

JOHN'S GOSPEL 10 STEP II

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

 **CAMPUS MISSION**
INTERNATIONAL

Rivers of Living Water

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STEP 01

Do You Want to be Healed?

John 5:1-18

We've learned about Jesus' second miraculous sign of healing the royal official's son. This text tells us about Jesus' third miraculous sign, the healing of the man who had been an invalid for 38 years. We learn more clearly who Jesus is and why He came to this earth.

1. Where did Jesus go and when did he go (1-4)? What was Jesus' concern? What kind of people were around the pool of Bethesda and what were they waiting for? Who drew Jesus' attention at that time (5-6)? What did Jesus say to the invalid? Who is this Jesus for us? ¹

¹ **1-4** ¹ Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie - the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁴ *From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease he had.*

5-6 ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

2. What was the response of the invalid and what did Jesus say to Him (7-8)?
What happened to him when he obeyed Jesus' words (9; 5:25)? In the same way, Jesus wants you to get well. What kinds of wounds and pains do you have that need to be healed by Jesus? ²

² **7-8** ⁷ "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

5:25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

3. What was the response of the Jews toward Jesus' healing of the invalid (9b-13)? What was the invalid's attitude toward Jesus' grace (11, 13, 15)? How did Jesus further help the invalid (14)? In what sense, should we also hear Jesus' words, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you"? What is worse than being an invalid for 38 years (Rev 21:8)?³

³ **9-15** ⁹ The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." ¹¹ But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" ¹² So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" ¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. ¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Rev. 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Reflection

STEP 02

The Resurrection of Life

John 5:19–29

When Jesus healed the man who had been an invalid for 38 years on the Sabbath, the Jewish religious leaders sharply criticized Him as a lawbreaker. Jesus defended Himself saying, "My Father is always at His work to this day, and I too am working" (17). The Jewish leaders then worked harder to kill Jesus because they thought that He was making Himself equal to God by calling God His own Father (5:18). Here, Jesus speaks further to identify Himself as the Son of God.

1. What did Jesus say to the Jews about condemning Him (19)? What is the proof that His work is the very work of God (20)? What work would Jesus do specifically (21)? What did God entrust to Jesus (22)? What resurrection will people face after death (28–29)? What does the Bible tell us about God's judgment (Heb 9:27; Ecc 11:9)? ⁴

4 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

28–29 ²⁸ "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Ecc 11:9 Young man ... follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment."

2. What authority does Jesus have in Himself (26–27)? What is Jesus' true identity (Dan 7:13–14)? In what way did Jesus, the Son of God, come to this earth? Why did He in come this way (Heb 4:15–16)? What should we do now for Jesus? ⁵

⁵ **26–27** ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Dan 7:13–14 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Heb 4:15–16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

3. In what sense does the way of salvation and the way to the resurrection of life build God's truth together (24, 29)? What kind of life should we live (Eph 2:8-10; 3:36)? ⁶

⁶ **24** "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

29 "those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Reflection

STEP 03

Witnesses to Jesus

John 5:30-47

When Jesus healed the man who had been an invalid for 38 years on the Sabbath, the Jewish religious leaders sharply criticized Him as a lawbreaker. Jesus defended Himself, saying, "My Father is always at His work to this day, and I too am working" (17). The Jewish leaders then tried harder to kill Jesus for He was making Himself equal to God by calling Him, His own Father (5:18). In 19-29, Jesus spoke about His authority of giving all people resurrection and judgment. In this text, Jesus introduces His witnesses to further identify Himself as the Son of God.

1. How did Jesus defend His work and His judgment (19, 30)? How many witnesses do you need to prove what you testify is true (Deut 19:15)? Who was Jesus' first witness (32-35)? In what way is John a great role model for us in witnessing Jesus (1:29; Mk 1:7-8)? ⁷

⁷ **19** "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."

30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of Him who sent me." In order to prove His testimony was right, Jesus needs to have two or three witnesses (31)

Deut 19:15 "Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."

32-35 "There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth...He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light."

1:29 "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Mk 1:7-8 "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

2. What things testify that Jesus is the Son of God (36; 21:25; 3:2)? In what sense are the miracles that Jesus performed important for Jesus to be identified as the Son of God? How does God testify Jesus (37; Mk 1:11; 12:27–28)? Why is it important that you are recognized by God? ⁸

⁸ **36** "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me." Jesus did so many miracles during three years of His earthly ministry.

