

Quarter Four: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson 8—Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies

Monday: The Authoritative Role of Scripture

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- **Last Week:** “Blessed Are Those Who Believe”
 - John 8, 12, 19, 20
 - 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”
 - John 5, 8, 13, 17
 - 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)
 - 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)
 - 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)
 - John 1:23; 2:16; 7:38; 19:36
- 4. **Wednesday:** Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus: Part II (John D)
 - John 12:13, 14; John 13:8; John 19:37
- 5. **Thursday:** From Beneath (Ryan)
 - 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
 - In the Jewish legal system, evidence was not accepted unless based on 2 or 3 witnesses
 - 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”
 - John’s gospel = Religious leaders who opposed Jesus

- **How do we know truth?**
 - Can truth be taught?
 - Teachers can teach; but students must receive, understand & internalize

 - 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.”

 - 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...”
 - 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
 - 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)

- Right after that: it is finished

- **3 Takeaways of the Authoritative Role of Scripture**

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