some people watching the signs of Jesus "believed" in His name, so long as they saw the signs. Jesus did not "entrust" (same root word in the original) Himself to them, even though they "believed."

2. **Tasted.** Many people today make a profession of faith, but lack saving faith. They have a taste of the love and power of Jesus, but do not trust Him for salvation. We will see this problem described more fully in Nicodemus coming up shortly.

3. **Knew.** Jesus knew all men. Even before Nathanael came to see Jesus, Jesus saw Him sitting under the fig tree, and knew him to be a man without guile. Jesus truly knew all men.

4. **Alone.** Jesus always had the abiding presence of His Father, so that He was never alone (John 16:32). Likewise, the Holy Spirit abode in Jesus without measure (John 1:33; 3:34). All the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Him in bodily form (Colossians 2:9).

5. **Heart.** As God in the flesh, Jesus knew the thoughts and intentions of every heart and whether saving faith was present.

6. **Entrusting.** Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus knows us inside and out. He was not entrusting Himself to such men, because He knew what was in all men.

7. **Loves.** We rejoice today because Jesus knows everything about us and still loves us, warts and all.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by not entrusting ourselves to unbelievers.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by entrusting ourselves to God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we entrust ourselves to God as a group, not just individually.**

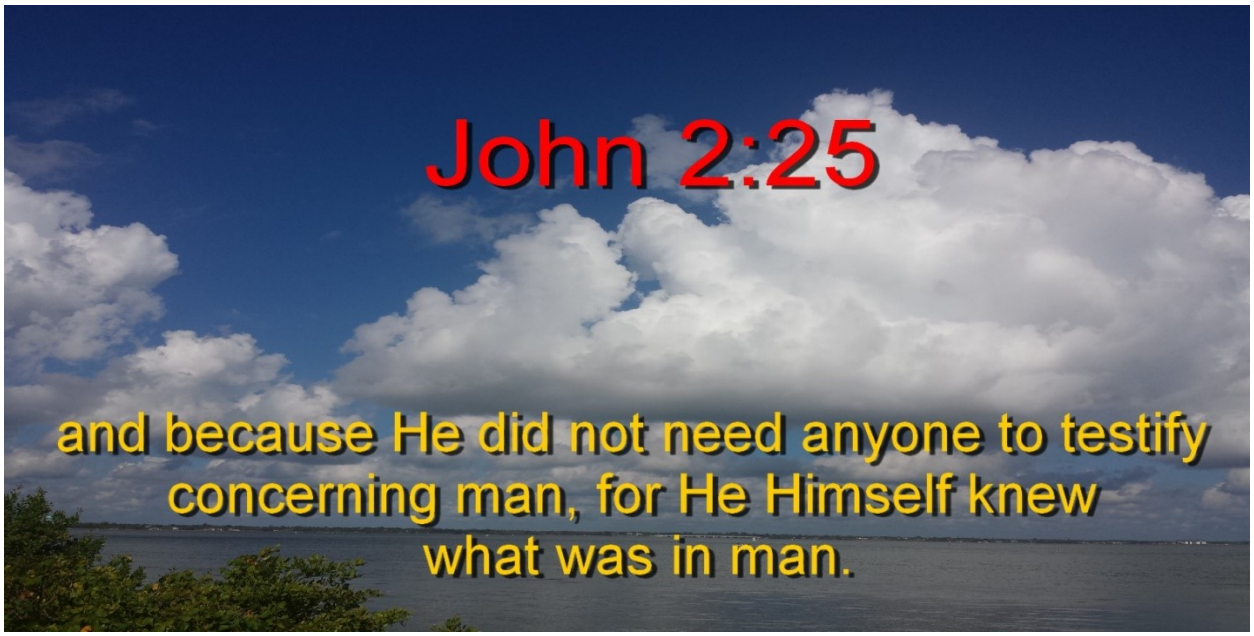
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we entrust our lives to God, and not unbelievers. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by entrusting yourself to Jesus, and not unbelievers?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Seventy Six

# Concerning Man Today




Did Jesus need someone to testify concerning man? No, Jesus Himself know what was in man. Many people want us to view people as essentially good. Jesus recognized two type of people.

First, some people rejected Jesus. They rejected Jesus because they did not know God the Father Who sent Jesus into the world.

Second, some people knew God and loved God. Those people also knew Jesus and loved Jesus.

Jesus knew that He would give His life for all the people of all time. He would offer the free gift of eternal life to all people, because He was the propitiation not just for our sins, but for the sins of the entire world.

# *He Himself Knew*

1. **Need**. Jesus did not need anyone to testify about man. As God in the flesh, Jesus knew all things.

2. **Testify**. In the Old Testament, witnesses provided testimony for the basis of convictions of wrongdoing. Often, more than one witness was required for conviction of an offense.

3. **Jesus**. Because Jesus knew all things, He knew the thoughts and intentions of the heart, and understood motives, thoughts, and everything in people.

4. **Hearts**. People believe with their hearts. Jesus could separate people who only had faith in His signs and miracles, from those people who did had saving faith.

5. **Signs**. Some people were believing as long as they saw His signs, but merely believing Jesus did real miracles saves no one.

6. **Salvation**. Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus alone provides salvation, because He was the Son of God, Whom God the Father sent into the world as Savior.

7. **Knowledge**. We rejoice today because Jesus did not judge by what He saw, or from the testimony of people. He always judges in righteousness, and extends mercy and grace to sinners so that we would pass out of judgment into life at the moment of salvation by faith alone.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by knowing that Jesus knows all things.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we remember that Jesus does not need testimony from anyone to know everything.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we rely upon Jesus to help us know the truth in all matters.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we rely upon Jesus to help us know the truth, because He is the way, the truth, and the life. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by relying upon Jesus to live in the truth about people today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 4

# Learning about Godliness and the New Birth Today

Having taken flesh, the Son of God lived among people. He was fully God and fully man. His disciples saw His glory, the glory of the unique Son of God. Jesus brought a message of good news to everyone who heard and believed the truth that He shared with them. The Scriptures provided that He would come and bring this message of salvation.

Jesus explained that salvation included being born from above. This new birth was spiritual, not physical. Jesus explained this new birth as being born from above. Forgiveness of sins brings a whole new person, born of God.

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. He was a Pharisee, a ruler of Israel, and a teacher. He said great things about Jesus. Nicodemus knew that God had sent Jesus as a teacher. Nicodemus also knew that Jesus could not do the things He did except that God was with Him.

Jesus told Nicodemus he could not see the kingdom of God without being born from above. Nicodemus had no idea what Jesus was talking about. Jesus explained that Nicodemus had already been born of flesh, through his mother and father. Nicodemus, however, had not been born of the Spirit, and so could not even see the kingdom of God.

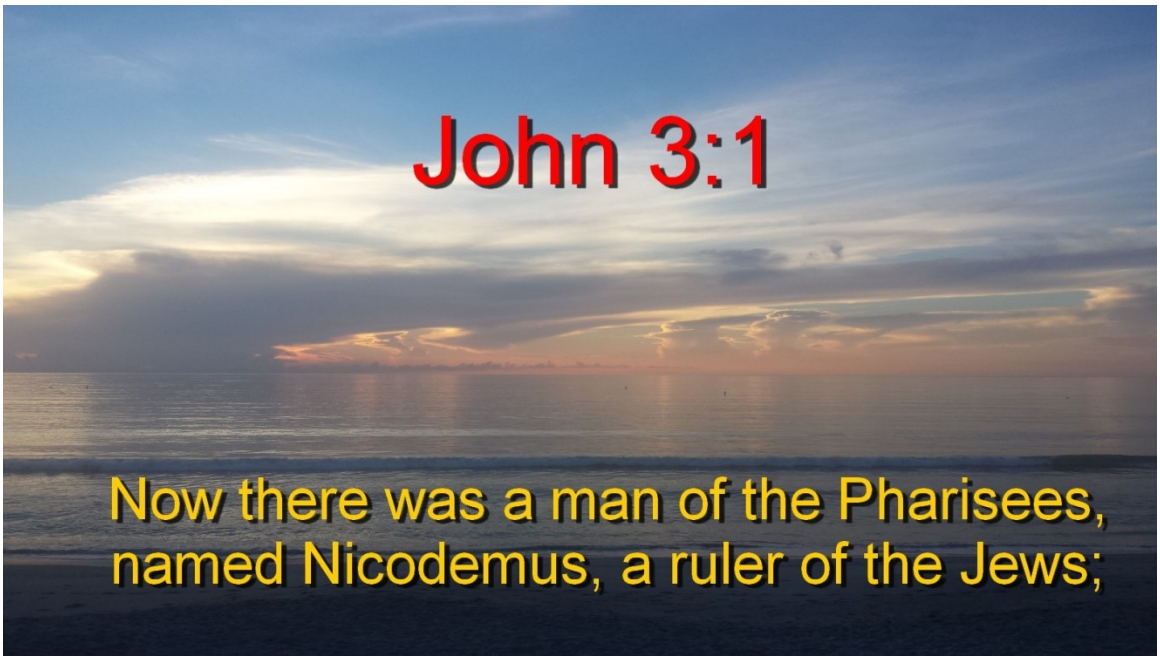
Bewildered by the message from Jesus, Nicodemus asked Jesus how these things could be. Jesus replied that people born from above do not make sense to those who have not. Jesus said they are like the wind.

Jesus then explained in detail to Nicodemus that faith in God the Father and God the Son bring salvation. Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world because God the Father loved the world and wanted no one to perish. By faith in Jesus as Savior, Nicodemus could be born from above.

If you do not remember a day in your life when you were born from above, and received forgiveness of sins, then click this link https://christassembly.org.

# Day Seventy Seven

# Savior of the World




Who was Nicodemus? He was a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews. He was a very religious man. The Sadducees opposed the Pharisees, who believed in spirits, resurrection, and angels.

Many religious people think they are going to heaven. Jesus denounced many of the things the Pharisees did. For example, Jesus said they laid heavy burdens upon people, but were unwilling to move them with a finger.

The Pharisees had an outward devotion to the Law of Moses, but their hearts were evil and filled with death. They tithed carefully, but never gave themselves to God. They considered themselves righteous in their own eyes, but never considered they were only proud sinners in God's eyes.

# *Nicodemus*

1. **Ruler.** Nicodemus had a Greek name, but he was also a Jew. He was not just any Jew, he was a ruler of the Jews.

2. **Pharisee.** As you may remember, the Pharisees believed in angels, resurrection, and spirits; the Sadducees denied them all.

3. **Divisions.** The Pharisees and Sadducees had bitter divisions between them. They disagreed about the truth.

4. **Faith.** In the previous chapter, we saw people who "believed" in Jesus while He was performing signs, but did not have saving faith.

5. **Know.** Nicodemus perfectly illustrates a person who has faith built upon what they know about Jesus and His powerful works, but that person has never come to saving faith.

6. **Calls.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that Jesus calls many poor, sinful people into His family, but not many rich rulers.

7. **Died For All.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves people in low places, and even those in high places. The same blood from the only Savior paid the price and atoned for all sin. Jesus, known for being no respecter of persons, died for all of us, because He loves all of us.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by letting Jesus rule our lives, not religious men.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we look to Jesus for daily guidance, peace and love.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as together we submit to the head of the church, Jesus Christ.**

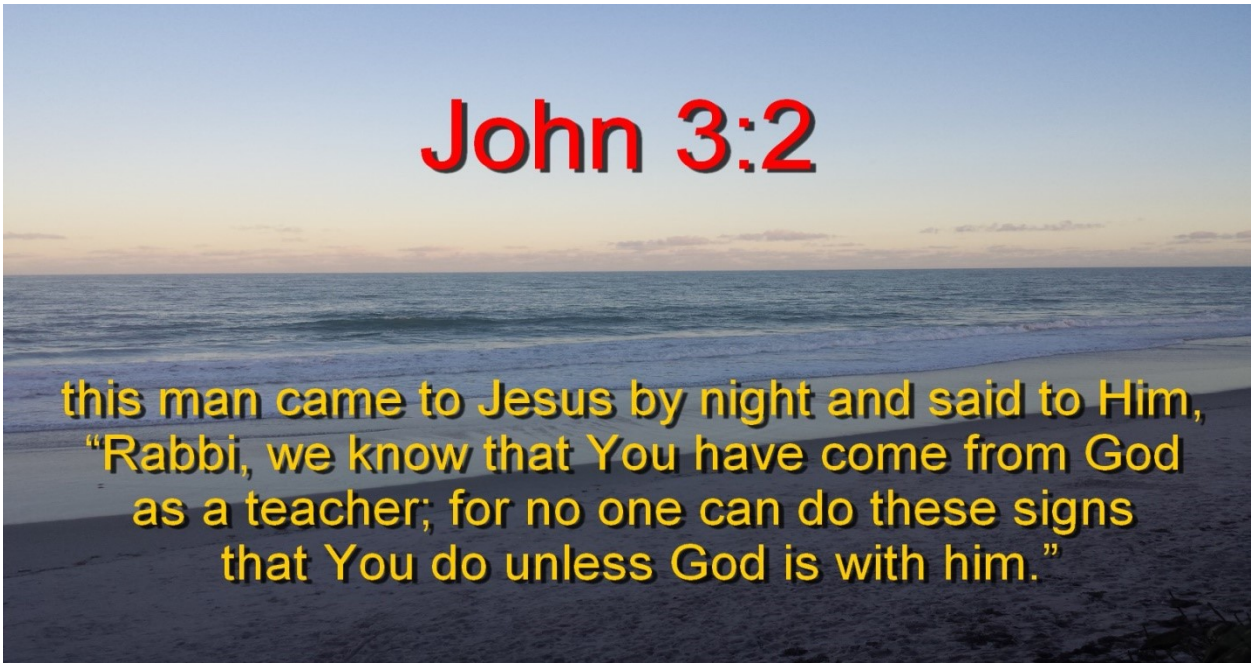
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God today as we look to Jesus our Lord. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as you expect Jesus to rule your life today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Eight

# Son of God




Can unsaved people say great things about Jesus? Yes, Nicodemus said five great things about Jesus: (1) Rabbi; and (2) Come from God; and (3) Teacher; and (4) No One Can Do the Signs You Do; and (5) God Is With Him. Even so, Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again.

Nicodemus witnessed the signs that Jesus was doing and apparently "believed" in Jesus so long as he was witnessing those signs. Yet, Jesus told Nicodemus that he could not see the kingdom of God unless he was born again.

We will see Jesus explain to Nicodemus just what being born from above meant. It all revolved around Jesus and the great love of God in

sending His only begotten Son, Jesus, so that people who believe in Him would not perish, but have eternal life.

# *We Know*

1. **Faith.** As we have seen, not all faith in Jesus is saving faith. Nicodemus may be sitting next to you at your local assembly or Bible study.

2. **Five.** Nicodemus believed five great things about Jesus: (a) Jesus was a Rabbi; (b) Jesus came from God; (c) Jesus was a teacher; (d) no one did signs like Jesus; and (e) God was with Jesus.

3. **Unsaved.** With all that faith, Nicodemus was unsaved. Nicodemus believed many great things about Jesus, but Nicodemus had never been born from above.

4. **Born Again.** We all have friends that believe many great things about Jesus, but they are not saved because they have never been born again.

5. **Believe.** Many people say "We know Jesus," believe great things about Jesus, but have never been born again. We need to share the message of saving faith (the Gospel of Jesus Christ), so that they are born again by faith alone.

6. **Truly.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we are born from above, and truly believe we know God, and Jesus Christ Whom God sent to us as Savior. We have real faith, which caused us to be born again, born of the Spirit of God.

7. **Difference.** We rejoice today because we know the difference between Nicodemus' faith and born-again faith. We have been born again and given life eternal in the love of Jesus Christ.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by carefully evaluating the faith of people.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we listen to people say great things about Jesus, but listen to see if they have been born again.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we testify to others that the family of God consists entirely of born-from-above people.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God and listen to people tell us about their faith in Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by distinguishing saving faith in the people around you from faith that merely believes some great things about Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Seventy Nine

# Born from Above Today




Have you seen the kingdom of God? Jesus said that unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Jesus meant that Nicodemus must be born from above before he could see the kingdom of God.

Jesus preached that the kingdom of God was at hand. He meant that Jesus was the King of the Kingdom of God and He was present among His people. He came to His own and His own did not receive Him.

Jesus told Nicodemus that saying and believing great things about Jesus will not get anyone into heaven. In fact, they cannot see the kingdom of God without being born from above. No matter how much faith you have and how many good things you do, or what position you may hold in a church, without being born from above, you cannot see the kingdom of God.

# *Born from Above*

1. **Answered.** Jesus answered Nicodemus, although Nicodemus did not ask an obvious question. Nicodemus made great proclamations about Jesus, but lacked saving faith.

2. **Religious.** Nicodemus was a ruler of Israel and a very religious man. We see in Nicodemus a man who knew all about Jesus, but never had a faith relationship with Jesus.

3. **Salvation.** Jesus lovingly explained salvation to Nicodemus. Jesus challenged Nicodemus to be born again.

4. **Born from Above.** Jesus literally used the word born from above, which includes being born again. Unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Jews longed for the kingdom of God.

5. **Shaken.** Nicodemus just had his entire religious world shaken to its foundations. He did not know God, but thought he did. Nicodemus may be sitting near you right now.

6. **Faith Alone.** Living Godly in the family of God means that you have been born again by faith alone. We believe that Jesus died for us and was raised bodily from the dead, all according to the Scriptures.

7. **What Jesus Meant.** We rejoice today because our names have been recorded in heaven. By faith, we have been born from above. We know exactly what Jesus meant about being born again.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God because we know we have been born from above by faith in God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we see Jesus through the born-from-above eyes He gave us.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live together in one assembly of born-from-above people.**

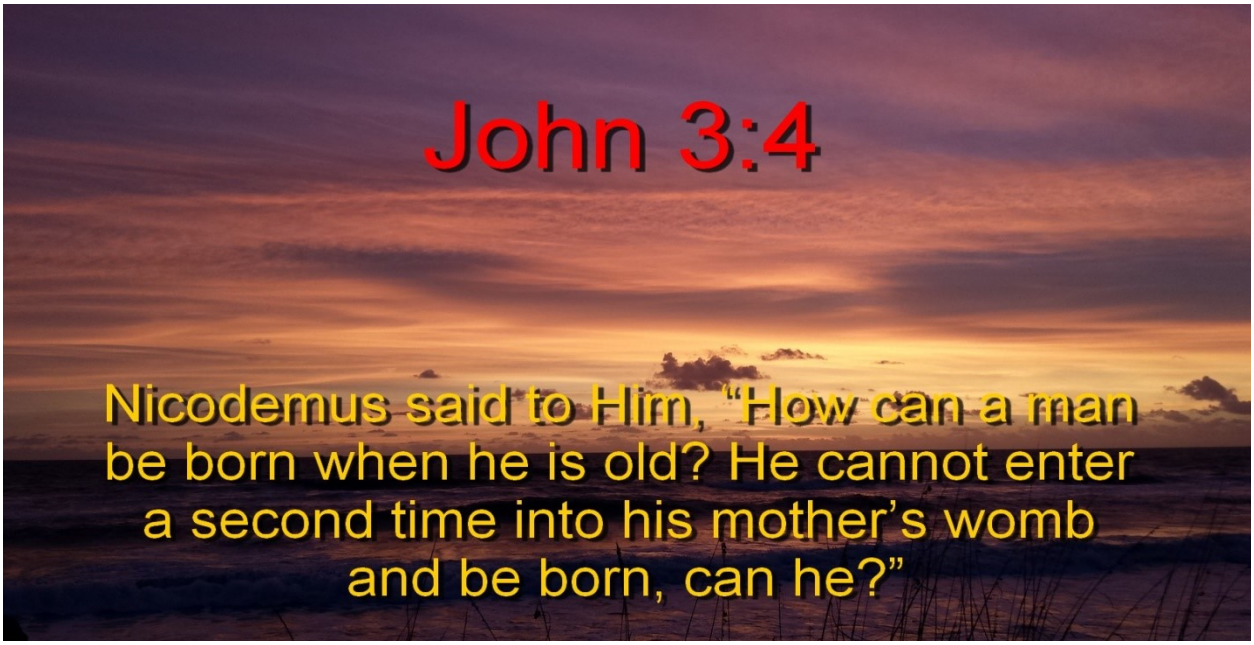
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as the born-from-above children of God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today, knowing that you have been born from above by the precious blood of Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty

# Second Time Today




Can you tell the difference between sense and nonsense? Jesus never talked nonsense, but always told the truth and spoke the words His Father sent Him to speak.

Nicodemus had no idea what Jesus was saying to him about being born from above. He could not conceive how he could enter a second time into his mother's womb. Nicodemus thought like a man.

Jesus reveals the spiritual truth to us. We cannot accept spiritual truths from God until we have been born from above. Unsaved people cannot accept the things of God, because they are spiritual. Without God opening our hearts and minds, we cannot accept His truth.

# *Old*

1. **Man.** Nicodemus thought like a man when talking with Jesus. One key to interpreting the Bible is that God does not talk nonsense. So, if Jesus is talking about being born again, He is not talking about physical birth.

2. **Thoughts.** When Jesus talked to unbelievers, He completely understood their frame of reference. Yet, His ways and thoughts are higher than theirs.

3. **Womb.** Nicodemus thought about entering his mother's womb again, but had no idea about spiritual birth. You may recall he was a teacher of Israel.

4. **Birth.** Jesus taught spiritual birth. You must be born of the Spirit of God. Jesus meant by faith you become a brand new creature in Christ.

5. **Knowledge.** Nicodemus believed things about Jesus, but had not been born again. Nicodemus had knowledge of the Old Testament words, but never knew and loved the author of the Old Testament.

6. **Salvation.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we appreciate the way unbelievers see the world and think about Jesus. Jesus spent time with Nicodemus, explaining spiritual birth and salvation by faith alone.

7. **Voices.** We rejoice today because Jesus can use our voices to speak the message of salvation to people today who believe and think just like Nicodemus.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by sharing the spiritual truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with religious people.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we understand that many religious people have never been born from above and cannot understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ until God opens their hearts and minds.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we encourage one another as one family of people, all of whom have been born from above, by the power and love of God.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by knowing that unsaved people do not understand the spiritual truths taught by Jesus until they are born from above. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by speaking the spiritual truths of Jesus to very religious people around you who have never been born again?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty One

# Born of Water Today




What does born again mean? It means you have been born of water and then born of the Spirit, so you have been born twice. The first birth was natural childbirth; you came out of your mother's womb and grew up as a member of the human race (human life begins at conception by male and female joined together producing a new human being). The second birth was spiritual childbirth; you were born of the seed of God and joined the family of God (spiritual life begins at conception by God creating a new spiritual being).

Unless you have been born twice, you cannot enter the kingdom of God. Many people think that doing good things will get them into heaven. They believe you get into heaven on a rewards system, where God rewards

your good works. They are mistaken, because God cares about your sins, as well as your good works.

Good works do nothing to remove sin. You have no power to remove sins from your life. Therefore, no matter how many good works you do, you still have a problem with sins.

God said the wages of sin is death. Therefore, all people after natural birth stand condemned by sin before God. Jesus said only a new spiritual birth can solve that problem. You are born of the Spirit at the moment you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, according to the Scriptures, and was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures. Unless you have been born again, then you are still in your sins and will perish. Be sure you have been born of the Spirit today.

# *Born of the Spirit*

1. **Second Birth.** Jesus patiently answered questions from unbelievers. Nicodemus had questions about a second birth.

2. **Required.** Jesus elaborated the two births required to enter the kingdom of God. The first birth concerned water from natural, human birth; remember that Nicodemus had just referenced his first birth from his mother's womb (filled with water.)

3. **Holy Spirit.** The second birth is spiritual, born of the Holy Spirit. Without being born of the Spirit, Nicodemus could not enter the kingdom of God.

4. **Differs.** Because Nicodemus asked honest, frank questions, we have a wonderful explanation from Jesus about what "born again" truly means and how it differs from believing things about Jesus that are true, but believing those things alone will not save you.

5. **Origin.** This phrase "born of" controls both terms: "flesh" and "Spirit." Jesus meant that as humans originate in flesh (human parents or

mom), so also spiritual people (the new creation--not flesh and blood) originate with the Holy Spirit.

6. **Born Twice.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have been born twice: first, human birth; second, born of the Holy Spirit.

7. **Jesus Explained.** We rejoice today because Jesus took the time with Nicodemus to explain the new birth. We learn by reading the inerrant words of Scripture. By faith alone, we have been born of the Holy Spirit. We have become brand new creatures in Christ. We have eternal life as a free gift.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by first being born of the Spirit.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we live as the children of God in the family of God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live together in the Spirit, intent upon loving God together.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by living together as children of God and loving God together as His children. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by loving God as a child of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Two

# Born Today




What does it mean to be born of the flesh and of the Spirit? Jesus explained that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Jesus meant that our second birth makes us a new creature, not born of flesh, but of the Spirit, producing a new spiritual creature. As a new spiritual creature, we have been born of the Spirit. We have joined the family of God, where each member has been born of the Spirit.

The family of God is a spiritual family, unlike fleshly family you were born into at natural birth. The family of God consists of people who have received the free gift of salvation, and been born of the Holy Spirit.

# *Flesh and Spirit*

1. **Birth.** Jesus taught born-again theology. He said you must be born twice. The first birth is fleshly, just as Nicodemus described in John 3:4.

2. **Contrast.** Notice the contrast between flesh and Spirit in John 3:6. Flesh birth gives rise to flesh people. Everyone has been born of the flesh.

3. **Flesh and Spirit.** Jesus drew the same contrast between two things in John 3:5. The first birth is water birth and the second birth is of the Spirit. Therefore, any interpretation that misses the contrast between water and Spirit misses the same contrast in John 3:6. For example, if you believe the water in John 3:5 refers to believer's baptism, then you have no contrast with Spirit. Baptism and spiritual birth both apply to believers. The 'born of water' and 'born of Spirit' contrast has disappeared with that view. Furthermore, the fundamental teaching of being born twice no longer applies if water equals anything other than physical, fleshly birth, the first birth.

4. **Again.** John 3:6 follows precisely the born-again contrast that Jesus used to explain why Nicodemus was unsaved because he had only been born once, of the flesh. Nicodemus had been born of water (his mother's womb), but never born again of the Spirit.

5. **Second.** Jesus wants everyone to know and experience the second birth. Without being born of the Spirit, you cannot see or enter the kingdom of God.

6. **God.** Living Godly in the kingdom of God means we know the difference between the first and second birth. We have been born of God.

7. **Eternal.** We rejoice today because we have eternal life, not just fleshly life. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, but born-again believers inherit the Kingdom of God, to live with Jesus forever.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by being born twice, once of the flesh and once of the Spirit.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we live, born of the Spirit, so that we have become spirit, and members of the spiritual family of God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by recognizing that each member of the family of God has been born of the Spirit and is spirit.**

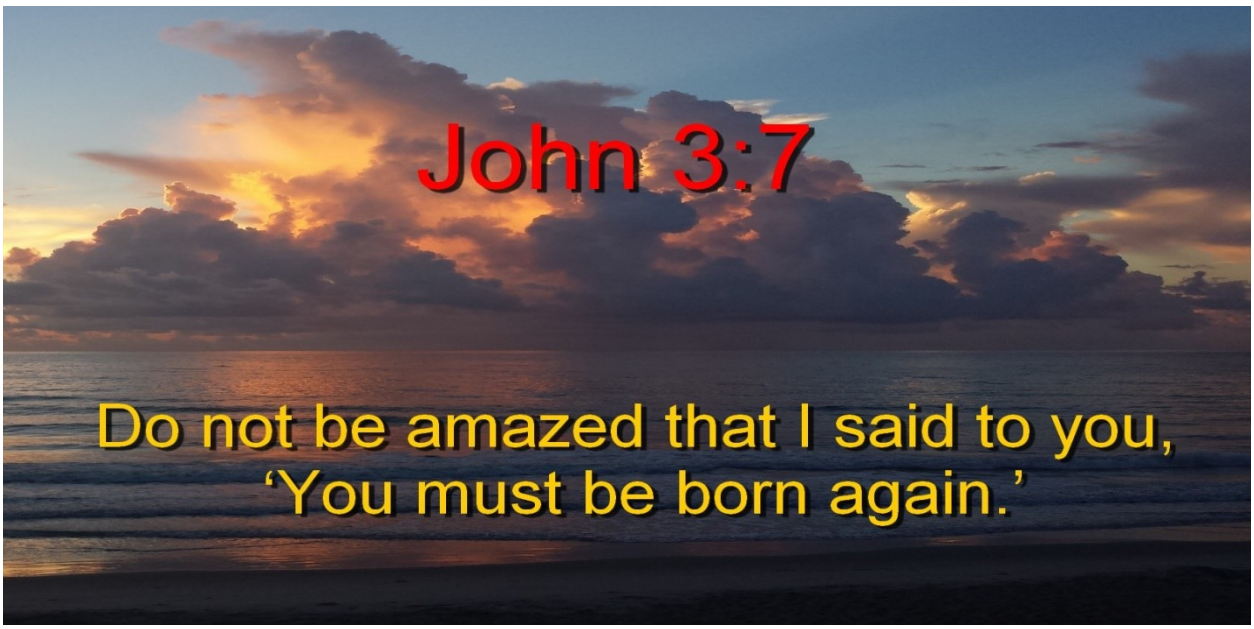
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as children of God, who have been born of the Spirit, and become spirit. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as a spiritual creature, born of the Spirit?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Three

# Not Amazed Today




Why did Jesus tell Nicodemus not to be amazed? Because Jesus intended to reveal to Nicodemus what it means to be born of the Spirit.

Jesus said many things to people that they did not understand. Some never understood, and others understood later. God the Father reveals Jesus to people, and then Jesus reveals the Father to people given to Jesus by the Father.

Jesus emphasized that unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Indeed, unless one is born of the Spirit, one cannot enter the kingdom of God. So, Jesus began His revelation to Nicodemus of what it means to be born of the Spirit, but first, Nicodemus had to set aside his amazement and focus upon the words of the Jesus.

# *Born Again*

1. **Knows.** Jesus always knows what is on your mind. He also knows exactly how you feel.

2. **Commands.** Jesus commanded Nicodemus, a ruler of Israel, not to be amazed. Jesus as God in the flesh not only knows how we feel, He commands our feelings. Jesus seeks to be in charge of every area of our lives.

3. **Struggled.** Nicodemus struggled to understand what Jesus meant by "born again". Jesus frequently amazed audiences with both the content of His message and the delivery of the message with divine authority.

4. **Barrier.** Being amazed often forms a barrier to comprehension and belief. Jesus taught Nicodemus the basics of born-again faith so that Nicodemus would believe and be saved. We listen to Jesus by reading His words in the Bible.

5. **Amazement.** Notice also the mandate to be born again. Without being born again, Nicodemus could not see or enter the kingdom of God. Never let amazement inhibit saving faith. We must encourage unbelievers to move past their amazement and into saving faith.

6. **Mandate.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have been born again. We proclaim the mandate to all people that they must be born again to see or enter the kingdom of God.

7. **Received.** We rejoice today because we know God does amazing things, but we also understand and have received born-again salvation as a free gift of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by setting aside our amazement and focusing upon the truths Jesus revealed to us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we hear Jesus explain to us what it means to be born of the Spirit in our daily lives.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in living as children born of the Spirit, focused upon listening to Jesus speak to all of us.**

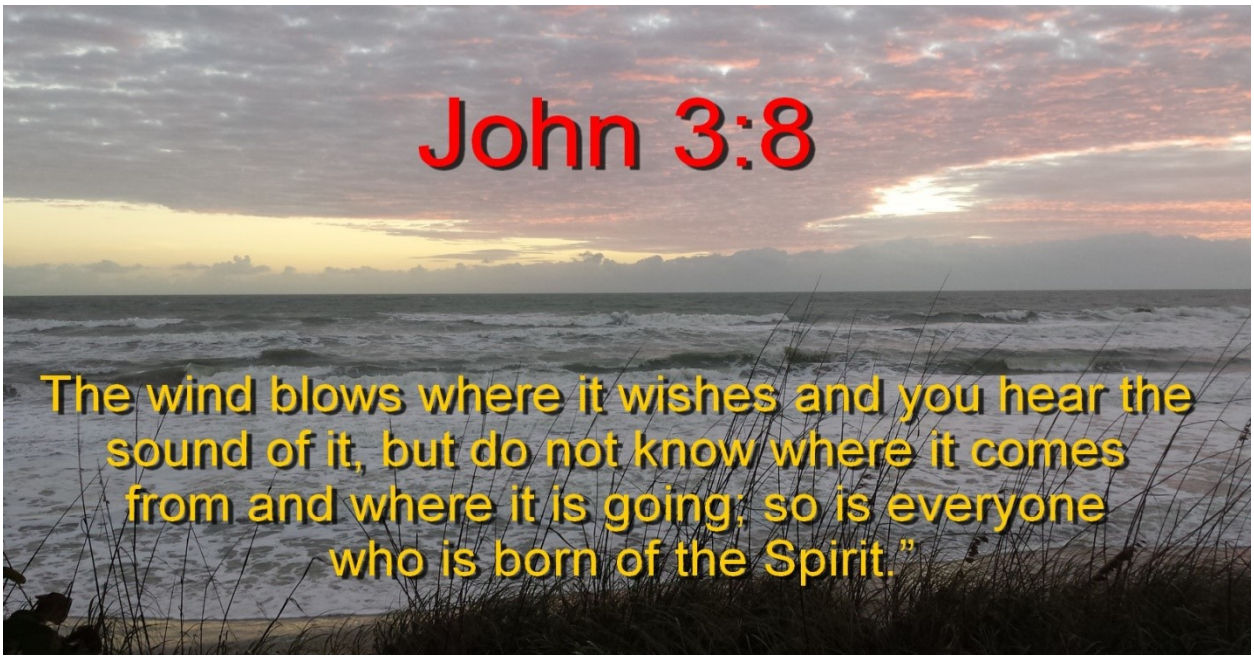
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by setting our amazement and listening to Jesus tell us more about living as people born of the Spirit. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by setting aside your amazement and listening to Jesus today?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Eighty Four

# The Wind Blows Today




Have you ever given much thought to where the wind blows? Jesus said the wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it. Even today with all kinds of technology, satellites, computer models, and aircraft, we still cannot pinpoint the winds with precision.

You cannot see the wind, but you can hear it. Nicodemus did not know where the wind came from or where it was going. Jesus used common things for illustrations to make very deep points.

To help Nicodemus overcome his amazement, Jesus used the illustration of the wind. Unbelievers cannot understand where people born of the Spirit come from or where they are going, just like they cannot understand those things about the wind.

# *Everyone*

1. **Born-Again.** Notice this verse describes born-again believers. Unbelievers do not understand born-again believers.

2. **Life.** Jesus commanded Nicodemus not to be amazed. Then Jesus explained to unsaved Nicodemus that Nicodemus could not understand the spiritual life of born-again believers.

3. **Spirit.** All born-again believers have been born of the Spirit. Jesus continued His contrast between unbelievers and born-again believers.

4. **Understand.** Unbelievers do not know where born-again believers come from and where they are going. Such things are spiritually appraised, and unbelievers cannot understand such spiritual things.

5. **Indwells.** The Holy Spirit indwells every born-again believer today. The Holy Spirit seeks to guide us at every moment in life. As we faithfully submit to His leading, the Holy Spirit fulfills the plans of God for our lives.

6. **New.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we live spiritual lives which unbelievers cannot understand. As believers, we should never expect them to understand our new spiritual lives.

7. **Changed.** We rejoice today because we have been born again of the Spirit and our lives have changed forever, by the grace of God. Our unbelieving friends may never understand us, but we delight in Jesus.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by considering that unbelievers do not know where people born of the Spirit come from or where they are going.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by keeping in mind that unbelievers are amazed by the spiritual things Jesus did, but they cannot comprehend spiritual things.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we praise Jesus that we are born of the spirit, and pray for unbelievers to understand where we come from and where we are going; we were born of the spirit and we are going to live with Jesus forever.**

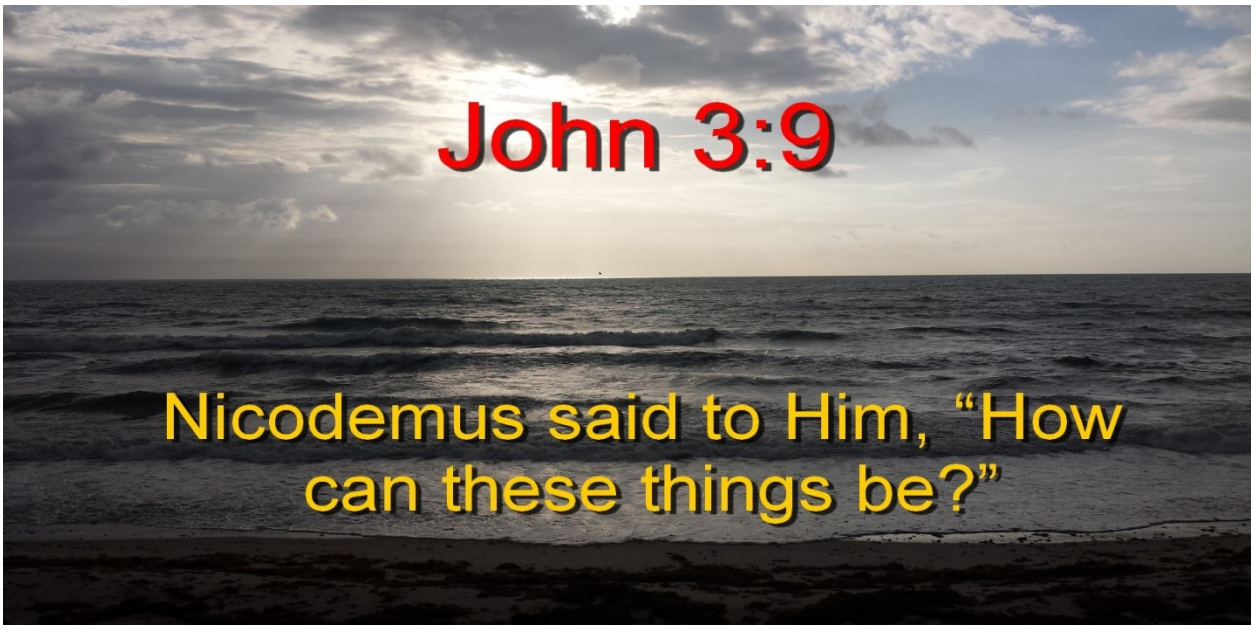
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by considering that unbelievers cannot understand what it means to be born of the Spirit. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing with people how they can be born again?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Five

# How Can Today




How can these things be? Nicodemus asked great questions that help all of us understand spiritual truths. We see Jesus revealing deep truths in very simple language.

Jesus patiently answered many questions. Some people asked with sincere motives, others with evil motives. Jesus always provided perfect answers to every question.

Nicodemus, a teacher of Israel, did not understand the spiritual nature of being born from above. In our lives, we must focus upon spiritual things, not the things of earth. Jesus revealed spiritual things, for the things seen are temporal, but the things not seen eternal. Nicodemus had a religion focusing upon temporal things on earth, and he completely missed the eternal things of being born of the Spirit. We should always listen carefully to the questions that people ask so that we answer them from Scripture.

# *Nicodemus Said*

1. **Clear.** Nicodemus expressed his question very clearly. How can these things be?

2. **Asked.** Any time we pray and talk to Jesus, we do well in talking honestly about the things on our mind. Nicodemus in a few words told the truth and asked for further explanation.

3. **Sympathizes.** Jesus understands and sympathizes with our weaknesses. He does not always approve of ignorance of things we should have read and understood from the Bible.

4. **Listen and Learn.** Jesus wants each of us to listen to Him and learn from Him, for He is humble and gentle of heart.

5. **Life.** Jesus alone has the words of life. As we listen to Him, and believe His words, we glorify God. Only through Jesus can we come to God the Father.

6. **Answers.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we take our questions to Jesus and count upon His answers.

7. **Seek.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves people. He patiently explains the way of eternal life, starting with being born again. Jesus spends His time with people who seek spiritual help and truth.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to provide perfect answers to our questions.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we listen to the answers Jesus has already given to us in the Bible.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live out the words of life Jesus gave to us.**

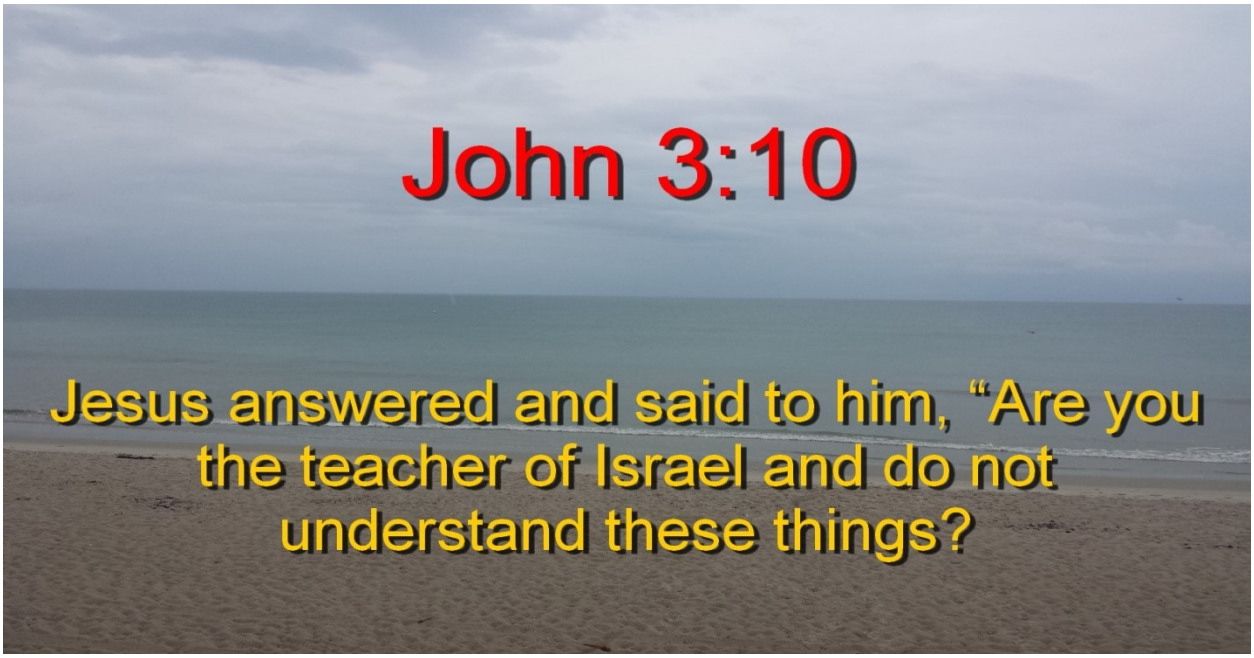
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we listen to Jesus answering our questions in the Bible. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by listening to Jesus today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Six

# Not Understand Today




Do you understand spiritual things? Jesus asked Nicodemus if he understood the basic spiritual things Jesus was speaking to him. The obvious answer from Nicodemus was no, he did not understand what Jesus was saying.