21:25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

3:2 "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

37 "And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,"

Mk 1:11 "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

12:27–28 ²⁷ "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

3. What also testifies that Jesus is the Son of God (38–39; Gen 3:15)? What is the main theme of the OT, NT and the purpose of the Bible? What was the fundamental problem of the Jews (42)? From the failure of the Jews, what spiritual lesson do we learn (Deut 6:5; 6:28–29)?⁹

⁹ **38–39** ³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,

Gen 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

42 “but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.”

Deut 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

6:28–29 ²⁸ “What must we do to do the works God requires?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

*Recently Matthew Dowd, ABC News political commentator spoke DBU campus that significant change comes to our country ever 80 years such as the Great Depression (World War II), the Civil War (Industrial revolution), War for independence (agricultural revolution). We are in a chaotic time. He said, “We desperately need leaders who serve those they lead, who care for people more than politics or party who know that souls are what matter most.”

There was a man who recently died, named Vester T. Hughes, Jr. He clerked for the Supreme Court, served our nation as a JAG Officer. He met Jesus when he was a freshman at Baylor. He then spent the rest of his life giving the grace he received that he influenced the thousands of lives changed. Ezekiel 33:10, “How should we then live?” was central to his life. His answer was to begin everyday with the same prayer, “Lord, let me be who I am supposed to be today.” And God answered his prayer everyday.

Reflection

STEP 04

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

John 6:1–15

The gospel of John's theme is that Jesus is the Son of God who gives His people eternal life (20:31). John wrote about seven miracles that clearly testify Jesus as God. Jesus feeding the five thousand is the fourth miracle; this miracle is the only one that is written in all four gospels. That's how important this miracle is.

1. Between Chapter 5 (Purim) and Chapter 6 (Passover), there was about a month in between. During this time, Jesus returned to Galilee from Judea. Why did the large crowd follow Jesus (2)? What kind of festival was near (3–4)? We see that people followed Jesus, what does that tell us about Jesus (Heb 13:8; Mark 6:34; Mt 11:28)?¹⁰

¹⁰ **3–4** ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Mk 6:34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Mt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

2. What did Jesus ask Philip (5–6)? Why did He ask this? What was Philip’s answer (7)? How did Andrew react to this situation (8–9)? What is the world of faith like (Mk 9:32; Lk 1:35, 37)? What was Jesus’ response to Andrew’s offer (10–13)? What can you learn from this miracle of Jesus? ¹¹

11 5–6 ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

8–9 ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

Mk 9:23 “If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”

Lk 1:35, 37 “The power of the Most High will overshadow you ... For nothing will be impossible with God”

10–13 ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Reflection

STEP 05

Jesus Walks on the Water

John 6:16–21

When the large crowd came to Him, Jesus first fed the crowd spiritual food and then physical food. As a result, the crowd wanted to make Jesus as their king, believing that Jesus could free them from the Roman oppression and their poverty. So Jesus immediately made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side while He dismissed the crowd (Mt 14:22). Jesus hurriedly sent His disciples back because he did not want the disciples to be influenced by the crowd for they had human dreams to gain power and wealth in the world. After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray (Mt 14:23). On their voyage to Capernaum, the disciples faced a severe storm. Jesus walking on water is the fifth miracle in the gospel of John.

1. What circumstances did the disciples face (16–18)? What was the difference between the past storm they had faced (Mk 4:38–39)? What do you think about the storms we face in life? Is it because of our sins? Why did even Jesus and Paul face storms? ¹²

¹² **16–18** “¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.”

Mk 4:38–39 “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

2. When did Jesus come to them and what was the response of the disciples (19; Mk 6:48)? In what sense is it important to follow Jesus' will in our life? What does this tell us about Jesus who comes to us when we struggle in life (Job 9:8)? What did Jesus say to the frightened disciples (20)? ¹³

¹³ **19** When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.

Mk 6:48 He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them.

20 "It is I; don't be afraid."

Job 9:8 He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

3. What did the disciples do to Jesus (21a)? What happened to the disciples (21b)?
What does this event tell us to do in times of storms? ¹⁴

¹⁴ **21** Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

-“Willing to” means “take pleasure in.”

