

Reading Together
Bible Reading
February 8 - 14

Monday, February 08 – John 6: 1 – 24

We have already read Mark's account of Jesus feeding the 5,000, and walking on the water, but notice verses 14 and 15 at the end of John's account. The people realize that Jesus is no ordinary teacher or even no ordinary prophet. They refer to him as "The Prophet," which means they held him in the same esteem that they held Moses (the great prophet who spoke for God and gave Israel the Law). It could be that, in verse 3, when John mentions that Jesus went up a mountainside he was trying to call attention to the similarities between Jesus and Moses going up Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments. In verse 15, we see Jesus move away from the crowds because he is afraid they will try to make him king by force. Jesus did not come to be an earthly king; he came to be the sacrifice for our sins. Being made king by force would have ruined that. Although Scripture teaches us that one day Jesus will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords, this was not the day.

Tuesday, February 09 – John 6: 25 – 71

What you see in this passage is basically the crowds looking for another free meal. Just the day before Jesus had miraculously provided food for them to eat, and they were back looking for more. Do you find verse 30 amazing? After the great miracle Jesus had done the day before, the crowd has the nerve to ask for another miracle in order to believe in Jesus. Just as God provided manna everyday for the Israelites, the crowd is looking for Jesus to provide bread for

them every day. Jesus' reply to them is that "I am the bread of life." This is the first of seven "I am" statements that Jesus is going to make about himself that John records in his gospel account. The significance of "I am" goes back to Exodus 3: 14 as the name God told Moses to call God by. By using "I am" Jesus was saying he was God. Notice also verses 37 and 44 where Jesus says that the Father (Holy Spirit) must work in a person in order for them to believe in Jesus.

Finally look how this chapter ends. When Jesus won't give the crowds what they want, they go from wanting to make Jesus king to deserting him. But notice Peter's response in verses 68 and 69 "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the holy one of God."

Wednesday, February 10 – John 7: 1 – 24

The Feast of Tabernacles was one of Israel's most important feasts. It was a time to remember how God cared for the Israelites in their wilderness wanderings on the way to the Promised Land, and it was also a time to offer thanksgiving for the current year's harvest. Jesus' brothers want Jesus to go to the feast because they are hoping, with all of the crowds there, Jesus will perform a miracle in front of the large crowds and become really famous. What the brothers want is to benefit from Jesus' popularity. In verse six, when Jesus says the right time has not yet come, he means that doing what his brothers wanted him to do was not part of the Father's plan. Jesus does go secretly to the Feast, but rather than doing a miracle he astonishes the crowds with his teaching.

Thursday, February 11 – John 7: 25 – 53

Clearly in this passage there is a great debate among the people and the leaders as to who Jesus is. People were blinded as to who Jesus was because they thought he was from Galilee. Galilee was looked down on by the rest of Israel especially Israel's leaders. They did not realize that although Jesus grew up in Galilee and started his ministry there he was born in Bethlehem. Also notice how in spite of their desire to "lay hands on Jesus" they are kept from doing so. Again this is because Jesus' time has not yet come.

Friday, February 12 – John 8: 1 – 47

You may see a note in your Bible that the first 11 verses of chapter 8 are not in many of the earliest manuscripts of this Gospel that have been found; however, most scholars believe that this was a real event that was placed into John's Gospel at a later date. Verse 12 has the second of Jesus' "I am" statements where Jesus says "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." During the Feast of Tabernacles, candles were lit to remind Israel how a pillar of fire led them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. By saying I am the light of the world, Jesus is saying he was the pillar of fire that led Israel out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised, and he is the light that will led us out of slavery to sin and into the Kingdom of Heaven.

In verse 19, the Jewish leaders insult Jesus by asking him where his father is. They are implying that Jesus was the illegitimate son of Mary. In more ways than one, these leaders clearly do not know Jesus' Father. Notice how Jesus once again predicts his death in verses 21 and 27.

This passage concludes with Jesus turning the tables on the Pharisees by saying they are illegitimate children of Abraham because they do not follow in his footsteps. Jesus tells them plainly that he is the Son of God and they are children of Satan.

Saturday, February 13 – John 8: 48 – 59

Today's passage contains the third of Jesus' "I am" statements with the words "before Abraham was born I am." With this statement Jesus is clearly saying that he existed before Abraham was born, which means, of course, that Jesus is greater than Abraham. Abraham was waiting for Jesus to come, and was saved because he believed that Jesus would one day come and take his sins away.

Sunday, February 14 – John 9: 1 – 41

These verses contain another story of Jesus healing someone on the Sabbath. This time it was a man who was born blind. Rather than rejoicing that a man who was once blind can now see, the Pharisees get upset because the healing took place on the Sabbath. The spiritual blindness of the Pharisees is amazing, but it is even more amazing when you compare their spiritual blindness to what the blind man understood about Jesus. Look at his testimony about Jesus in verse 25. Look how the blind man pokes fun at the Pharisees in verse 27. Finally look at verses 30 – 33. Even this man with his limited learning knows that only a man of God could do what Jesus can do.

What is really amazing about this man's testimony is that based on verses 35 – 41 he didn't really know Jesus until he met Jesus later and once he met Jesus and understood who Jesus was he began to worship Jesus.