Jesus expects people to listen to Him and obey Him. He issues commands for them to believe. He commanded everyone to have faith in Him.

At times, Jesus spent special time with a single person, helping that person with specific, perfect answers to questions. Jesus also asked them perfect questions to help them understand His revelations.

# *Teacher of Israel*

1. **Teacher.** Every teacher must be born again. All teachers must know the difference between born of the flesh and born of the Spirit. Likewise, they must know the difference between born of water and born of the Spirit.

2. **Questions**. Jesus often asked very pointed questions. Here Jesus reminded Nicodemus he was a teacher of Israel.

3. **Ignorance.** Jesus confronted Nicodemus with his obvious ignorance of the most basic truth of salvation: you must be born again.

4. **Religious.** I frequently meet "religious" people who think they are going to heaven, but have never been born again.

5. **Higher.** Jesus held teachers to a higher standard and stricter judgment. Nicodemus had been teaching lies about God all his life, because he claimed to know God, but was never saved himself.

6. **Starts.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know eternal life starts only at the moment we are born again.

7. **New.** We rejoice today because we know we have been born again by grace through faith. We are not all teachers, but we all must be born again. We live new lives in the Holy Spirit today.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by understanding the things Jesus says to us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by asking Jesus about the things He said which we do not understand.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by helping one another to find answers from Jesus in the Bible.**

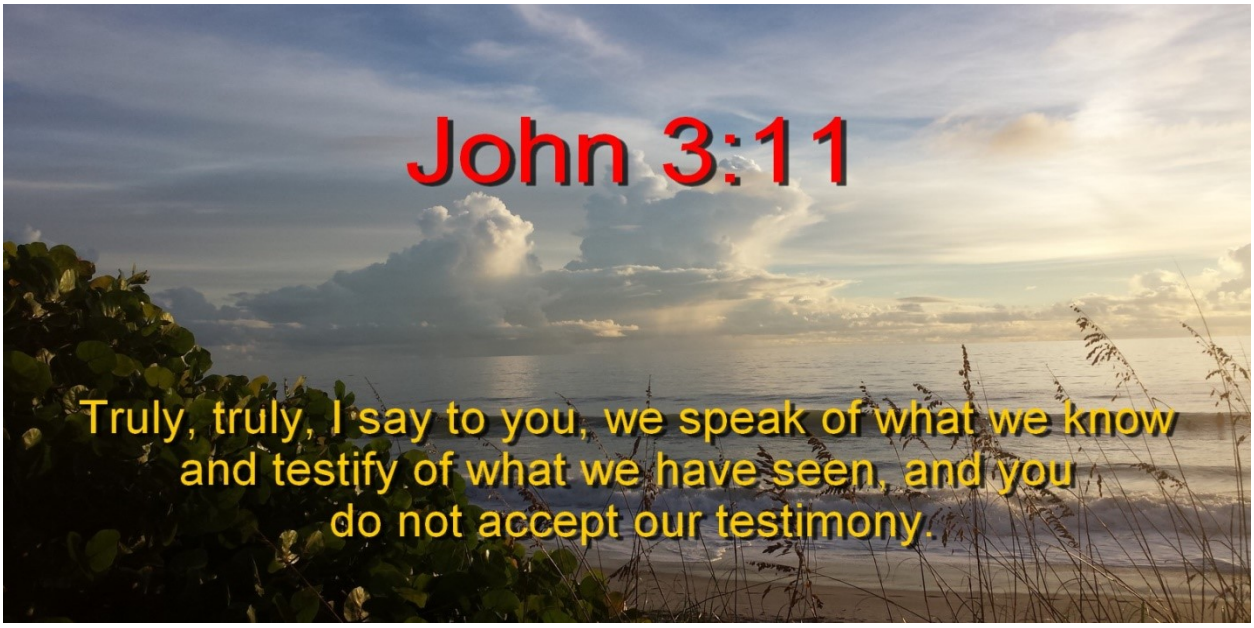
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by asking Jesus to help us understand what He has said to us in the Bible. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by helping others understand what God wrote in the Bible?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Seven

# What We Know Today?




What do we speak about? Jesus said to Nicodemus that we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen. Jesus truly cares what we speak about. We must always speak the truth, so that people will believe our testimony.

As a teacher, Nicodemus failed to teach the people of Israel about spiritual birth. Nicodemus had never been born again, although he believed many great things about Jesus. Yet, Nicodemus did not have saving faith and so could not teach anyone else about saving faith.

Jesus intended that people accept His testimony and the testimony of His Father Who sent Him to speak the words of His Father. Because Jesus always told the truth, many people hated Him because they did not want to come to the Light.

# *Speak and Testify*

1. **Testimony.** Nicodemus did not accept the testimony of God presented by different messengers. Nicodemus did not know God and had never been born again.

2. **Accept.** Jesus patiently and lovingly explained the new birth. Nicodemus must first accept the testimony of God before Nicodemus can be born of the Spirit.

3. **All.** Jesus spoke of what He knew. As God, Jesus knew all things, even the details of the unbelief of Nicodemus, a teacher of Israel.

4. **Testified.** Jesus testified of what He had seen. As God in the flesh, Jesus knew all about unbelief in the hearts of very religious, but unsaved, people.

5. **Follow.** As we speak to unsaved people, we should follow the example of Jesus. As humans, we have limited knowledge, but every saved person knows God and is known by God. We can testify of what we have seen, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our personal testimony of salvation.

6. **Speak.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we speak of the great things God has done for us, starting with being born again.

7. **Share.** We rejoice today because we accept the words and witness of God. We share the Gospel of Jesus Christ because we know the power of the born-again life.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by speaking about what we know about God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we testify to others the truths of God found in the Bible.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in speaking to one another about the wonderful revelations in the Bible.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by testifying truthfully about God and His great love for the world. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by testifying to what you know about Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Eighty Eight

# The Son of God




How can Jesus tell you heavenly things? Jesus said that He told Nicodemus earthly things and Nicodemus did not believe. Therefore, Jesus revealed that we only believe heavenly things if we first believe earthly things.

Nicodemus did not believe in God for saving faith. Nicodemus did not understand saving faith, and did know that Jesus was God, because Nicodemus never knew the God of the Old Testament.

Like the crowds around him, Nicodemus did recognize Jesus as the God of the Old Testament. Jesus created the world and never forgot about it or the people He created to live there.

While we can read the words of the Bible, God must open our eyes by faith to understand what He tells us about earthly and heavenly things. It all starts with saving faith.

# *Earthly Things and Heavenly Things*

1. **Earthly.** Jesus deepened His discussion with Nicodemus. Jesus first assumed as true ("if") that He has told Nicodemus earthly things. The most basic thing Nicodemus needs is to be born again. Jesus has patiently explained to him his need of salvation.

2. **Heavenly.** Jesus then moves to the hypothetical and possible future ("if") of speaking about heavenly things. Jesus can only speak of heavenly things to born-again believers, for only they can appraise spiritual things. All heavenly things appear as foolishness to unbelievers.

3. **Salvation.** Notice how faith works here. Jesus tells unbelievers they need to be born again. That message amazes some very religious unbelievers, like Nicodemus. Jesus leads Nicodemus to faith by telling him the basics of salvation by faith alone.

4. **Faith.** Jesus will explain to Nicodemus that faith means we believe what Jesus tells us about His words and works. We receive Jesus by faith alone as Savior.

5. **Salvation.** Jesus loves to draw contrasts. He contrasts here earthly things and heavenly things. Earthly things concern being born again. Only after a person has been born again can Jesus begin to speak with them about heavenly things. Unbelievers are amazed at the earthly things Jesus tells them. Until they believe the earthly things and receive salvation, they cannot believe heavenly things and Jesus will not speak heavenly things to unbelievers.

6. **After.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have believed the earthly things concerning salvation. Now we can listen to Jesus tell us about heavenly things.

7. **Hear.** We rejoice today in our salvation. As we read the Bible, it pierces us and it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. We can hear Jesus speaking of many heavenly things.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing the earthly things Jesus revealed in the Bible.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we believe the heavenly things Jesus revealed in the Bible.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in believing both the earthly and heavenly things Jesus has revealed to us in the Bible.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by believing the earthly and heavenly things Jesus has revealed in the Bible. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by believing the things Jesus has told us in the Bible?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Eighty Nine

# The Son of God




Who has ascended and descended from heaven? Jesus apparently indicated that He Himself, as the Son of Man, had already ascended into heaven and likewise has descended from heaven.

Several appearances of the "Angel of the Yahweh" show that Jesus descended to appear to people on earth, and then ascended. First, at the burning bush, the "Angel of Yahweh" appeared to Moses in a blazing bush. Then God called to Moses from the burning bush, saying, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob," indicating God was in the burning bush. God had descended into the burning bush, and then ascended again in to heaven (Exodus 3:4-18; compare John 8:58). Jesus was God and the Angel of Yahweh in the burning bush (Acts 7:30-32). Likewise, the Angel of Yahweh gave life (Genesis 16:10), has supernatural knowledge (Genesis 16:13), and must be obeyed, for He has the power to forgive sins (Exodus 23:21). The Angel of the Yahweh commanded

Moses to remove his sandals, because he was standing on holy ground, because of the presence of God. Having fallen to the ground, Moses hid his face (Exodus 3:5-6; compare Joshua 5:13-15). Finally, the Angel of Yahweh, after speaking with Manoah and his wife, ascended in the flame of the sacrifice, and Manoah knew he had seen Yahweh (Judges 13:15-23).

# *Ascended and Descended*

1. **Descended.** Jesus proclaimed His deity in many ways to many people. He told Nicodemus about His ascension and descension from heaven.

2. **Heaven.** As God, Jesus existed from eternity past. He was never created. As God, Jesus existed as the eternal Son of God and lived in heaven before He created the heavens and earth and everything in them.

3. **Ascended.** You may recall the tower of Babel described in Genesis 11. God said: "Come, let us go down and there confuse their language" (Genesis 11:7). God descended from heaven, confused their language, and then ascended back into heaven. Apparently, this same pattern took place in the Garden of Eden and at other times and places. Likewise, at the burning bush.

4. **Way.** Jesus descended from heaven and knows all about heaven. He is the only way to heaven. Therefore, He speaks with authority about heaven to Nicodemus.

5. **Savior.** God is the only One who has descended from heaven with the power and purpose to enable people to enter the kingdom of God. Others proclaimed the message of salvation, but Jesus remains always and for everyone the only Savior.

6. **Raised.** Living Godly in the family of God means we know that Jesus descended from heaven, lived and died as a human on earth, and then ascended to heaven, having been raised from the dead.

7. **Eternal.** We rejoice today because God so loved the world that He sent Jesus, His only Son, to die for us, so that we would never perish, but have eternal life.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing that Jesus descended and ascended from heaven.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by believing everything the Son of Man said to us in the Bible.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by trusting Jesus, Who descended from heaven and ascended to heaven.**

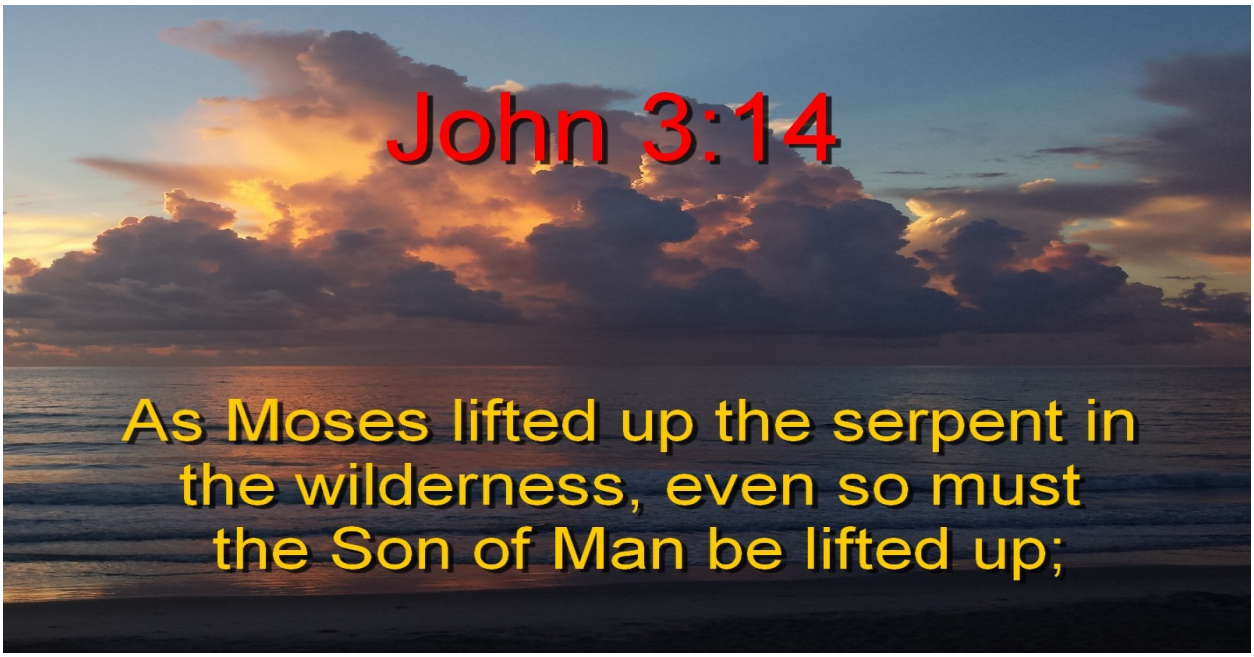
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by trusting in Jesus, the Son of Man, Who both descended from heaven and ascended to heaven. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by trusting in Jesus Who descended from heaven for us and ascended to heaven after His resurrection?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety

# Lifted Up Today




When the fiery serpents plagued the people of Israel in the desert, God instructed Moses to lift up a fiery serpent on a standard before the people of Israel. Moses then lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. Everyone who believed God would deliver them and looked upon the serpent was cured of the serpent's fiery bite. Consider that imagery and apply it to Jesus triumphing over sin and the devil, lifting the curse of sin and death for every believer.

Like other events in the Old Testament, they symbolize events in the life of Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus explicitly linked Moses lifting up the serpent off the ground with the His crucifixion. Jesus will be lifted up on a cross like Moses lifted up the serpent.

Remember Jesus was prophesying regarding the destruction of the temple, His body, which would be raised in three days after destruction. Jesus always knew the future, controlled the future, and did God's will all the time.

# *Serpents*

1. **Yahweh.** Jesus inspired the Old Testament and identified Himself as Yahweh, the God of Israel (John 8:56-59: Exodus 3:14ff.).

2. **Moses.** Jesus not only knew the story of Moses, He knew Moses and Moses knew Jesus. Jesus was and is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. Jesus is the God of the living, not of the dead.

3. **Serpent.** When Jesus referred to Moses lifting up the serpent in the Old Testament, Jesus told Moses to lift up that serpent. The fiery serpents had come upon the Israelites because of Israel's sin, and the people of Israel could look upon the serpent and be cured of the serpent's poisonous bite.

4. **Lifted.** Jesus emphasized that as the serpent was lifted up, so also He would be lifted up. Jesus prophesied here that He would be lifted up on a cross, giving His life so that we may live by believing on Him.

5. **Son of Man.** Jesus described Himself as the Son of Man. This title refers to Jesus receiving the eternal kingdom from the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:13-14). Jesus will bring His physical reign in the Kingdom of God to earth one day. Until then, His kingdom is not of this world, but believers enter the Kingdom of God by faith alone.

6. **Gift.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know Jesus was lifted up on a cross, just like Moses lifted up a bronze serpent. By faith alone, we have received the free gift of eternal life.

7. **King.** We rejoice today because Jesus laid down His life by being raised up on a cross. As we look up to Him, we love and worship our Savior, who lives forever as resurrected King.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing Jesus was lifted up just like Moses lifted up the fiery serpent.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by believing that Jesus removed the power of sin by being lifted up in crucifixion.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by seeing one another as children of God, saved by the lifting up, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.**

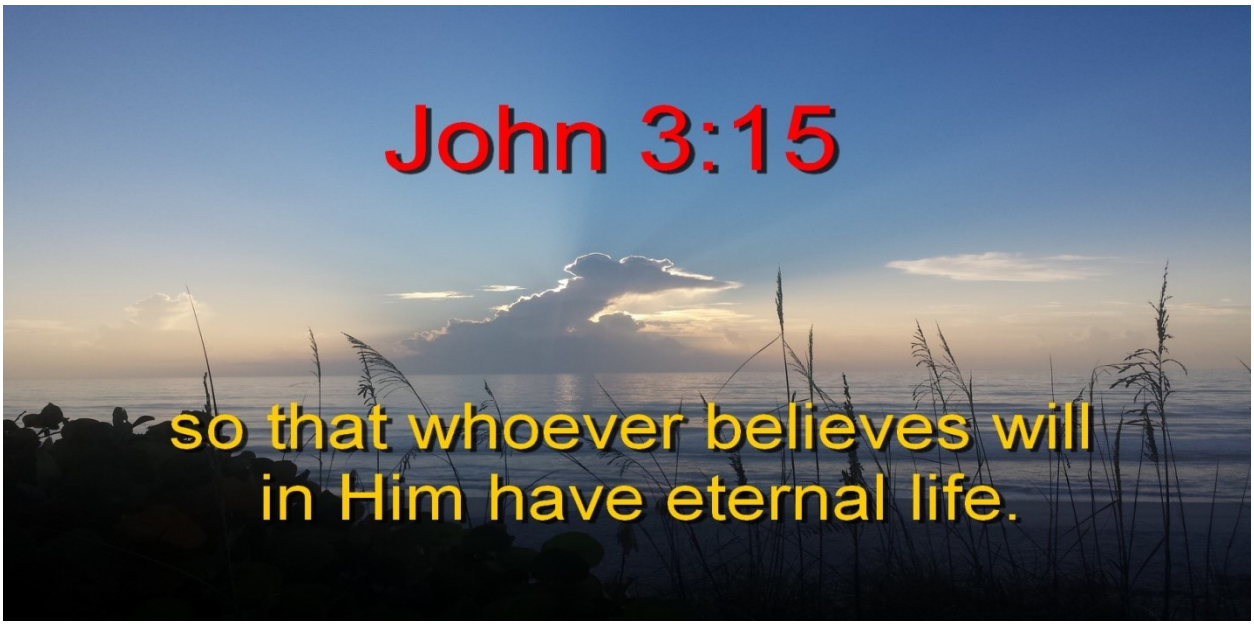
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by believing Jesus was lifted up so that we may live in His love for eternity. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by loving Jesus, lifted up for us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety One

# Eternal Life Today




Why was the Son of Man lifted up? So that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. In other words, if we believe that Jesus died on the cross for us, then we live because Jesus died.

John intertwined the remedy for the poison of fiery serpents with the crucifixion of Jesus. Because God authored the entire Bible, the Old Testament fits with the New Testament hand in glove.

Jesus prophesied about His death in many ways. He wanted people to believe in Him for salvation. He is the only remedy for the poison of sin in our lives.

# *Believes in Him*

1. **Faith.** Jesus emphasized that eternal life comes only from personal faith in Him.

2. **Saving.** Nicodemus believed great things about Jesus, but Nicodemus had never been born again. He lacked saving faith.

3. **Nicodemus.** As a teacher of Israel, Nicodemus would have known about the fiery serpents and the remedy of faith. Notice how Jesus led Nicodemus to saving faith. Jesus started by showing Nicodemus that he could not see or enter the kingdom of God, unless he was first born again.

4. **Explained.** Nicodemus had no idea what Jesus was talking about. Jesus continued to explain salvation and contrast earthly things with heavenly things.

5. **Crucified.** Jesus then compared Moses lifting up the serpent with Jesus being lifted up, so that everyone looking upon the crucified Jesus with faith in Him for salvation would be born again, and receive eternal life.

6. **Look Upon Jesus.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have looked upon Jesus and in Him have eternal life by faith alone.

7. **He Gives Eternal Life.** We rejoice today because Jesus gives eternal life to whoever looks to Him in faith, receiving salvation and eternal life as a free gift.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by looking in faith to Jesus for help every day.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we encourage people to look at Jesus, Who prophesied that He would die lifted up from the earth.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live by faith in the Lord Jesus, raised from the dead, having provided a complete remedy by faith for the poison of sin.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by looking to Jesus as the risen Savior, who died lifted up from the earth, just as He prophesied. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by encouraging others to consider the powerful prophesies of Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety Two

# Testimony of God




Did God love the world? Yes, God loved the entire world and gave Jesus to die for the sins of the entire world. God's love knows no bounds.

Without faith in Jesus as Savior, every one having come into the world will certainly be destroyed. By rejecting Jesus as Savior, people reject the love of God. People who reject the love of God shall be destroyed.

Jesus was the only begotten Son of God, meaning His unique, one and only Son. Jesus was not created in the womb of Mary; He has always been God without beginning, without genealogy.

# *God So Loved*

1. **Love.** Jesus brought God's great love into His explanation of how to be born again.

2. **Gift.** Jesus linked the love of God with the gift of God, Jesus. God gave Jesus, His unique Son, to die for the world.

3. **Faith.** Without faith in Jesus everyone in the world perishes, but by faith in God's loving gift of His Son, we have eternal life.

4. **Salvation.** Notice how the gift brings salvation. Each person must believe, or that individual will perish.

5. **Eternal.** God's great love moved Him to send Jesus to death. Jesus died, so we may believe in Him and never perish, but have eternal life. Jesus laid down His life and took it up again.

6. **Destruction.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have accepted by faith the loving gift of Jesus Christ Himself. We will not be destroyed, because by faith alone, we have eternal life.

7. **Life.** We rejoice today in eternal life, lovingly bestowed by God through Jesus, Who gave His life for us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by trusting in His love for us every day.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we remember the gift of God, the death of Jesus, the unique Son of God.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we remember together our Savior, Who brought the love of God into our lives, after giving His life for us on the cross.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by remembering the great love of God in giving Jesus to us, the unique Son of God, sacrificed for us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by remembering God's great love for us?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day Ninety Three

# Into the World Today




Did God the Father send Jesus into the world to judge the world? No, He sent Jesus so that the world might be saved through Him. God loves the world and does not want anyone to perish.

Jesus came into the world to save the world, not judge the world. As those words sink into our lives, we begin to understand the true love of God. He did not hold back His only Son, but gave Him over to cruel torture and death so that we might have eternal life, the forgiveness of sins.

If Jesus came to judge the world, then the whole world would be found guilty of sin and deserving of the death penalty. A righteous judge would have to condemn the entire world for sin, sentencing everyone to the Lake of Fire for eternity. Praise God that Jesus came to save the world from our deserved destiny in the Lake of Fire.

# *The World Might Be Saved*

1. **Plans.** God revealed many details concerning His plans and purposes for the world.

2. **Sent.** Not only did God love the world, He sent Jesus to judge the world. Notice that God did not say that Jesus would never judge the world. Jesus did not take flesh to judge the world, but rather to save the world.

3. **Sinners.** Ponder the plan of God. The world has sinned and forsaken God. Yet, God loved the world of sinners. Not willing for the world to perish, God sent Jesus to save the world, by dying on the cross for sinners.

4. **Salvation.** Notice the phrase "might be saved." God never promised to save all sinners, but He did provide the way of salvation through Jesus. Jesus is the only way of salvation.

5. **Fulfilled.** As God, Jesus fulfilled the plans of God. Jesus also loved the world and laid down His life for sinners. By faith we have eternal life, because Jesus did not take flesh to condemn men to the Lake of Fire.

6. **Judgment.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know that Jesus did not come to judge the world, but to save us from the guilty judgment we all deserve.

7. **Life.** We rejoice today because Jesus brought the grace of God into our lives by faith. We do not fear judgment, because we have passed out of judgment into eternal life.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that God sent Jesus into the world to save the world.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we recall that Jesus was not sent to judge the world.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we know that God sent us out into world to share the love of God, and warn people about the coming judgment.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by sharing the love of God displayed in the life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing the great love of God displayed in Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety Four

# Not Judged Today




Don't judge me! Many people have heard that expression. Jesus talked about judgment with Nicodemus. Jesus said that whoever believes in Him is not judged regarding salvation.

Jesus also said that everyone who does not believe in Him has been judged already. They have been judged because they do not believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Jesus will sit in judgment of everyone who does not believe. That judgment will find every unbeliever guilty. Every unbeliever will be sentenced to the Lake of Fire. Every believer will not be judged, because they have faith in Jesus for salvation.

# *Already*

1. **Saved.** Jesus explained to Nicodemus that God did not send Jesus to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Jesus. Please remember that God never said Jesus would not judge the world at another time.

2. **Judgment.** Jesus then explained the link between faith and judgment. If you have no faith in Jesus as Savior, then you have been judged already. Notice too that you must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and therefore divine like God the Father is divine.

3. **Already.** Nicodemus just heard that he had been judged already because he did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, the Savior and Messiah of Israel. Nicodemus believed great things about Jesus, but he was not born again because he did not believe the essential truth about Jesus.

4. **Believe.** Remember that Jesus chided Nicodemus for not knowing about being born again (are you a teacher of Israel?). Next Jesus explained that you must believe that Jesus is the only begotten (unique) Son of God, and that only faith in Jesus as Savior brings eternal life.

5. **Believers.** Jesus will develop the theme of judgment further in later dialogues. Here Jesus promised Nicodemus that he who believes in Jesus is not judged. Notice the contrast between: (a) the judgment already passed upon unbelievers; and (b) the absence of judgment for believers.

6. **Lack.** Living Godly in the family of God means we know people can believe many things about Jesus, and still lack saving faith; they have been judged already.

7. **Secure.** As born again believers, we rejoice today that we are not judged. Our salvation rests eternally secure in Jesus our Savior, the unique Son of God.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by knowing we will not be judged regarding salvation, because we believe that Jesus, our Savior, is the Son of God.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by letting others know that all unbelievers have already been judged.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people around us who have already been judged.**

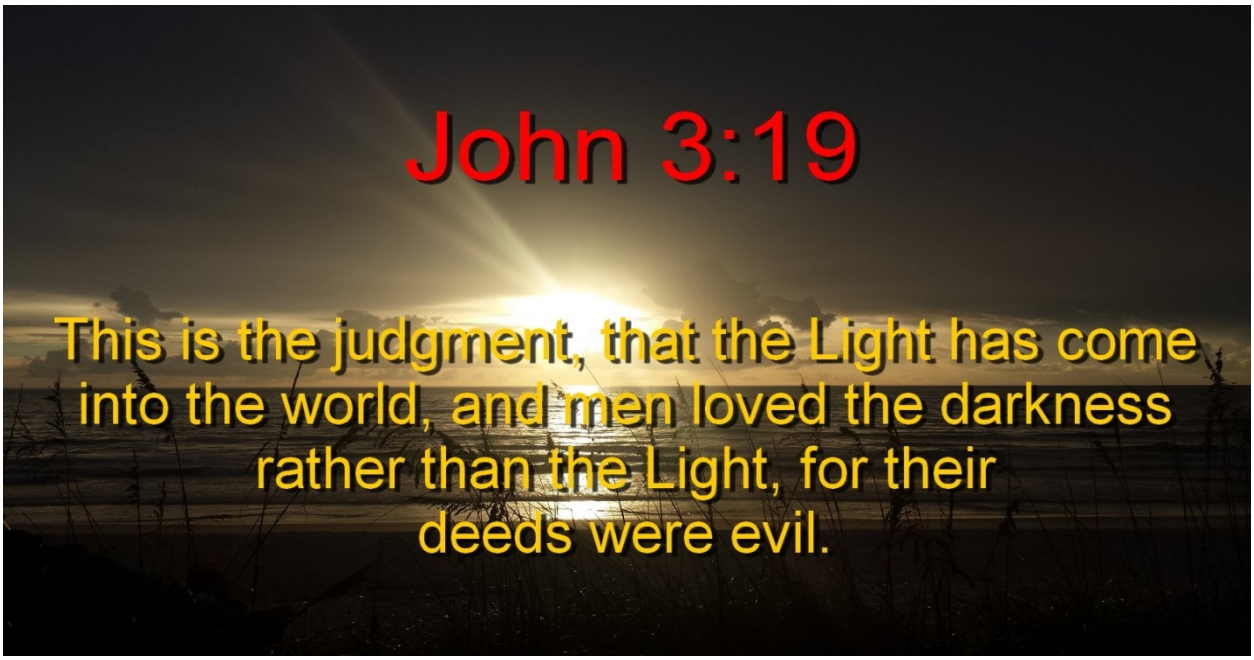
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by rejoicing that we will not be judged regarding salvation. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing your joy that you have been delivered from judgment?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety Five

# Has the Son Today




Jesus explained judgment. Men loved the darkness, rather than the Light. They loved darkness because their deeds were evil. Jesus was the Light that has come into the world.

Jesus elaborated the basis for judgment. Men performed evil deeds and they did not want to come to Jesus, the Light. They loved the darkness rather than the Light. When men reject Jesus, they do so because their deeds are evil.

As the Light, Jesus exposes evil. Men avoid the Light, because their deeds were evil. Unbelievers do not grasp that Jesus knows all things, even the deeds and the darkness. Nothing escapes His Light, or judgment. Believers have been delivered from judgment by coming to the Light.

# *The Judgment*

1. **Explained.** Jesus explained the judgment to Nicodemus. God judges many things. Here, God judged men based upon their love.

2. **Darkness.** Men like Nicodemus loved the darkness rather than the Light. Jesus continued to use contrasts to show Nicodemus the truth of salvation. Jesus contrasted darkness and the Light.

3. **Light.** Notice that the judgment has been passed after the Light came into the world. Only after Jesus appeared was the judgment passed, because Jesus is the Light which comes into the world.

4. **Evil.** All men deserved judgment because they loved the darkness rather than the Light. They did not want the Light to expose their evil deeds, so they loved the darkness and remained in darkness.

5. **Marvelous.** Jesus came to bring people out of darkness into His marvelous Light. When we walk in the Light with Jesus, His blood cleanses us from all sin.

6. **Forgiven.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have come to the Light and Jesus has forgiven all our evil deeds. He knew all our deeds while we loved the darkness, but by faith He saved us by grace alone.

7. **Enlightened.** We rejoice today because we walk in the Light and we love the Light. Having been enlightened by Jesus and having experienced His forgiveness, we have passed out of judgment into life.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by expecting that men will love darkness, because their deeds are evil.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by remembering that evil men have been judged already, because the Light has come into the world.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God rejoicing together that we no longer walk in darkness, because the Light has come into the world.**

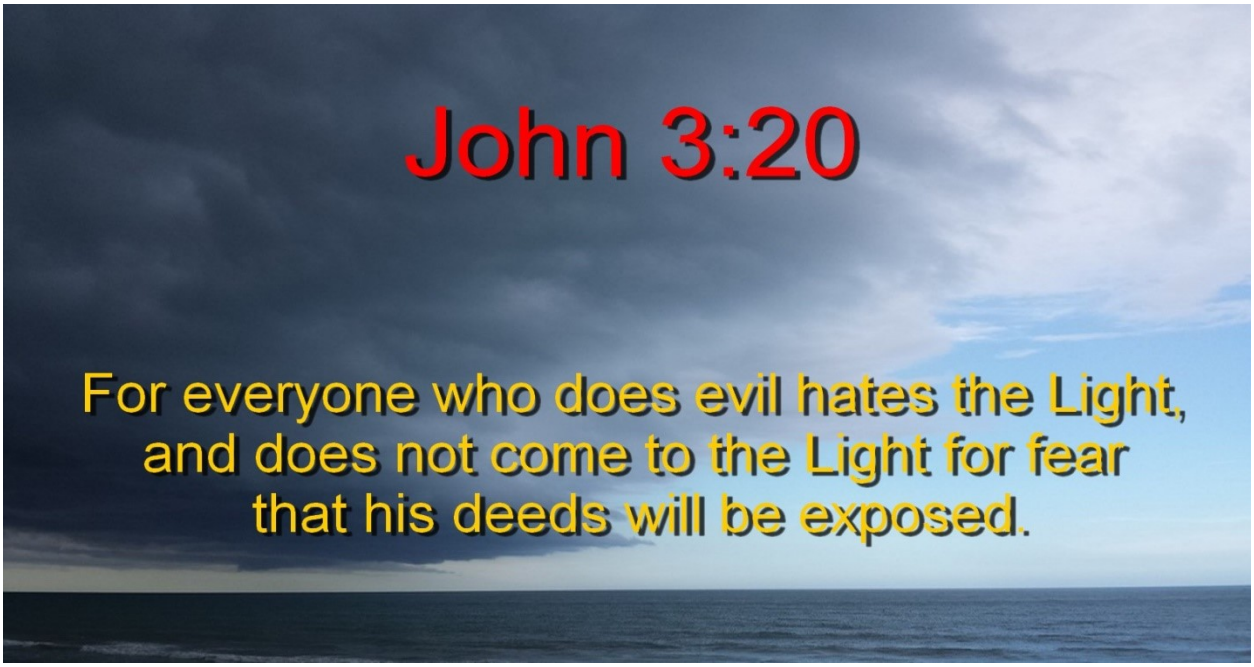
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by understanding that men love the darkness, for their deeds are evil. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by praising God that you no longer love the darkness?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety Six

# You May Know




Why do people hate the light? They hate the Light for fear that their evil deeds will be exposed. Staying away from the Light means you continue to live in darkness without Jesus.

If you think about it, Jesus already knows everything about you. We all tend to believe lies from the devil. One of those lies concerns the Light. The big lie is that we need to fear Jesus and stay away from Jesus. Actually, fearing Jesus and coming to the Light brings salvation.

If we live in fear that our evil deeds will be exposed, then we do not practice the truth. Jesus knows all the evil things everyone has ever done.

Yet, He came to be the Light of all men, so that whoever believes in Him would be forgiven of their evil deeds and receive the free gift of eternal life.

# *Hate and Fear*

1. **Hate.** People have strong feelings about Jesus. Most people on earth hate Jesus.

2. **Light.** People hate the Light and Jesus is the Light. People hate the Light because of their fear.

3. **Fear.** People fear the Light because their evil deeds will be exposed by the Light.

4. **Exposes.** Jesus linked hate and fear. As the Light, Jesus exposes all deeds. As God, Jesus knows all your deeds before you were born.

5. **Jesus.** Being born again means that we love the Light. Jesus died for our evil deeds and paid the death penalty we deserve. We hate our evil deeds, but we have no fear of exposure because our Savior died for each evil deed; He nailed every evil deed and me too to His cross. I have been crucified with Christ, and yet, by faith, I live.

6. **Love.** Living Godly in the family of God means we all hated Jesus the Light before we loved Jesus our Savior. We lived in fear before we enjoyed grace and peace with God.

7. **Eternal.** We rejoice today because Jesus loved the people who hated Him and lived in fear of exposure. We delight in His eternal love and salvation.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by living in the Light of Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we leave all fears behind and let the Light shine in every area of our lives.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we know that every believer lives in the Light, just like we do.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by living in the Light of Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by rejoicing in the Light and walking in the Light?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety Seven

# According to His Will




Why do some people come to the Light? Some people come to the Light because they know the Light will manifest their deeds as having been done in God.

All believers came to the Light on the day they were born again. Jesus exposed their deeds, but loved all believers. Since that glorious day of salvation, we continue to live in the Light.

As we know God and do God's will, the Light means more and more to us, because we no longer fear the Light. Now the Light shows our good deeds, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them, to His glory. Those deeds shine brightly in His Light and fill us with His joy.

# *Practices the Truth*

1. **Hating.** Some people have a life of practicing the truth. Other people have a life of hating the Light.

2. **Practice.** Have you thought about practicing the truth? What does it mean to practice the truth? As usual, the verse and the context explain the terms.

3. **Deeds.** Practicing the truth means our deeds have been done in God. God prepared beforehand good works that we should walk in them. God lives in the believer and does His works which are only good through the believer.

4. **Works.** In other words, our works reflect the saving presence of God in our lives. God is the truth, and all of His works are truth. We live and walk in the truth.

5. **Come.** By faith we receive Jesus as Savior. By faith, Jesus works in and through us. We come to the Light because the Light shows that God lives and works in us. Everyone will see we practice the truth.

6. **Ways.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we practice the truth and God works His ways in our lives.

7. **Light.** We rejoice today because we have come to the Light. The Light manifests that our deeds have been done in God.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by living in the Light.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we walk in the deeds God prepared for us.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we walk as one body in the Light.**

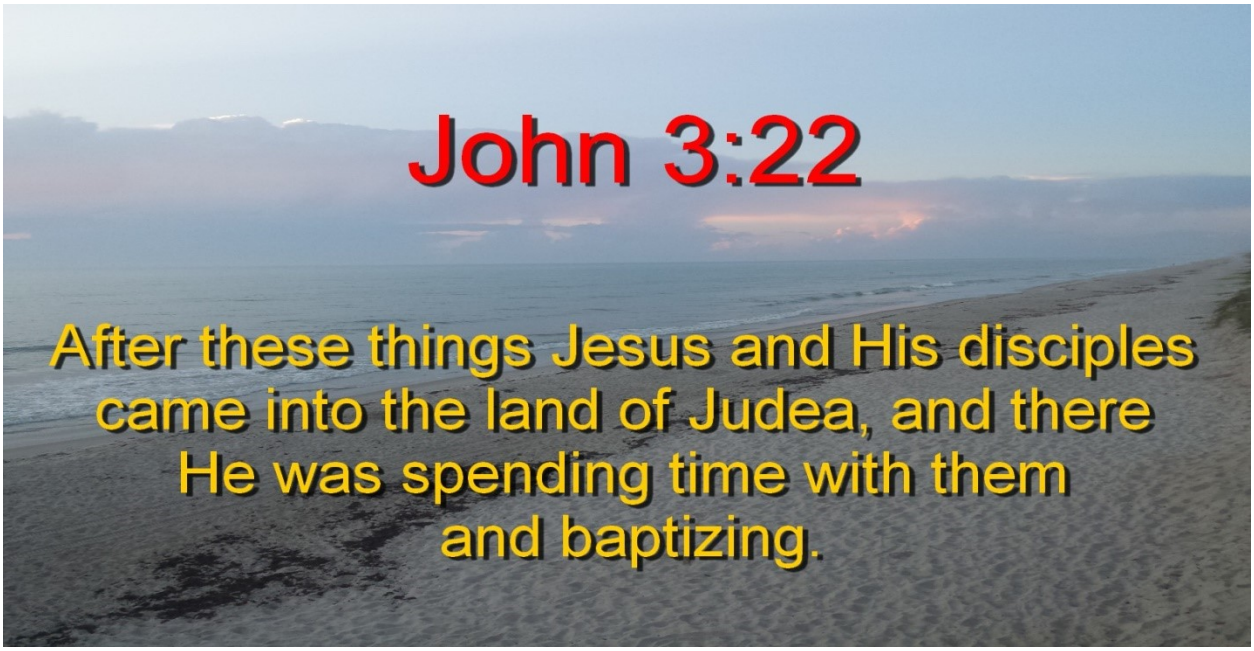
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by practicing the truth. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by coming to the Light so that your good deeds will be manifested?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety Eight

# Whatever We Ask




What did Jesus do in the land of Judea? He went there with His disciples and spent time with them and baptized people. Baptism never saved anyone, but Jesus commanded people to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus spent time with the disciples. Time will always be spent one way or another. Jesus used His time perfectly, and talked with His disciples and loved His disciples.

Jesus ate with the disciples, walked with the disciples, and ministered to the disciples. As they travelled, they met people and Jesus ministered to them also. Disciples learn from Jesus how to love God and love their neighbors.

# *Spending Time*

1. **Judea.** Jesus and His disciples came into Judea, the southern part of the land of Israel.

2. **Disciples.** Jesus not only made disciples, He also commanded His disciples to make more disciples. Are you making disciples today?

3. **Taught.** Every day Jesus taught His disciples how to make disciples. He spent time with them.

4. **Time.** You must spend time with believers to make disciples. Only God can lead us each day in the best use of time and how we spend it.

5. **Accomplish.** Just before His arrest, Jesus declared that He had accomplished all the things His Father had given for Him to do. We likewise must be keenly aware of what works the Father has set before us. We must spend time making disciples.

6. **Spend.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we spend time making disciples.

7. **Hear.** We rejoice today because Jesus spends time with His children each day. He abides in us and will never leave us. We hear His voice and He calls us by name. Jesus uses us to make disciples for Him. As Jesus spends time with us, so we spend time with others making disciples.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by spending time with Jesus, because He abides with us every day.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we go where Jesus leads us.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we go with other disciples to the work where Jesus has called us.**

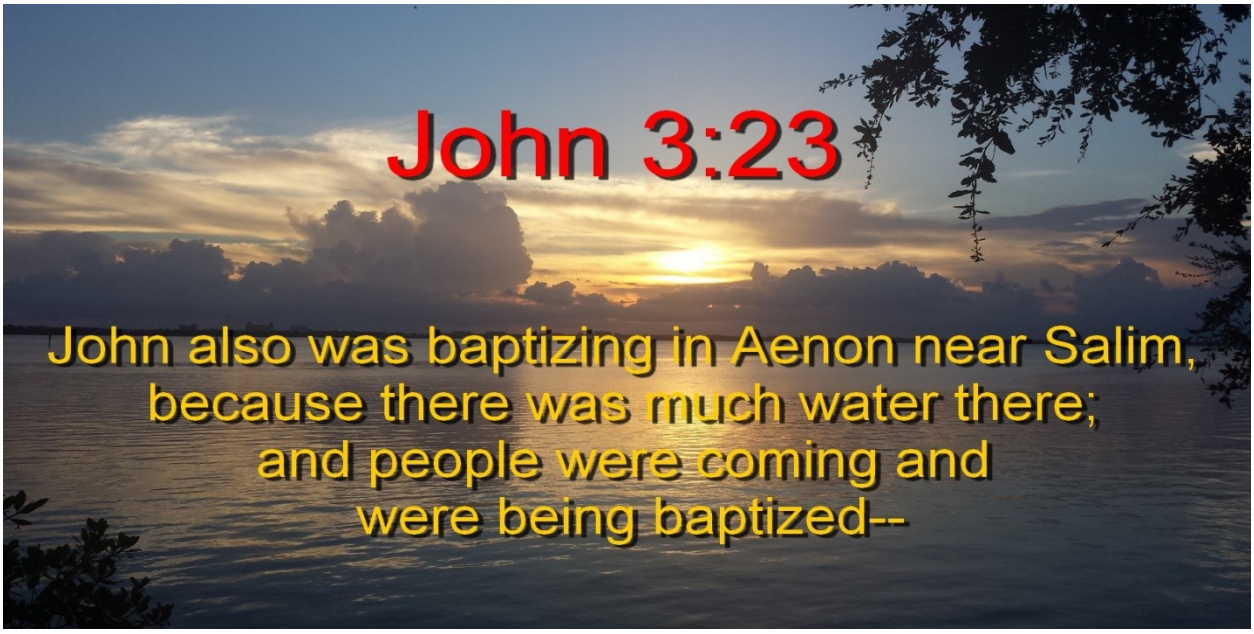
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus to the work He has for us. Will you live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus to the work for today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety Nine

# Much Water Today




Why did Jesus teach and practice baptism? Baptism never saved anyone. Baptism was about identification with Jesus and a public testimony to the world that you were following Jesus as your Leader.