Reflection

STEP 06

I am the Bread of Life

John 6:22–51

Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish. As a result, the crowds wanted to make Jesus their king for the lack of bread was a serious problem for them. Through His conversations with the crowd, Jesus taught the spiritual meaning of feeding the five thousand. Jesus taught them why He came to this world.

1. How eagerly did the crowd look for Jesus (22–25)? What did Jesus say to the crowd who were glad to meet Him (26)? What is the difference between the word, “sign” and “miracle”? What words did Jesus also give to the crowd (27)? What should be our motive for following Jesus and having Him be our first priority in life (Mt 6:31–33)?¹⁵

¹⁵ **22–25** ²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. ²³ Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ “Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

27 “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Mt 6:31–33 ““So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

2. What should we seek in life (27b)? What was the response of the crowd to Jesus' words (28)? What was Jesus' reply (29)? What is the most important thing in life from Jesus' point of view? When the crowds sought a sign (30–31), what was their intention? What did Jesus say to them (32–33)? Why should we seek the bread from heaven (49)?¹⁶

16 27 "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

28 "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

29 "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

30–31 ³⁰ "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

32–33 ³² "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

3. What was the people's response (34)? What did Jesus declare to them (35)? What does the bread of life give us? How can we have this bread of eternal life (40)? How antagonistic did the crowds become (43)?¹⁷

¹⁷ **34** "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

35 "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

40 "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.

Reflection

STEP 07

My Flesh is True Food

John 6:52–71

Jesus' feeding the five thousand with five loaves and two fish was the exemplification of giving His life on the cross for the sins of the world. Jesus' desire was for the people to know the true message, so he said, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" and "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (27, 35). In this text, Jesus further explains the meaning of being the bread of life. Let's learn what it means to eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood.

1. How did the Jews interpret Jesus' teaching of being the bread of life (51–52)? What did Jesus say to them (53–54)? What does eternal life mean in the Bible (47)? How can we obtain it (3:16; 14:6; Heb 9:22)?¹⁸

¹⁸ **51–52** ⁵¹ "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." ⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

53–54 ⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

47 "I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life."

3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Heb 9:22 Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

2. What is the next step for you after you receive eternal life in Jesus (55–56; Rev 3:20; 15:5–7)? What is the practical way to abide in Jesus (1:1, 14)? What is the result of remaining in the words of Jesus (Col 3:16)? ¹⁹

19 55–56 ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

Rev 3:20 "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

15:5–7 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers ... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1:4 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

3. What kind of life do we live when we abide in Jesus (57; Phi 1:21)? What is the best way to please God through our life (3:16)? What was the main purpose of Jesus coming into the world (Lk 19:10; Acts 1:8)? What was the response of many of the disciples to Jesus' teaching (60–66)? How did Peter and the other apostles respond to Jesus (68–69)? What kind of life of faith should we live? ²⁰

20 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Lk 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses

60–66 ⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

68–69 ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Reflection

STEP 08

My Time Has Not Yet Come

John 7:1-10

There is a six month gap between Chapter 6 and 7. Jesus fed the five thousand during the Passover. The context of Chapter 7 is during the Feast of Booths (mid-October) that happens six months after the Passover (mid-April). The Feast of Booths is the celebration of God's guidance in the wilderness for 40 years. They built booths and thanked God for His great grace. This was also about six months from Jesus' cross. At that time, many of His disciples deserted Jesus. We see that Jesus was even rejected by His own family. Eventually, He would experience the rejection of the whole world and even from His own Father God. Jesus suffered all these pains for you and me.

1. How many brothers did Jesus have (Mt 13:55-56)? What did His brothers say to him (2-4)? What did King David's prophesy say about the Messiah's rejection from His brothers (Ps 69:7-8)? Why did He suffer such rejection from the world, from His own family, and in the end even from His own Father in heaven (Heb 4:15-16)? ²¹

²¹ **Mt 13:55-56** "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

2-4 ² But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, ³ Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do.

⁴ No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."

