Quarter Four: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson 8—Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies

Monday: The Authoritative Role of Scripture

November 18, 2024

- Last Week: "Blessed Are Those Who Believe"
 - o John 8, 12, 19, 20
 - o Specific people who testified to the identity of Jesus
 - Abraham, Mary's anointing of Jesus, Pilate at Jesus' trial, Thomas' doubts
 - Our witness of Jesus
- This Week: "Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies"
 - o John 5, 8, 13, 17
 - o John identifying Jesus as Messiah from the OT Scriptures (prophecies)
 - Yet, many didn't know Him, even though they should have
 - Why do some still reject Him?

Memory Text: "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me." (John 5:36, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. Sunday: Signs, Works, and Wonders (James)
 - o John 5 Jesus' close connection with His Father testimony of the Father
 - Witness of John the Baptist; the miracles / works; the Father Himself
- 2. **Monday**: The Authoritative Role of Scripture (Jill)
 - o John 5:39, 40, 46, 47 the witness / testimony of Scripture as to Jesus' identity
- 3. **Tuesday**: Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus: Part I (Daniel)
 - o John 1:23; 2:16; 7:38; 19:36
- 4. Wednesday: Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus: Part II (John D)
 - o John 12:13, 14; John 13:8; John 19:37
- 5. **Thursday**: From Beneath (Ryan)
 - o John 8:12 30 why the religious leaders rejected Jesus & Truth

Monday: The Authoritative Role of Scripture

John 5:39, 40, 46, 47; John 13:18; John 17:12; John 19:24, 28, 36

- The 4-fold witness
 - o In the Jewish legal system, evidence was not accepted unless based on 2 or 3 witnesses
 - o Jesus provides 4 witnesses of who He was
 - 1. John the Baptist
 - 2. The "works" signs & wonders
 - 3. The Father Himself
 - 4. The Scriptures (OT prophecies of Jesus)

- Context: Jesus talking with the "Jews"
 - O John's gospel = Religious leaders who opposed Jesus

How do we know truth?

- o Can truth be taught?
 - Teachers can teach; but students must receive, understand & internalize
- o How is truth received?
 - With the head & the heart
 - Intellectually assent, without heart transformation
 - Seek to
 - 2 Pet 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
- o Can truth be understood without Jesus?
 - John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- Truth is absolute not relative
 - Not my truth, your truth but The Truth

• What forces undermine the truth or the receiving of the truth?

- John 5:39, 40 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of Me. (40) But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."
 - Scripture testifies of Jesus
 - 4th witness = Scripture
 - OT testifies of Jesus
 - Jewish leaders searched the Scriptures, but failed to recognize Jesus. Why?
 - False expectations Messiah come as a King
 - Jealousy
 - Pride "you are not willing to come to Me..."
 - o If the heart is not willing, belief is not possible no matter how strong the evidence may be.
 - Grace / mercy / forgiveness not mixing with regulations & rules
 - o Jesus mixed forgiveness with justice at the Cross
- John 5:46, 47 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. (47) But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"
 - For the Jews of Jesus' day, Moses = the ultimate witness

Moses testified of Jesus

- Gen 3:15 first Messianic promise
- The patriarchs
- The story of the Exodus
- The sanctuary service
- Prediction of a prophet like himself (Deut 18)

- Jewish leaders studied writings of Moses, how could they not believe in Jesus?
 - Are we willing to accept & believe, when it doesn't line up with what we believed?
 - o Doesn't match our expectations, tradition, culture

• Jesus' fulfillment of Scripture

Others believed He fulfilled the Scriptures

John 1:45 – "Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.""

Jesus knew He fulfilled the Scriptures

- John 3:14, 15 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
 - Jesus speaking comparing Moses example to Himself
 - Jesus knew His substitutionary death would bring eternal life to those who received & accepted it
- John 13:3, 4 "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, (4) rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself."
 - Jesus washed disciples' feet example of servanthood
 - Jesus knew His purpose & how He was to be an example
 - Matt 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- John 13:18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture might be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me."
 - From Ps 41:9
 - Jesus knew Judas was His betrayer
 - John 17:12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."
 - o From John 13:18 (Ps 41:9)
- John 18:4 "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, 'Whom are you seeking?""
 - At arrest in Gethsemane
 - Jesus could have escaped, but chose not to
 - Jesus knew He was going to the Cross, as a fulfillment of His mission & purpose / fulfillment of prophecy
- John 19:28 "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!""
 - Jesus on the Cross
 - Ps 69:21
 - Jesus knew He had fulfilled the task given Him by His Father mission was accomplished

o Right after that: it is finished

• 3 Takeaways of the Authoritative Role of Scripture

- o 1. Understanding Scripture changes our perspective
 - Who am I and why am I here?
- o 2. Understanding Scripture shows us Jesus
 - Who is Christ?
 - What was His role & mission?
- o 3. Understanding Scripture keeps me grounded
 - Don't waffle with various "truths"
 - The truth settles & grounds us
 - The truth sets us free