John the Baptist came preaching a baptism of repentance, leading to faith in Jesus for salvation. John the Baptist repeatedly emphasized that he was not the Christ, but that Christ existed before him and had a higher rank than him. People came to John the Baptist for baptism.

Jesus Himself was baptized, not for repentance of sin, but to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus publicly announced the beginning of His public ministry with baptism. We follow and obey Jesus by being baptized.

# *Baptizing*

1. **Water.** John the Baptist chose Salim as the place to baptize because much water was there. The quantity of water, "much," suggests that baptism required "much" water. Baptism meant immersion.

2. **Baptism.** Notice that people were coming. John the Baptist came preaching a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. The ministry of John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. After Jesus died and ascended, baptism followed salvation. In other words, after the ascension of Jesus, people who were born again received baptism. Saved first, baptized immediately after salvation. Baptism never saved anyone. Faith alone brings salvation, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

3. **Began.** John the Baptist later prophesied that he must decrease, but Jesus must increase. At this point the ministry of Jesus had begun and at least two of the disciples of John the Baptist had begun to follow Jesus.

4. **Repentance.** John the Baptist continued his preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, baptizing people as they came to him.

5. **Ministry.** John the Baptist will soon be arrested and murdered, but until then, John the Baptist faithfully continued his ministry and work of baptizing. The people held John the Baptist in high regard.

6. **Faithful.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we value the ministry of all people following Jesus, and appreciate their faithful labors for Christ.

7. **Ministers.** We rejoice today because God bestows spiritual gifts upon all believers so that they may minister for God, with each individual believer using individual gifts to build up the united body of Christ, the church.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus in baptism.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by encouraging believers to be baptized, making a public identification of their faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we encourage believers to follow Jesus in baptism. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and be baptized, if you have not been baptized after being born again?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day One Hundred

# Not Yet Today




Why was John the Baptist thrown into prison? He was thrown into prison because he testified to Jesus and opposed immorality. Jesus was traveling in Judea because intense persecution had not yet begun against Jesus and John the Baptist.

The devil persecutes Christians, opposes the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and does violence to people who share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the people who hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The time will come when Jesus will be careful about traveling to Jerusalem and Judea, because people will be trying to kill Him. Even so, Jesus knew all along, as He has already prophesied, that He will die lifted up,

at just the time established for Him to lay down His life and then take it up again three days later.

# *Prison*

1. **Imprisoned.** While fulfilling their ministries, many New Testament believers were imprisoned. As one believer goes home to heaven, the ministry team continues to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

2. **Thrown.** God used a very descriptive term here: "thrown." This term describes the act of incarcerating John the Baptist against his will.

3. **Times.** At times, believers may think that bad times have come upon them because they have sinned and fallen out of the will of God. In some cases, they may be correct; but not in all cases.

4. **Suffered.** John the Baptist suffered arrest, imprisonment, and beheading--all because he followed the plans of God.

5. **Persecution.** In our lives today, persecution in various forms awaits believers. Before we are deprived of all our liberties, we must stand in the water, publicly baptizing believers and proclaiming our identification with Christ. Whatever ministry God has set before us, so we must labor in joy, knowing that Jesus will be coming. Until then, both blessings and persecutions await.

6. **Follow.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we do not shrink back from our ministry because of persecution. We serve Jesus and follow His leading--without pause or doubt.

7. **Serve Him.** We rejoice today because we have been crucified with Christ. Yet, we do not live, but Christ lives in us. By faith we serve Him, trusting Him to lead us home, following the ancient paths of God.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by not shrinking back from doing God's will.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by expecting opposition and persecution, but continuing forward in God's will.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we encourage each other through times of trouble.**

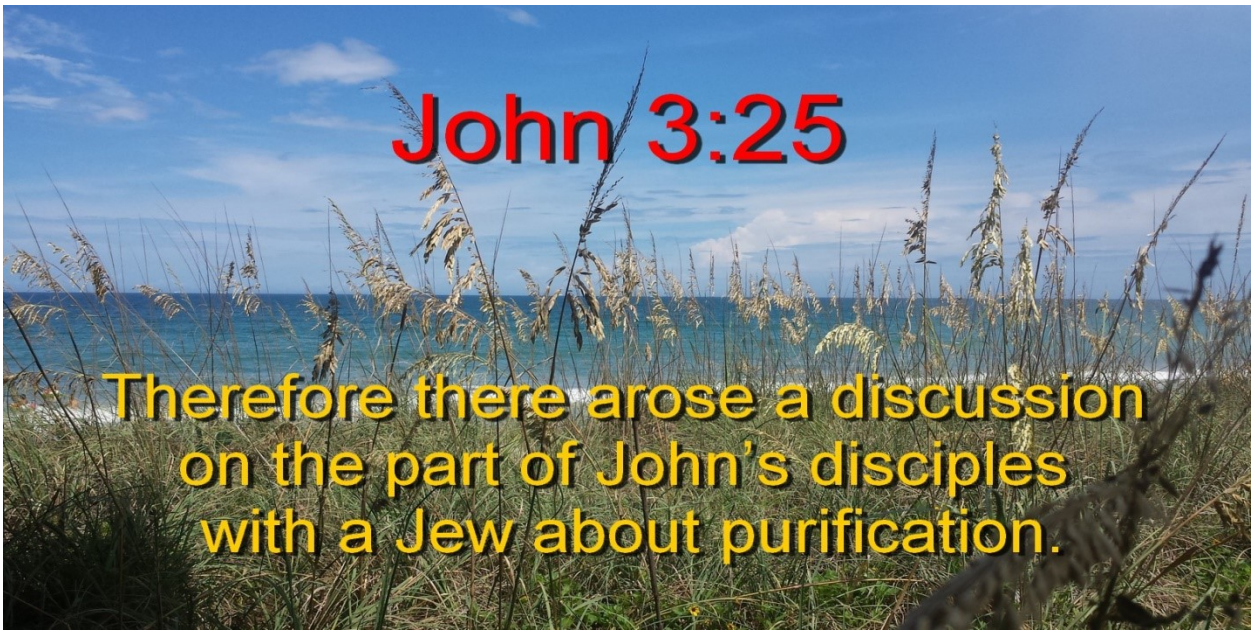
## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus as He leads us through times of trouble. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by staying close to Jesus when troubles mount?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred One

# Purification Today




Why do some people like to discuss religious ideas? Some people discuss religion to impose the traditions of men upon other people. Please keep in mind that the traditions of men should be separated from the revelations of God. Only the sixty-six books of the Bible were given under the authority of God, with His guarantee of inerrancy.

The Bible contains many commandments and many revelations from God. God breathed out the Bible so that we could abide in Him and stay in close fellowship with Him.

The Jews loved their own traditions, which opposed the commandments of the Bible. Their teachers over the years distorted the Bible

to their own destruction. By their traditions, they did not recognize Jesus when He stood before them in the flesh.

In this case, the Jews saw John the Baptist baptizing many people, but now Jesus had appeared, and He was baptizing and many people were coming out to Him. The Jews wanted John's reaction to Jesus now baptizing many people.

# *Discussion*

1. **Questions.** You may recall that the Jews had large water pots for purification at the wedding in Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine. With John baptizing, some Jews may have had questions about their customs.

2. **Purification.** The disciples of John had a discussion about the custom of purification with a Jew.

3. **Repentance.** John preached about repentance for the forgiveness of sins. So many people become enthralled with customs and miss Jesus the Savior right in their midst.

4. **Customs and Traditions.** Unbelievers frequently focus upon customs and traditions and neglect the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. **Scriptures.** Part of training disciples means that we must keep our focus upon the Scriptures. Only in them do we find the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the words of eternal life.

6. **Arguments.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we keep our focus upon the Scriptures, and avoid distractions and arguments that do not lead to salvation for unbelievers.

7. **Seek.** We rejoice today that God brings people to salvation who seek God and accept the free gift of eternal life by faith alone. As born-again believers, we love Jesus, knowing He first loved us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by avoiding spiritual arguments with unbelievers about matters they cannot understand.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by learning from Jesus how to talk with people.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all avoid the traditions of men and emphasize the commandments of God.**

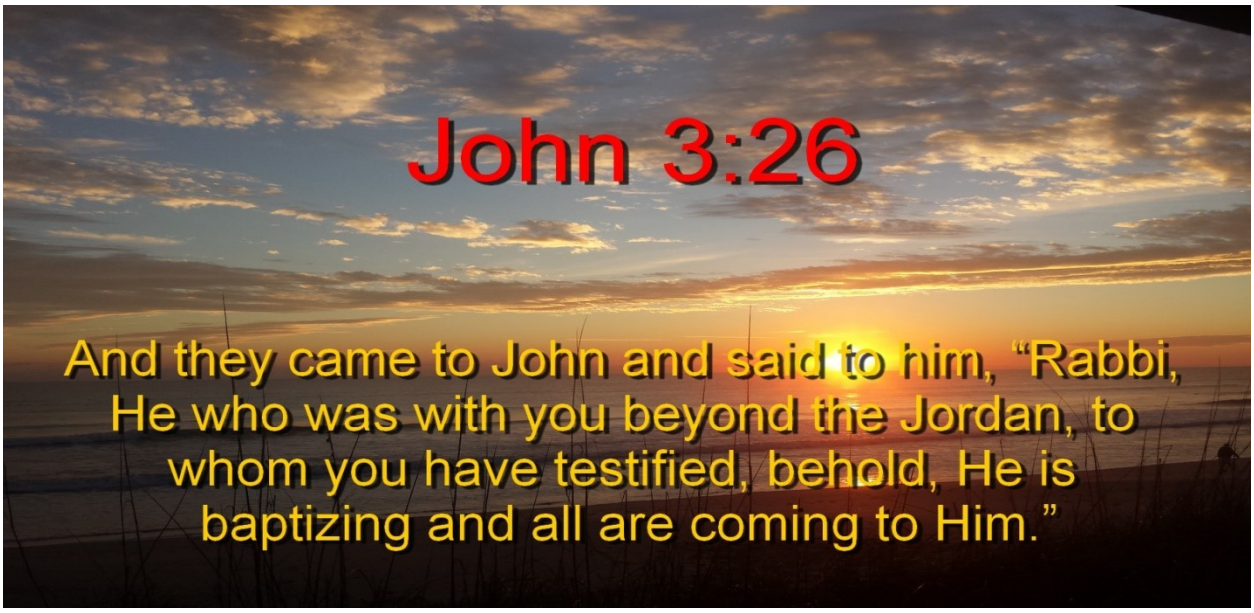
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by learning from Jesus how to share with unbelievers the love of God for them. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by avoiding religious arguments with unbelievers about spiritual things they cannot understand?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Two

# He Is Baptizing Today




Jews came to John the Baptist with a question about Jesus. They wanted to understand more about John the Baptist and Jesus. They had heard John the Baptist testify that Jesus was coming after Him.

Now, Jesus had come and was baptizing. All the people were now coming to Jesus. This new ministry of Jesus caught the attention of the Jews and they wanted to know what John the Baptist thought about Jesus. John the Baptist used to baptize all the people, now Jesus was baptizing people.

# *All Are Coming to Him*

1. **Everyone.** A Jew was having a discussion with the disciples of John the Baptist. They came to John the Baptist and reported that Jesus was baptizing and everyone was coming to Him.

2. **All.** You may recall that all the people of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem had previously gone out to see John the Baptist. They were baptized, confessing their sins.

3. **Proclaimed.** John the Baptist had consistently denied he was the Messiah, but proclaimed that the Messiah was coming.

4. **Appeared.** The report indicated that He Who John the Baptist announced had now appeared.

5. **Coming.** All were now coming to Jesus to be baptized. John the Baptist fulfilled his purpose in proclaiming the arrival of Jesus. John the Baptist preached a message of repentance.

6. **Focus.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we always proclaim Jesus. We keep the focus upon Jesus, and never upon ourselves or our ministry.

7. **Follow.** We rejoice today because we labor for Jesus, as part of His ministry team. We follow Him, proclaim Him, and love Him. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by listening carefully to the questions of unbelievers.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we realize that unbelievers often ask questions that seek spiritual answers, and we can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in one ministry team explaining from the Bible why Jesus did the things He did so that people may be born again.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by listening carefully to the questions of unbelievers so that we may share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by answering the spiritual questions posed to you by unbelievers?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Three

# Receive Today




Why can some people understand Jesus and others cannot? John the Baptist declared that people can receive nothing unless it has been granted to them from heaven.

Spiritual understanding comes from God. Without spiritual understanding, people cannot know Jesus. They also cannot comprehend what Jesus says and does.

God opens the hearts and minds of people. Only then can they understand the words of Jesus, and His message of eternal life found only in Him.

# *From Heaven*

1. **Heaven.** John the Baptist had a "from heaven" outlook on life. He knew we only receive what heaven sends us.

2. **Coming.** John the Baptist explained that people were coming to Jesus because heaven sent them.

3. **Gift.** John the Baptist also knew that his entire ministry he received as a gift from heaven.

4. **Truth.** Everything we receive comes from heaven. Rather than envy the ministry of others, John the Baptist proclaimed the timeless truth about receiving from heaven.

5. **Taught.** John the Baptist taught his disciples to see gifts delivered from heaven to spiritual men on earth.

6. **Gives.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have a "from heaven" outlook. We love God for the gifts He gives to us, and especially His gift of Jesus to sinners like us before we became new creatures in Christ.

7. **Love.** We rejoice today for all the things we have received from heaven. We love Jesus, and the Father Who gave Him, and the Holy Spirit Who fills us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that we can receive nothing, except what heaven gives to us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by believing that God gives us from heaven all that we need to know as we follow Him.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by expecting that God will provide all good things to us from heaven.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by trusting God to give us all the things we need for today, as a free gift from heaven. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by looking to heaven with expectation?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Four

# My Witnesses Today




Who makes a perfect witness? Many people who have heard you say the same thing many times before. John the Baptist had testified to many people that he was not the Christ.

John the Baptist emphasized Jesus. He prepared the way for Jesus and told people that he had been sent ahead of Jesus. John the Baptist gave clear and consistent testimony concerning Jesus.

The power of consistent testimony about Jesus means that the people who ask you later about Jesus may remember that you have always testified that you never claimed to be Jesus, but that you testified about Him then and proclaim the same message about Jesus today.

# *Sent Ahead*

1. **Testimony.** John the Baptist testified of Jesus. John the Baptist proclaimed that the Jews were his witnesses of his previous testimony.

2. **Proclaimed.** The value of consistent, unchanging testimony should not be underestimated. What John the Baptist proclaimed yesterday he also proclaimed today.

3. **Baptized.** John the Baptist also had consistent, unchanged ministry. He baptized yesterday and he baptized today.

4. **Fulfillment.** With the appearance of Jesus and the baptizing work of His disciples, John the Baptist proclaimed the fulfillment of his prophecy that he came ahead of Jesus.

5. **Never.** John the Baptist never pretended to be something he was not. Large crowds never inflated his ego to cause him confusion. John the Baptist was not the Christ, and always testified that he was not the Christ.

6. **Forgiveness.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we provide consistent, unchanging testimony about Christ. We proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins by faith in Christ to all nations.

7. **Same.** We rejoice today because we proclaim Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever. All hail immortal, invisible, and immutable King Jesus.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that we must be consistent in our testimony for Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we proclaim Jesus, without confusing people about our relationship to Jesus.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus with one voice that matches our actions.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus before witnesses who can testify that we have always proclaimed Jesus, and not ourselves. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by having witnesses today to our testimony yesterday about Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Five

# The Bridegroom's Voice Today




Have you ever considered the friend of the bridegroom? John the Baptist said he was the friend of the Bridegroom. The Bridegroom has the bride. The friend of the Bridegroom rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice.

John the Baptist had waited to hear the Bridegroom's voice. Now that Jesus had begun His public ministry, John the Baptist knew that the Bridegroom had come for His bride, the church. Jesus promised to build His church, which began at Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus. The church built by Jesus consists only of born-again believers.

# *Bride, Bridegroom, Friend*

1. **Friend.** John the Baptist mentioned the bride, the bridegroom and the friend. Jesus was the bridegroom, the believers were the bride, and John the Baptist was the friend.

2. **Voice.** John the Baptist stood and heard Jesus. John the Baptist rejoiced greatly because he heard the voice of Jesus.

3. **Joy.** Jesus had appeared as the bridegroom ready to see His bride. The joy of John the Baptist had been made full.

4. **Bridegroom.** Later, Jesus used a similar illustration regarding fasting. He said His disciples did not fast because the Bridegroom was with them, but He would be taken away. Only then would they fast. Jesus there too was the Bridegroom.

5. **Arrived.** John the Baptist had great joy listening to Jesus. The Bridegroom had arrived and the joy of John the Baptist had been made full.

6. **Words.** Living Godly in the family of God means we have great joy hearing the words of Jesus. As we read His words in the Bible, we hear His exact words. God promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would bring the words to the memories of the disciples.

7. **Bride.** We rejoice today because of the voice of Jesus. He calls us by name and we follow Him. As the church, we all are the bride of Christ.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by rejoicing over the voice of the Bridegroom.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by sharing our joy over the voice of the Bridegroom.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we all rejoice today, because we are the bride of Jesus Christ, and we hear His voice.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by rejoicing over the voice of Jesus Christ with His church. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as we enjoy Jesus, the Bridegroom of the church?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 5

# Learning about Godliness and Increase Today

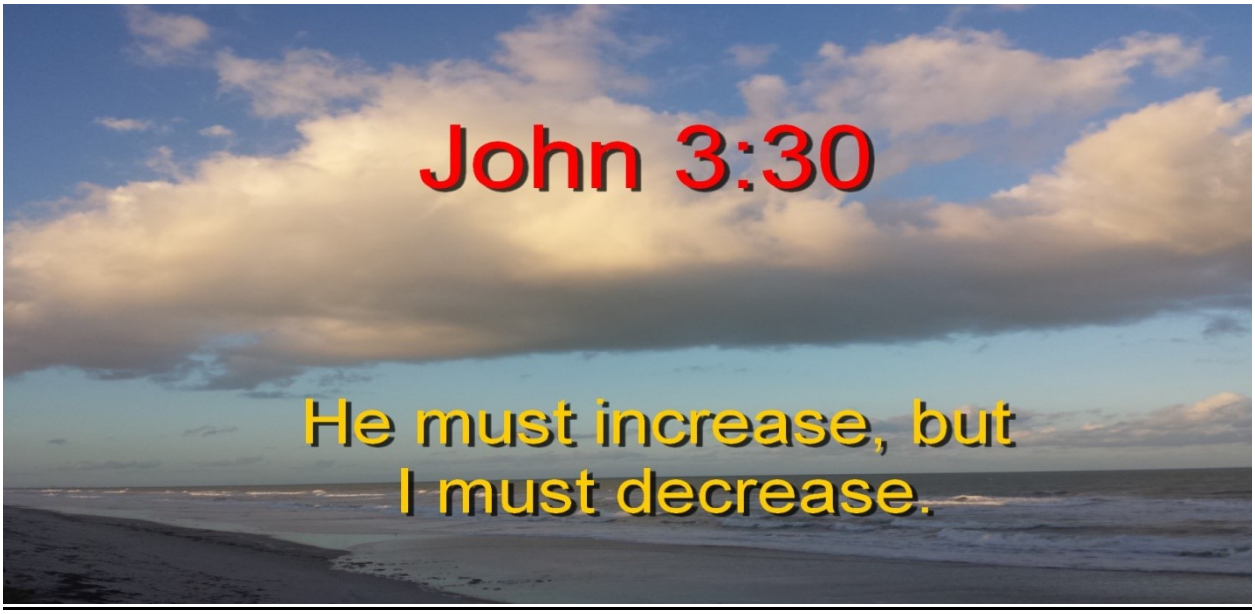
John the Baptist came to bear witness to the Light, Jesus Christ. He baptized many people. He also made disciples.

A discussion arose between a Jew and the disciples of John the Baptist about purification. His disciples came and reported to him that Jesus was baptizing many people and all were coming to Jesus. John the Baptist then taught his disciples that a person cannot receive anything unless it has been given him from above. John the Baptist then explained that Jesus must increase, but he must decrease. He greatly rejoiced because he had heard the bridegroom's voice. He invited others to hear the voice of Jesus.

John the Baptist also taught his disciples that Jesus was from above and is above all. Jesus had come and testified to what He saw, but no one received His testimony. God has set His seal to the fact that God is true. The One God speaks the words of God. He also gives the Spirit without measure. God the Father gave all things into the hands of God the Son, Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God has eternal life. He who does not obey the Son of God will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

# Day One Hundred Six

# Increase Today




Why did John the Baptist say that he must decrease, but Jesus must increase? Because John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus and His public ministry. Therefore, Jesus would increase and John the Baptist would decrease.

John the Baptist came preaching the baptism of repentance. He denied that he was the Christ and testified that Jesus had a higher rank than he did, because He existed before him. John the Baptist never competed with Jesus, but always exalted Jesus and everything He did.

In our lives we must be sure that Jesus always remains the focus of our ministry. He must increase always, and we must decrease always. We should never be jealous of the ministry of other people because we all work for Jesus, seeking to exalt Him.

# *Increase, Decrease*

1. **Come.** John the Baptist has explained that Jesus has come. His presence has made full the joy of John the Baptist.

2. **Fulfillment.** John the Baptist expressed two truths that described not only the future, but also the fulfillment of each life.

3. **Supreme.** John the Baptist first described the life and ministry of Jesus. In all aspects, Jesus must increase. His mission will always be supreme and unique. For example, only Jesus can die on the cross and redeem believers from their sins.

4. **End.** John the Baptist also described his own life and ministry. John the Baptist must decrease. His life had largely run its course, Jesus has arrived, and testimony of John the Baptist will end soon.

5. **Decrease.** All of our lives on earth will decrease in one way or another. Until the last moment on earth, we can be filled with joy as we pursue the ministry Jesus has entrusted to us, because He abides with us.

6. **Increase.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we always seek to increase Jesus, and know that we must decrease.

7. **Accomplished.** We rejoice today because Jesus has come, has accomplished His earthly ministry in the flesh, and has sent us forth to carry on God's work, sharing His love and proclaiming glad tidings of salvation to all men.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that Jesus must increase, but we must decrease.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we act to magnify the ministry of Jesus Christ and not ourselves.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together to exalt Jesus, the Head of the body of Christ.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by causing the ministry of Jesus Christ to increase. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by focusing upon Jesus and not yourself?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day One Hundred Seven

# Above All Today




Why did John say that Jesus comes from above and is above all? Because John the Baptist knew that Jesus had come from heaven. John the Baptist knew that Jesus was not from the earth.

John the Baptist testified about Jesus and left no doubt that Jesus was God in the flesh. John the Baptist exalted Jesus with his testimony, his baptism, and then the disciples that he made. John the Baptist dedicated his life to preparing the way for Jesus.

When people asked John the Baptist who he was, he denied that he was the Christ. With his words and his actions he directed people to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

# *From Above, Above All*

1. **Above.** John the Baptist explained deep theology in very simple terms. He testified to Jesus coming from above. He did not describe the origin of Jesus, but that Jesus came from above.

2. **Earth.** In contrast, John the Baptist was of the earth and spoke of the earth. John the Baptist also received special revelation from God, but the origin of John the Baptist was earth.

3. **All.** John the Baptist also proclaimed the deity and preeminence of Jesus. Not only was Jesus from above, but Jesus was also above all. Jesus is God and has always been God.

4. **Own.** People of the earth speak of the earth. As we have read, Jesus came to His own, but they did not receive Him.

5. **Contrast.** This bright contrast between "from above" and "from earth" reveals yet another way God the Father revealed His Son as God. All men are of the earth--created from dust. Jesus, while fully man, was from above. Therefore, Jesus will testify to things no human on earth knows, for they are not from above.

6. **Testifies.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know Jesus is from above, and testifies of things from above. Jesus is above all things.

7. **Again.** We rejoice today because we are of earth; yet, in Jesus, we have been born again, by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. We recognize the divine majesty of Jesus, who is above all.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by bowing before Jesus, Who is above all.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we testify that Jesus came from heaven and is above all.**

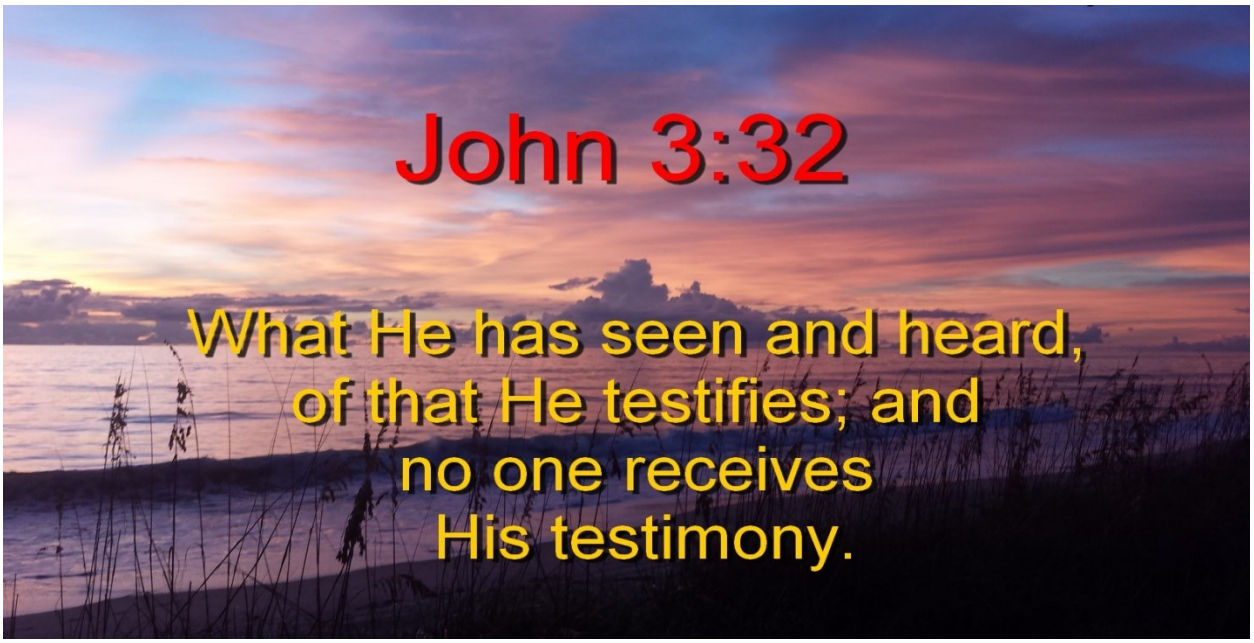
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by testifying together that Jesus is above all things, because He came from heaven.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by exalting Jesus, Who is above all things. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by lifting Jesus up in all things that you do and say?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Eight
# Testifies Today




What did Jesus testify about? He testified about what He had seen and heard. Yet, no one received His testimony. We know that Jesus came to His own, and His own received Him not.

John the Baptist testified about Jesus. John the Baptist knew that Jesus would be coming after him. Jesus came to John the Baptist for baptism. After that Jesus began His public ministry.

John the Baptist knew that people would not receive the testimony of Jesus. Jesus came from above and is above all things. Jesus spoke of earthly things to Nicodemus that he did not believe them. Jesus often spoke in spiritual terms and talked with us about spiritual birth.

# *No One Receives*

1. **Earthly.** Jesus told Nicodemus earthly things, and Nicodemus did not believe them (perhaps later he believed).

2. **Above.** John the Baptist also testified that Jesus was from above, is above all things, and testified of what He has seen and heard.

3. **Testimony.** Jesus testified, but no one received His testimony. Take note that John writes in contrasts. John wrote that Jesus came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. In the next verse, John then said some did receive Him and received eternal life as children of God (John 1:11-12).

4. **Received.** In the present passage, no one receives His testimony. Yet, we know that John the Baptist received the testimony of Jesus. We will see others also receive the testimony.

5. **Contrasts.** John wrote in categorical contrasts, at times; John did not always mean his categories were exhaustive. So no one only means no one in that category. Context always makes a difference.

6. **Faith.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have received with faith the testimony of Jesus concerning Himself and salvation through Him alone.

7. **Earthly and Heavenly.** We rejoice today because Jesus has spoken both earthly and heavenly things to us. By grace through faith we have received Jesus and His words of eternal life.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that people did not accept the testimony of Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we recall that people will not accept our testimony about Jesus.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we keep talking about Jesus, even if many people will not listen to us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by talking about Jesus, knowing that many people will not accept our testimony. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by continuing to speak of Jesus, even if many people do not accept your testimony?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Nine
# His Seal Today




Do some people receive the testimony of Jesus? Yes, some people received the testimony of Jesus. Everyone who received that testimony also sent his seal that God is true. The verb "seal" means seal of approval in this verse.

While most people did not receive the testimony of Jesus, some people did by receiving Jesus and His word. Therefore, by their faith in Him, they set their seal upon that testimony as true and that God is true.

Jesus is God and always has been God. God the Father sent Jesus into the world, and declared that Jesus is God. Therefore, when anyone receives Jesus, they also set their seal that God is true.

# *God Is True*

1. **Few.** John first said that no one receives the testimony of Jesus. Although the group as a whole does not receive the testimony of Jesus, yet a relatively few people believe the Gospel and receive eternal life as a free gift.

2. **His Words.** The small group who receives the testimony of Jesus accept Him and His words and they believe that His acts are true.

3. **Sealed.** Important documents were once sealed with a stamped impression. The act of stamping was called "set your seal."

4. **Declare the Truth.** By setting your seal upon something, you acknowledge it as true and you declare the truth. You put your personal, unique seal upon it.

5. **God the Son.** Later we will read that God the Father put His seal upon God the Son (Jesus).

6. **Believer's Seal.** Living Godly in the family of God means that each believer has put the believer's seal upon the testimony of Jesus, indicating to all that the believer proclaims the truth of the words, works and Person of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh.

7. **Faith.** We rejoice today because God saved us by drawing us to Himself. By faith, we have set our seal upon the truth of God in Jesus and all that Jesus is and does--past, present and future.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God because we have received the testimony of Jesus and set our seal that God is true.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we believe that Jesus told us the truth.**

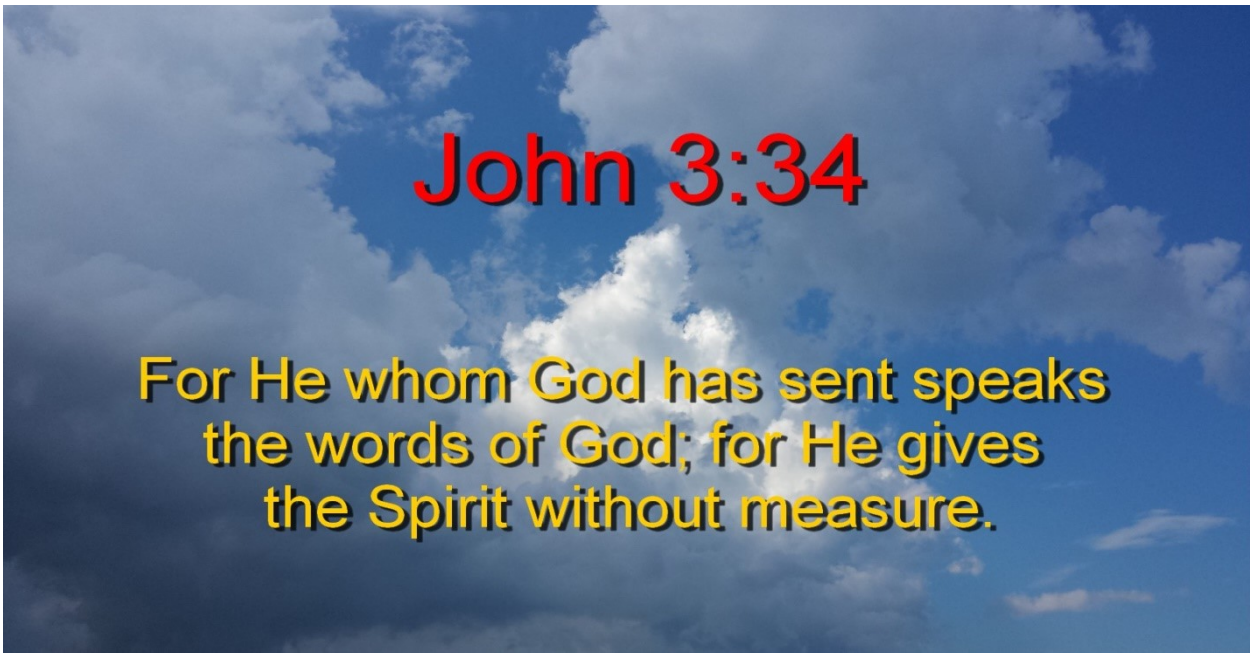
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in setting our seal upon the fact that God is true.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by giving thanks that we have received the testimony of Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by recalling that you have set your seal that God is true?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Ten
# The Words of God Today




Who speaks the words of God? Jesus spoke the words of God, because God sent him. God gives the spirit without measure.

Jesus came to earth to speak the words of God. Jesus spoke what He heard from the Father. Likewise, Jesus performed the works of the Father.

To receive Jesus means that you received Jesus as God, Who spoke the words of God. Only Jesus had the words of the eternal life. At the moment of salvation, God gives the Holy Spirit to believers. Jesus baptizes each believer with the Holy Spirit. He comes and takes up permanent residence in the life of the believer.

# *Gives the Spirit*

1. **Sanctified.** God sanctified Jesus and sent Him into the world. In the world (and everywhere else), Jesus speaks the truth.

2. **True.** We saw previously that God is true, and every born-again believer has set his seal upon that fact that God is true. Believers live truth.

3. **Gives.** Generally, the nearest antecedent noun provides the identity of the pronoun. Wow, boring grammar. Here, who gives the Spirit? Jesus or God? Of course, Jesus is God. The nearest noun before the "He" (pronoun) of He gives the Spirit is God. There, we are on safe ground in believing that God gives the Holy Spirit to born-again believers.

4. **Baptizes.** John the Baptist also declared previously that Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

5. **Filled.** Jesus received the Holy Spirit without measure. Jesus was continually filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus later told His disciples that the Holy Spirit was "with" them right then, but after Jesus died, the Holy Spirit would indwell them permanently.

6. **Heard.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have heard Jesus speak the words of God and believe He spoke the truth. At the moment of salvation, Jesus came into our lives and Jesus baptized us in the Holy Spirit.

7. **Measure.** We rejoice today because Jesus spoke the words of God to each one of us. He also gives us the Holy Spirit without measure.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by accepting the words of Jesus as the Words of God the Father.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we lie in the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us without measure.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we enjoy the spiritual bond of unity, held together as one body, by the Holy Spirit indwelling all believers.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by living in the Holy Spirit. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by living in the Holy Spirit?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Eleven
# The Father Loves the Son Today




What has the Father given to the Son? The Father has given all things to the Son. The Father gave all things to the Son because He loves the Son.

John the Baptist explained to his disciples that the Father had sent Jesus into the world. Jesus testified about what He had seen and heard. Yet, no one received the testimony of Jesus. Yet, a few people received that testimony, and put their seal upon the truth of Jesus.

John the Baptist then developed further the relationship between the Father and the Son. John emphasized the love of the Father for the Son. According to that love, the Father gave all things to Jesus.

# *Given All Things*

1. **Things.** Not only has God the Father sent God the Son into the world, but God the Father has given all things to God the Son.

2. **Love.** Why give all things to the Son? Because God the Father loves God the Son. That love characterizes God the Father in all that He does with God the Son.

3. **Plan.** When Jesus died on the cross, He fulfilled the loving plan of God to save all who would believe.

4. **Demonstrates.** The love from God the Father to God the Son helps understand how the family of God works. God is love, and demonstrates His love for us in many ways.

5. **Authority.** Because Jesus has received all things from His Father, Jesus now has authority over all things.

6. **Perfect.** Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus and His Father love us each day with perfect, unfailing love; and they love to demonstrate that love.

7. **Know.** We rejoice today because we have come to know love as only God can love us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by acknowledging that the Father gave all things to Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by trusting Jesus with all things.**

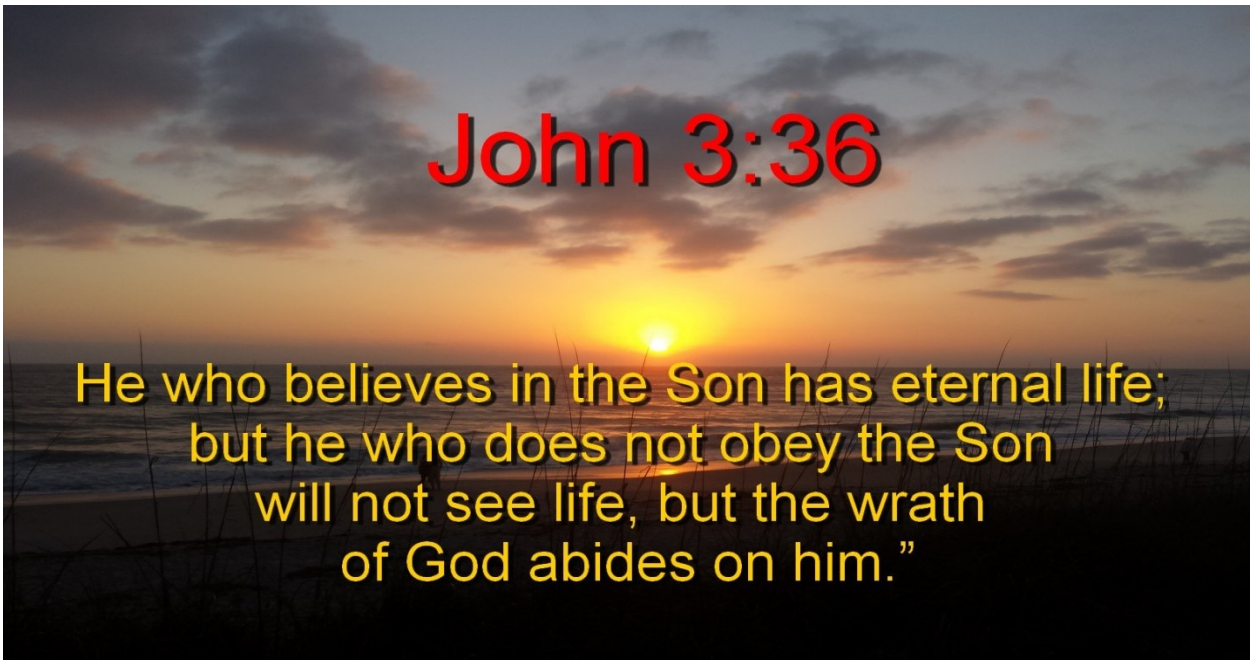
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we believe that every member of the family of God has been given to Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God with the knowledge that the Father gave all things to Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by believing that all believers have been given to Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# One Hundred Twelve
# The Wrath of God Today




How can you be sure that you have eternal life? You can be sure you have eternal life if you believe in the Son, Jesus Christ. God wants believers to rest secure in His love.

If they do not obey Jesus, the Son of God, then the wrath of God abides upon them. Many people today do not want to hear about the wrath of God. Even many people calling themselves Christians never speak about the wrath of God. Yet, God warned people about the wrath of God already abiding upon them because they do not obey Jesus.

You may ignore the wrath of God and the love of God, but you will choose whether you abide in His love, or if the wrath of God will continue to abide upon you. By faith you can receive eternal life from Jesus today and the wrath of God will never abide upon you again.

# *Eternal Life*

1. **Wrath.** In the preceding verse, God explained His great love. In this verse, God explains His intense anger (wrath).

2. **Obligation.** Every human being has an obligation to obey the Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded every human to believe in Him for salvation.

3. **Promise.** One of the greatest promises in the Bible comes from this verse: "He who believes in the Son has eternal life."

4. **Life.** Eternal life comes from believing in Jesus Christ. Nothing else produces eternal life. No one except Jesus can give you eternal life.

5. **Disobedience.** You can never be saved by doing good things or being a good person. Yet, disobedience to Jesus means you will never see life. Indeed, the wrath of God abides upon every person who disobeys Jesus

6. **Received.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have believed in Jesus and we have received the free gift of eternal life. The wrath of God no longer abides upon us.

7. **Fear.** We rejoice today because we know that we have eternal life in Jesus. We do not fear His wrath, because He loves us and abides with us as Friend, Lord, God, and Savior.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by obeying Jesus and abiding in His love.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we warn unbelievers about the wrath of God abiding upon them.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we rejoice together in our faith in Jesus, Who brought God's love into our lives.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by obeying Jesus and encouraging others to believe in Jesus for salvation and eternal life. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by praising God for the great and free salvation by faith He has given to us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 6

# Learning about Godliness And Harvest Today

Jesus followed His Father's plan for sharing the Good News of salvation. While the Jews and the Samaritans did not get along, Jesus followed the perfect plan to evangelize the Samaritans. The plan started with just one woman.

Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well near Sychar in Samaria. He was tired from his travels and asked for a drink. The woman was surprised that Jesus, being a man and a Jew, asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. He began a conversation with her that led to her asking Him for a drink of the spiritual water that gave eternal life. Jesus gave her that water that springs up to eternal life within a person.

The woman then went back to Sychar and told the people there. She said that Jesus was the Messiah and knew all things. He had told her private things about her life and impressed her. He also told her that salvation was of the Jews and He was the Messiah.

Many people from Sychar came out to meet Jesus in person. As many Samaritans came to see Jesus, He told His disciples to look upon them, for they were ready for harvest. Jesus meant that others had labored in the fields of spreading the word of salvation, but now others had come to harvest. All would rejoice together.

The people of Sychar talked with Him and then invited Him to stay with them for a few days. Many people came to know Jesus because one woman who was living with a man who was not her husband turned out to be an evangelist, even with her moral problems. The fields were ready for harvest. Others came to know Jesus because they heard Him themselves and so believed for salvation. Jesus can use one person to reach many people with the Good News of salvation. He picked a person that many other people would have ignored.

# Day One Hundred Thirteen

# The Lord Knew Today




Was Jesus making and baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist? Yes, and the Pharisees heard about it. Jesus drew large crowds and many people came to hear Him, see His works, and be baptized.

The Pharisees were very religious people. They would prove to be bitter enemies of Jesus. Although they claimed to know God, Jesus told them repeatedly that they never knew God. Jesus told them that if they knew the God of the Old Testament, they would have known Him, the Son of God.

