

Reading Together
Bible Reading
February 1 - 7

Monday, February 01 – John 1: 19 – 51

Today's passage starts with John the Baptist's testimony of who he is and who Jesus is. John the Baptist begins by telling the Jews that he was not Elijah or "the Prophet" that the Jews had been looking for, but instead John the Baptist quotes from Isaiah 40: 3 that he is the one who has been sent by God to prepare the way of the Lord. His baptism was to confront people with their need to repent and get their hearts ready for Jesus to come. Look how John the Baptist describes Jesus in verse 29 "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." In verse 34 John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Son of God.

Through the rest of this chapter Jesus begins to call his disciples, but notice how, as the disciples are called, they in turn recruit others to come and follow Jesus (The first thing Andrew does is find Peter and then Philip finds Nathaniel).

Tuesday, February 02 – John 2: 1 – 25

This chapter records Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding feast. Wedding feasts in Jesus' day lasted for several days. To run out of wine would be a huge embarrassment of the bride and groom, so what Jesus does for them is a real act of kindness. Notice how Jesus does the miracle in a secretive way so as not to bring embarrassment to the family and also so as to not make himself the center of attention. Notice in verse 11 that this

and other miracles confirm who Jesus is and cause the disciples to have faith in him.

In verses 12 – 21 Jesus clears the temple of the merchants who were there selling animals to be sacrificed. This time Jesus makes a huge spectacle as he clears out the temple and in the process predicts his death and resurrection. Compare verses 23 and 24 with verse 11. Apparently there were many who were amazed by Jesus' miracles but not all really believed that he was who he said he was.

Wednesday, February 03 – John 3:1 – 21

Today's passage contains probably the most familiar verse in the whole Bible John 3:16. In this passage a man named Nicodemus comes to see Jesus under the cover of darkness. He comes at night because he is one of the Pharisees (teachers of Israel), and most of the Pharisees were out to get Jesus. Nicodemus, on the other hand, isn't out to get Jesus; he's out to find the truth. As you keep reading the Gospel of John it appears that Nicodemus found the truth and became a follower of Jesus (John 7: 50; 19:39). Pay careful attention to verses 17-21. Notice Jesus says he didn't come to condemn the world. That is because the world is already condemned because of its sin. Jesus came to save the world from its sin. It is not our job to condemn "sinners," they already stand condemned. It is our job to tell the world about the salvation they can have because of Jesus.

Thursday, February 04 – John 3: 22 – 36

As we read today's passage we hear John the Baptist testify about who Jesus is. Pay close attention to verse 30. Our

attitude must be the same as John's, "He must become greater, I must become less." Look also at verses 35 – 36. John the Baptist gives clear testimony about who Jesus is, and what Jesus came to do for us—take God's wrath. The only that Jesus can do that on your behalf is if you let him increase, while you decrease, so that your life is truly hidden in Jesus.

Friday, February 05 – John 4: 1 – 42

In this chapter Jesus does something that was truly amazing for the time in which he lived. The Jews hated the Samaritans (and vice versa), and men didn't talk to women they didn't know (especially sinful Samaritan women), yet here we see Jesus do exactly that. Notice Jesus' humanity as verse 6 tells us he was tired, but notice also Jesus' divinity, as verses 16 – 18 tell us Jesus knew all about this woman's life before she said a word. In verse 25 Jesus makes it clear that he is the Messiah that everyone was waiting for. What is the result of Jesus being willing to take time to speak to this sinful Samaritan woman? She and many others came to trust Jesus as the Messiah. Who is there in your life, in your circle of influence, that needs to hear you speak the good news of the Gospel to them?

Saturday, February 06 – John 4: 43 - 5: 15

In today's reading there are two miraculous healings that Jesus performs. In the first healing Jesus doesn't even go to the home of the sick boy. Notice the faith of the man as he goes from insisting that Jesus go with him to heal his son to being willing to take Jesus at his word that his son would be healed.

Next Jesus heals a man who has been lame for 38 years. It is interesting that the man didn't even know who Jesus was, or even ask to be healed. Jesus just did it. Even though the man couldn't find Jesus after the healing, Jesus found the man. Having healed the man physically Jesus wanted to warn him of his sinfulness because the consequences of sin are much worse than any physical infirmities.

Sunday, February 07 – John 5: 16 – 47

When Jesus healed the man at the pool it was the Sabbath, and this upset the Pharisees to no end, so they began to once again question Jesus' authority. Look at Jesus' answer in verse 17. Jesus says he is only doing what he has seen his Father (God) doing. What would happen if God took a day off? When we are told in Genesis that God rested on the 7th day it meant that he rested from his creative efforts, not from his work of providence watching over his creation.

Jewish law said that matters had to be resolved by the testimony of more than one person. Here at the end of chapter 5 Jesus notes four sources that bear testimony to who he is: John the Baptist, the Father, the miracles he does, and finally Moses.