The Pharisees came to hate Jesus more and more. They even devised plans to kill Jesus. Even today, some very religious people actually oppose Jesus and do not know God. Some of the worst enemies of Jesus wear clerical robes and collars, love the title “Father,” “Pastor,” “Prophet,” “Apostle,” and similar titles Jesus prohibited for His followers.

# *More Disciples*

1. **Disciples.** More bedrock here. Jesus made disciples. We must never forget the call of God upon our lives to make disciples. As a primary activity, Jesus made disciples.

2. **Gospel.** The first step in making disciples is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Salvation means you accept the free gift of eternal life by faith alone.

3. **Faith.** After saving faith, the born-again disciple should follow the command of Jesus and be baptized.

4. **Baptized.** Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John the Baptist. The Pharisees knew about the disciples of John the Baptist and Jesus.

5. **Notice.** As born-again believers, people (especially the enemies of Christ) will notice if we make disciples, and how many.

6. **Disciple.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we make disciples in the name of Jesus Christ and baptize them.

7. **Knowing.** We rejoice today in the pleasure of knowing Jesus and living in His family. As His children, we live for Him and share His great love.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that Jesus made disciples and baptized people.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God means that we follow Jesus and obey His command to make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

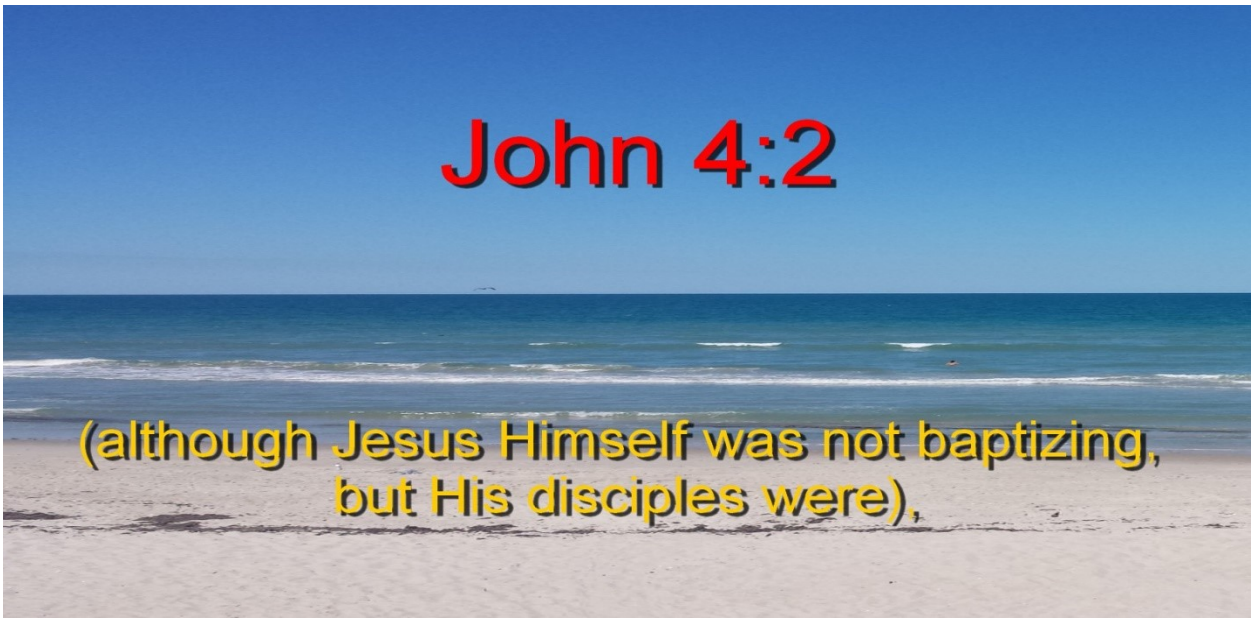
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by joining together to make disciples and baptize them.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus and make disciples and baptize them. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by joining with other believers in making disciples and baptizing them?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fourteen
# Not Baptizing Today




Did Jesus baptize believers? No, His disciples were baptizing believers. The Pharisees were already concerned about Jesus baptizing more than John the Baptist, but actually His disciples were baptizing believers, not Jesus.

You may recall that Paul wrote the Corinthians and reminded them that God sent him to preach the Gospel, not to baptize believers. Baptism was never essential to salvation in the New Testament.

Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples and baptize the believers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism served as a public identification with Jesus as Savior, and also a symbol of spiritual cleansing. Throughout the Book of Acts, people believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and were immediately baptized.

# *His Disciples Were*

1. **Baptized.** Jesus did not baptize people with water; His disciples did the actual baptizing.

2. **Participated.** Jesus made disciples by having His disciples participate in important acts of ministry, like preaching, casting out demons, healing and baptizing.

3. **Example.** Jesus set an important example here. The disciples participated in the work of ministry, even with Jesus in their midst.

4. **Preach.** Paul likewise baptized very few at Corinth. He was sent to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and not to baptize. Never confuse baptism with salvation.

5. **Command.** Baptism never saves anyone; yet, Jesus commanded every saved person to be baptized. We follow both His command and example of Baptism.

6. **Ministry.** Living Godly in the Family of God means that we participate in the ministry of Jesus. We make disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them all that Jesus commanded.

7. **Learner.** We rejoice today because we live each day learning from Jesus. Being a disciple means being a learner. We learn to love Jesus more, with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by being baptized after faith in Jesus as Savior.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we baptize believers shortly after their profession of faith.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by rejoicing in the baptism we all share in Jesus, proclaiming Him to the world our personal Savior.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by baptizing believers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and publicly identify yourself with Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifteen

# He Left Judea Today




Jesus moved away from persecution. When the Pharisees and others became bitter opponents of Jesus and His ministry, Jesus went away again, into Galilee of the Gentiles.

Jesus was not afraid of death or persecution. He knew about His own death and knew that His hour would come at the appointed time. Until then, He had to accomplish the work His Father had given Him to do.

In Galilee, Jesus ministered to many people. He was the great Light that shone upon them. Capernaum on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee became His new home.

# *Into Galilee*

1. **Travelled.** Jesus travelled. He walked, often with a crowd following Him.

2. **Cultures.** As Jesus travelled, He passed through different cultures. He encountered Jewish cultures, Samaritan cultures, and Gentile cultures.

3. **Interacting.** He moved through each culture, interacting with different ethnic and religious groups.

4. **Different.** His disciples came from different religious groups and different social strata.

5. **Universal.** Jesus brought universal good news to every person who would believe. He proclaimed good news to the rich and the poor, the blind and the lame, the Jew and the Gentile, and the Samaritans.

6. **Gospel.** Living Godly in the family of God means that many believers travel through different cultures and different groups. As we travel, we must be sure to share the only Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. **Lost.** We rejoice today because Jesus came as Savior of the world. Because God loves the world, Jesus saved us all, born of the virgin, sanctified and sent from heaven to seek and to save the lost.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by going where God sends us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we continue to minister for Jesus, by leaving persecution behind.**

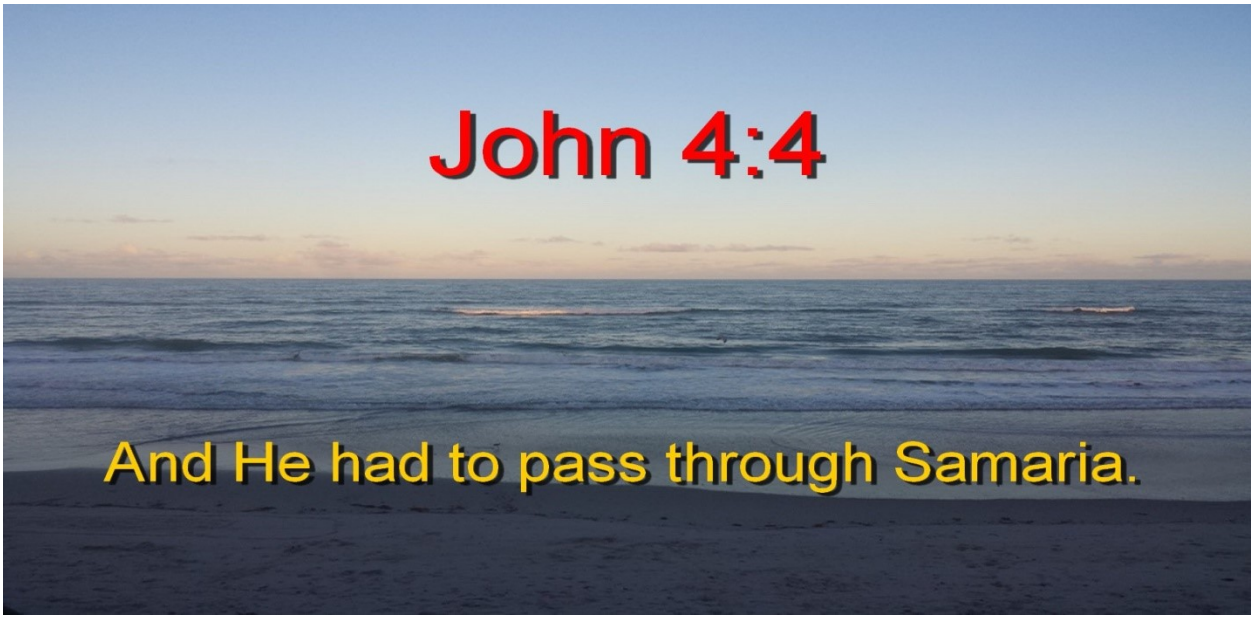
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join with other believers in many places to continue the ministry of Jesus, even in the face of persecution.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by leaving persecution and going where God sends us to minister for Him. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by accomplishing the work which God has given us to do, no matter where it takes us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixteen
# Pass Through Today




Why did Jesus pass through Samaria? Jesus passed through Samaria to go to Galilee in the north. In fact, Jesus travelled through Israel, preaching and teaching in the cities, villages, and towns. He proclaimed the kingdom of God, and commanded people to have faith in Him for salvation.

Samaria opposed the Jews, and the Jews did not associate with Samaritans. Yet, Jesus told stories like The Good Samaritan and the Ten Lepers, in which the Samaritan behaved better than Jews. Jesus specifically prohibited His disciples from preaching in Samaria.

In order to travel from Jerusalem to Galilee, one route led through Samaria. We will see that Jesus broke many traditions of men, to fulfill the work which His Father sent Him to accomplish.

# *Samaria*

1. **Samaria.** Samaria separated Judea and Galilee. The Jews had no dealings with Samaritans, whenever possible.

2. **Passing.** Jesus took a road requiring Him to pass through Samaria. We can learn some very important lessons related to passing through an area.

3. **Importance.** Jesus accomplished all the work His Father gave Him to do. Seeing the journey through Samaria as part of God's work helps us understand its importance.

4. **Evangelize.** Jesus always took opportunities to share the good news and evangelize.

5. **Impartiality.** Jesus was known for His impartiality. He was no respecter of persons. Jesus travelled through Samaria. He was going to interact with Samaritans on purpose. Although Jesus passed through, He changed some Samaritan lives forever.

6. **Meetings.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we may be just passing through an area, but God can use brief meetings to change lives forever.

7. **Adoption.** We rejoice today because we may be just passing through, but we may meet people who will be adopted into the family of God for eternity, all because while just passing through, we spread the good news.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by talking about Jesus as we pass through places.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God and never let social or cultural practices stop us from proclaiming God's word to unbelievers.**

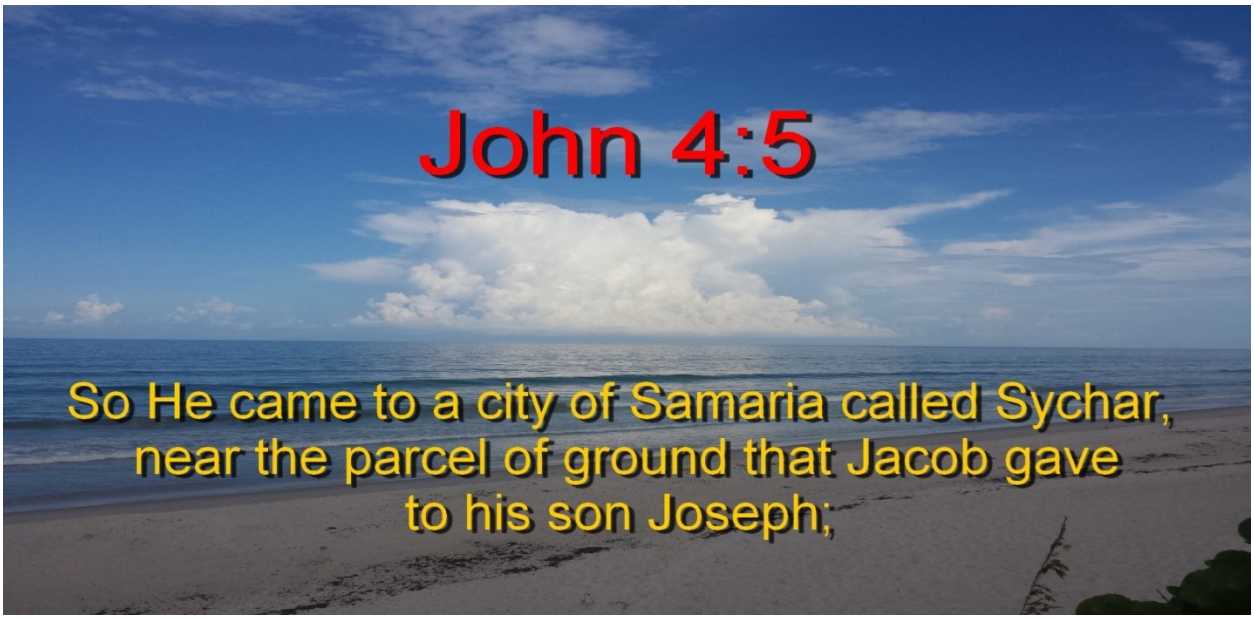
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by expecting social and cultural practices to stop some people from talking with unbelievers, but we must all follow Jesus Who was no respecter of persons, but proclaimed God's love for all people everywhere.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we pass through places. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people others despise?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Seventeen
# Sychar Today




Where did the woman at the well live? She lived in the city of Sychar, in Samaria. Jacob gave his son Joseph a well near the city of Sychar.

Jesus met a woman at the well near Sychar. As you may recall, the Jews had no dealings with Samaritans, and men had no dealings with women.

We will see that Jesus had no problems talking with a Samaritan woman about eternal life. In this case, Jesus had to pass through Samaria to arrive at Galilee, but He never missed an opportunity to talk with people about salvation.

# *City of Samaria*

1. **Enmity.** Jesus came to Sychar, a city of Samaria. The Samaritan people lived separate from the Jews and enmity had flared between them for centuries.

2. **Woman.** Jesus had a simple, but elegant, plan to evangelize all of Sychar. He would reach an entire city of Samaritans through one woman.

3. **Planned.** Jesus planned to go through Samaria. He followed His Father's plans and performed His Father's will.

4. **Visit.** The Bible reveals the ways of God dating back to ancient times. In this case, the God of Jacob came to visit the Samaritans.

5. **History.** Jesus was and is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Sychar's rich Bible history dated back to the patriarchs.

6. **Leads.** Living Godly in the family of God means we follow the ancient ways of God, even as God leads us to new people in new places. All of Sychar was touched by the loving ministry of Jesus.

7. **Paths.** We rejoice today because Jesus leads us along the ancient paths of faith trodden by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and a woman at the well near Sychar.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by talking about Jesus with people in various cities.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to various cities.**

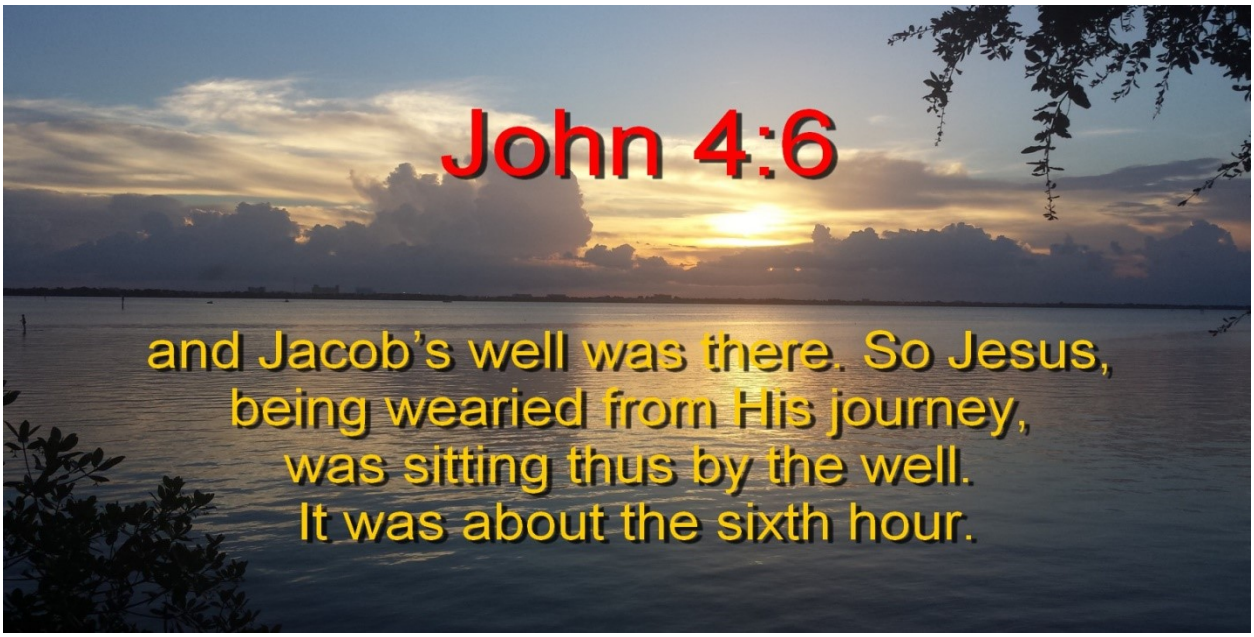
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by going to places with the Gospel of Jesus Christ where other believers may want to avoid.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by going to a city avoided by many believers. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people that other believers seek to avoid?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Eighteen
# Jacob's Well Today




Why was Jesus wearied from His journey to the well near Sychar? Because Jesus was a real human being, with a real body, with real thirst and tiredness from exertion.

Some people mistakenly claim that Jesus did not have real flesh and blood. They incorrectly think that all flesh and blood is evil, so Jesus may have looked like He had a real body, but He actually did not.

Because Jesus was tired, we know that Jesus had real flesh and blood. His body was just like our bodies, yet without sin. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary, and she was a sinner. Neither her sin nor the sin of Adam passed to Jesus, because of the Holy Spirit.

# *Wearied*

1. **Weary.** Jesus sat down, wearied from His journey. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. His body grew weary like ours.

2. **Sit.** As a man traveling many miles, Jesus became tired. He sat down. In our lives, we can be like Jesus and take time to sit down when we become wearied.

3. **Ministry.** Just because you sit down, and feel wearied from traveling, new ministry might be right around the corner.

4. **Visitors.** Jesus sat by Jacob's well. An active well would probably have many visitors; most, if not all, would be Samaritans.

5. **Time.** The sixth hour could be noon under Jewish time or 6 p.m. Roman time. Often later in the day flocks came for watering.

6. **Rest.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we need rest and seek rest when we become wearied. At rest, we still have time to talk with people. Jesus had reached the well at Sychar, His planned destination.

7. **Ready.** We rejoice today because Jesus can sympathize with all of our weaknesses, even our physical weaknesses. He knows weariness firsthand. Even weary, Jesus continues to sit at the well, where thirsty and weary people come for refreshment. Jesus was waiting and resting, but ready.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God when we use our time to rest as also a time to share the Gospel with people who rest near us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we expect God to send people to us to hear the message of Jesus Christ about salvation by faith alone.**

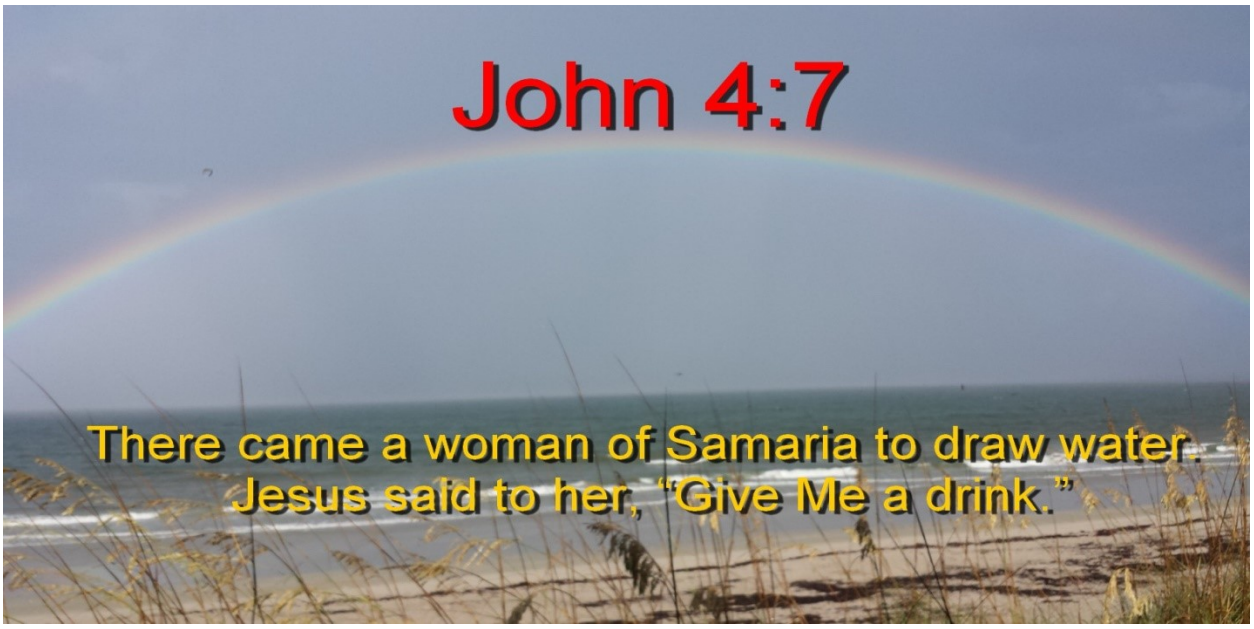
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by taking time to rest our wearied bodies, but not our tongues from sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelievers.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God resting our bodies, but staying alert to proclaim Jesus to people drawing near to us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people He sends to you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day One Hundred Nineteen
# A Woman of Samaria




Why did Jesus start a conversation with a Samaritan woman? Because He intended for her to evangelize the entire city of Sychar with her testimony about Jesus. Jesus started the conversation with a simple command: "Give Me a drink."

Jesus used individuals to bring the Gospel to many people. For example, Jesus cast out numerous demons from a man and he went and preached the Gospel of Jesus to many people in the area where he lived.

When even one person believes in Jesus for salvation, then that one person can share the message of salvation with all the people they know. Jesus picked some people who had very low reputations, but then Jesus changed them and they become wonderful messengers for Him.

# *Give Me a Drink*

1. **Water.** The woman came to the well for a very mundane reason: she came to draw water from the well.

2. **Samaritan.** She was a Samaritan. The Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans.

3. **Sitting.** Jesus was wearied from His journey, sitting by the well. He came to the well to meet the woman and ask her to give Him a drink.

4. **Appointment.** Jesus had scheduled a divine appointment with that woman. Jesus began the conversation with a simple request for a drink.

5. **Transformed.** Jesus transformed the mundane into the day of salvation. Jesus commenced His direct evangelism of Sychar by asking for a drink. One woman would make a big difference.

6. **Life.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have received the water of eternal life from Jesus.

7. **God.** We rejoice today because we know Jesus personally. He abides with us. He made a divine appointment with each of us. The Father gave us to Jesus and Jesus revealed the Father to us. This is eternal life: to know the Father, the only true God, and Jesus Whom the Father sent.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by listening to Jesus talk with people about spiritual truths using ordinary objects like water and a well.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we understand that Jesus loves to use one person to reach many people with His message of salvation.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in our faith, realizing that we all came from different backgrounds and places, but we were all sinners, with the wrath of God abiding upon us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God joining God's plan to reach out to people in common places with the message of Jesus as Savior. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by talking about Jesus with people you may meet today, even if you are tired?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day One Hundred Twenty
# Disciples Had Gone Today




Why did the disciples leave Jesus alone? Because the disciples went into the city of Sychar to buy food, while Jesus remained at the well, wearied and thirsty. Yet, Jesus was never alone, because His Father was always with Him.

Jesus served His Father all the time, no matter how He felt. Because Jesus had a real body, with real flesh and blood, He had to eat to survive and He got tired from walking.

Jesus kept doing His Father's will at the well of Sychar. Jesus followed His Father's plan to sit at the well, ask for drink, and set in motion the plan to evangelize the entire Samaritan city of Sychar.

# *Buy Food*

1. **See.** Jesus usually traveled with His disciples. He urged them to come and see how He lived each day.

2. **Asked.** His disciples also bought food. Jesus faced hunger and thirst. He did not always perform a miracle to eat or drink. Sometimes He asked for a favor.

3. **Mundane.** Jesus trained His disciples in carrying out the mundane tasks of life and the spiritual ministry; often the spiritual intertwined with the mundane.

4. **Time.** Jesus met the Samaritan woman at just the right time and place. His disciples had left.

5. **Alert.** In our lives, after every one has left, we may meet someone very important. We should always be alert to the people God sends to us.

6. **Alone.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we may be alone at times, because others have gone away. At those times, Jesus may send just the right person to you for ministry.

7. **Arranges.** We rejoice today because Jesus arranges all events, so we meet no one by mere chance. Someone sent from Jesus shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with you.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by understanding that we never meet people just by chance.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we recognize that God makes divine appointments for us.**

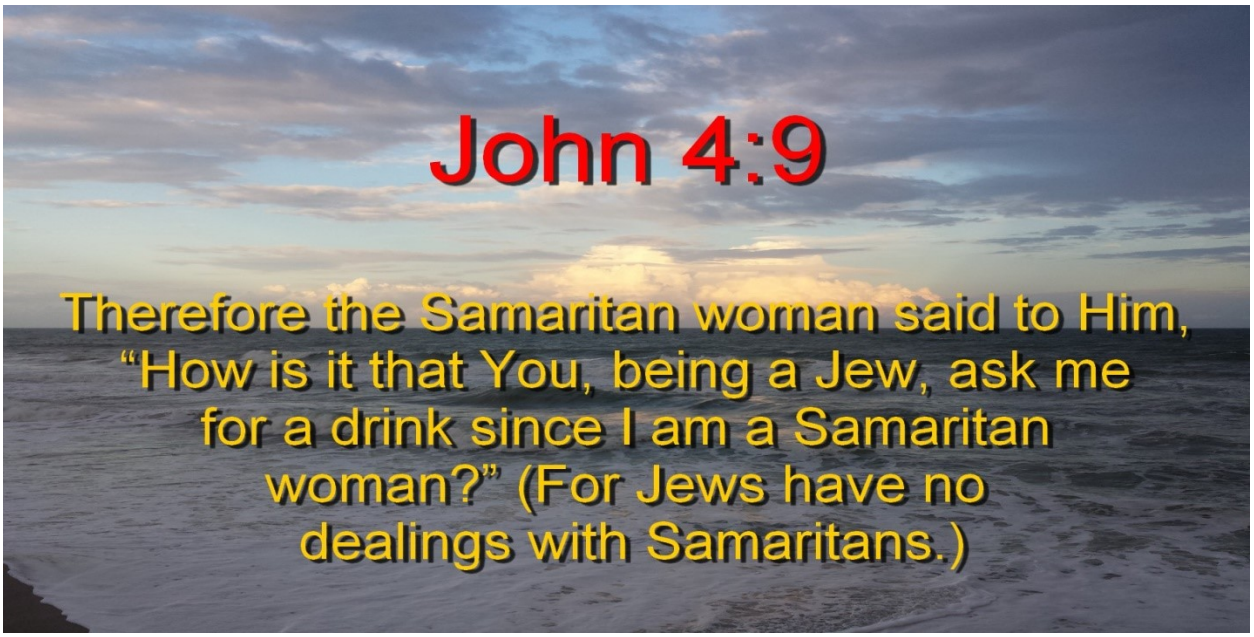
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by enjoying the people God sets before us each day so that we may minister to them as disciples of Jesus.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by keeping the appointments God has set for us today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by ministering to people God sets before you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty One
# Ask Me for a Drink Today




Why did Jesus talk with a Samaritan woman? After Jesus commanded the woman to give Him a drink, the first response from the woman came in the form of a question. She wanted to know why a Jew like Jesus would ask a Samaritan woman for a drink.

John explained that the Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. They had been separated from the days when the ten northern tribes of Israel rebelled against the rule of Rehoboam, the grandson of King David. Since then, further problems arose during the conquest of Jerusalem and the repatriation of the exiles to Judah.

For centuries, the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. The Samaritans had been worshipping idols in Samaria and ignoring Yahweh. They had created their own temples and idols and no longer obeyed the Old Testament law of going to Jerusalem three times per year.

# *No Dealings*

1. **Boundaries.** Jesus deliberately crossed ethnic, cultural, religious, and gender boundaries. He treated people impartially. Jesus is the only true Savior Who gives eternal life.

2. **Door.** The Samaritan woman pointed out several barriers Jesus crossed, as He opened the door to a conversation about eternal life blocked by human and spiritual boundaries and traditions.

3. **Gift.** While we should be sensitive to barriers, we must follow the lead of Jesus in sharing His gift of eternal life with all people.

4. **Sends.** At times, Jesus sends people to us for the purpose of sharing the Gospel with them. They may be astonished when we first speak to them, but a few words from us may lead them to Jesus and eternal life.

5. **Kinds.** Jesus had dealings with everyone: Jew, Samaritan, Gentile, male, female, old, young, rich, poor, and on and on. Jesus talked to all kinds of people, sharing His divine love.

6. **Impartially.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we share the loving Gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone, impartially.

7. **God.** We rejoice today because Jesus offered each one of us the free gift of eternal life by faith alone. We all have different backgrounds and different spiritual traits. Even so, Jesus, the only true Savior, brought His Gospel into our different lives, uniting us in one precious faith, one baptism, one hope, one salvation, and one God.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by starting conversations with people.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we share the Gospel of Jesus without partiality.**

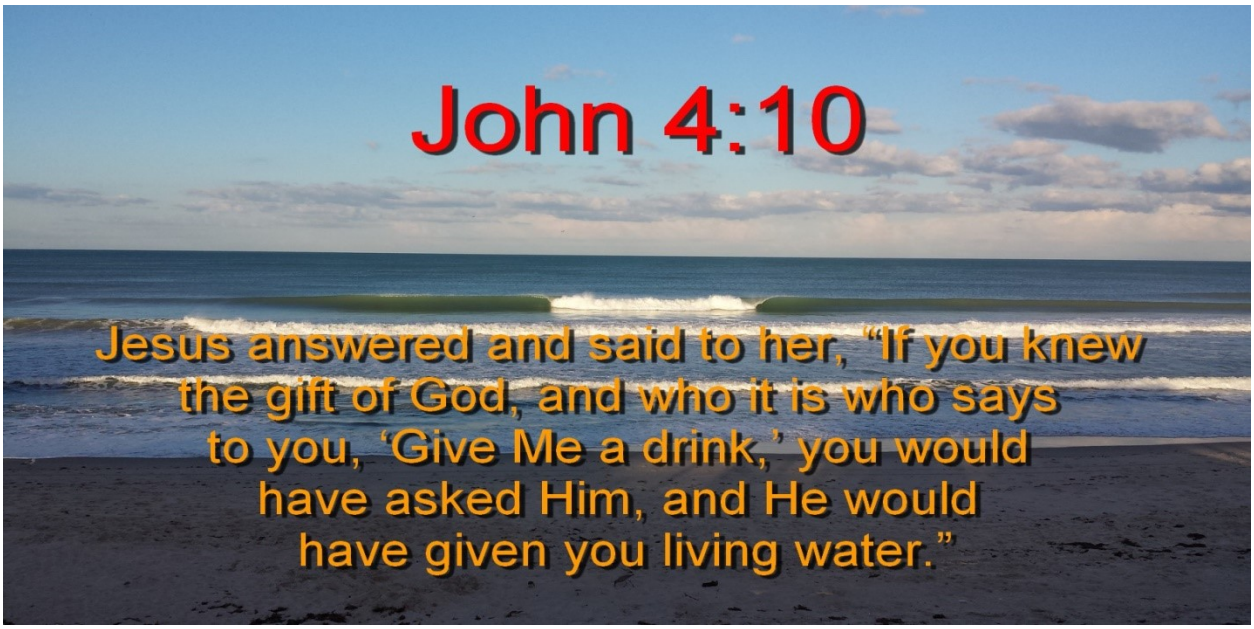
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live with other believers sharing like precious faith, but from different cultural, ethnic, social, geographical, and economic backgrounds.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by being impartial as we speak with people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live Godly in the family of God today with impartiality to other members of the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Two
# The Gift of God Today




Jesus moved conversations to spiritual matters with ease. The Samaritan woman came to draw water from a well, and Jesus offered her the spiritual water from Himself.

The woman sought a drink for today and Jesus offered living water. Jesus said that anyone drinking that living water would never thirst again.

Jesus knew all about the woman, but the woman knew nothing about Jesus. She did not recognize Him as God in the flesh, Savior of the world. Jesus invited her to ask Him, "Give me a drink."

In our lives, having received the free gift of living water, our lives have never been the same. We have that water in our lives, because we received it from Jesus. We never have to worry about our spiritual thirst again.

# *Living Water*

1. **Knew**. Why did Jesus say: "If you knew . . . .?" He often spoke in spiritual terms, but the people did not think in spiritual terms. When Jesus asked for a drink, He was speaking in spiritual terms.

2. **Gift**. Jesus offered the woman the gift of God. Salvation only comes from Jesus, and offers it always without charge to us. He paid the infinite price for that gift by dying on the cross so that He could provide the gift of God to us for free.

3. **Asked**. The woman had to ask to Jesus for the gift. Without asking in faith, she would never receive the free gift of salvation.

4. **Given**. Jesus told the woman if she asked, the free gift would have been given to her. Notice the direct link between asking Jesus with faith and then receiving the free gift by believing He gave us the free gift.

5. **Water**. Jesus asked for a drink, but He was opening a conversation about living water, eternal life. The living water is knowing God, and Jesus Christ Whom He sent. With Jesus in your life, you have living water.

6. **Living**. Living Godly in the family of God means that we have received living water from Jesus Christ, His very presence in our lives and we know Him and His Father Who sent Him.

7. **Abundant**. We rejoice today because the gift of living water in our lives not only brings salvation, but God's abiding presence produces the abundant life.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by offering the free gift of eternal life to people in the name of Jesus Christ.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we enjoy the living water in our lives each day.**

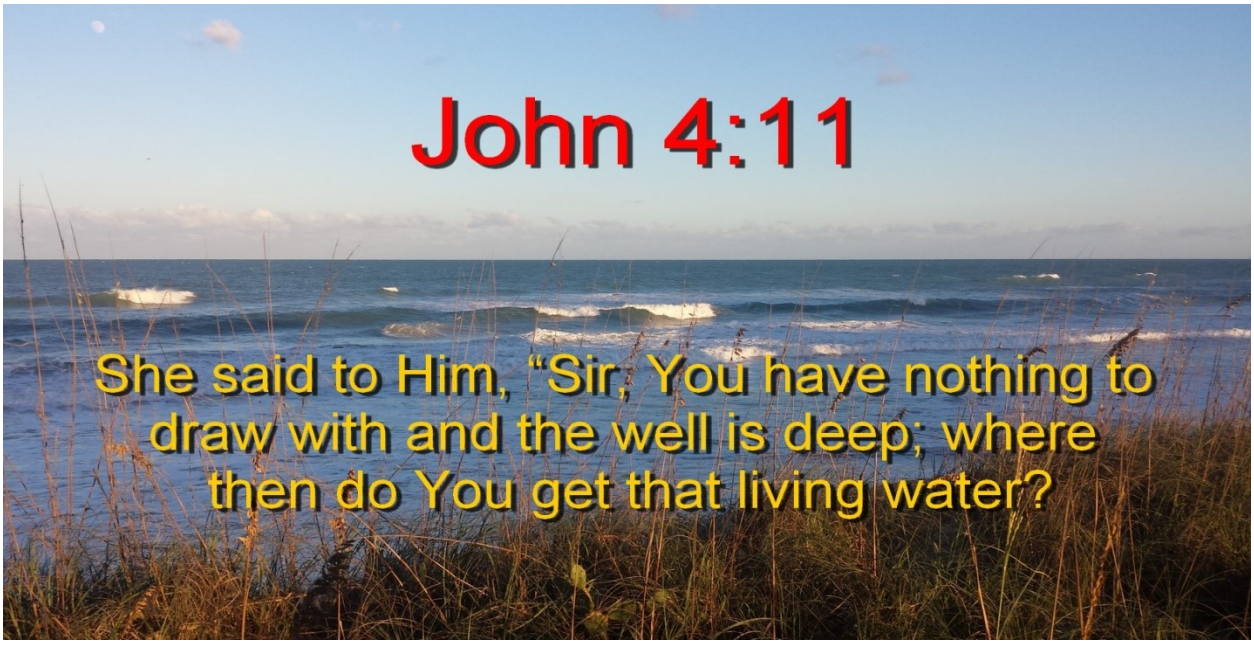
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we share the free gift of living water which flows throughout the entire church.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by sharing the free gift of living water with unbelievers. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by enjoying the living water within all of us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Three
# Nothing to Draw Today




Why did the Samaritan woman at the well say ask where Jesus was going to get the living water? Because she still did not understand that Jesus was talking about spiritual living water that was not in the well, but in Jesus.

In our lives, we often concentrate on physical things. Jesus emphasizes the spiritual life, and looking beyond temporal things to eternal things. Jesus said that we see temporal things, but eternal things are unseen.

We need God to open the eyes of our hearts so that we always see Jesus clearly and hear His words with ears opened by God. Jesus reveals the Father to us. We receive living water directly from Jesus, and that water flows inside of us for eternity.

# *Deep*

1. **Human.** At one time in our lives, we only saw deep wells, with nothing to draw out the water. We were seeing and thinking in human terms, but Jesus invited us to think and believe in Jesus terms.

2. **Offered.** Jesus had offered the woman at the well the gift of eternal life, with water that would cause her to never thirst again.

3. **Life.** When people look at deep wells, they recognize their own thirst and how often they must drink. When we received the water Jesus gives, we received eternal life, and now gaze lovingly upon Jesus, our Savior.

4. **Hope.** Our friends often see deep wells, without hope of ever having their thirst quenched. Jesus loves for people to ask Him, "Where do you get this water?" He always has just the right answer.

5. **Knows.** Jesus has all the correct answers to all our questions. He knows the answers, and our hearts. He sympathizes with our weaknesses and slakes our thirst.

6. **Thirst.** Living Godly on the family of God means that we see Jesus our Savior. We asked in faith and He gave each of us the free gift of eternal life. We will never thirst again.

7. **People.** We rejoice today because Jesus gave us the free gift of eternal life. He intends to use our lips and our lives to offer that gift of eternal life to thirsty people He brings into our lives. By faith in Jesus they will never thirst again.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by listening to Jesus talk to us in the Bible with spiritual words.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we believe Jesus has all power and He is the well of water springing up to eternal life.**

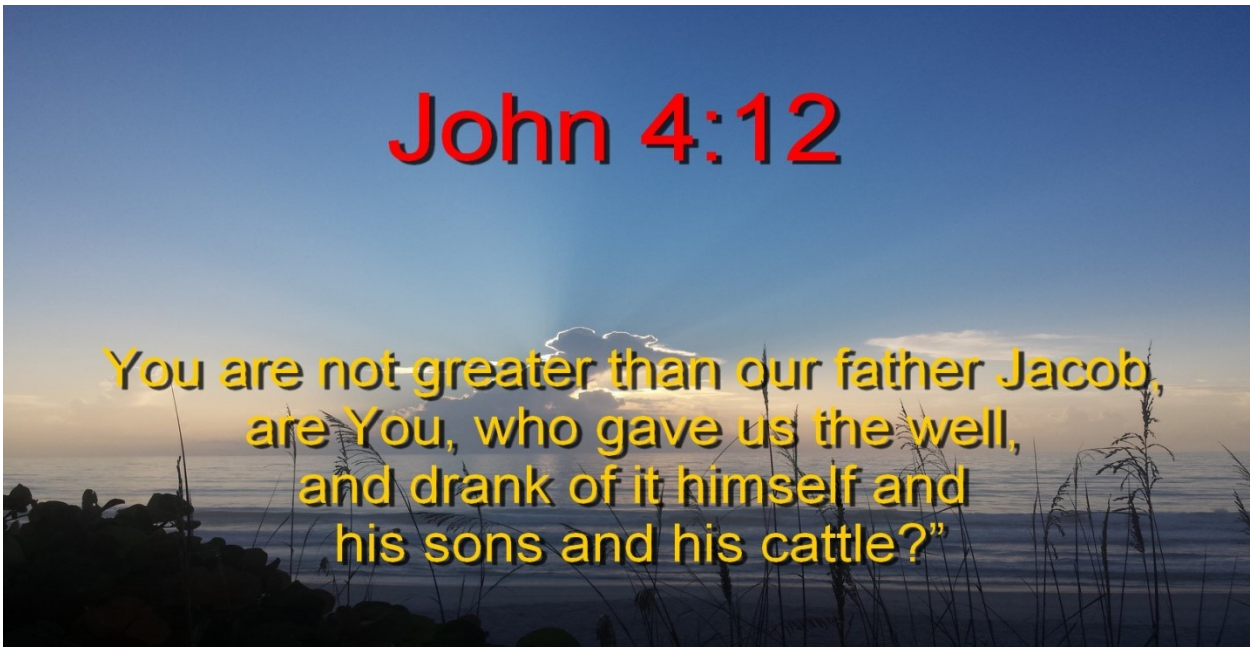
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in praising God for His power to make life abundant in Him, through the living water He gave to us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we share the living water with thirsty people God sends to us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by living in the loving power of the living water today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Four
# Greater Today




Why did people ask Jesus Who He was? Because He spoke to them in ways like no one had ever spoken to them before. They wanted to know more about Him, and about why He said deep spiritual things to them.

The Samaritan Woman at the Well wanted to know if Jesus was greater than their father, Jacob, who gave them the well. In fact, Jacob drank of the well himself, and his sons and his cattle. She knew the history of that well, and it apparently supplied the entire city of Sychar with water.

While she knew the history of the well, she had no idea who Jesus was and where He came from. She could tell that He claimed to be someone greater than Jacob. Indeed, Jesus was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

# *Our Father Jacob*

1. **Questions.** The woman at the well continued her questions for Jesus. She turned her attention to the greatness of Jesus. She asked about Jacob.

2. **More.** The woman had heard Jesus offer her the gift of God, eternal life. She wanted to know more about the Person offering the gift.

3. **Jacob.** The woman continued to think in purely human terms. How did Jesus compare to Jacob? She knew Jacob dug the well and his family and his cattle drank from the well. Jacob was a great man.

4. **Who?** People often want to know about the greatness of Jesus. Who is He? How does He compare to other people?

5. **Sincere.** Jesus provided great answers to sincere questions. We should also expect people to ask us questions about Jesus.

6. **Truth.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we ask Jesus our questions. He faithfully tells us the truth and leads us in the paths of righteousness. He never promised He would reveal to us everything we want to know, but He did promise to provide everything we need to know for life and Godliness in the Scriptures.

7. **Listen.** We rejoice today in listening to Jesus talk to us. In the Scriptures, we learn of Jesus and His great love.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by listening to the questions that unbelievers ask us about Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by saying things about Jesus that make people want to know more about Him.**

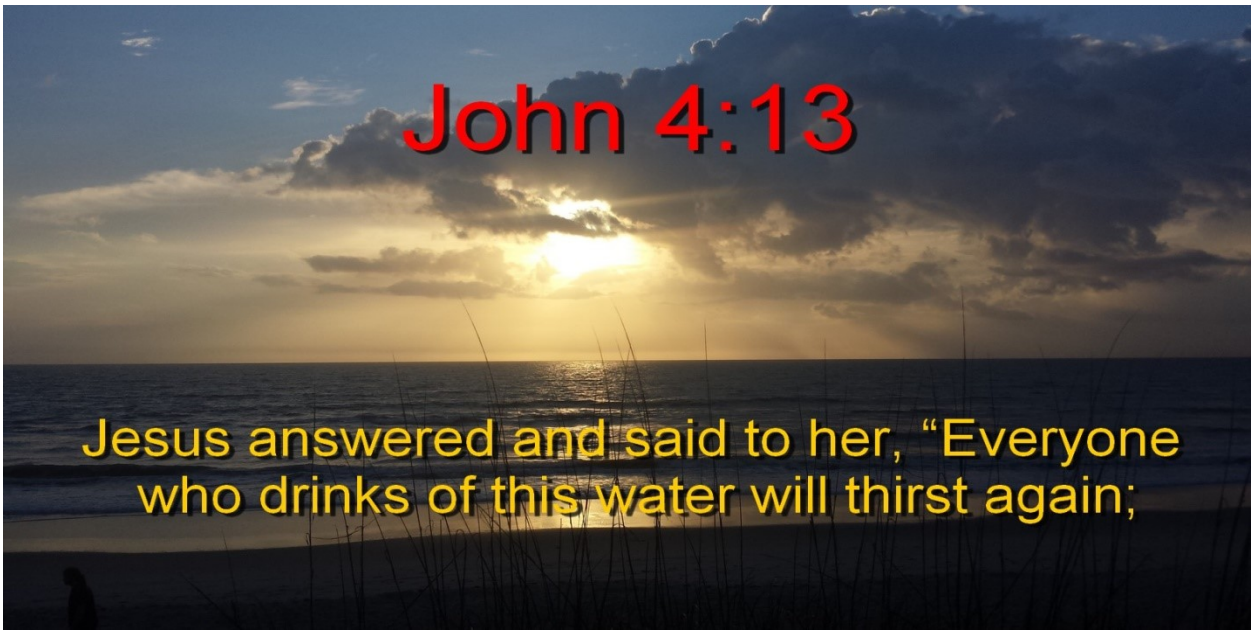
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by enjoying all the people who know enough about Jesus to accept Him as Savior by grace through faith in Him.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by saying things about Jesus that make people want to know more about Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by saying things that make people want to know Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Five
# Drinks Today




Why did Jesus say that everyone will thirst again? Because only drinking from the water Jesus gives can one never thirst again. Only Jesus has the water of eternal life, that springs up like a foundation within a believer.

The Samaritan woman at the well listened carefully to Jesus and He told her the truth about eternal life. Notice that He moved her to ask more questions and encouraged her interest in spiritual things.

Jesus had the marvelous ability to help people listen to spiritual things for the first time in their spiritual lives. He also made them thirsty.

# *Thirst Again*

1. **Time.** Jesus spent considerable time answering questions. He spent time with both individuals and groups. He both asked and answered questions.

2. **Offered.** The woman asked about the greatness of Jesus, because He offered her eternal life.

3. **Interest.** Jesus triggered interest in spiritual concepts by using the things around Him: water, well, thirst.

4. **Understood.** Jesus increased interest and revealed Himself through those everyday things. Here, Jesus warned that everyone drinking from Jacob's well will thirst again. The woman immediately understood the truth.

5. **Contrast.** Jesus will use a contrast between the water from Jacob's well and the water of eternal life which Jesus gave.

6. **Thirsty.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we listen to Jesus as He reveals Himself by answering questions. Jesus knows that people drinking from the human well will thirst again. Jesus loves thirsty people. He loves to remind people of their thirst for water which removes all thirst.

7. **Never.** We rejoice today because once we were thirsty people. Then we met Jesus, received from Him the gift of God, and we will never thirst again.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by telling people that the water they have been drinking will always leave them thirsty again.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by making people spiritually thirsty.**

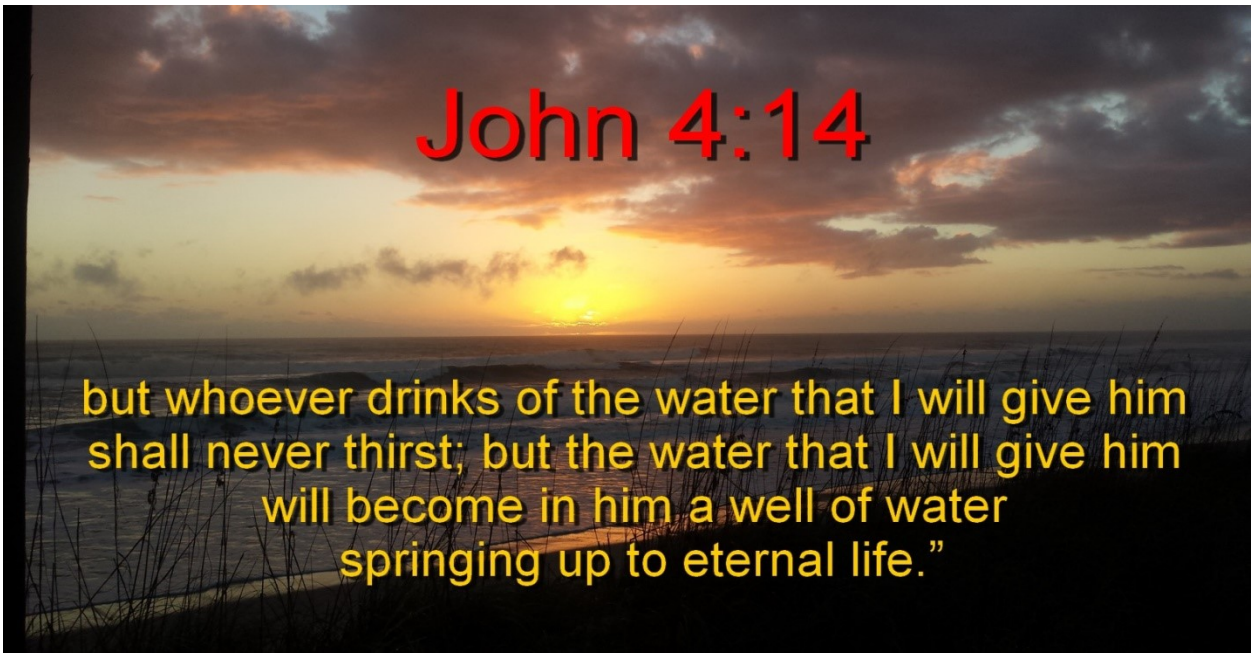
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by realizing that believers will never thirst again.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by showing unbelievers that they drink water that never slakes their thirst forever. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by reminding unbelievers of their spiritual thirst?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Six
# Well of Water Today




Why did Jesus illustrate eternal life in many different ways? Because different people presented different opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He often started His teaching with the things around Him, like Jacob's well near Sychar. He deliberately engaged a woman in conversation and used water to describe eternal life.

As we learn from Jesus how to share our faith, we too should learn to use the things around us to illustrate eternal life. Blessedly, Jesus has already provided the best examples for us. He used water, planting, sowing, harvest, blindness, lameness, and many other things as starting points to talk about eternal life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ never changed, but how He began the discussion differed from person to person and time to time.

Jesus beautifully and majestically left us many examples of how to begin conversations with people that move into spiritual matters of eternal significance. We should learn to follow His lead.

# *Never Thirst*

1. **Contrasts.** Jesus used contrasts to reveal truth to people. Here, Jesus contrasted the water from Jacob's well with the well of water springing up to eternal life.

2. **Well.** Jesus further explained that He gave the well of water, not just a drink. The water from the Jesus well would be springing up to eternal life.

3. **Simple.** Jesus used simple concepts, readily at hand, to reveal deep and eternal truths. Jesus brought the Good News of salvation to people in ordinary terms.

4. **Asked.** Jesus first asked for a drink, but then offered to give a well of water springing up to eternal life.

5. **Purpose.** Jesus spoke to people with a purpose in mind. He wanted to share the loving Gospel with them so that they would have eternal life.

6. **Springing.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have received from Jesus a well of water springing up to eternal life.

7. **Received.** We rejoice today because we meet thirsty people who can receive the well of water springing up to eternal life. Having drunk of that water, we will never thirst again.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by thanking Jesus for the living water He gave us as a free gift.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God because we have a well of water springing up to eternal life.**

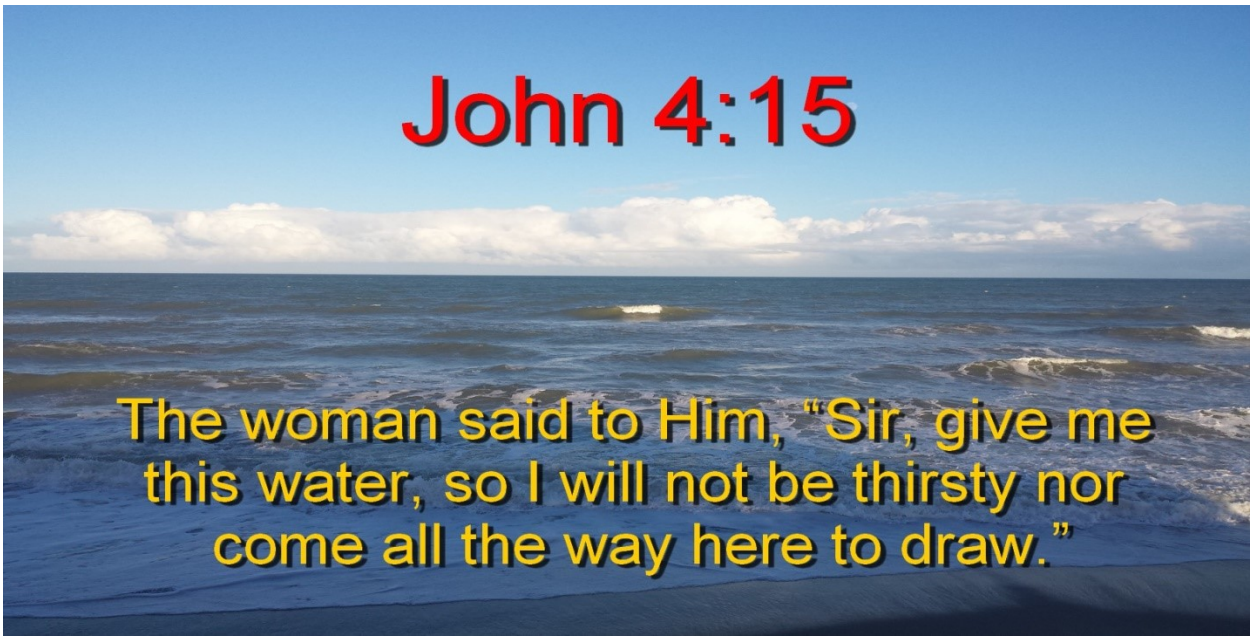
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we enjoy the living water flowing through all the believers.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God focusing upon the living water springing up to eternal life within us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by enjoying the water of eternal life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Seven
# Give Me This Water Today




Why did people ask Jesus for all kinds of help? Because they thought Jesus could help them in many different ways. The Samaritan woman at the well asked for living water from Jesus, so that she would not be thirsty again.

Jesus described eternal life in many different ways. They all centered upon a free gift from Him. For those who ask in faith, He gives them the free gift of eternal life.

The Samaritan woman at the well also wanted to avoid coming all the way to the well to draw water again. Jesus promised her spiritual water, but she had not yet grasped the full implication of the gift from Jesus. The free gift of eternal life would be far better than any physical water she could draw from Jacob's well near Sychar.

# *Not Be Thirsty*

1. **Prompted.** Jesus showed people just how thirsty they were. He prompted the woman to ask Him for a drink.

2. **Interest.** Jesus shared the Gospel by creating spiritual interest and capturing the spiritual attention of people.

3. **Attention.** Jesus spoke to their needs, wants, and desires. He presented the Good News in terms that caught their attention.

4. **Spiritual.** This woman was still thinking in terms of physical water to quench her physical thirst. Jesus would move her interest into the spiritual realm so that she would receive eternal life.

5. **Physical.** The woman wanted the water so she would never need to come back to the physical well for a drink. Jesus began by asking her for a drink, but she had not yet understood the way to eternal life.

6. **Learn.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we learn how to share our faith by learning from Jesus how He shared the Gospel.

7. **Gospel.** We rejoice today because Jesus sent someone into our lives to share the Gospel with us, in terms that caught our spiritual attention. We received eternal life because someone brought us the Good News.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by understanding that Jesus talks to us in spiritual terms and about spiritual things.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we listen to Jesus with our spiritual hearts and spiritual ears open.**

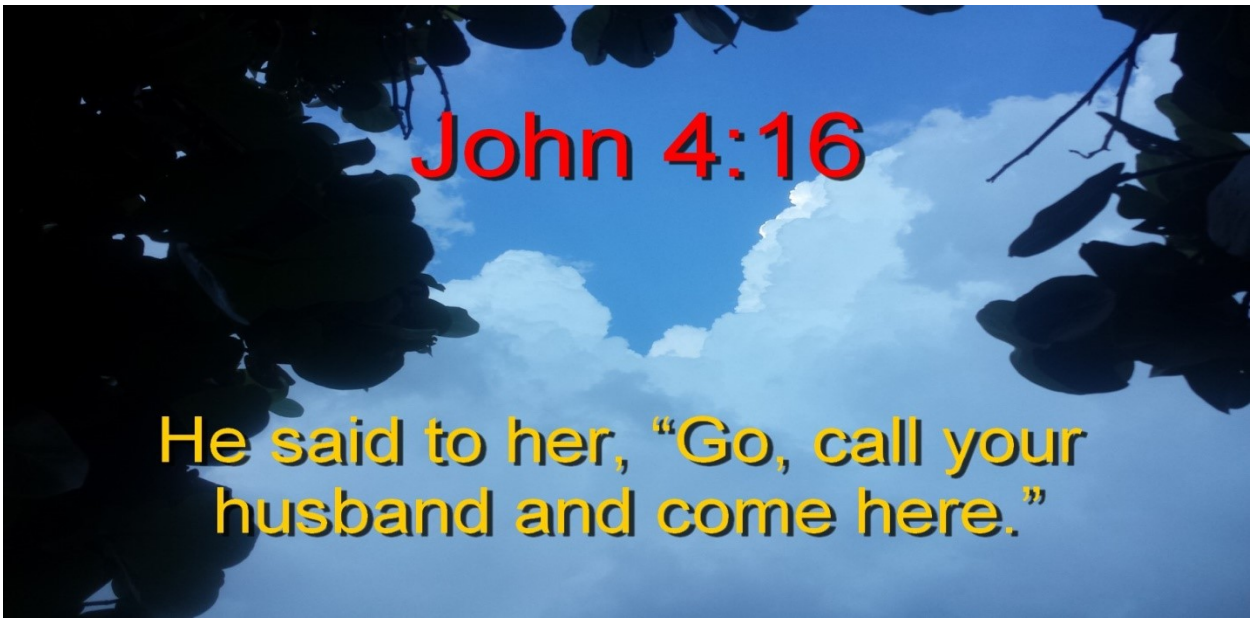
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we encourage one another with spiritual words from Jesus about the blessings of eternal life.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we listen to Jesus teaching us spiritual truths that will change our lives. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by living a spiritual life of listening to Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Eight
# Go Today




What did Jesus command the Samaritan woman to do? Jesus gave the Samaritan woman at the well three simple commands. Each command related directly to eternal life and telling Jesus the truth.

Jesus commanded the woman to go. Having talked with the woman for a while at the well, Jesus then gave her the specific command to go. He joined that command to go with 'call your husband'.

Jesus always knew the answers to His questions before He asked them. As God, Jesus knew all things. Yet, as a man, He limited His knowledge at times. In this case, Jesus posed a serious test of truthfulness to the woman.

Jesus used penetrating, spiritual questions. If people lied about the answers, then He often let them know that they were doing evil by lying. People often lied about their own sinfulness, because they did not want their evil deeds exposed by the Light of Jesus.

# *Call Your Husband*

1. **Go**. Jesus told the woman to go from the well. Jesus tested people in multiple ways.

2. **Call**. Jesus often issued commands related to one another. His commands may seem simple at first, but Jesus asked penetrating spiritual questions.

3. **Husband**. Jesus asked her to call her husband. Jesus was focusing upon her personal life.

4. **Omniscience**. Before Jesus asked the questions, He knew the answers.

5. **Come Here**. Jesus commanded her to come back, after calling her husband.

6. **Immorality**. Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus did not duck the issue of immorality. By inquiring about her husband, Jesus brought morality into the picture.

7. **Truth**. We rejoice today because Jesus focused upon the truth. He was testing the woman to see if she would be telling Him the truth about her life.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by obeying the commands that Jesus gives to us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we obey Jesus, knowing that following His commands will lead us into His loving will for our lives.**

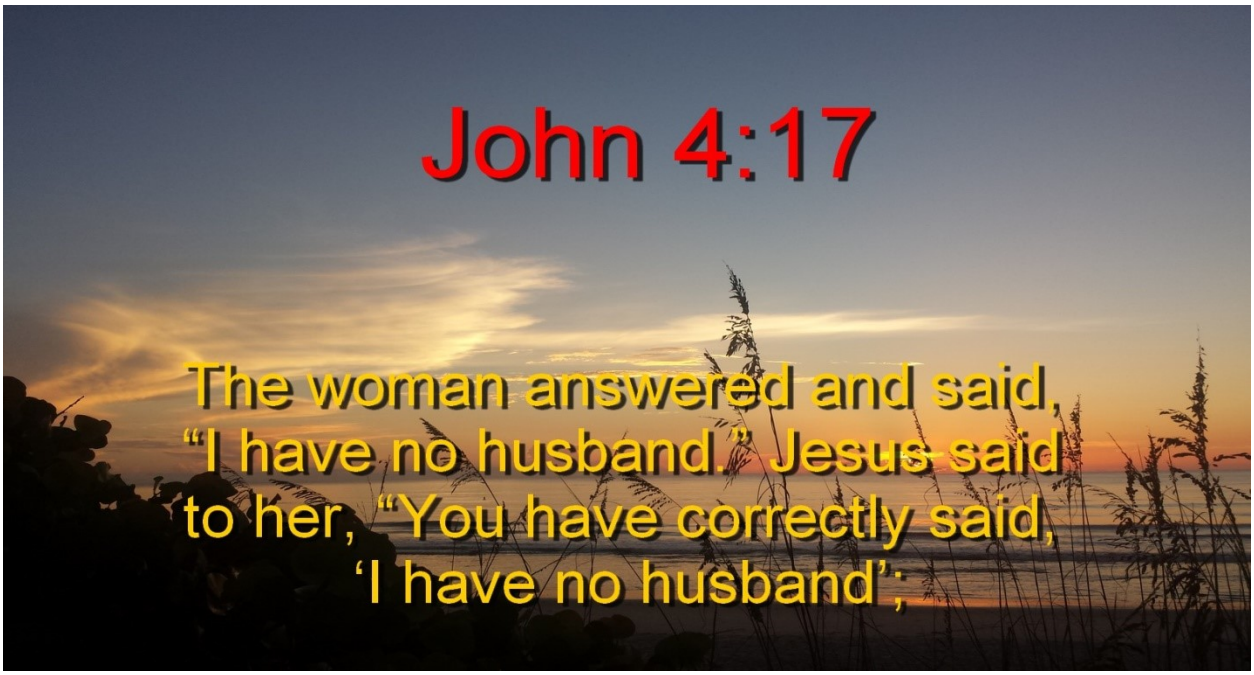
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by obeying Jesus as a group of people focused upon following His commands to come and go as He desires.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following the commands of Jesus to come and go at His pleasure. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by obeying the commands that Jesus gives you today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Twenty Nine
# I Have No Husband Today




When Jesus issues commands, did he have a purpose? Jesus always had a purpose for every command. In this case, Jesus tested the truthfulness of the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus commanded the woman to go and get her husband, but she replied that she had no husband.

Jesus knew that she had no husband. Jesus was getting real with the woman. He not only spoke to her about spiritual things, but He also drew her into a deeper spiritual conversation.

Jesus revealed that she spoke truly that she had no husband. Jesus knew all about this Samaritan woman, and He chose her to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the city of Sychar. He knew about her sins and her heart. She was ready to tell the truth to hear more truth from Jesus. Jesus revealed His supernatural knowledge about her to lead her further into the truth about Him.

# *Correctly Said*

1. **Questions.** At trial, lawyers frequently ask questions they have asked the same witness before trial. If the answer at trial differs, then the lawyer wants to know why the answer now differs.

2. **Why?** Jesus asked questions, but did not need to use any techniques of trial lawyers. Jesus knew the truth before He asked any question. Why did He ask questions?

3. **Attention.** Jesus frequently asked questions to benefit the recipient. His questions focused their attention and clarified their intentions and beliefs.

4. **Truth.** The woman answered correctly. Telling Jesus the truth always leads to good things. Lying (not telling the truth) causes bigger problems.

5. **Jesus Knows.** The woman has admitted a very important truth about herself: she has no husband. Jesus will now reveal details to her about her life that show her that Jesus knows all about her sins, but still wants to give her the gift of God.

6. **Grace.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we remember to tell Jesus (and everyone) the truth, always. Jesus loves sinners and pours His grace into the lives of people who received the free gift of eternal life, while we were yet sinners.

7. **Truth in Love.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves the truth. He also loves sinners who tell Him the truth. Jesus seeks and saves the lost today. He speaks truth in love to all of us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus and He gets us to tell the truth about ourselves.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as Jesus uses our willingness to tell Him the truth so that He can lead us into deeper truths.**

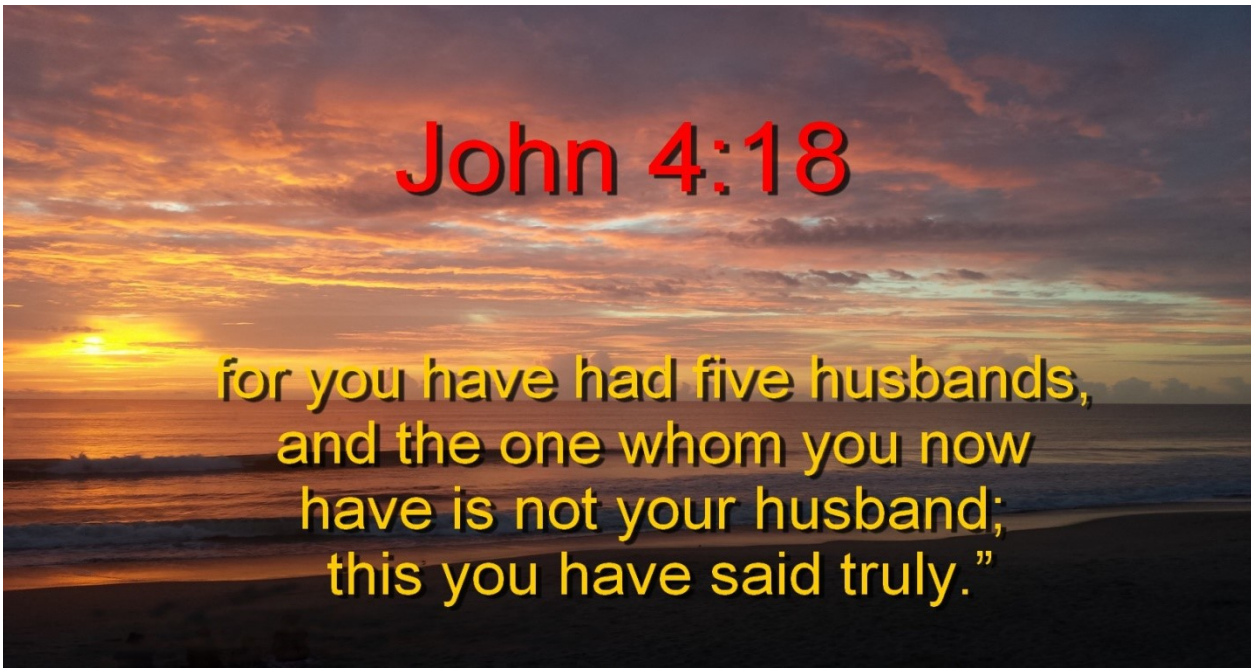
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as followers of Jesus, Who knows all about us, and loves all of us all the time.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by living in the truth with Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by telling Jesus the truth about everything, because He already knows the truth and loves you always?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty
# Five Husbands Today




Does Jesus reveal truth in stages? Jesus revealed more truth to people who told Him the truth. Jesus knew when He commanded the Samaritan woman to go and get her husband that she had no husband now, but was living with a man.

Jesus revealed things about the woman's immorality to help her understand that Jesus knew all about her. This omniscience of Jesus made a big impression upon the woman.

Jesus also told her more about her marriage history to show her that He was Messiah who knew all things. The woman could have lied about her immorality, but she confessed and did not play games with Jesus.

# *Not Your Husband*

1. **Husbands.** Jesus had sought the truth from the Samaritan woman at the well. He asked her to go and call her husband. She replied correctly: "I have no husband."

2. **Knowledge.** Jesus then revealed some of His knowledge about her. As God, Jesus knows all things ("omniscience"). She had five husbands, and the man whom she had then was not her husband.

3. **Proof.** So, why did Jesus tell her what she already knew? Jesus sought the truth from her and then revealed truth to her. He knew everything about her. Instead of only claiming to be Messiah, He proved to her that He was the Messiah by revealing personal truths to her without judgment.

4. **Immorality.** Furthermore, Jesus let her know that her immorality did not prevent Him from talking with her and offering her the free gift of God.

5. **Plan.** Jesus had a plan to send the Gospel into the Samaritan city of Sychar. He chose a woman of low morality to spread the Gospel to that city.

6. **Sinners.** Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus has great plans for lives. He can use sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness to spread His word to an entire city.

7. **Cleanses.** We rejoice today because Jesus wants us to remember that He forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. His love commands our obedient service to Him.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by seeing Jesus pick sinners to be messengers for Him.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we realize Jesus picked us to be in His family, even when He knew all about our sins.**

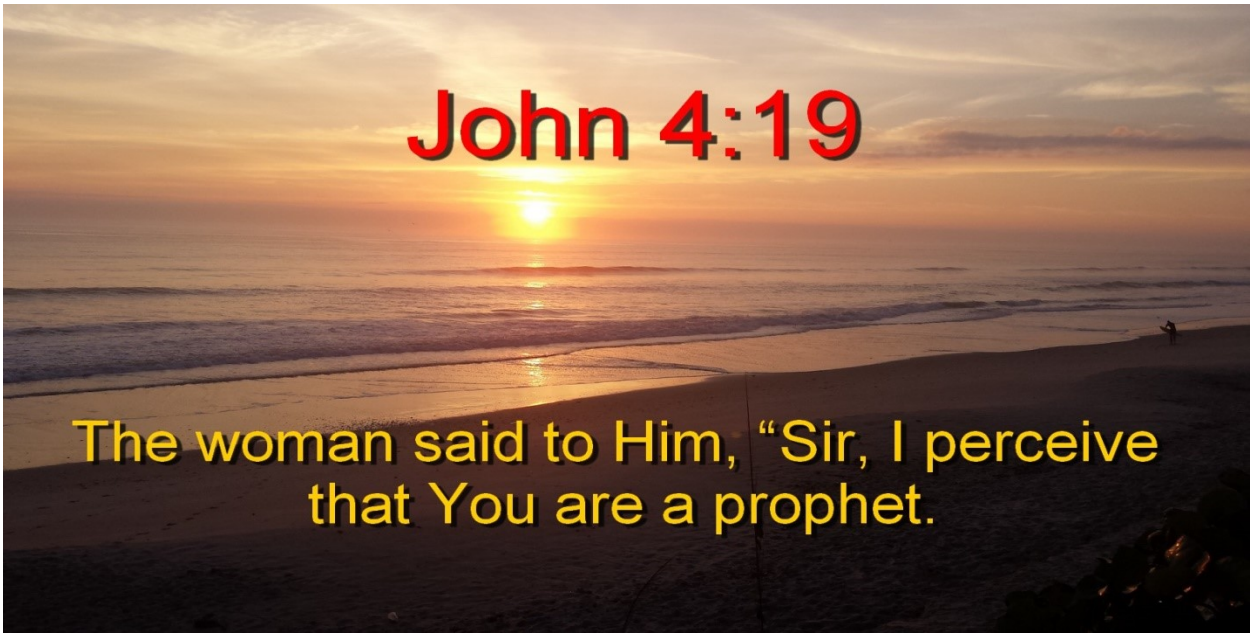
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live in the grace of Jesus who does not count our trespasses against us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by serving Jesus as messengers of His loving grace for sinners like us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing how Jesus forgave you by His grace?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty One
# I Perceive Today




Did Jesus reveal Himself in different ways? Jesus revealed Himself in many different ways. The Samaritan woman at the well saw that He was a prophet. She saw Jesus differently after He displayed supernatural knowledge of her life.

Jesus helps us to see Him spiritually. He revealed His power, love, grace, mercy, justice and many other qualities in the Bible. As we read the Bible, we learn more about Jesus. He opens our eyes that we may see Him as He reveals Himself to us through the Bible.

Jesus wrote the Bible so that He could reveal Himself to us. He wanted us to know about His great love for us. He wanted us to know God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He wanted us to love God, because God first loved us.

# *Prophet*

1. **Messiah.** God revealed in the Old Testament that Messiah would be a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-22), priest and king.

2. **Revelation.** The prophets of God received revelation from God and revealed it to people.

3. **Knowledge.** The woman at the well immediately recognized that Jesus had divine knowledge of her life, because He knew about her personal history.

4. **Prophet.** Indeed, Jesus was a prophet, and much more than a prophet. Jesus always was and forever is God. Jesus spoke the words given to Him by His Father.

5. **Given.** Therefore, Jesus spoke the words of His Father to the woman at the well. All people given to Jesus by His Father come to Jesus, and He never casts them away.

6. **Recognized.** Living Godly in the family of God means that the Father drew the woman at the well to Jesus. Jesus revealed divine knowledge to the woman. The revelation by Jesus of her personal life helped her recognize Jesus first as a prophet, and later as the Savior.

7. **Revealed.** We rejoice today because we know Jesus as Savior, Prophet, Priest, King and God. Jesus reveals Himself to us through the Scriptures and makes His presence known all the time in our daily lives as born-again believers.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by seeing Jesus as He reveals Himself to us in the Bible.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by loving Jesus more as we learn more about His great love for us.**

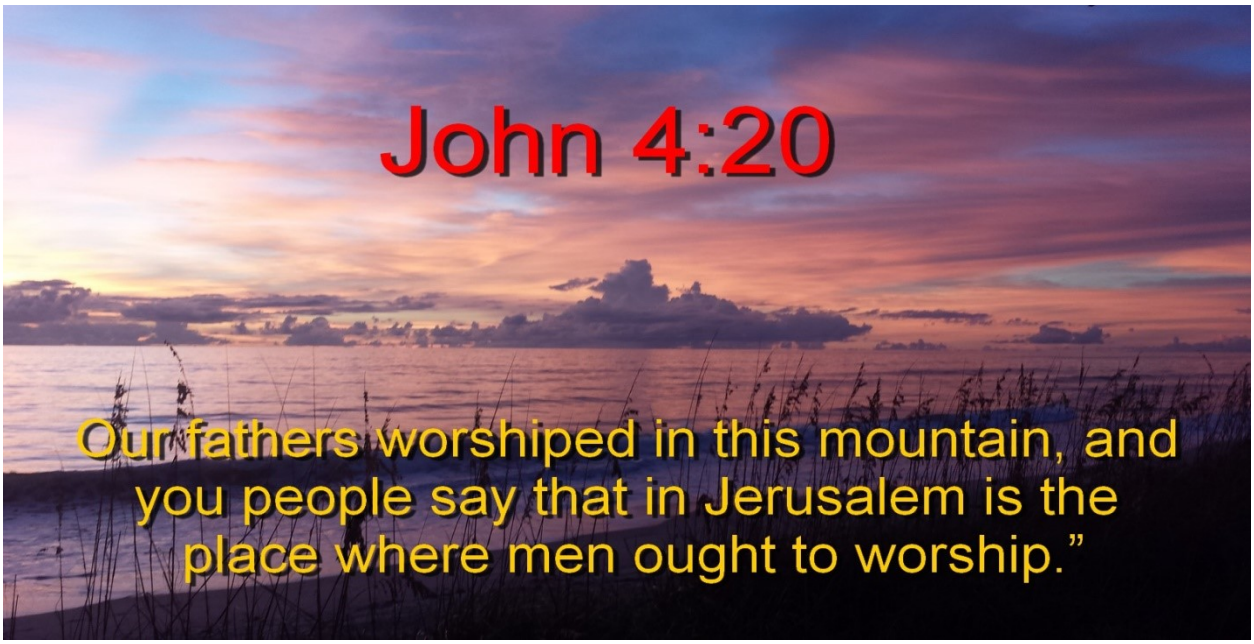
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we see Jesus as Prophet, Who knows all the future, because He is God.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by trusting that Jesus knows the entire future and lovingly controls our lives. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by trusting Jesus the Prophet with your future?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Two
# Our Fathers Today




Why do people talk about their religious traditions? The Samaritan woman talked about her traditions because she was a Samaritan, and they were idolaters. She talked about her religious traditions, because she knew them, even if she did not follow all of them. People often cite traditions for their religious practices. As a Samaritan, she worshipped idols, which were not God.

Jesus commanded all people to abandon their idols and find salvation in Jesus Christ. They must give up the worship of false Gods and evil traditions.

The Samaritan woman at the well recognized that Jesus was a prophet with a message in conflict with her present worship and old traditions. Jesus was calling upon her to drink water from the living God, Jesus Christ, standing right before her. He wanted her to believe in Him for salvation.

# *People Say*

1. **Traditions.** Although some traditions may be Godly, other traditions can destroy families and nations. Just because people have followed the traditions of their fathers does not mean they will have eternal life.

2. **Rebelled.** The woman at the well knew about the traditions of her fathers, the Samaritans. Nearly a thousand years (~ 931 B.C.) before the woman met Jesus at the well, the ten northern tribes of Israel rebelled against God and separated from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah, with their temple and capital in Jerusalem.

3. **Other.** The ten northern tribes followed other gods and forsook the worship of Jesus ("Yahweh"). They had their capital in the city of Samaria, in the land of Samaria.

4. **Separated.** The Samaritans hated the Jews, and things became worse when some Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem about 537 B.C. The Jews separated the Samaritans from the construction of the new temple. The two groups lived and worshipped separately.

5. **Abandon Traditions.** Jesus stepped over traditions to speak to sinners needing salvation. Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman, even if she followed the traditions of her fathers. Jesus invited her to abandon her traditions and believe in the Messiah, a Jew.

6. **Sharing Jesus.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we never let traditions stop us from sharing the loving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. **Faith in Jesus.** We rejoice today because Jesus called us to Himself, without regard to our religious traditions. We were born again by faith in Jesus, and we have come to know the Father, and Jesus Whom He has sent.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by abandoning sinful traditions and embracing Jesus as Savior.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we reach out in love to people of all traditions to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.**

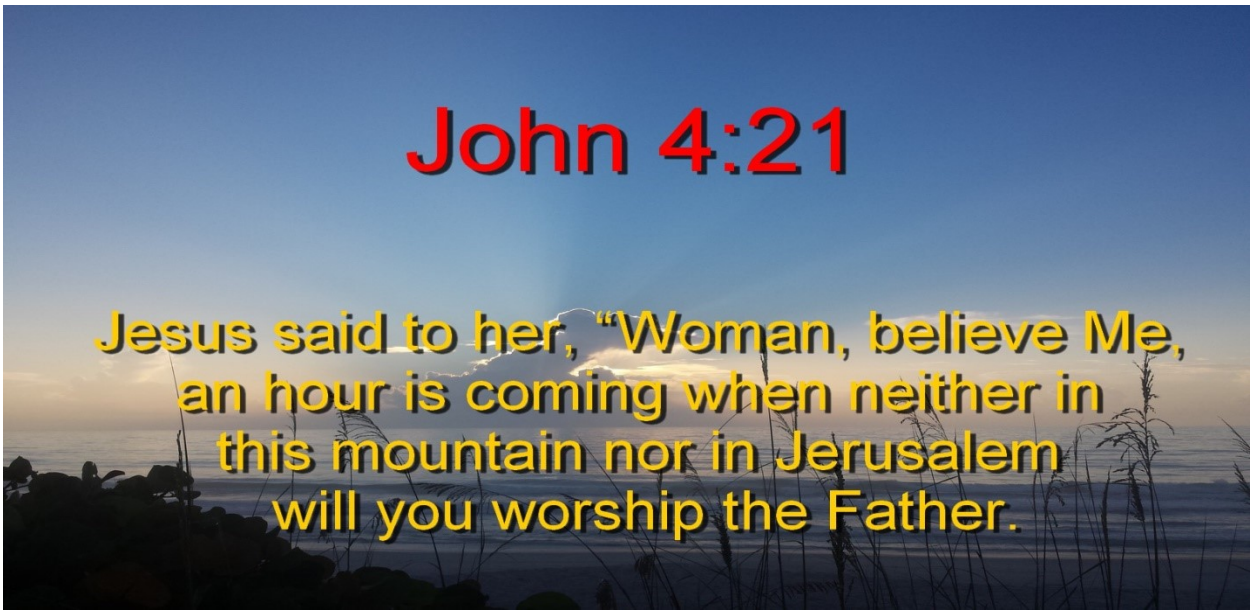
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as one people, no longer clinging to sinful traditions.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by abandoning sinful traditions in our lives, even if our fathers practiced them for years. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by abandoning evil traditions and embracing the love of Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Three
# Believe Me Today




Why did Jesus command people to believe in Him? He commanded people to believe in Him because He loved them and sought their salvation. Many people think that Jesus only invited people gently. While Jesus was humble and gentle, with an easy yoke and light burden for those people who believed Him, He also issued eternal life or eternal death commands.

Jesus spoke about worship. The Samaritan woman already knew that Jesus was a Prophet, unlike anyone she had ever met. He knew all about her. She knew nothing about Godly worship.

Jesus sought people to worship God in spirit and truth. Godly worship rests upon saving faith. Jesus did not focus upon the place of worship in Jerusalem or on a mountain. He focused upon the future. Believers will one day worship God apart from either mountain on earth.

# *An Hour Is Coming*

1. **Prophecy.** Prophecy dominates many parts of the Scriptures. God revealed the future so that we would trust Him and worship Him today.

2. **Understanding.** Jesus prophesied concerning the worship of God. The woman at the well already recognized Him as a prophet, but Jesus intended to lead her to a deeper understanding of His spiritual fullness as God.

3. **Worship.** Jesus revealed the future so that the woman would not get caught up in the place to worship. Jesus wanted her to know God and worship God immediately, no matter where she was.

4. **Father.** Jesus also described God as Father. The same Father was due worship from Samaritans, Jews, men, women, and all people in all places.

5. **Family.** Jesus emphasized a family relationship with God. Jesus and the Father are separate Persons, but are one God. We worship both the Father and the Son; both are God.

6. **God.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we worship God in Florida, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and many other places. We worship God in the mountains and by the sea.

7. **Sovereign.** We rejoice today because God knows the future. He created the future and it follows His sovereign plans. We can read about the future in both the Old and New Testaments. We worship God and He seeks our worship.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by worshipping God wherever God may lead us.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we worship God because we have saving faith.**

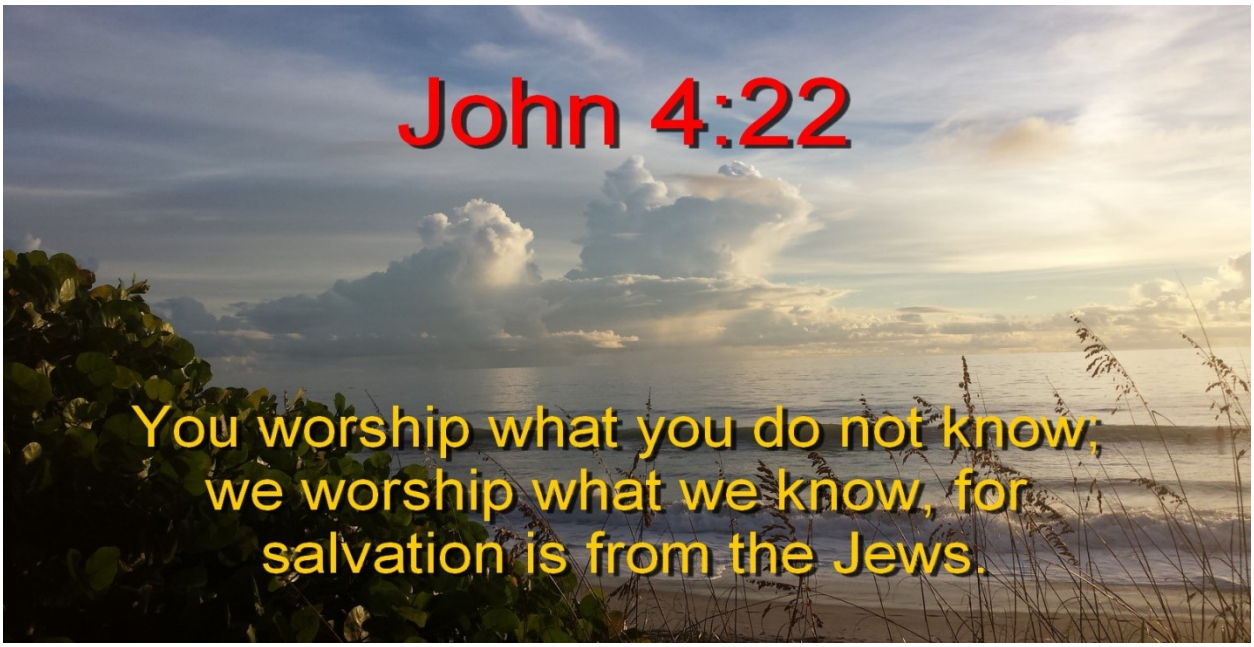
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in worshipping God as believers spread all over the world and in Paradise.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by worshipping God with people of like precious faith. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by joining with other believers and worshipping God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Four
# We Worship Today




Do some people worship in ignorance? Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that Samaritans worship in ignorance. They worship what they do not know. When people worship what they do not know, they do not worship God.

Jesus also said that the Jews worship what they knew, because salvation is of the Jews. Jesus meant that the Samaritans were worshipping false gods, who were really no gods at all.

When Jesus said that salvation was of the Jews, Jesus implicitly condemned the false religion and false worship of the Samaritans. Even so, Jesus offered them eternal life in Him, because He is the only Savior of the world—Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans.

# *You Worship*

1. **Ignorant.** Jesus identified a pervasive problem among non-believers: ignorant worship. Many devout people attend "worship" services each week, and some more often, but they worship what they do not know.

2. **Contrast.** Jesus contrasted ignorant worship with salvation worship. Salvation is from the Jews, because Jesus is Jewish by birth and genealogy.

3. **Covenant.** The Jews knew God and worshipped God. He was and is the covenant God of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jacob, David and others. So, salvation worship means you know God, and worship God, the only true God. Jesus was and is the covenant God. He keeps His promises, always.

4. **Worship.** Worship never produces salvation. Remember that Jesus told the woman that Samaritans worshipped in ignorance. Only faith in Jesus as Savior brings salvation as a free gift. By faith alone we know Jesus, believing the truth He revealed to us. True salvation prompts true worship. God seeks people to worship Him, but they must worship in Spirit and truth.

5. **Matters.** Notice how Jesus answered the woman's statement about worship in Jerusalem. Jesus revealed that salvation came from the Jews and the Samaritans worshipped in ignorance. Jesus told the truth. Worship matters.

6. **God.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know salvation is from the Jews. We know Jesus and worship Jesus as God. We also worship the Father and the Holy Spirit as God. Three Divine Persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), one eternal God.

7. **We.** We rejoice today because we do not practice ignorant worship. We worship Jesus, because we know Jesus as Savior, friend and eternal God.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by remembering that salvation is of the Jews.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we seek the salvation of Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we remember that God chose the Jews as His people, although for a time they have rejected Jesus, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come to salvation in Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by worshipping God for His grace and mercy to Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by worshipping Jesus, Whom we know by His grace?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Five
# Spirit and Truth Today




Why did Jesus talk about the future? He linked the future with the present. He said that an hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

Jesus meant that the Samaritan woman, by faith in Jesus, could worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Jesus implied that Jesus was talking with her so that she would begin to worship God in spirit and in truth. Samaritan worship followed the tradition of rejecting God and worshipping idols.

Jesus also revealed that the Father seeks worshippers. Jesus found a worshipper at the well and commanded her to believe in Him. The Father sent Jesus to give His soul to redeem sinners, so that they would become worshippers of the Father in spirit and in truth.

# *Worshipers*

1. **Revealed More.** As Jesus continued His talk with the Samaritan woman at the well, He revealed more about worship.

2. **True Worshippers.** Jesus mentioned the time to worship. The time to worship is in the future and now. Jesus also distinguished true worshippers from ignorant worshippers.

3. **Spirit and Truth.** Jesus identified true worshippers as those people who worship in spirit and truth. John used the term "spirit" which could mean the Holy Spirit or the human spirit.

4. **God Breathed.** As humans, God gave each of us a spirit. He breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of Adam.

5. **God Seeks Worshippers.** God the Father seeks people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. Real worship always involves the truth, and God is truth. God is also spirit. Real worship will always come from our spirit and be fastened upon truth.

6. **Delights.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we worship God in spirit and in truth. God seeks us to worship Him properly. He delights in our worship in spirit and in truth.

7. **Proper Worship.** We rejoice today as we worship God in spirit and in truth. He seeks us to worship Him and we rejoice with Him in proper worship.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we follow God's plan in which He saves sinners so that they may worship Him in spirit and in truth.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in worshipping God in spirit and in truth, and seeking others to join us in such worship.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by worshipping God in spirit and in truth. Will you live Godly in the family of God today as you seek people to worship God in spirit and in truth?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Six
# God Is Spirit Today




Why did Jesus reveal deep theological truths? Jesus explained deep theological truths so that people would learn about God and receive eternal life. He presented the Gospel of Jesus Christ in very simple language, with deep spiritual truths. John also wrote in very simple language. We have the very words of Jesus recorded in the New Testament Gospels.

Jesus taught that God is spirit. Jesus meant that God exists beyond the physical realm of bodies, although He is present in all realms and in all places simultaneously.

Because God is spirit, people must worship God in spirit and truth. The Samaritan woman worshipped, but she did not worship God. She worshipped the false gods of the Samaritans. In order to worship in spirit and in truth, she must worship through Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, for life or worship, except through Jesus.

# *Spirit and Truth*

1. **Revealed.** Jesus has revealed the place, time and means of worship to the Samaritan woman at the well. Why did Jesus talk with her about worship?

2. **Knowing.** The Samaritan woman had great ignorance about true worship. She needed to understand the spiritual and eternal depths and consequences of the words of Jesus. Jesus linked worship with knowing God and salvation.

3. **Equipped.** She thought of worship in human terms, with human traditions. Jesus revealed to her that God is spirit. God is not a product of human hands or human thoughts. God is spirit, and exists in and beyond the physical world and the physical universe. We connect with God as one spirit to another, although we are not equal or the same. As believers, we become partakers of the divine nature, and equipped to worship God in spirit and in truth.

4. **Representation.** Because God is spirit, we cannot touch Him, see Him, feel Him or otherwise use our physical senses to perceive Him. We communicate with God in spirit. Because Jesus was both God and man, the woman could see God in the flesh. Yet, the divine nature indwelt Jesus. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory, and the exact representation of God's nature.

5. **The Way, Truth and Life.** Jesus left no wiggle room about worship. We must worship God in spirit and in truth. We cannot have our own truth, because God is truth. Jesus described Himself as the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Jesus.

6. **Worship.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we worship God in spirit and in truth.

7. **Now.** We rejoice today because Jesus has saved us and sanctified us so that we can worship God in spirit and in truth. We can worship God right now.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by worshipping God in spirit and in truth.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we recognize that Jesus opens the only way to worship God in spirit and in truth.**

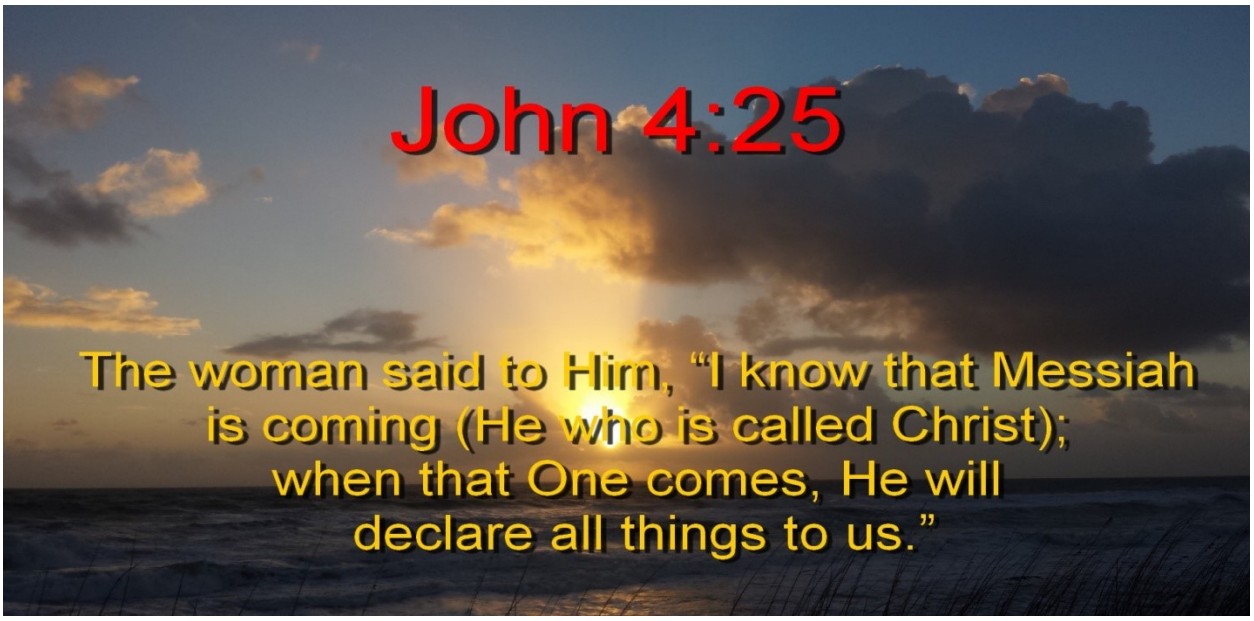
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together to worship in spirit and in truth.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by worshipping God in spirit and in truth. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by joining with others to worship in spirit and in truth?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Seven
# I Know Today




Why did Jesus have conversations with people? Jesus did not just preach to people; He had back and forth conversations with many people, so that He could lead people to salvation in Him. He also talked with people about their faith and how to become fishers of men. Jesus both talked and listened.

The Samaritan woman at the well told Jesus about her understanding of Messiah (the Christ). She said that when Christ comes, He would declare all things to the people.

Jesus used her understanding of Messiah to tell her more about Himself, the Messiah, the Christ. Because Jesus listened, the woman would have a point of connection with Jesus. Jesus frequently used communications from others to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# *Messiah*

1. **Idea.** Although the Samaritan woman worshipped in ignorance, she had some idea of Messiah. She knew that when Messiah arrived, He would declare all things.

2. **Knowledge.** Notice how Jesus tapped directly into her limited knowledge of Messiah. Now it is clear why He revealed that He knew personal information about her. He offered her further proof that He was the Messiah she expected, although her knowledge of Messiah was incomplete and partially inaccurate.

3. **Jesus.** This woman knew that Messiah was coming. She had already called Jesus a prophet. Jesus wanted her to know more. He wanted her to know He is Messiah. The term "Messiah" is a Hebrew word meaning anointed one; the term "Christ" is the Greek term for anointed one. The Samaritans had a Hebrew and Greek language background.

4. **Ask.** Jesus always seeks for people to ask Him for the water that will in them become a well of water springing up to eternal life.

5. **Testimony.** Jesus followed a very clear plan to reveal Himself as the expected Messiah to the city of Sychar through the testimony of one woman.

6. **Many.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we must be attuned to God's plan for our lives. His plans may include using our single testimony to bring salvation to many people, even an entire city.

7. **Water.** We rejoice today because God loves to give sinners the well of water springing up to eternal life. No water like it.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by listening to unbelievers as we share with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by recognizing that unbelievers do not understand the truth about Jesus and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by welcoming people who have questions about Jesus and salvation.**

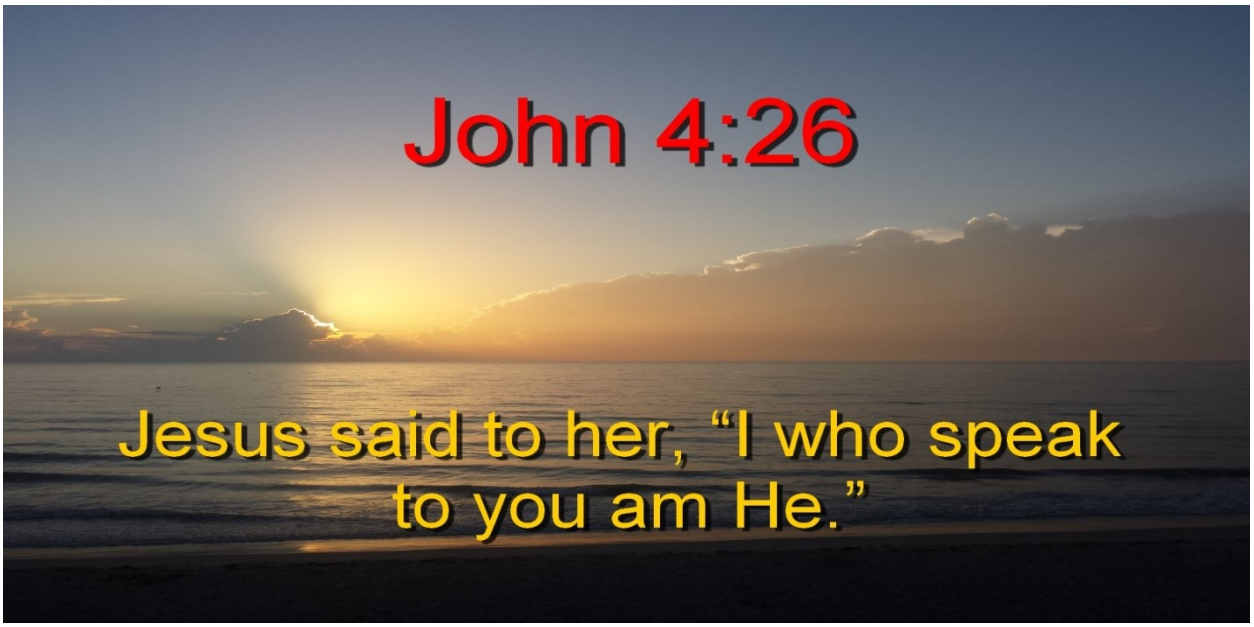
**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by listening carefully as we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by listening as you share the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Eight

# I Today




Why do some people say that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah? Because they choose to ignore the evidence in the Bible that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah. Not only did Jesus claim to be the Messiah, He also proved that He is the Messiah.

When the Samaritan woman at the well said that Messiah would declare all things to people, Jesus immediately responded that He was Messiah. In fact, He had already revealed intimate details about the woman to her, proving that He had supernatural knowledge about her.

Jesus commanded people to believe in Him. He came with the authority of God, the power of God, the knowledge of God, and the love of God. He is the Messiah, and commanded people to believe in Him.

# *Am He*

1. **Instruction.** Jesus revealed Himself as Messiah to the woman at the well. The way He made that revelation provides instruction for us.

2. **Drink.** Jesus started by asking the woman at the well for a drink. His request surprised the woman.

3. **Offered.** Jesus then offered the woman water that would become a well springing up in her to eternal life.

4. **Knowledge.** Jesus then asked about her husband and revealed His divine knowledge.

5. **Worship.** Jesus then instructed her about true worship in spirit and in truth. Jesus brought her to faith in Messiah.

6. **Trust.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we recognize Jesus the Messiah and trust Him for eternal salvation. Jesus brought each born-again person to salvation one at a time, personally.

7. **Reveals.** We rejoice today because Jesus always reveals Himself as Messiah, prompting our love, worship and obedience.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by worshipping Jesus as Messiah.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we spread the news that Jesus was the Messiah, the Anointed One of God, the Savior of all men.**

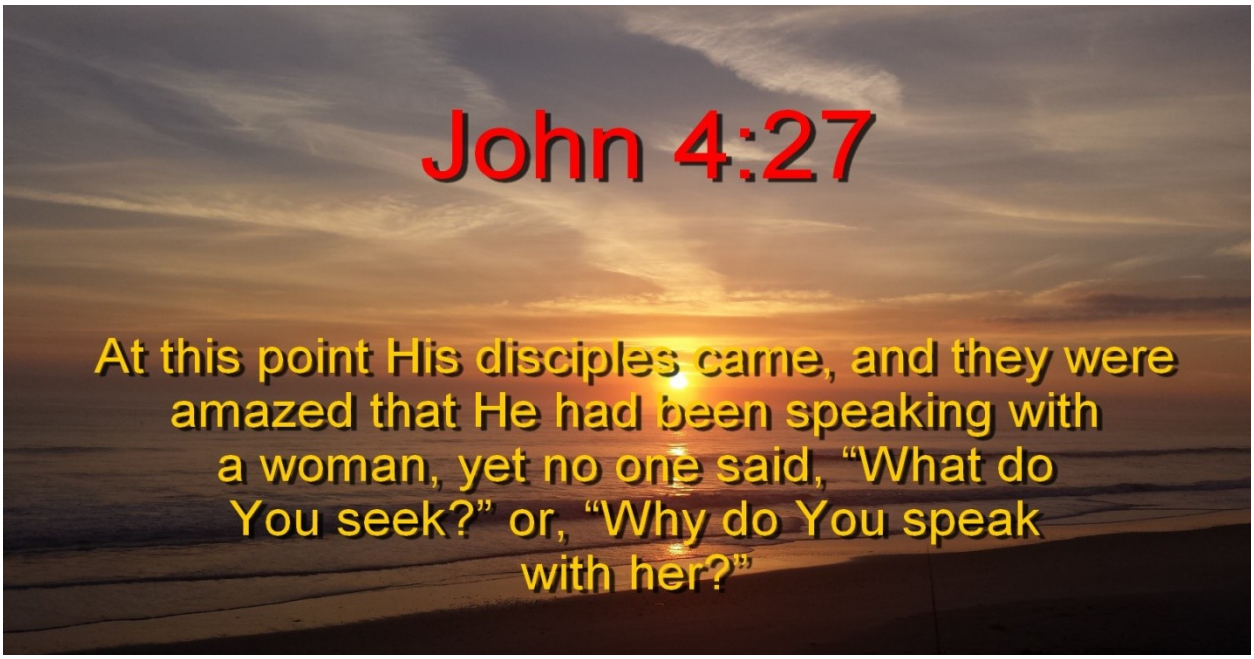
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in worshipping Jesus as Messiah.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as share with people the identity of Jesus, the Anointed One of God, the Savior of the world. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by talking about the Messiah?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Thirty Nine
# Amazed Today




Did Jesus minister to people when the disciples were away from Jesus? Jesus ministered with and without the disciples. He could send them away to obtain food, while He shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar.

Jesus trained men how to share their faith and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Part of that training included speaking to women and Samaritans, people many male Jews would avoid.

Although Jesus answered many questions from His disciples, they did not always ask the questions they may have been thinking. They were amazed that Jesus was speaking with a woman, but they did not ask Him what He sought or why He was speaking with her.

# *No One Said*

1. **Returned.** The disciples returned from their trip into Sychar to buy food. Upon their return to the well, they saw Jesus talking to the woman.

2. **Amazed.** The disciples were amazed that He was speaking with a woman. Apparently, the disciples had not seen Jesus speaking to a woman like the Samaritan before.

3. **Watched.** Although amazed, the disciples watched and listened, but did not ask Jesus why He was talking to the woman.

4. **Deflect.** When anyone shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ, other people often interrupt with questions. Believers should never deflect the conversation away from sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. **Ask.** The two questions in the text are both interesting questions. The disciples did not ask either question, although we know the answer to both questions from reading the story.

6. **Careful.** Living Godly in the family of God means that must be careful about when we ask questions and when we listen quietly. Jesus will tell us what we need to know, when we need to know it.

7. **Jesus.** We rejoice today because Jesus amazes us with the things He does and how He does them. I truly enjoy watching Jesus reach out to people today.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by asking Jesus the right questions and remaining silent about some questions.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by following Jesus as He amazes us by reaching out to certain people.**

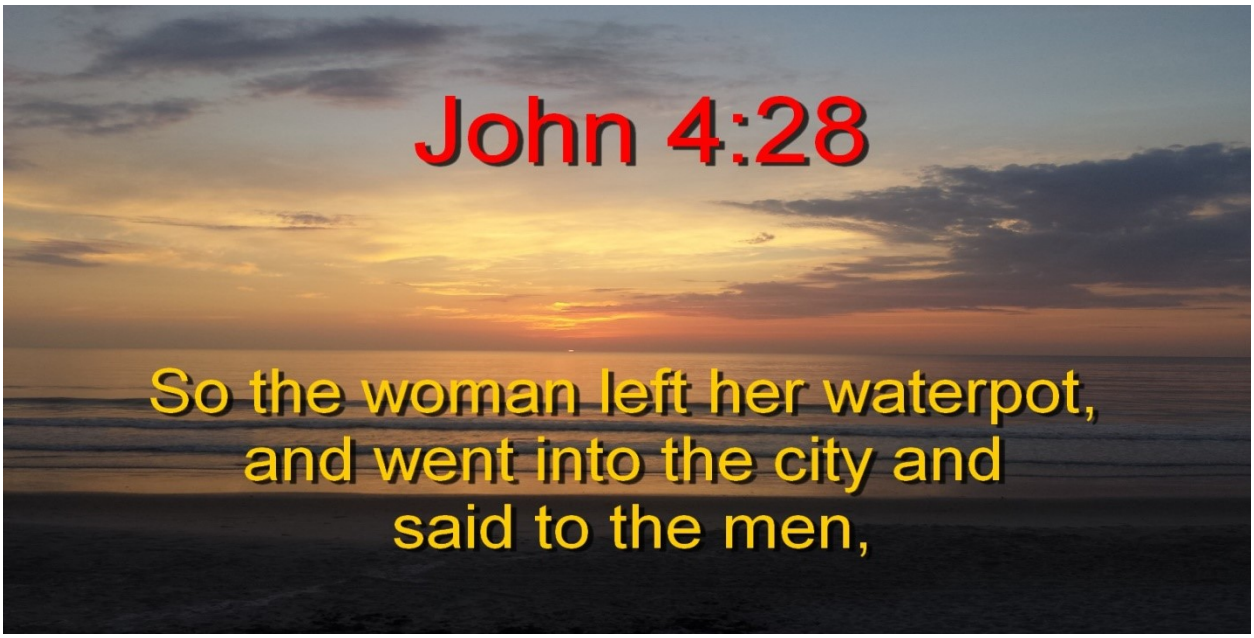
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together to speak to all kinds of people about Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following Jesus as He reaches out to all kinds of people. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by reaching out in Jesus to all kinds of people?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty
# Waterpot Today




Why did the woman leave her waterpot at the well? The Samaritan woman left her waterpot at the well because she wanted to tell the men in the city of Sychar about Jesus.

The Samaritan woman was no longer concerned about drawing water from the well. She had spoken with Messiah, and He declared all things to her. He displayed supernatural knowledge about her life. She had heard about the well of water springing up to eternal life. She had met the Messiah.

Like many other people, the Samaritan woman suddenly realized that she needed to tell others about Jesus, the Messiah. She was telling the men about the Messiah.

# *Said to the Men*

1. **Back.** The woman at the well decided to leave Jesus and go back to the city of Sychar. Please recall she came to Jacob's well to draw water with her waterpot.

2. **Waterpot.** John recorded that the woman left her waterpot at the well. Although we do not know all that happened that day, we know for sure the woman no longer cared about drawing water from Jacob's well.

3. **Changed.** Jesus had completely changed her mind about Him and now He occupied her mind and heart.

4. **Tell.** The woman had a definite purpose in leaving the well. She wanted to go back to the city to tell people about Jesus at the well.

5. **Urgency.** She felt some sense of urgency because she got up and left her waterpot. She could have taken it with her, but she left it in her haste.

6. **Occupied.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we become occupied with Jesus in our hearts and minds. We enjoy sharing Jesus and His love with all kinds of people.

7. **Share.** We rejoice today because Jesus has come into our lives, occupying our minds and our hearts as Savior and Lord. His love fills us and we love to share Jesus with other people.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by speaking to others about Jesus the Messiah.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we return to people who knew us before Jesus saved us and share with them what Jesus has done for us.**

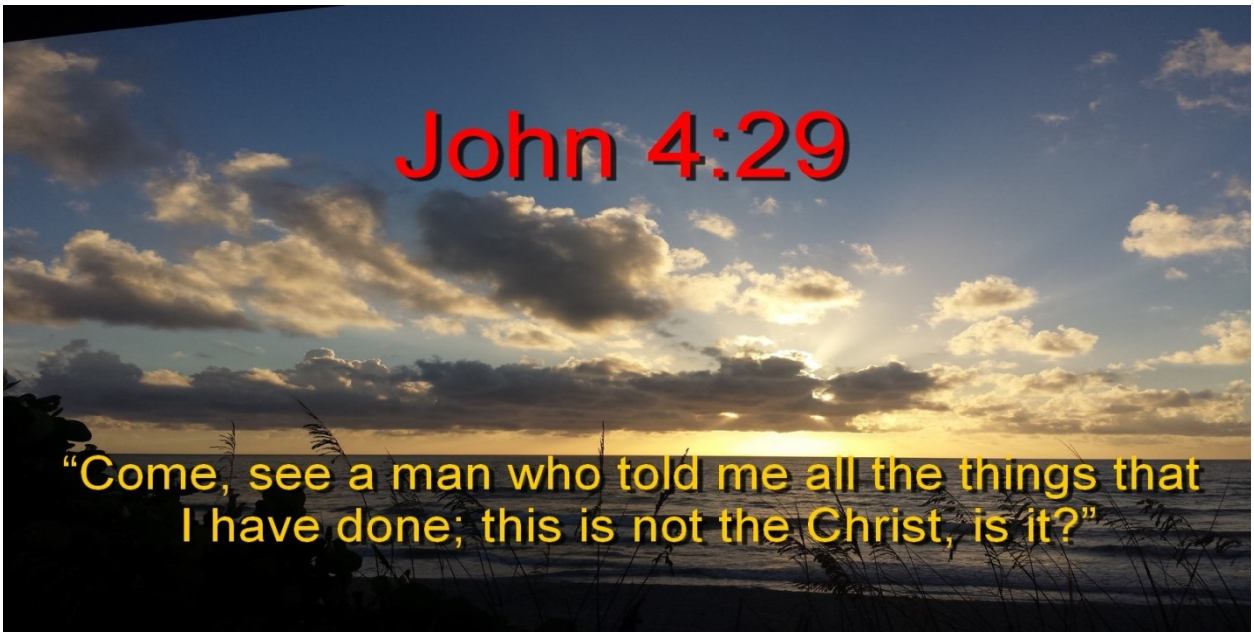
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by leaving our waterpots behind and returning home to tell people about Jesus.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by leaving our waterpots behind and urgently telling people about Jesus and His salvation. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by urgently sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people who need to hear it?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty One
# All Things Today




Why did the Samaritan woman tell people to come and see? She told them to come and see because Jesus had told her all things she had done. She was so moved by her conversation with Jesus that she wanted everyone to hear about Him.

The Samaritan woman asked if Jesus was not the Christ. She meant that she believed He was the Christ, because of Jesus revealing details of her life to her. In her mind, Jesus had correctly identified Himself as the Christ with both His words and His actions.

Jesus often evangelized groups by speaking to one person in that group. Then that one person would invite others to meet Jesus. Jesus had a marvelous plan to evangelize Sychar, and it started with one woman at a well.

# *Come, See*

1. **Listen.** People often listen to people they know. So when the woman came back to the city of Sychar, people knew her.

2. **Invited.** The woman invited those people to come and see. She wanted those people to meet Jesus and hear His message of eternal life. She invited them to meet the Messiah.

3. **Come.** Jesus had used similar language to invite two disciples to come and see where He was staying. Andrew remained with Jesus and followed Him.

4. **Know.** Jesus is always up close and personal. He invites people individually to get to know Him. By faith, He lives in our hearts and we abide in His love. He always has time for us. He is never too busy.

5. **City.** Because Jesus talked to one woman at the well, she turned around and invited an entire city to meet Jesus.

6. **Meet.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we invite people to meet Jesus and receive His free gift of eternal life, which we enjoy every day.

7. **Accepted.** We rejoice today because we have accepted that invitation to come and see Jesus. We have a personal relationship with Jesus and warm fellowship with Him. He fills us with His love.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by inviting other people to come and see Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we tell others about the great things Jesus has done in our lives.**

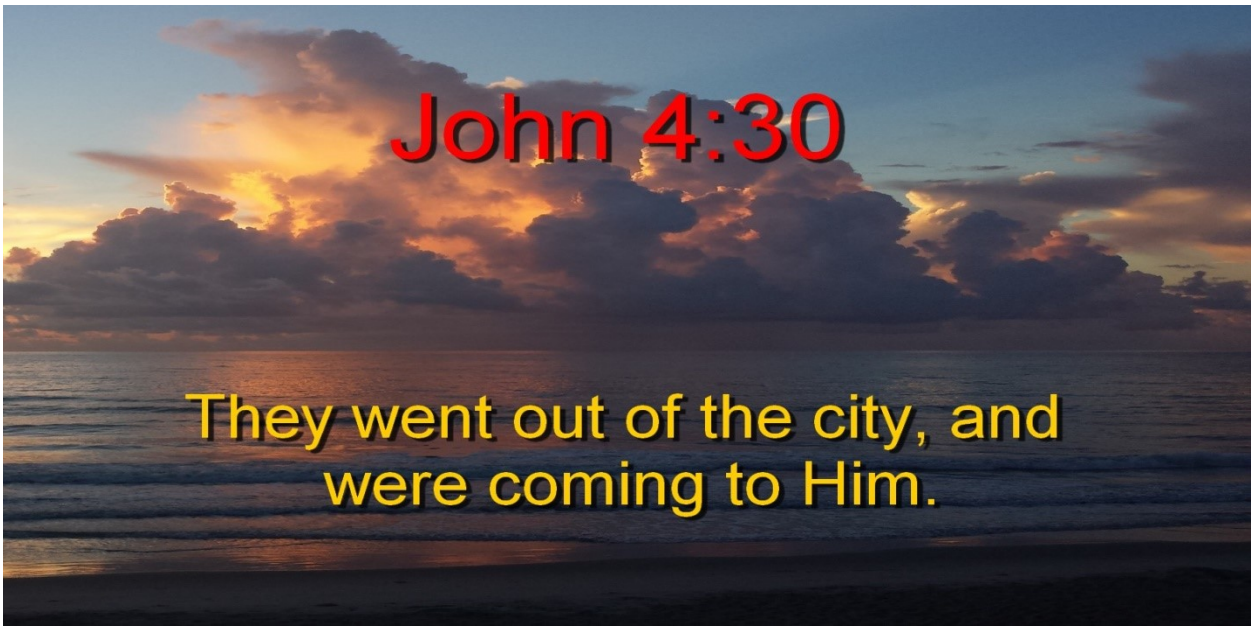
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we welcome people who want to come and see Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by welcoming people who want to come and see Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by inviting people to come and see Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Two
# They Went Out Today




Why were people coming out of the city of Sychar to see Jesus? They were coming out because one woman said they should come and see Jesus. Her testimony about Jesus caught the attention of many people.

Jesus has plans for people and cities of people. He has plans for individuals and plans for groups. Jesus loves everyone and His plans follow His Father's plans.

Jesus planned on meeting the Samaritan woman at the well, telling her about all the things she had done, and then her leaving to invite the entire city to see Jesus for themselves. Jesus has perfect plans for evangelism and we should follow His plans.

# *Coming to Jesus*

1. **Follow.** The ways of Jesus are not our ways; as believers, we must learn to follow His ways.

2. **City.** Jesus had a plan for an entire city of Samaritans to come out and meet Him. He would then offer them the free gift of God, eternal life.

3. **Messiah.** The disciples of Jesus went into that city and returned to Jesus with food for supper. Jesus met a woman at the well and she returned to that city with a message about never being thirsty again, because she had met the Messiah.

4. **Reveals.** Jesus loves for Samaritans and all people to come to Him. The Father draws people to Jesus and Jesus reveals the Father to them.

5. **Power.** Never underestimate the power of God, the plans of God, and the love of God. They transcend all eternity and encompass all humanity.

6. **Glory.** Living Godly in the family of God means we watch Jesus use one person to draw many people to Himself. He uses each of His children to His glory.

7. **Received.** We rejoice today because Jesus received us when we came to Him by faith alone. He gave every believer eternal life.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by following the plans of Jesus for individuals and cities.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we follow Jesus and stop making our own plans for our lives.**

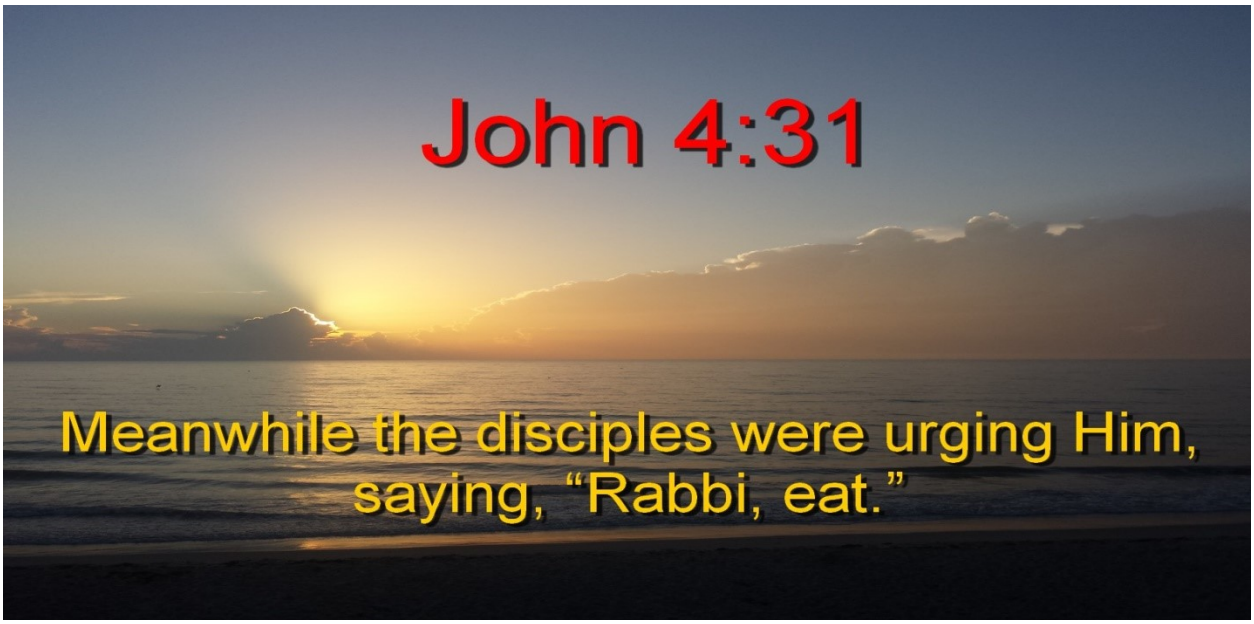
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God when we are out meeting people in daily life that God plans to use to reach many people with His love.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by abandoning our plans and following the plans of Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and start conversations with people who need to meet Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Three
# Urging Him Today




Why were the disciples urging Jesus to eat? Because they went into Sychar to purchase food, leaving Jesus at the well alone. The disciples thought that Jesus must have been hungry for the food they had bought to share with Him.

The disciples used the term "Rabbi." This term meant teacher, and Jesus commanded His disciples to call no one "Rabbi" except Jesus Himself. They only had One Teacher, and His name was Jesus. In fact, Jesus commanded His disciples to avoid using all titles, for they were all brothers.

The disciples thought frequently in physical terms. They thought about physical food sustaining physical life in the human body. Jesus often urged His disciples to think more in spiritual terms, even about food and drink.

# *Rabbi*

1. **Meanwhile**. After the Samaritan woman left and went back into the city of Sychar, the disciples returned from their trip into Sychar to buy food. Upon their return to the well, they urged Jesus to eat the food they had bought in Sychar.

2. **Urging**. The disciples had a close relationship with Jesus. They had no problem about urging Jesus. They knew He had traveled a long way and required food.

3. **Buying**. You may recall that the disciples left Jesus at the well so that they could go and buy food in Sychar, apparently because they were lacking food.

4. **Humanity**. Jesus required food for His body, because He had real flesh and real blood. His body needed physical food to sustain itself. Jesus had to eat food to live.

5. **Missions**. Jesus sent the disciples to buy food. They had their mission and Jesus had His mission. While they were buying food, He was speaking with the Samaritan woman. Jesus had a divine appointment.

6. **Plans**. Living Godly in the family of God means that we live according to God's plans, like buying food at the right time and place.

7. **Care**. We rejoice today because Jesus was a real human being, with flesh and blood, who can sympathize with our weaknesses.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to sympathize with our weaknesses.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we count upon Jesus to feed us what we need every day.**

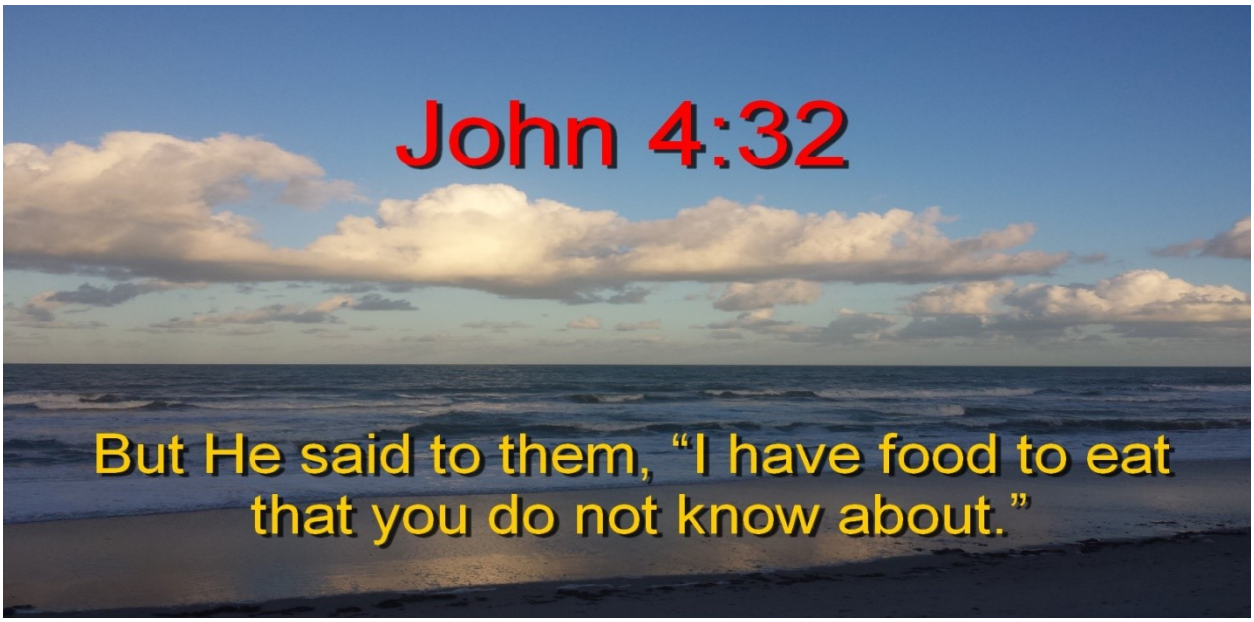
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in trusting Jesus to give us our daily bread.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we trust Jesus to give us our daily bread, which He also ate on earth. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to feed you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Four
# Food To Eat Today




Why did Jesus say that He had food to eat that the disciples did not know about? Jesus was not talking about physical food, but spiritual food. Jesus was training His disciples to understand that value of spiritual food.

Doing the will of His Father nourished Jesus spiritually. His disciples often thought in purely physical terms. They had purchased food and then urged Jesus to eat that physical food. They had been travelling with Jesus, and knew that He must be hungry for physical food.

Jesus trained His disciples about the relationship of physical food and spiritual food. Both were important, but God supplied both kinds of food. His disciples did not know that Jesus had been eating spiritual food, but Jesus was revealing to them that life is more than just physical food.

# *You Do Not Know*

1. **Questions.** Jesus talked to His disciples frequently. They asked questions and He provided answers.

2. **Answers.** His disciples had urged Jesus to eat, but now He answers them. He tells them about food.

3. **Food.** The disciples went to Sychar to buy food. Based on the answer of Jesus, they lacked physical food. Jesus had food they did not know about.

4. **Physical.** In our lives, we need to learn that life is more than food. Jesus ate food that was not physical.

5. **God.** Just like Jesus offered the woman the free gift of the water of God, so also Jesus had food to eat from God.

6. **Satisfies.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we must learn about the food that God supplies to us as we do His will; His food satisfies forever.

7. **Supplies.** We rejoice today because we have food that the world does not know about. God supplies food for us each day.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by learning from Jesus that life is more than physical food.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by trusting God to provide spiritual food for us, as well as physical food.**

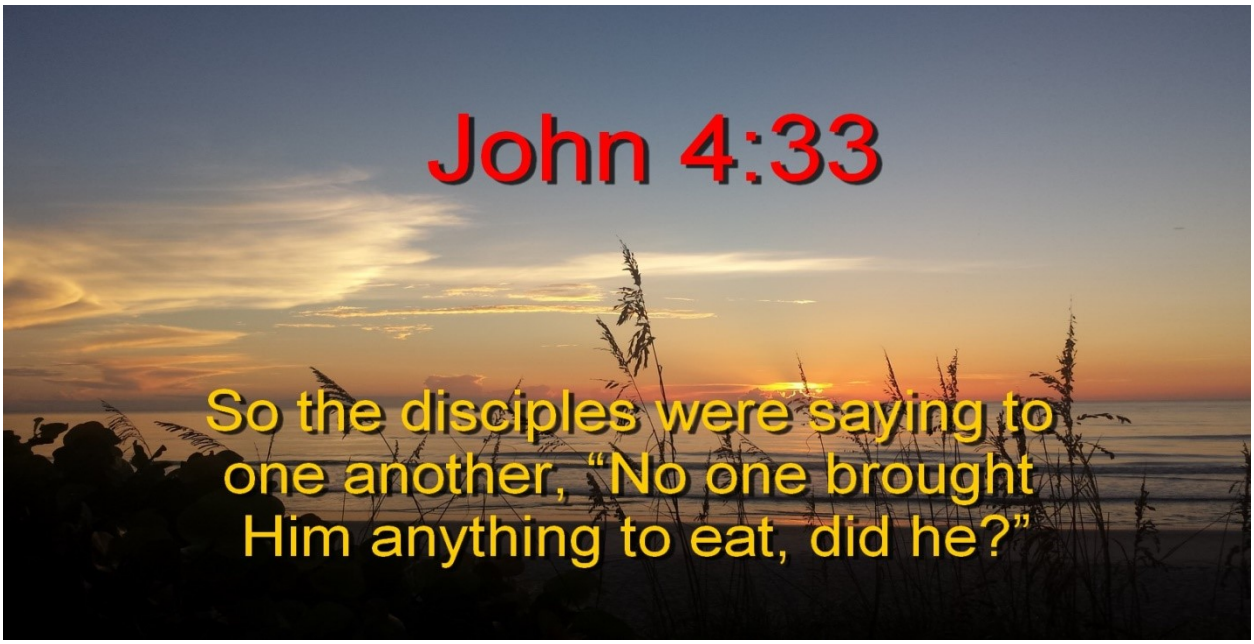
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we eat together and enjoy all the food God provides.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by learning more about spiritual food and enjoying all the food God provides to us each day. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and enjoy the food God gives you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Five
# Anything To Eat Today




Why did the disciples ask one another if anyone had given Jesus some food? Their question implies that they thought no one had brought food to Jesus. So, if they had not given Him food, why did He not eat their food immediately?

Jesus often provoked questions from people, including His disciples. Jesus often answered questions that arose from people observing how He lived. He lived a sinless life as God in the flesh. Jesus angered some people, baffled some, and loved everyone.

As we learn more about Jesus each day, we too have questions. John provided a detailed account of Jesus and some of the questions that the disciples asked one another. Jesus patiently answered all kinds of questions, because He wanted His disciples to learn how to become fishers of men, following Jesus each day as He taught them how to live and how to fish for men.

# *Did He?*

1. **Disciples**. Jesus chose twelve disciples. He knew all along that Judas would betray Him, because Judas was the son of destruction. Jesus intended that the others would become fishers of men.

2. **Training**. Jesus provided up close and personal training for the disciples about physical and spiritual matters, and those two realms interacted with each other.

3. **Food**. Jesus sent the disciples into Sychar to buy physical food. When they returned, they urged Jesus to eat some of the food they brought. They had been traveling with Jesus and knew He must be hungry.

4. **Water**. Just like Jesus taught the Samaritan woman at the well about spiritual water springing up to eternal life, so also Jesus taught His disciples about spiritual food.

5. **Brought**. The disciples questioned whether anyone had brought Jesus food. They could not understand why they had to urge Jesus to eat. If they were hungry, He must be hungry also.

6. **Perplexed**. Living Godly in the family of God means that Jesus did things that perplexed the disciples, and still does things today which perplex disciples.

7. **Learning**. We rejoice today because we learn some spiritual lessons that answer our questions about Jesus. He does things in our lives that make us wonder, and then teaches us things that resolve our questions.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by asking Jesus the right questions.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by listening to Jesus as He answers our questions.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we encourage one another to listen to Jesus as He trains us to follow Him.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we listen to Jesus answering our questions about Him. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by listening to Jesus today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Six
# My Food Today




What did Jesus eat? Jesus said that His food was to do the will of His Father and accomplish His work. Jesus spoke about spiritual food.

The disciples had much to learn about spiritual life in Jesus. They needed to learn that they could do the will of God every day. They could accomplish the work of God every day.

That work included talking to people about Jesus every day. The disciples had to develop a keen spiritual sense that they were acting for God in their daily lives. They had to learn to be purposeful in life, striving in the power and love of God to accomplish the work God set before them each day.

# *Accomplish His Work*

1. **Explanation.** Jesus continued His explanation about food to His disciples.

2. **His Food.** Jesus declared that His food consisted of two related things: (a) to do the will of the Father, Who sent Jesus; and (b) to accomplish His work.

3. **Accomplish.** In our lives, by God's grace and power, we can do the will of the Father and accomplish His work.

4. **Good Works.** Only by doing the will of the Father can we accomplish His work. God has prepared good works for us that we should walk in them.

5. **God's Will.** For Jesus, His food meant doing the will of God. When we fail to do God's will, then we enter starvation mode.

6. **Satisfied.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we do the will of the Father, not our will. As we do His will, we accomplish His works. Not only do we enjoy the food of God, but we feel satisfied in our heart and spirit.

7. **Our Lives Count.** We rejoice today because our lives can really count for God each day. We can do His will and His works today, and not our own. In Christ, we can feast on doing God's will and accomplishing His work and never have a weight problem.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by doing the will of God each day.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by accomplishing the work God gave for us to do each day.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by working together to do God's will and accomplish the work He has for the church.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by doing the will of God and accomplishing the work of God. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by feasting upon the will of God and accomplishing the work of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Seven
# Lift Up Your Eyes Today




Why did Jesus command His disciples to lift up their eyes? Jesus wanted them to see the fields white to harvest. Just as Jesus talked about spiritual food, so also He spoke about spiritual harvest.

Before the disciples could enter into the harvest, they had to lift up their eyes and see the fields ripe for harvest. People look upon fields all the time, but they do not see those fields like Jesus sees those fields. He sees people coming to him as ripe for a spiritual harvest of souls.

Jesus trained His disciples to be harvesters of souls. As they lift up their eyes, they will see Samaritans coming to see Jesus and hear from Him. Even today, we need to lift up our eyes and see fields white to harvest. Those fields of people need to hear about Jesus today, and meet Him, and learn from Him about salvation and receive the free gift of eternal life.

# *White for Harvest*

1. **Taught.** Jesus taught His disciples how to share their faith and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. It starts with looking up.

2. **Souls.** Jesus commanded His disciples to look at the fields and see a harvest. In this context, Jesus meant a spiritual harvest of human souls.

3. **Harvest.** Jesus started with their own saying that the harvest was coming in four months. They knew that saying. Jesus used that saying to command the disciples to see the harvest was ready now.

4. **Fields.** Jesus spoke about spiritual fields, filled with people needing salvation only offered as a free gift by Jesus.

5. **Look.** In our lives, are we looking at fields white for harvest? Jesus commands us to look with spiritual eyes upon white-for-harvest populations. Please recall the He said this command in Samaria; the Samaritans at Sychar were white for spiritual harvest.

6. **See.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we lift up our eyes and see people white for harvest today.

7. **Gather.** We rejoice today because we love to do the will of God. In this case, God wants to send us to gather the people ready for harvest. They live all around us.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by lifting up our eyes.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by seeing the fields are white for harvest today.**

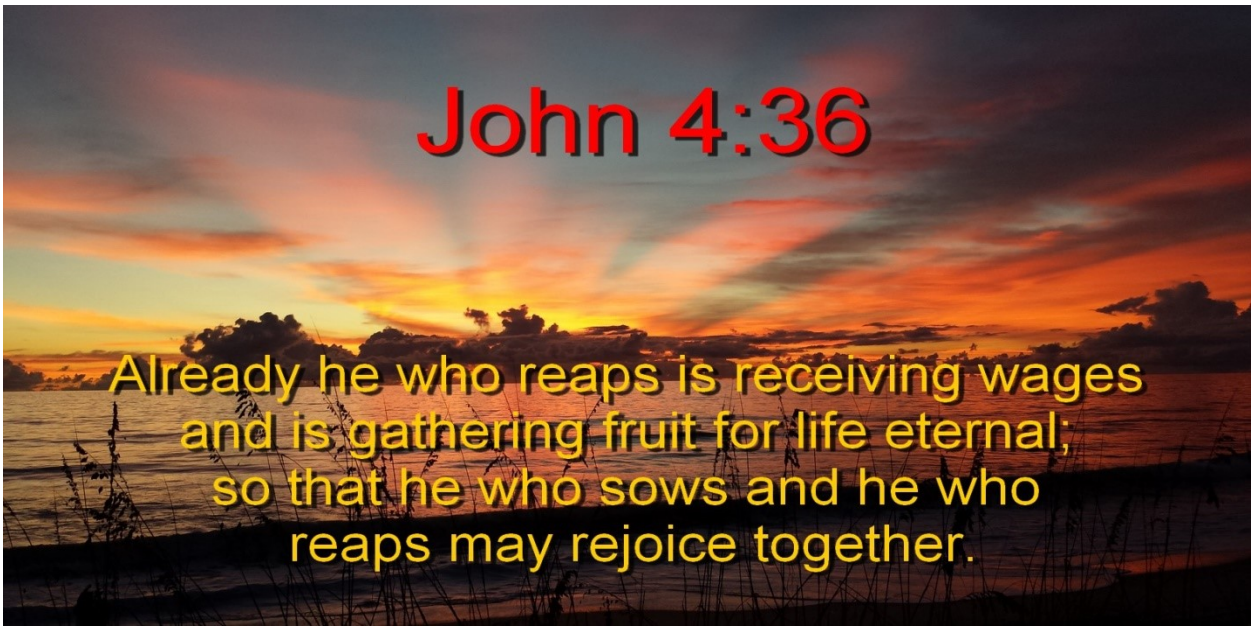
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we see the unbelievers around as fields ready for harvest.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by lifting our eyes and seeing the fields white for harvest. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by seeing the unbelievers around you as ready for salvation?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Eight
# Gathering Fruit Today




Why should the disciples rejoice together? Jesus said that disciples who sow and disciples who gather fruit for life eternal should rejoice together. Jesus described a team effort for evangelism.

Jesus explained that God does evangelism through team ministries. One believer may share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while another believer may complete the process of bringing a soul to salvation in Jesus.

Disciples cannot save anyone; only God saves people. He has entrusted His disciples with the ministry of reconciliation. We happily proclaim Jesus and plant the word in many hearts. Other disciples may water, but God gives the increase.

# *Rejoice Together*

1. **Team.** Jesus taught His disciples about team ministry and team evangelism in particular.

2. **Choice.** One of the first lessons is that God picks the team, not you. You may even wonder about some of the choices God makes by picking certain team members. But remember, He chose you for the team and you should remember what you were like back then.

3. **Functions.** Different team members have different functions on the team. The woman at the well received eternal life so she could go and sow the seed back in the city. She joined the team at the well and immediately became a sower in the city. Sowers plant the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They talk to people about how they can receive the free gift of salvation.

4. **Harvest.** The woman sowed in the city and the people came out of the city to see Jesus. Jesus saw those people as a great harvest, ready for the disciples and others to reap.

5. **Reap.** Every disciple must be trained to sow and to reap as a team player. Only Jesus can save people. We work for Him, doing His Father's will. We rejoice together because the harvest brings new people to eternal life.

6. **Practice.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we practice sowing and reaping every day. We rejoice together as we each labor for the Lord Jesus.

7. **Together.** We rejoice today because we live on the Jesus team. Together we rejoice with each other and with Jesus.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by sowing and reaping each day as disciples.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we receive wages from God for sowing and reaping the fields of God.**

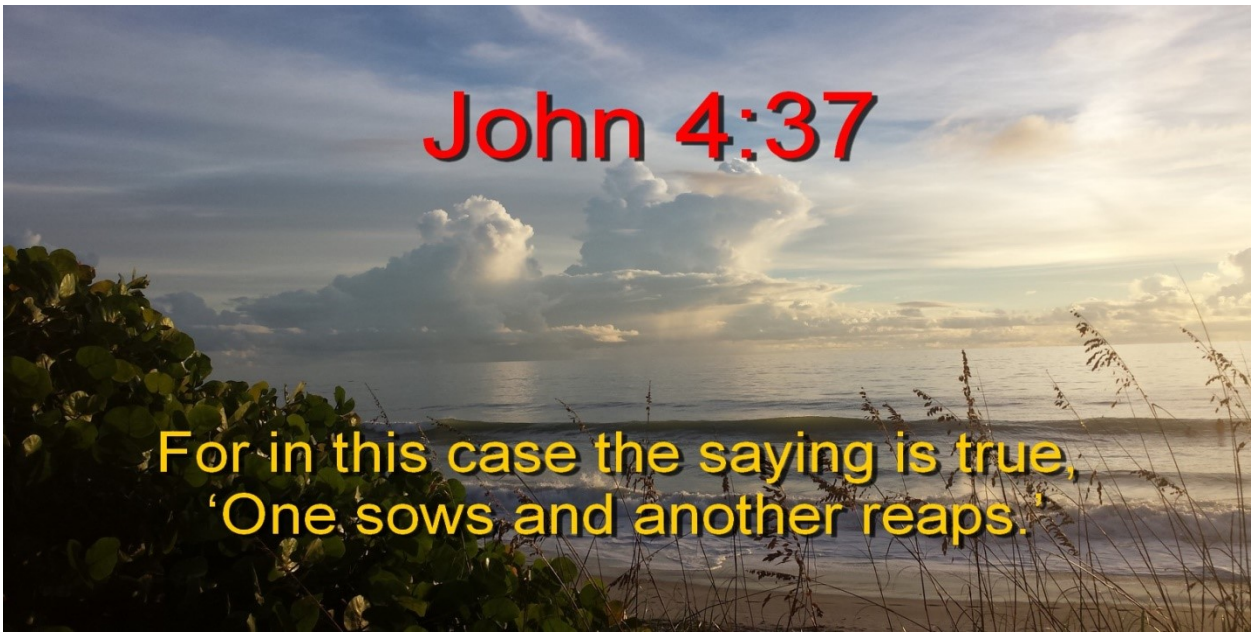
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in our labors for God to harvest His fields, working as His team each day.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by sowing and harvesting God's field of lost souls today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by receiving wages for your labors in the fields white for harvest?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Forty Nine
# The Saying Today




Why did Jesus teach His disciples that one sows and another reaps? Jesus said that in this case the saying was truth, "One sows and another reaps."

Jesus often developed spiritual truths using illustrations from His surroundings. In this case Jesus was speaking about all the people coming out from Sychar to see Him.

The Samaritan woman had left her waterpot at the well and returned to the city to tell the men that she had found Jesus. She invited them to go out and see if He was the Messiah. She had sown and the disciples were about to reap a spiritual harvest of Samaritan souls.

# *One Sows and another Reaps*

1. **Training.** Jesus continued training His disciples about sharing their faith.

2. **Team.** Jesus elaborated upon team ministry. One believer will sow the word of God.

3. **Sowed.** Jesus sowed the words of eternal life with the woman at the well. She in turn sowed the words of eternal life with the city.

4. **Harvest.** The disciples will reap a harvest of people from the city. Notice that you may be a sower or a reaper, or both.

5. **Rejoice.** The more we trust Jesus to use our lives for His purposes, the happier we will be. We may sow or reap today, but we all rejoice together.

6. **Spiritual.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we live on the ministry team of Jesus. We eat spiritual food, plant spiritual seed and reap a spiritual harvest.

7. **Written.** We rejoice today because our names are written in heaven. Somebody sowed the seed of the Gospel in our lives. We live in His love and rejoice with all the believers.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by sowing today, knowing that another may reap tomorrow.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by seeing opportunities for sowing and reaping today.**

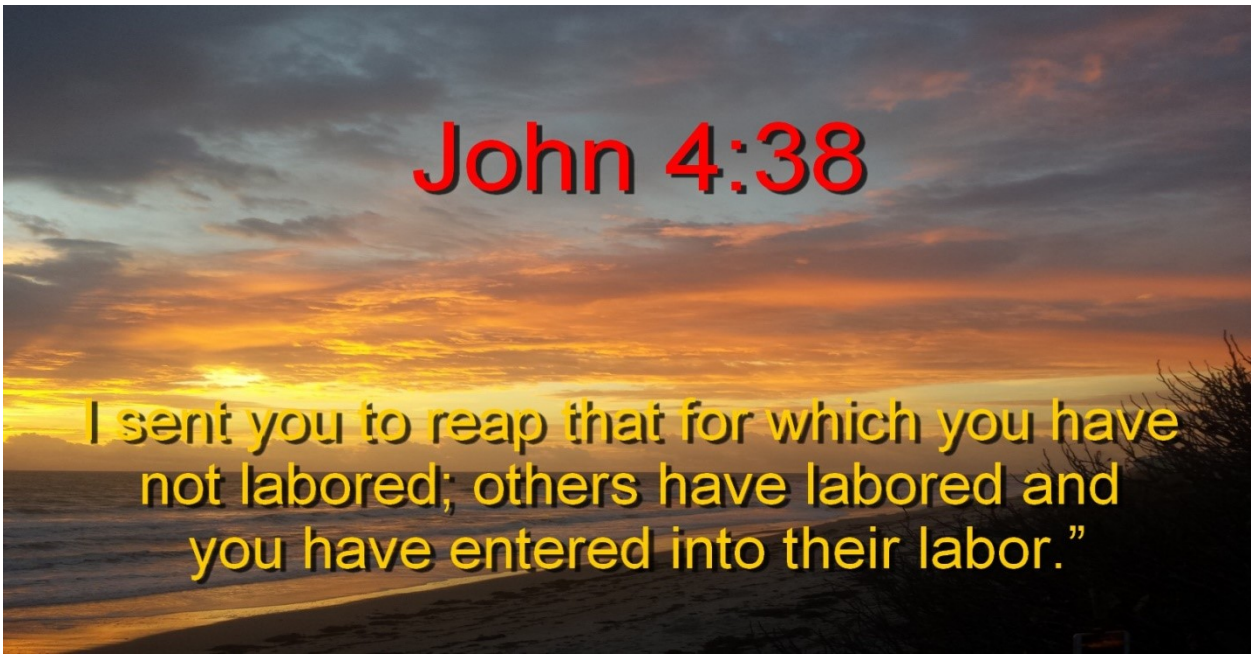
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by joining the team ministry of sowing and reaping.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by sowing and reaping. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sowing and reaping as part of the ministry team?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty
# Sent You to Reap Today




Why did Jesus send people to reap for that which they had not labored? Jesus taught His disciples about team ministry. One believer labored, and another believer harvested.

Jesus sent the Samaritan woman into the city of Sychar. She sowed the city with the message of Jesus. The disciples were not around when Jesus spoke the words of eternal life to that woman.

When the disciples returned to Jesus, He told them He was sending them forth to reap that for which they had not labored. They were going to watch people receive the free gift of eternal life. The Samaritan woman sowed the seed in Sychar, and they would reap the harvest near the well.

# *Others Have Labored*

1. **Before.** When I walk down the beach, I often see footprints in the sand. I know someone has gone before me.

2. **Behind.** Jesus sent His disciples to follow behind the path blazed by others before them.

3. **Harvest.** Jesus sent His disciples to reap the harvest they did not sow. Jesus meant that they would harvest souls for the kingdom of God.

4. **Effort.** The disciples entered the labor of other people. Sowing takes effort. You do not see an immediate benefit from your labor of sowing.

5. **Team.** The disciples were entering the labor of others. They had to learn team ministry, with team labor.

6. **Reap.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we reap that for which we have not labored. We enter the labor of others.

7. **Work.** We rejoice today because we sow, harvest, labor and rejoice as one team, with each believer doing the work of the Father given us each day.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by heeding the command of Jesus to go and harvest that for which we have not labored.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we labor now so that others may harvest later.**

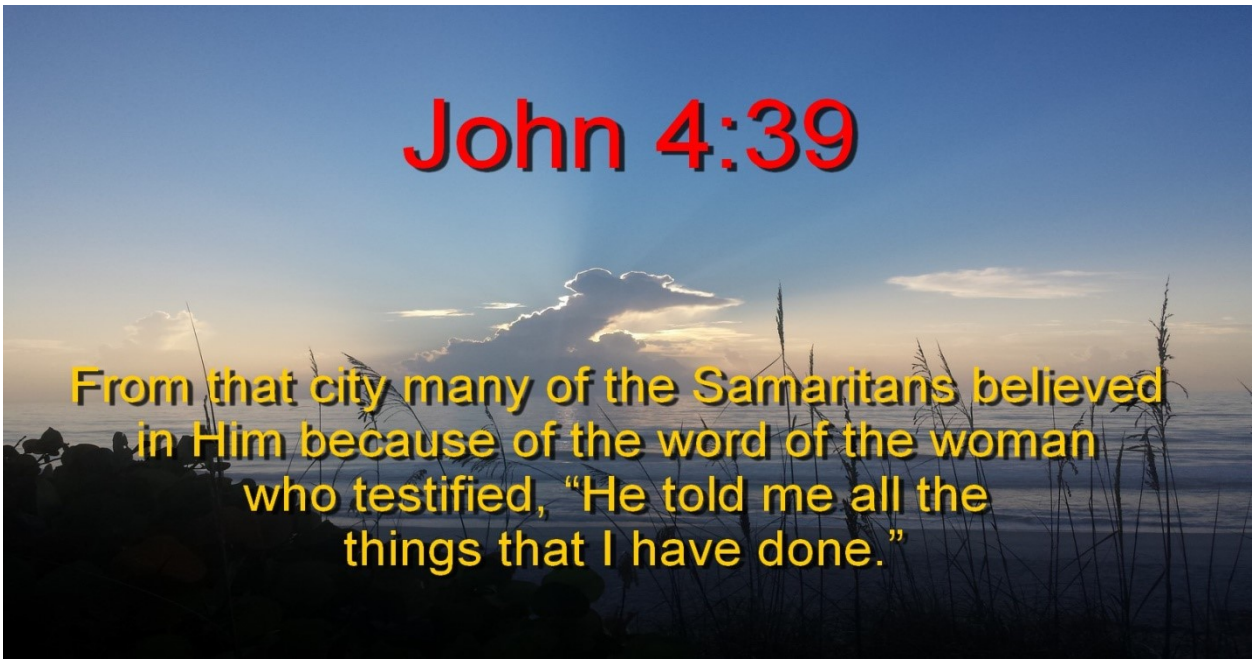
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we recall that we were all people that others sowed the Gospel of Jesus Christ into our lives and someone harvested us for Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by going where Jesus sends us to reap for that which we have not labored. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by entering into the labor of others?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty One
# Many Samaritans Believed




How did Jesus reach an entire city of Samaritans? Jesus understood the power of one new believer telling others about salvation in Jesus Christ. One Samaritan woman told a city about salvation in Jesus Christ. Many Samaritans from Sychar believed in Jesus because of the testimony of that one woman.

As we walk through life, we meet many people. We can start conversations with them that may lead to eternal life for them, and perhaps for many other people.

We must learn from Jesus the power of one person telling others about salvation in Jesus Christ. We may not know that Jesus has a huge plan for that new believer, but He knows. Never underestimate the plans of Jesus for one believer sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with one more believer.

# *He Told Me*

1. **Time.** We often pray for friends and relatives. We often spend time with friends and relatives. Jesus spent time with Samaritans. Jews and Samaritans generally disliked each other, but Jesus, a Jew, loved both groups.

2. **Sinners.** Jesus said He came to save sinners. Samaritans were sinners. Jesus loves sinners.

3. **One.** Jesus reached many Samaritans in the city of Sychar through one sinful woman.

4. **Harvesting.** Jesus wanted His disciples to learn about harvesting sinners, especially Samaritans. We must be careful to follow Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. **Messiah.** Jesus revealed the past of the woman and she recognized Jesus as Messiah. She left her waterpot to go tell the entire city about Jesus, the Messiah.

6. **Recognize.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we recognize Jesus as Savior, and He loves sinners. He only saves sinners who know they are sinners and turn to Him for salvation.

7. **Plans.** We rejoice today because Jesus has a plan to build His church and save sinners today. We must follow His plans, and labor on His ministry team. We will rejoice together in Him and with Him.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with one person.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we know that one person may believe and many more believe through the testimony of one believer.**

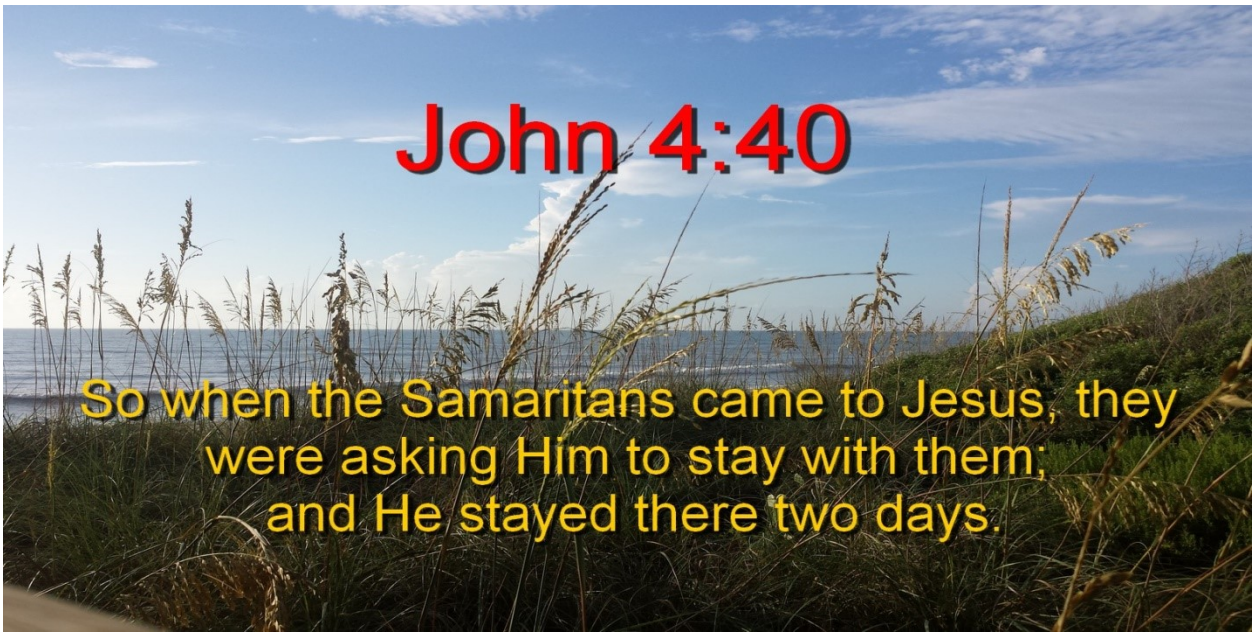
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together in promoting Gospel of Jesus Christ to many people, by sharing with one person at a time.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with one person today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing with one person who may share with many more?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Two
# Asking Him Today




Why did the Samaritans from Sychar ask Jesus to stay with them? They asked Jesus to stay with them because they believed in Him as Savior and Messiah. They had come to Him and heard from Him and they wanted to hear more.

Because Jesus initiated a conversation with one Samaritan woman, many people from the Sychar believed in Jesus for salvation. The power of God's plans demonstrates how one person can testify to so many people. Jesus used a Samaritan to reach other Samaritans. Jesus used a woman to share the message of salvation to men and woman. Jesus cleansed a woman so that she would share her cleansing from sin with many others.

The Samaritans asked Jesus to stay with them. When people come to salvation, they want to know more about Jesus. They long for the pure milk of the word of God. Jesus knew He would spend time in Sychar, because He planned on speaking with the woman at the well who would return to the city

and invite the people to come and see Jesus. His disciples had no clue about the plans of Jesus to evangelize Sychar until they returned from buying food.

# *Two Days*

1. **Flexibility.** Every schedule needs flexibility. Jesus flexed His schedule to spend two days with the Samaritans.

2. **Planting.** Starting with one woman at the well, Jesus planted an entire group of believers in Samaria to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even after He left Samaria.

3. **Opportunities.** God prepares good works beforehand for believers, so that we should walk in them. As God creates opportunities for us to meet new people and spend time with them, we should be careful to take those opportunities.

4. **Doors.** Notice that the people asked Jesus to spend time with them. In our lives, we must be careful to walk through open spiritual doors as they appear. Yet, God directs our paths each day to go through the right spiritual door.

5. **Time.** Jesus spent two days with them. For Jesus, every moment was precious time to accomplish the will of His Father. God loves Samaritans

6. **Learn.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we spend time with people who want to know Jesus and learn from Him.

7. **Accomplish.** We rejoice today because we have time to accomplish every work God has prepared for us today. We have flexible schedules, so that we follow God's plan all day. We share His love each day.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by staying on God's schedule, not our own.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by talking to people who want to hear more about Jesus.**

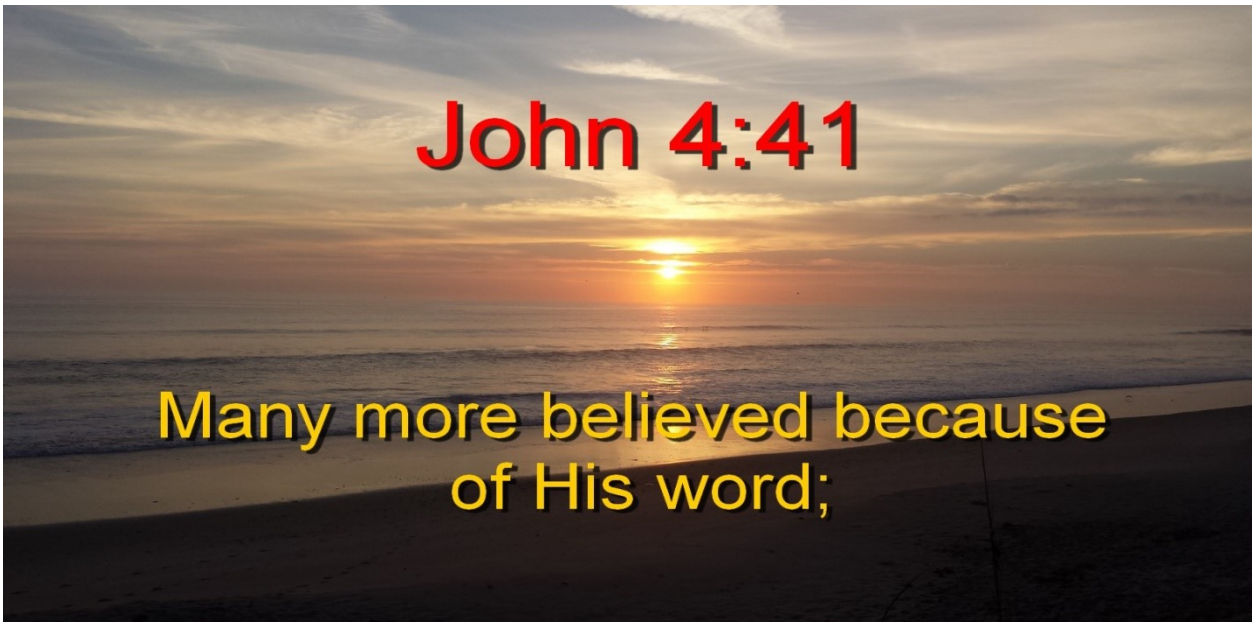
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we train disciples about how to share their faith and how to spend time with new converts who want to know more about Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we spend time sharing our faith and spending more time with new believers. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by spending more time with new believers who want to learn more about Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Three
# Because of His Word Today




Why did many more Samaritans believe? They believed because of the word Jesus spoke to them. As powerful as the testimony of the woman was, the words of Jesus led many more Samaritans to salvation in Him.

The people of Sychar heard the preaching of Jesus for two days. Jesus had said that not many people generally responded to His message of salvation. In Sychar, many people believed.

Jesus displayed His love for the Samaritans by spending time with them, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He loved those people hated by the Jews. He loved those idolaters who had rebelled against the plans of God for one united Israel.

# *Many More Believed*

1. **Two.** Jesus spent time with a woman at the well. Then He spent two days with the people of Sychar.

2. **Destruction.** Jesus said that many people go to destruction, but few people go to eternal life.

3. **Many.** Many more people believed because Jesus spent two days talking with them.

4. **Time.** As you ponder how to use your time today, consider how Jesus used His time. He spent time talking with Samaritans and many more believed than just those who heard the woman.

5. **Results.** Spending time doing God's work can produce tremendous results for God. As God controls our lives, God produces great results in our lives.

6. **Salvation.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know Jesus brings many people to salvation in Him.

7. **Accepted.** We rejoice today because we met Jesus and believed Him for salvation. He offered us the free gift, and by faith we accepted it.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by spending time with new believers so that many more people come to salvation.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we follow the lead of Jesus in deciding how we spend our time.**

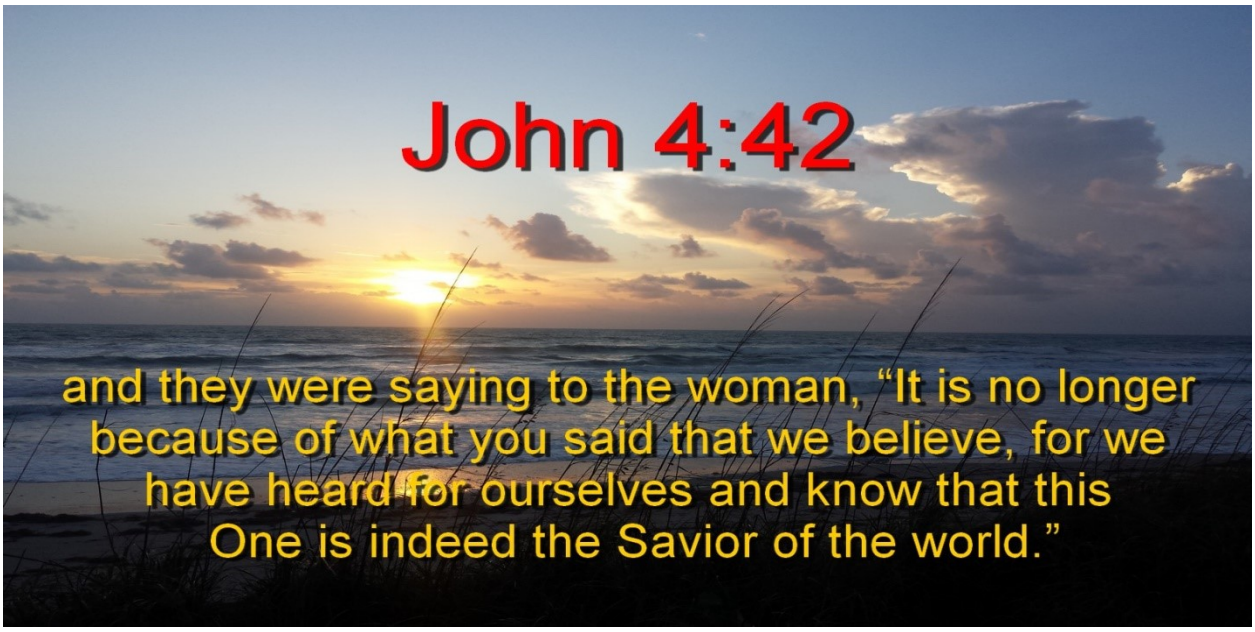
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we expect Jesus to build His church through the word of Jesus Christ.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by spending time with new believers so that many more people may believe. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by sharing the word of Jesus with people today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Four
# Savior of the World Today




Why did the Samaritans at Sychar believe that Jesus was the Savior of the world? They heard Jesus for themselves and they knew that He was indeed the Savior of the World.

One Samaritan woman left her waterpot at the well and told the men of Sychar about Jesus. He had told her supernatural things. They went out to meet Jesus and invited Him to stay with them. Jesus accepted their invitation and stayed there two days.

Jesus proved to the men of the city that He was the Savior. When people hear Jesus, they hear God and see God. To see Jesus is to see the Father, for Jesus is the exact representation of the Father. He and His Father are One.

# *Heard for Ourselves*

1. **Hear.** Jesus spent two days with the people of Sychar, as they requested. They wanted to hear from Jesus Himself, after a woman of Sychar told them about her meeting with Jesus at Jacob's well.

2. **Listening.** Now, we read that they told the woman that they had spent two days with Jesus, listening to Him.

3. **Hearing.** After spending time with Jesus, many of them believed because He spent time with them directly. Notice the connection between hearing Jesus and knowing Jesus.

4. **Savior.** Having heard Jesus, those Samaritans came to know and believe that Jesus, a Jew, was the Savior of the world. Jesus truly is the Savior for the entire world. Those Samaritans came to have a permanent relationship with Jesus Christ as their Savior.

5. **Asked.** Many believed because Jesus asked a woman for a drink of water and started a conversation with her.

6. **World.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know that Jesus is the only Savior, and He is the Savior of the world.

7. **Gospel.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves to interact with people all over the world. He commissioned us to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by inviting people to listen to Jesus for themselves.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we rejoice over people who hear Jesus and respond with saving faith to His free gift of eternal life.**

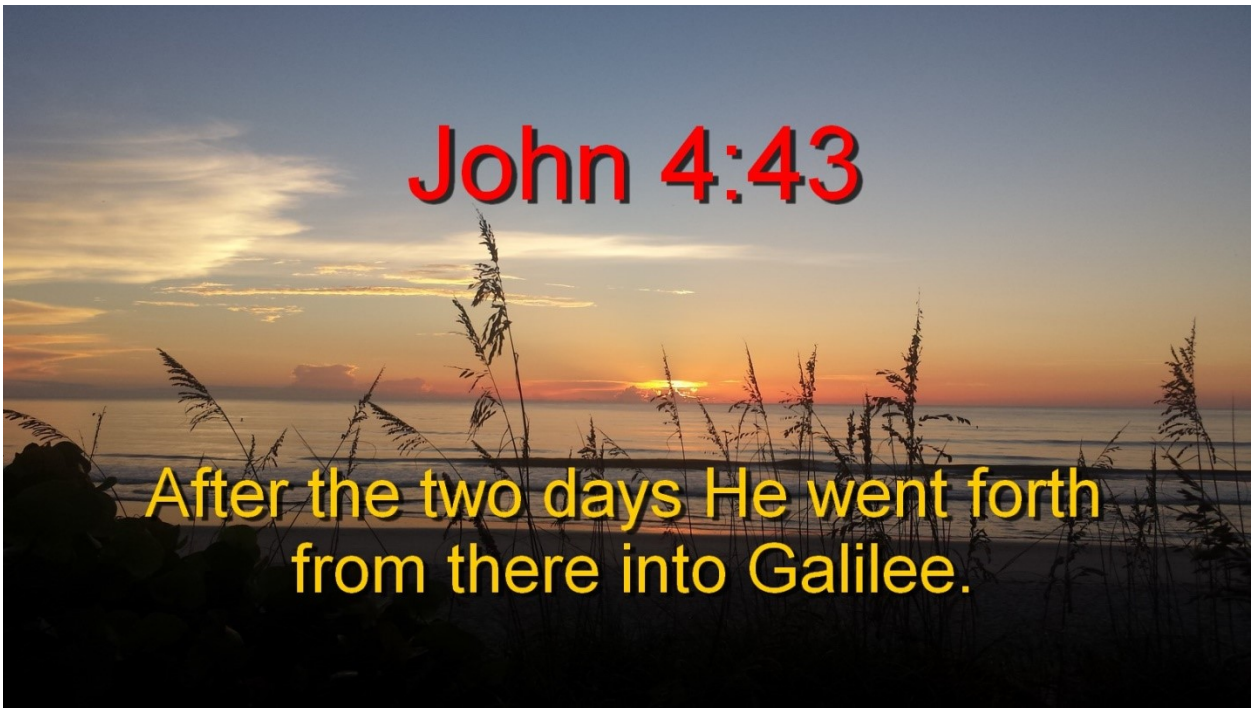
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we join together with new believers in listening to Jesus by reading His word, the Bible.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by listening to Jesus and inviting others to listen to Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by inviting people to listen to Jesus and spend time with Him?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Five
# After Two Days Today




Why did Jesus spend two days in Sychar? Jesus spent time with people who invited Him to tell them more about Himself. Jesus travelled to many places in Israel, but He also had a flexible schedule.

Jesus spent time at a wedding, in Jerusalem, in Galilee and other places. He preached in the wilderness, in the towns, villages and cities. He even sent out His disciples to various cities to prepare for His arrival.

Jesus also travelled with crowds following Him. At times, He would stop the entire crowd to talk with one person. Jesus knows the name of all people, and had many personal interactions. At Sychar, Jesus met the Samaritan woman and then the entire city invited Jesus to stay with them and tell them more.

# *Galilee*

1. **Nazareth.** The New Testament indicates that Jesus lived in Nazareth of Galilee. When the persecution arose in Jerusalem, Jesus went to Galilee.

2. **Hometown.** Jesus visited His hometown of Nazareth of Galilee, having been born in Bethlehem. The Nazarenes rejected Jesus.

3. **Travelled.** As Jesus travelled to Galilee, He met the woman at the well near Sychar, a Samaritan city.

4. **Many.** Jesus spent two days with the people of Sychar, and many believed.

5. **Time.** Jesus always had time to talk with individuals, like the woman at the well, and like you and like me. Yet, Jesus always arrived on time.

6. **Meet.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we follow Jesus to the next place, and we take time to meet every person on the way that Jesus sets before us.

7. **Gospel.** We rejoice today because God has people He wants us to meet. We share the love of God with them and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We make disciples in the Name of Jesus. What a great life every day.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by spending the right amount of time with the right people.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we travel on God's schedule.**

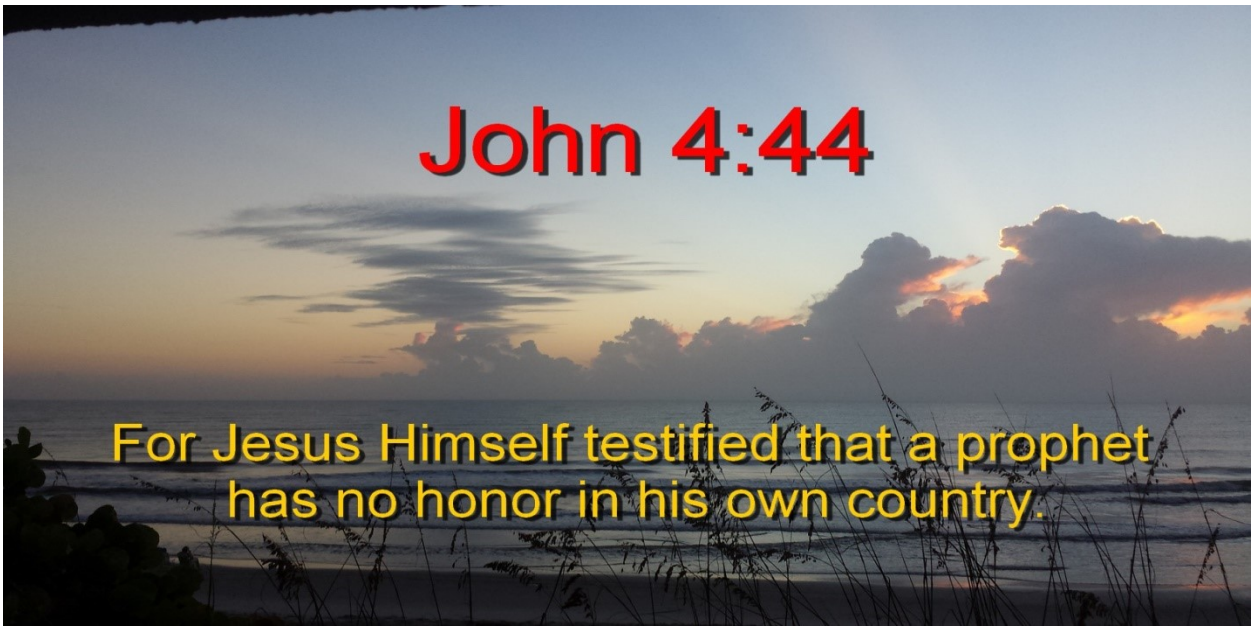
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we spend time with new believers and make disciples.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by following the time schedule that God has for us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by spending your time accomplishing God's work?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Six
# No Honor




Why did Jesus testify that a prophet has no honor in his own country? Jesus testified that He came to His own people, the Jews, and they rejected Him. Jesus was Jewish. He was raised by Jewish parents and circumcised under the Law.

When Jesus taught in Jerusalem, strong religious opposition formed against Him. The Sadducees and the Pharisees opposed Him and were jealous of His miracles and the crowds listening to Him.

Jesus was not taken by surprise by those events. He knew from the beginning that the Jews, as a group, would reject Him. He also knew that not many would receive Him, but to them He gave the power to become the children of God.

# *No Honor*

1. **Rejected.** Early in His ministry, Jesus went home to Nazareth. There He was rejected by His household, His relatives, and His hometown.

2. **Jerusalem.** After Jesus preached in Jerusalem, the Jews in Judea sought to put Him to death. Therefore, He later spent time in Galilee.

3. **Offices.** Jesus clearly identified Himself as a prophet in today's verse. He was also a priest and a king. He was God in the flesh, and held three offices (prophet, priest and king) from the Old Testament.

4. **Honored.** Jesus created all people, and established a special, covenant relationship with the Jews. All people, especially the Jews, should have honored Jesus, as they honored God the Father.

5. **Dishonor.** Notice the word "testified." The Samaritans from Sychar honored Jesus, but Jesus' own people did not honor Him. Jesus testified to that dishonor to many people.

6. **Know.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we honor Jesus as God. We know Him as God and we have a personal relationship with Jesus. No matter how comfortable we feel with Jesus, we must always honor Him as holy God.

7. **Deserves.** We rejoice today because Jesus deserves every honor as God. We love to tell of His greatness and speak of His divine kingdom.

**Summary for Today**

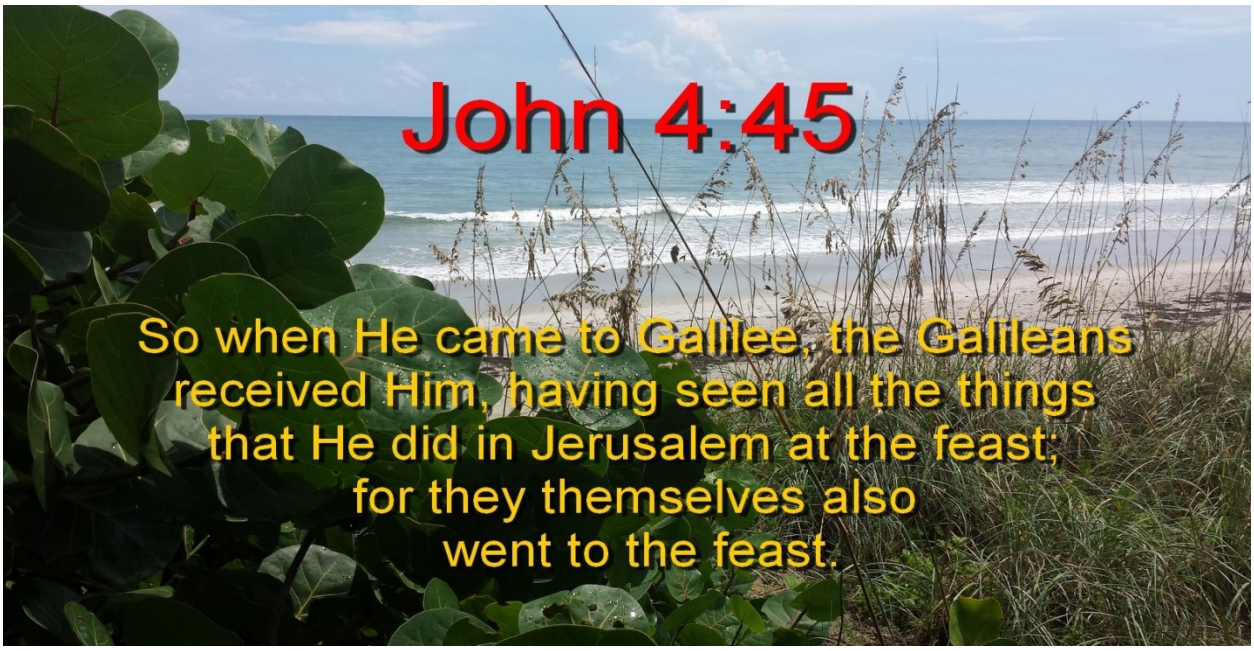
- **We live Godly in the family of God by honoring Jesus.**
- **We live more Godly in the family of God by expecting unbelievers to dishonor Jesus.**
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we worship Jesus who loved us, even though we dishonored Him at first as unbelievers.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by honoring Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by honoring Jesus in all that you do?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Seven
# Received Him Today




Why did the Galileans receive Jesus? The Galileans saw the things Jesus did at the feast in Jerusalem. They went up to the feast, just as the Law of Moses required.

When the Galileans went to the feast, they saw Jesus performing many signs and wonders. He also cleansed the temple and began teaching the multitudes who listened to Him.

The Jews in Jerusalem, particularly the religious leaders, stirred up opposition to Jesus, despite the great works and perfect teaching He provided to the people. He drew crowds to Himself.

# *The Galileans*

1. **Received.** Although Jesus had no honor in His country, the Galileans received Him.

2. **Firsthand.** The Galileans had gone to the feast in Jerusalem, and had seen firsthand all the things Jesus had done there.

3. **Amazed.** Jesus taught with authority and performed miracles. He amazed the crowds with His teaching and healed many people.

4. **Hated.** We should always expect opposition to our labors for Christ. They hated Jesus without cause and they will hate us too.

5. **Few.** According to Jesus, many people will not believe, but a few will believe. Here we see that believers come from various places, but very few from His own people.

6. **Opposition.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we received Jesus as Savior and we should expect opposition from the many people who rejected Him.

7. **Reward.** We rejoice today because of our precious faith in Christ, which we received as a free gift from God. We expect most people to reject and oppose Jesus and His disciples; but we rejoice because Jesus told us our reward is great and we have eternal life.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by expecting opposition from unbelievers.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God by enjoying the other believers who received Jesus as Savior.**

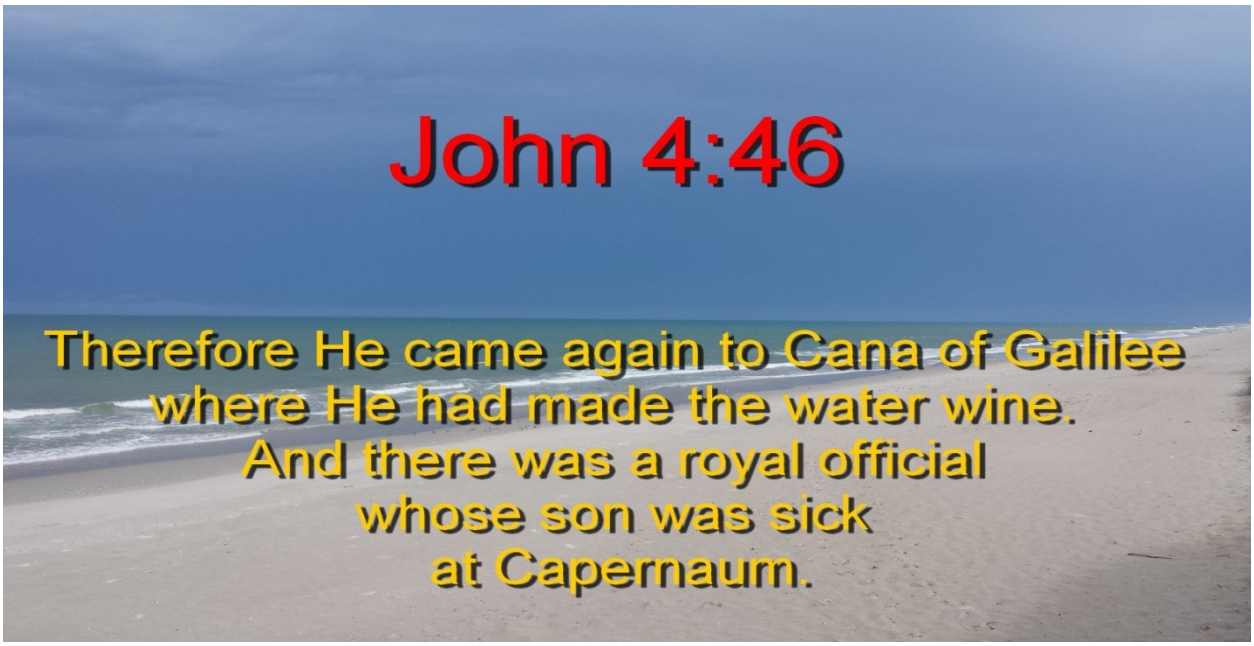
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God because we love God for drawing Galileans, Americans, Europeans, Asians, and many others into His church, the Body of Christ.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by loving God for the great diversity in the Body of Christ. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by praising God that He chose us to receive Jesus as Savior?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Eight
# The Royal Official Today




Where did Jesus go in Galilee? He returned to Cana of Galilee, the same place He performed the miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding. His mother attended the wedding, along with the disciples of Jesus and many other people.

A royal official had a son who was sick at Capernaum, about twenty miles from Cana. Jesus healed many sick people in Jerusalem and word travelled among the people attending the feast. Crowds began to gather around Jesus.

Wherever Jesus went, things got better. He brought peace and salvation with Him, along with unlimited power. He cast out demons and healed the sick. The lame walked and the blind saw. He preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor. A great light came to Galilee of the Gentiles, and they would respond to Jesus.

# *The Royal Official*

1. **Cana.** Jesus returned again to Cana of Galilee. We have seen Jesus move between Judea and Galilee.

2. **Sign.** The first sign Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee was the turning of water into wine. He made at least 120 gallons of wine for the wedding guests.

3. **Glory.** That miracle in Cana manifested His glory and His disciples believed in Him.

4. **Help.** A royal official came to Jesus, seeking help for his son who was sick in Capernaum.

5. **Son.** Jesus moves from person to person, and each person has individual needs. This royal official was not asking for himself, but for his son. The official believed Jesus could help his son.

6. **Listens.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we count upon Jesus to listen to our cries for help. Jesus loves us and always helps us, one way or another.

7. **Attention.** We rejoice today because Jesus cares for each one us and loves each one of us. He gives personal and unlimited attention to each of His beloved children.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by trusting Jesus to help us with sickness.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we know that Jesus has helped people overcome illness as the Great Creator and Physician.**

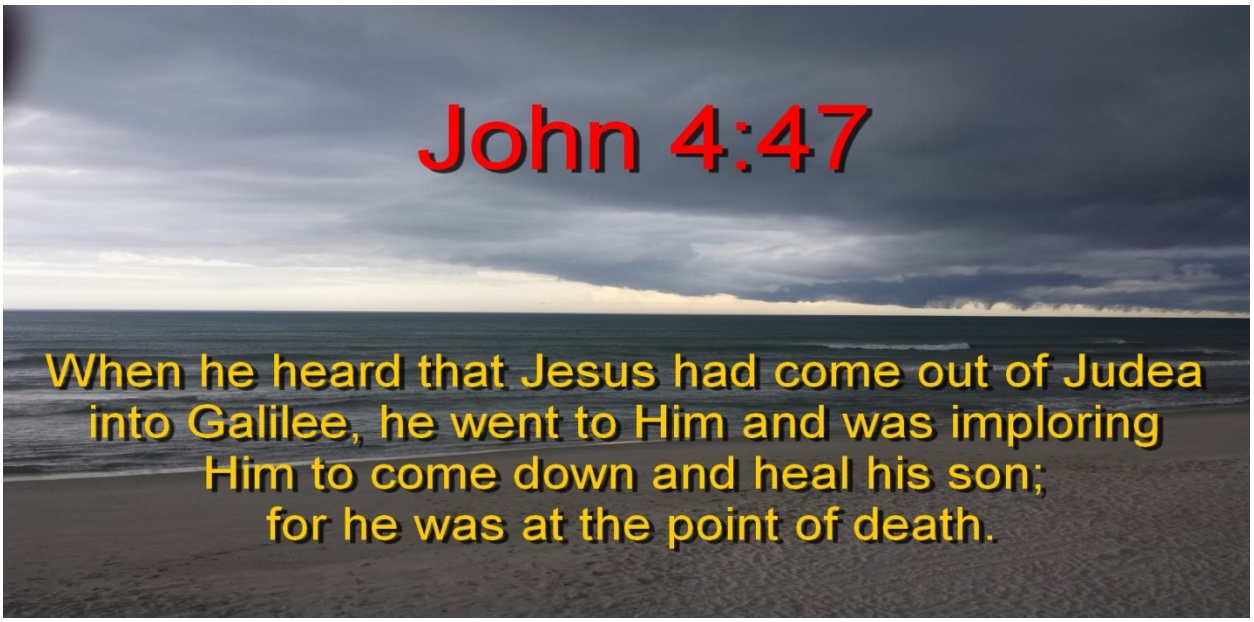
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we praise Jesus for always being there to take care of us on earth and then take us to heaven.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to help us with our loved ones when they grow ill. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to help people with physical illness?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Fifty Nine
# The Point of Death Today




Why did the royal official implore Jesus to help his son? The son of the royal official was at the point of death. The royal official sought immediate, life-saving help from Jesus.

People implore God when things look really bad. They suddenly turn to God like they have never turned to God before. Jesus healed many people, but that was not the greatest of gifts.

Jesus offered the free gift of eternal life to everyone who would receive salvation by grace through faith. He healed people so that they would trust Him as Savior. He alone was the way to the Father and no one comes to the Father but through Jesus. The gift of salvation infinitely exceeds the value of physical healing.

# *Imploring Him*

1. **Coming.** The royal official heard the news that Jesus was coming. Such news stirred the hearts of needy and desperate people. They knew the stories about Jesus and His miraculous powers and preaching.

2. **Truths.** So often we blind ourselves to the great truths by limiting ourselves to our faulty understandings of Jesus.

3. **Well.** On the one hand, the royal official did well to seek Jesus for help. On the other hand, in his mind he limited the power of Jesus. He thought Jesus must visit his son to heal him.

4. **Desperate.** We know that desperate people make desperate moves. Yet, Jesus never feels desperation and never acts in desperation.

5. **Physical.** The royal official was concerned about the physical life of his son, but eternal life should concern him far more.

6. **Trust.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we bring all of our concerns before Jesus, but we must trust Him to solve our problems by His great power, clothed in love for His children.

7. **Power.** We rejoice today because we know the power of Jesus. We have eternal life because He loves us and used His power over death to give us eternal life.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by bringing serious health conditions to Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we pray for others with their serious health conditions.**

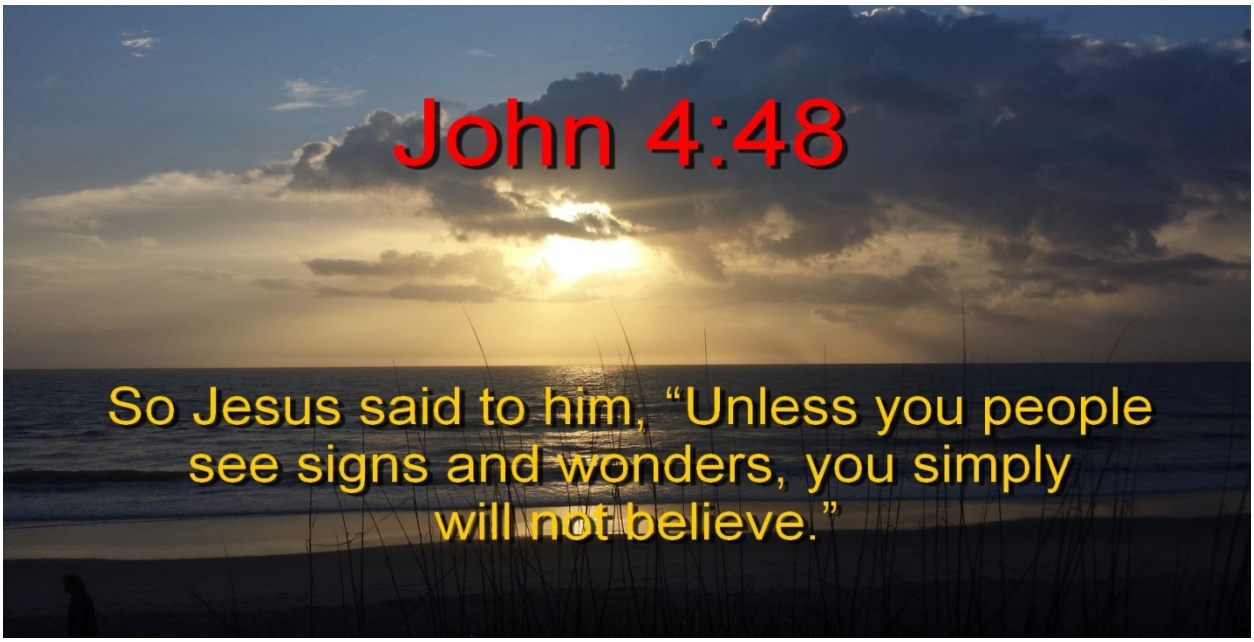
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by trusting Jesus to answer our prayers because He cares for us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by entrusting our health to Jesus. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by calling upon Jesus to help people you know with serious health issues?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixty
# Signs and Wonders Today




Why did Jesus perform signs and wonders? So that people would believe in Him for salvation and be saved. Jesus promoted faith in Him as Messiah and Savior by working miracles.

Jesus observed that some people will not believe unless they see signs and wonders. Notice that the royal official wanted Jesus to come to his house to heal his son.

Jesus has the power to say the word and the son would be healed. Jesus did not need to come to the home. The royal official did not consider that Jesus could heal from anywhere, at any time, because He was God in the flesh with unlimited powers. Jesus cared most about faith for salvation.

# *Will Not Believe*

1. **Implored.** The royal official implored Jesus to come and help his son.

2. **Believe.** Jesus replied that the people would not believe unless they see signs and wonders. In the Gospel of John, we read about people who believed so long as they saw signs and wonders, but they were never born again, and so never had saving faith.

3. **Messiah.** Jesus always wanted people to believe in Him as Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. Without saving faith, people perish.

4. **Faith.** Jesus directly confronted the limited faith of the royal official. The royal official had faith to ask Jesus for physical help, but lacked saving faith.

5. **Saving.** In our lives, we must be sure we have saving faith. We must be sure we have been born again. We must know that we have received forgiveness of sins, because we believe that Jesus died on the cross in our place. He paid the death penalty for me. I believe that God raised Him from the dead and now He lives in me.

6. **Again.** Living Godly in the family of God means that I believe I have been born again by the grace of God. Seeing signs and wonders are not necessary for salvation.

7. **Grace.** We rejoice today because Jesus loves to save sinners, like us. We never saw Jesus in person walking through Israel, and performing signs and wonders. Yet, by His grace He saved us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing without seeing signs and wonders today.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we trust that Jesus cares for us and so helps us with all our problems, both physical and spiritual.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by joining together in praising Jesus for all the help, both physical and spiritual, each day.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by trusting God without seeing signs and wonders. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to take care of you and your loved ones with their pressing physical and spiritual needs?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixty One
# Come Down Today




What motivated the royal official to implore Jesus to help his child? The royal official was concerned about impending death. So often impending death leads to imploring prayers.

People have a natural affection for their children. The royal official was no exception. He sought out Jesus because he believed that Jesus could help his child who was near death. People often get more serious with God when death looms near.

Notice the urgency in the voice of the royal official. He implored: before my child dies. Now was the time and Jesus must come quickly.

# *Before My Child Dies*

1. **Help.** The royal official had faith that Jesus could help his child. He did not have faith that Jesus could heal the child without coming down.

2. **Down.** The royal official implored Jesus to come down immediately, fearing his son would die. Parents seek Jesus when their children fall gravely ill.

3. **Faith.** We can learn about faith in this passage. We need to hear Jesus teach us about growing and focusing our faith.

4. **Restrictions.** We grow our faith by seeing Jesus as God. Jesus has no restrictions on His powers. For example, He can heal with just a word, spoken from miles away. When we restrict our faith to what we have seen and what we think Jesus can do, we need to let Jesus grow our faith to understand His infinite power.

5. **Believing.** We focus our faith by believing Jesus can help us and we must follow Him. We must avoid ordering Jesus to do our will. We must focus upon Jesus, Who has all power, directed in love.

6. **Learn.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we learn how Jesus seeks to grow and focus our faith every day.

7. **Grows.** We rejoice because as we learn from Jesus, our faith grows in Jesus, the gentle and humble in heart Savior.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by looking to Jesus for physical help for our children.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we expect Jesus to help us every day, even without signs and wonders.**

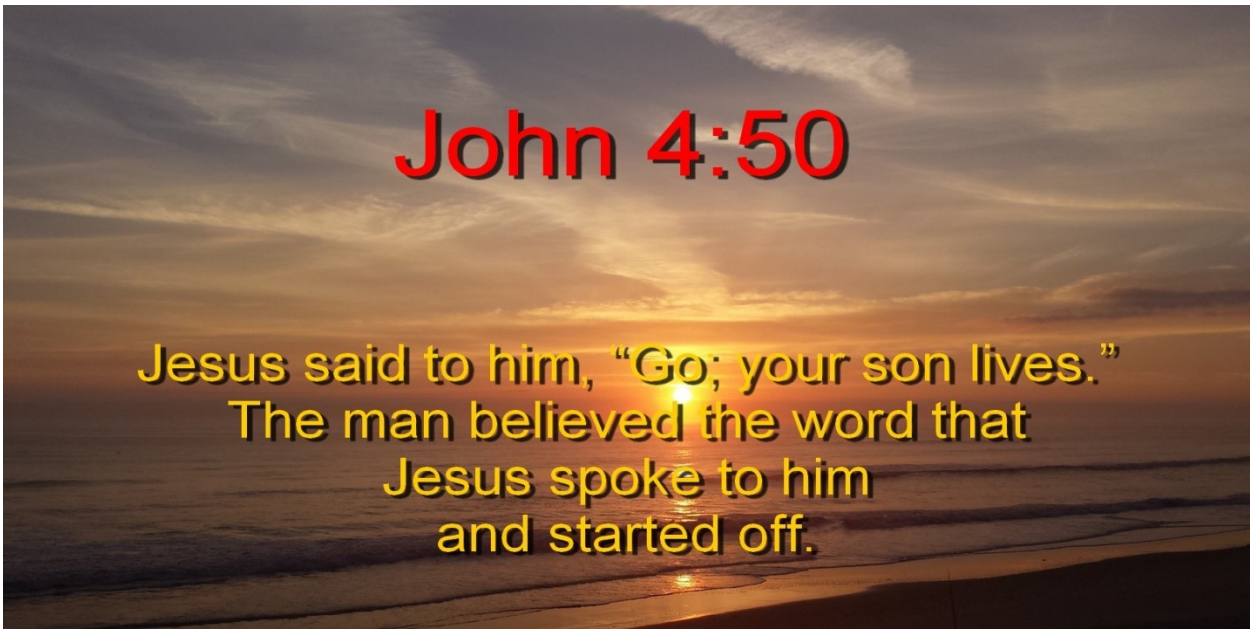
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we see Jesus working in the lives of other believers and we join together in worshipping Him for all His goodness to us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by trusting Jesus to help us today, even without signs and wonders. Will you live Godly in the family of God today through prayer to Jesus to help people you love?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixty Two
# Go, Your Son Lives Today




Why did the royal official leave Jesus? The royal official believed Jesus when He said that his son lived. In fact, Jesus commanded the royal official to go. Normally, royal officials do not receive many commands, but Jesus had no problem commanding the royal official to leave.

Our faith determines our actions. The royal official had faith to come to Jesus and faith to leave Jesus and go home. He had coming and going faith. He believed that Jesus had actually healed his son, without being physically present. In contrast to so many false healers, Jesus had the power to heal people anywhere. Jesus did not need to lay His hands on someone to heal them. Just a word from Jesus and illness left.

We do not see Jesus with our physical eyes today. He does not heal every disease or illness. He still performs signs and wonders for people to see and believe, but they are not necessary for healing or salvation. By grace through faith we receive the free gift of eternal life.

# *Believed the Word*

1. **Faith.** Jesus focused and expanded the faith of the royal official. The official implored Jesus to come to his house, believing Jesus could heal if present.

2. **Challenged.** Jesus challenged his faith, because the signs and wonders pointed to Jesus as God in the flesh, the only Savior of the world. Jesus said people only believed if they saw signs and wonders.

3. **Commanded.** Jesus then commanded the official to go. As a royal official, he must have been accustomed to people honoring him and respecting him. Jesus commanded him to go.

4. **Proclaimed.** Jesus also proclaimed that his son lives. No longer does the father have to worry about his son near death. The father must only believe Jesus spoke the truth.

5. **Lives.** Ponder that father at that moment. He came to ask the miracle-working Jesus to come and save his son's life. This was truly a matter of life and death. Yet, Jesus just said go, your son lives. Do you leave the only Person who can heal your son? If you do not leave, then you have disobeyed Jesus. Decisions, decisions. Faith in Jesus or not. Life or death. Eternal life?

6. **Grows.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we trust Jesus to grow our faith in His love. Our faith grows under the care of a master gardener. The Father prunes us to bear more fruit. Jesus challenges us to expand and focus our faith.

7. **Helps.** We rejoice today because Jesus grows our faith in Him each day. He loves us and helps us to believe in Him.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by having coming and going faith.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we believe the words Jesus spoke to us in the Bible.**

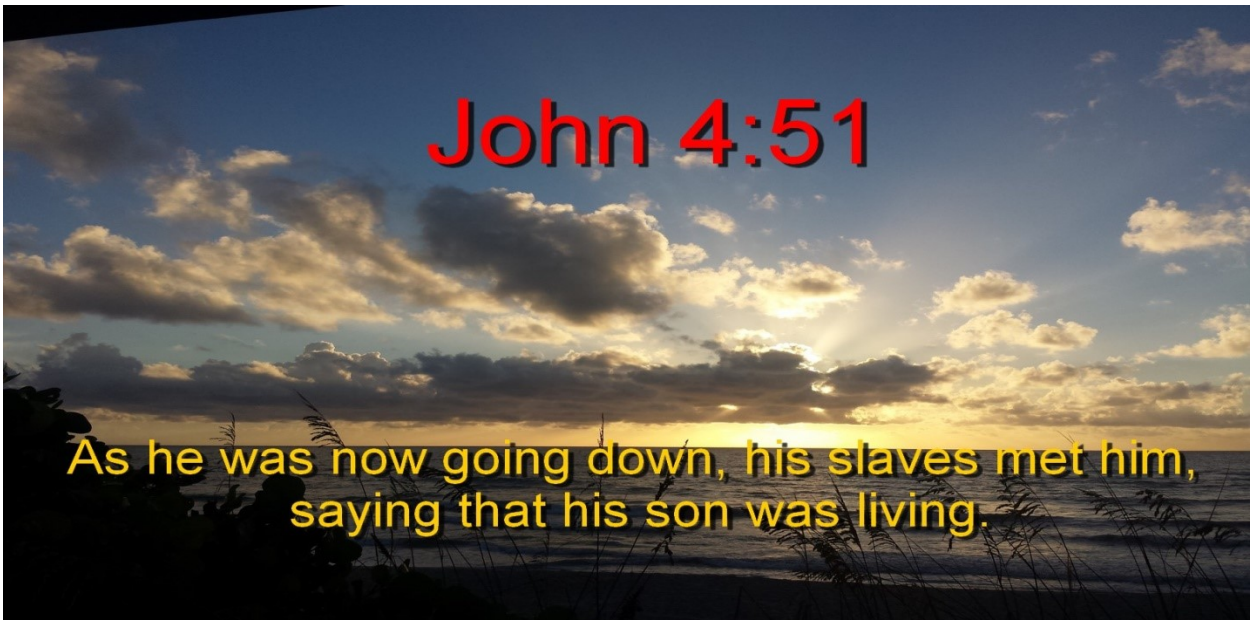
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we live together in faith in Jesus working in all of us to His glory.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by having coming and going faith today. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by believing the words of Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixty Three
# Living Today




What news did the slaves of the royal official tell him? The slaves said that his son was living. Jesus had commanded the royal official to go home, because his son lives.

The royal official had faith to seek help from Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to keep his son from dying, if Jesus acted quickly. Time was of the essence.

When Jesus commanded the royal official to go because his son lives, the royal official obeyed and went. The royal official believed the words of Jesus and now they were confirmed by his slaves coming to meet him. Jesus did not have to be present to heal the son.

# *Now Going*

1. **Go.** The royal official heard Jesus command him to go. Jesus told him that his son lives.

2. **Obeyed.** The royal official made a big choice at that moment: he obeyed Jesus and started home--alone.

3. **Trust.** In our lives, we have very big decisions to make regarding obedience to Jesus. Do we believe Jesus and follow Jesus without first seeing signs and wonders? Can we trust His words alone with our biggest decisions?

4. **News.** The first steps in faith can make all the difference. The royal official trusted Jesus, started home, and then heard great news that his son lived.

5. **Choice.** In our lives, we can always depend upon Jesus to tell us the truth. Then we face a choice: (1) believe Jesus, act upon the truth, and live by faith in Jesus; or (2) ignore Jesus and do it our way.

6. **Believe.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we love to listen to Jesus. We seek His help, He tells us the truth, we believe what He said, and act upon it. Today, Jesus speaks to us through the Bible and lives in our lives by faith.

7. **Listen.** We rejoice today because we listen to Jesus, walk in His love, and know Him all the more.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by going in faith invested in the words and commands of Jesus.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we believe that Jesus answers prayer according to His will, not ours.**

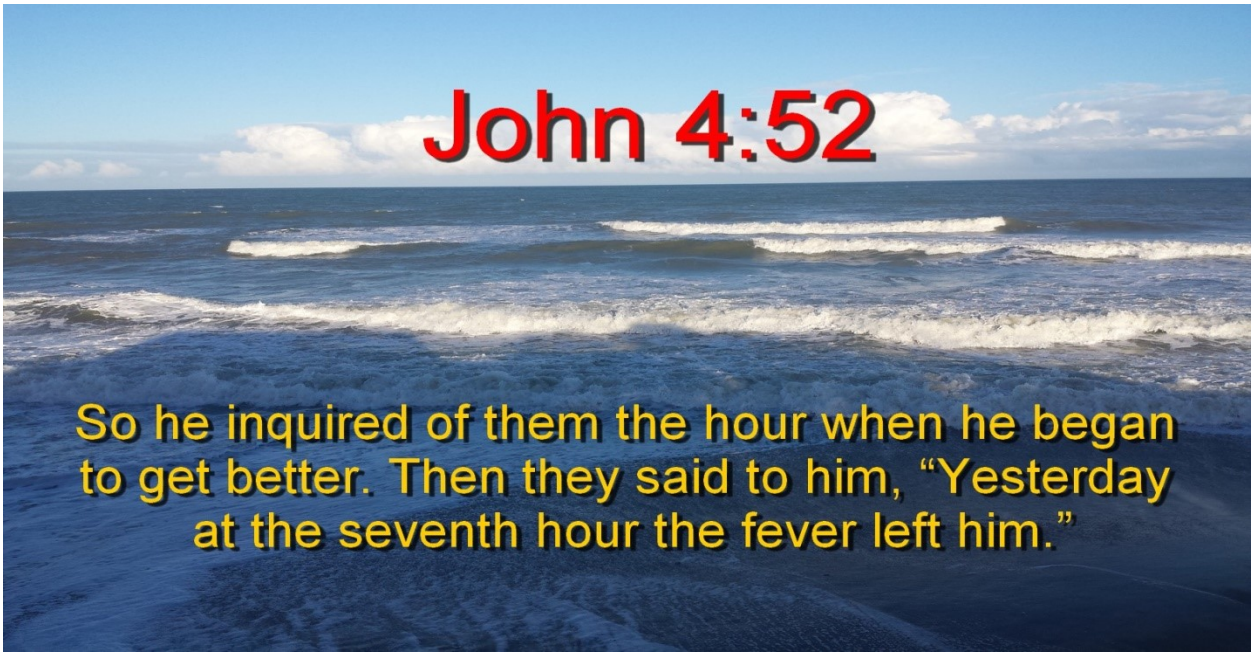
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we hear good news about the power of Jesus at work today and we give praise and worship to Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we hear good news and know that Jesus has answered prayer. Will you live Godly in the family of God today and praise God for the good news?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixty Four
# The Fever Left Him Today




Why did the royal official ask slaves when the fever left his son? The royal official wanted to know if the word of Jesus had healed his son. If the time of the words matched the time of healing, the royal official then knew that Jesus had healed his son while the royal official was speaking with Jesus.

The slaves clearly knew that something wonderful had happened. They came to tell their master that Jesus was no longer need because the son had recovered already. What the servants did not know was that Jesus had healed the son from a distance.

Distance healing means that Jesus can heal up close or far away. He can heal on earth and he can heal from heaven. Jesus, as God in the flesh, has absolute power to heal anyone anywhere with any disease. Time and space make no difference with Jesus.

# *The Seventh Hour*

1. **Trust.** The royal official trusted Jesus to heal his son with just a word.

2. **Servants.** After the official left Jesus to see his son, his servants met him with the news that his son lives.

3. **Time.** The official inquired of the servants the exact time his son started getting better. They replied the seventh hour.

4. **Healed.** At that moment, the official knew that Jesus had healed his son with just a word.

5. **Ask.** At times in our lives, Jesus does something we asked of Him, but we do not understand it until days later. We must always trust Jesus to do whatever He promised to do, which is not always the same as what we asked Him to do.

6. **Promised.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we trust Jesus to do the things He promised to do. The Bible contains many promises from Jesus about what He will do and has done for us--He loves us always.

7. **More.** We rejoice today because Jesus not only keeps His promises, but He also does far more for us than we can ask or think.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing that Jesus has the power to heal people with just a word.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God when we pray with faith that Jesus will use His power to bless our lives.**

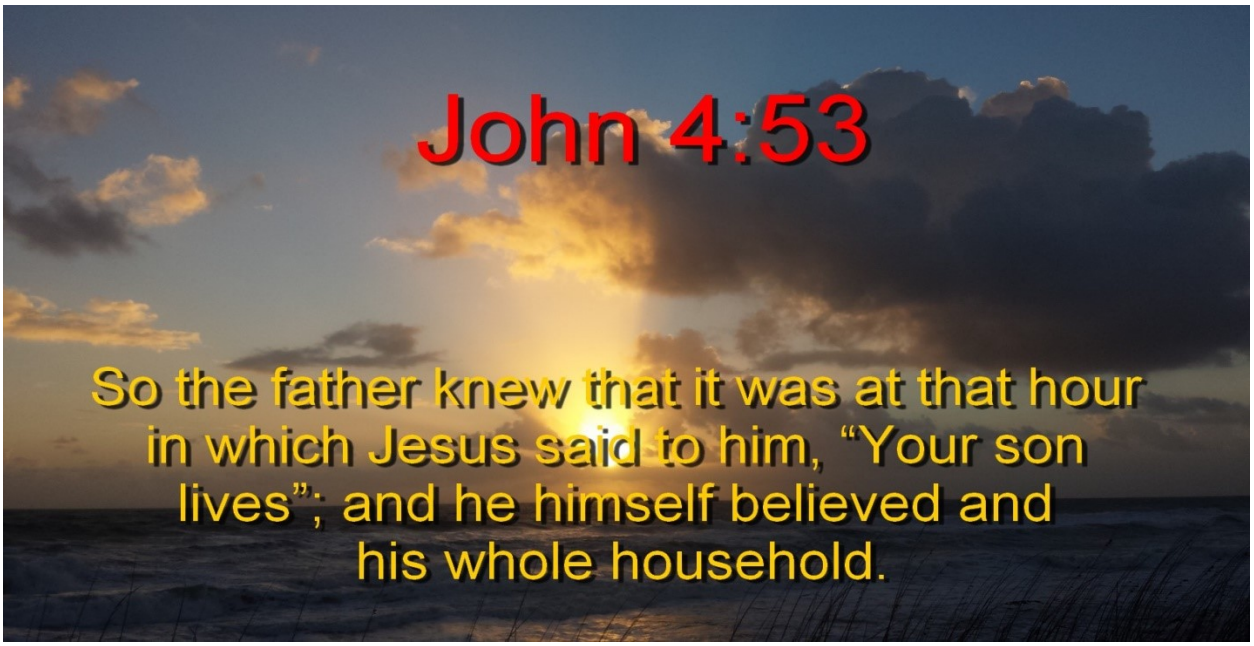
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we count upon Jesus to build His church on earth, having ascended to heaven.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by trusting the words of Jesus to lead us in righteousness. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by counting upon Jesus to keep every promise He has made to us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixty Five
# The Father Knew Today




At what hour was the son of the royal official healed? He was healed at that hour in which Jesus said your son lives. The royal official acted in faith in going at the command of Jesus.

The royal official confirmed that Jesus healed his son by inquiring of his slaves the hour that the son was healed of the fever. The slaves stated the time of healing and the royal official knew that Jesus had uttered those words of healing at that time.

The royal official confirmed his faith with more facts. He already believed in the healing power of Jesus. The royal official also confirmed the healing independently by inquiring of his slaves when the fever left the son. The royal official and his whole household believed in Jesus.

# *That Hour*

1. **Knew.** The royal official inquired when his son got better and then he knew Jesus did it.

2. **Believed.** Notice that the official believed. In the Gospel of John, "believe" can mean saving faith or non-saving faith. Some people believe Jesus can heal, but they have not believed in Jesus as Savior.

3. **Faith.** Only by faith in Jesus as Savior, God in the flesh, can anyone go to heaven.

4. **Savior.** Jesus performed healings and miracles, in part, so that people would believe in Him as God, the only Savior.

5. **Household.** The household of the royal official also believed. Notice each person has to believe; no one can do that for you.

6. **Absolute.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have faith in Jesus. We trust Him to love us and treat each of us in absolute love. Because He loves people, He does things to build our faith in Him.

7. **Saved.** We rejoice today because Jesus works miracles at His pleasure. He saved us by grace through faith--a great miracle in each instance.

**Summary for Today**

- **We live Godly in the family of God by confirming our faith with more facts.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as Jesus grows our faith and we share our faith with our household.**

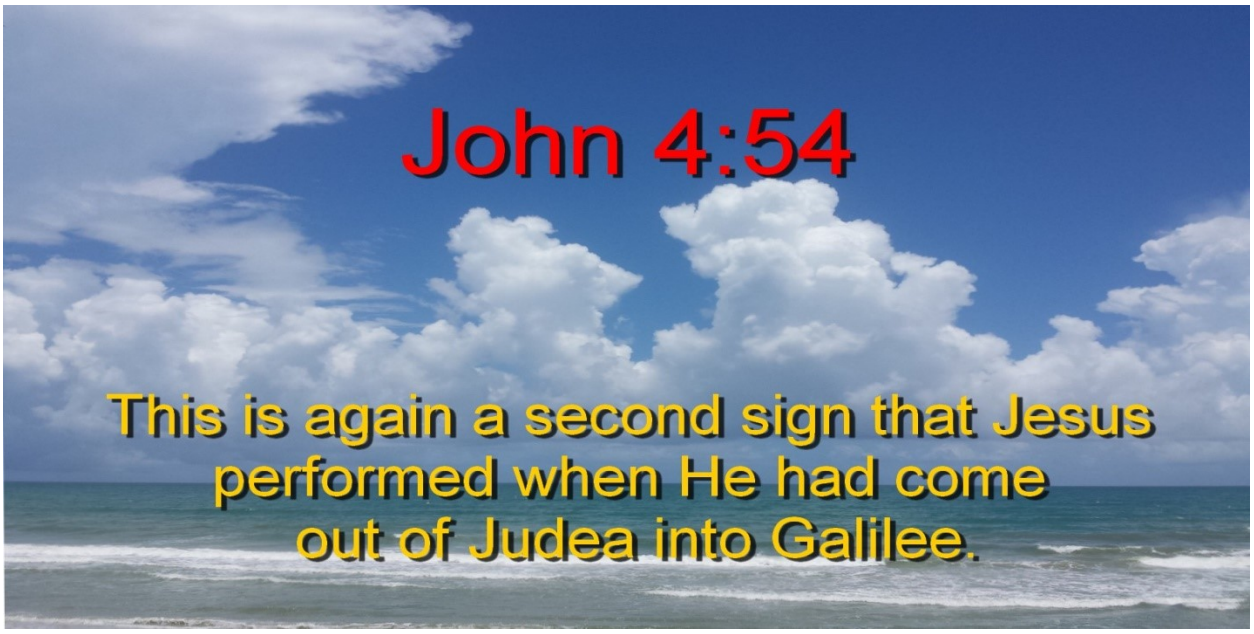
- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God by knowing that the facts will always confirm the promises of Jesus.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God by watching Jesus grow our faith with facts. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by enjoying your faith as Jesus grows it?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Sixty Six
# The Second Sign Today




What was the second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee? Jesus healed the son of the royal official, without going anywhere.

Jesus performed the first sign in Cana of Galilee. There, He made water into wine. Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus said. His disciples believed in Him.

Often signs demonstrated that a person had supernatural authority, and was sent from God. In the case of Jesus, He lamented that people will not believe unless they see a sign. In Jerusalem Jesus had performed many signs, but many people believed only as long as they were witnessing His signs.

# *Out of Judea*

1. **Testimony.** In this context, the term "sign" refers to an event which bears testimony to the identity of Jesus as Savior and God.

2. **Distance.** The sign here concerned the healing of the royal official's son. This sign testified to the omnipotent power of God to heal, even at a distance. It also promoted faith in Jesus as Messiah, Savior of the world.

3. **Faith.** You may recall the first sign in Cana of Galilee of turning water into wine at the wedding. That sign promoted faith in the disciples to believe in the power and Person of Jesus as Messiah and Savior.

4. **Father.** Only God the Father reveals Jesus to people. In turn, the people who trust Jesus come to Jesus and then Jesus reveals the Father to them.

5. **Works.** Jesus encouraged people to look at His works. Those works testify about Jesus, that the Father sent Jesus.

6. **Supernatural.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we know that Jesus performed supernatural signs that proved Who He is, God in the flesh, God the Son, the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

7. **Miracle.** We rejoice today because we know the miraculous power of Jesus to heal people, and those healings in the Bible pointed to a greater miracle: by grace Jesus saves us from our sins and gives us eternal life by faith alone.

## Summary for Today

- **We live Godly in the family of God by believing Jesus does wonderful works of powers.**

- **We live more Godly in the family of God as we see Jesus working to grow His church by building the faith of believers.**

- **We live mutually Godly in the family of God as we celebrate the infinite powers of Jesus working among us.**

## Application for Today

Today, we may live Godly in the family of God as we enjoy the powers of Jesus at work among us. Will you live Godly in the family of God today by praising God for His powerful works?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Conclusion

Living Godly in the family of God means that we love Jesus because He first loved us. In the beginning, Jesus loved us. Jesus created all things and came to earth to sacrifice Himself for us.

As we have learned so far, Jesus taught us about the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. As the Light, Jesus was shining in the darkness and enlightened the world. Because we have been born from above, we can see the kingdom of God. Jesus also taught us about our lives decreasing in favor of His life in us increasing. Finally, we have also learned about the harvest of souls and the way Jesus reaches out to Samaritans, beginning with one woman.