Ps 69:7-8 For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face. I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons;

Heb 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

2. Why can't the world hate Jesus' brothers (7)? Why does the world hate Jesus? What is our role in the world (1:4)? In this confusing world, what should we do to fulfill God's call to shine the light of the Lord Jesus (Ezra 7:9-10)? ²²

²² **7** "The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil."

1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Ezra 7:9-10 He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

3. What does Jesus mean by "my time" (6, 8)? In what sense does Jesus' life show that He came, lived, and died according to God's time (Gal 4:4; 1 Co 15:3-4; Mt 24:30)? Why is it important for us to live according to God's time (19:30)? What happened to Jesus' brothers (Acts 1:14; 15:13)? What does it teach us about our prayers and efforts in the Lord (1 Co 15:58)?²³

²³ **6** "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right."

8 "You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come."

Gal 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

1 Co 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Mt 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."

Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 15:13 When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me."

1 Co 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Reflection

STEP 09

When We Choose to Do God's Will

John 7:10-36

We've learned that Jesus was rejected by His brothers. After His brothers had gone to Jerusalem, Jesus also went there in secret. He didn't go there to reveal Himself, but to teach people God's words. Now, in Jerusalem, the crowds were whispering about Jesus. Some said, "He's a good man," and others said, "He is a deceiver" (12). When Jesus arrived, the festival was halfway through. He went up to the temple courts and began to teach (14). We see two responses from the people: rejection from the crowds and reception of a few people.

1. What was the response of the Jews to Jesus' teaching (14-15)? Where did Jesus' teaching come from (16)? How can we better know God's will (17; John 6:69)? What do we need to do to increase our faith (Ro 10:17)? ²⁴

²⁴ **14-15** ¹⁴ Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. ¹⁵ The Jews were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having studied?"

16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

17 If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

6:69 "We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

2. What did the Pharisees seek (18)? On the other hand, what did Jesus seek? What did the Pharisees seek to do (19)? In what way do we see an exception in keeping the law (21–24)? What was the response of the people in Jerusalem towards Jesus (25–26)? How did the Pharisees attack the work of faith in people (27)? Who is Jesus (28–29; Isa 9:6; 1:1–3)? ²⁵

25 18 "He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him."

19 "Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

21–24 ²¹ Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. ²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. ²³ Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

25–26 ²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? ²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Christ?"

28–29 ²⁸ "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, ²⁹ but I know him because I am from him and he sent me."

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

1:1–3 ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

3. Why didn't the Jews lay a hand on Jesus (30)? Why did many believe in Jesus (31; 40–41)? What did the Pharisees and the chief priest seek to do (32)? What did Jesus say to them (33–34)? What did He mean by, "Where I am, you cannot come" (34)? How should we respond to Jesus' invitation to His kingdom (2 Cor 6:2)? ²⁶

²⁶ **30** At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.

31 Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him. They said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?"

40–41 ⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

⁴¹ Others said, "He is the Christ."

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

33–34 ³³ Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I go to the one who sent me.

³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."

2 Cor 6:2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Reflection

STEP 10

Rivers of Living Water

John 7:37–39

We've learned that Jesus was rejected by His brothers and the Jews at the Jerusalem temple during the Feast of the Tabernacle. In order to experience their ancestors' life in the wilderness, the Jews lived in tents for 7 days near Jerusalem. The last day was the climax of the feast. People walked around the altar seven times, singing Hosanna. So it was called, "The Day of Great Hosanna." They also shook willow trees by the altar and this day was called, "The Day of Willow Trees." The priests would bring water from the well of Siloam in gold jars and pour them on the altar. It commemorated the event of water gushing out from the rock that quenched the Israelites' thirsts. It also reminded them that the well of salvation is in the Lord God (Isa 12:3). Ultimately, it pointed that God would pour His Spirit on His people. Let's learn from this text how we can receive the pouring of the Holy Spirit.

1. What did Jesus cry out on the last day of the feast (37)? What do people do to quench their thirst? What is the real cause of human thirst (Gen 1:26; Ps 86:4; Amos 8:11; Jer 2:13)?²⁷

²⁷ **37** On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Ps 86:4 Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Amos 8:11 "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land - not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD."

Jer 2:13 "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

* St. Augustine said, "There is a room in people's heart that can be filled only by God."

2. In what way, can we truly quench our thirst (37)? Who does Jesus invite to His living water (Isa 55:1–2)? What does it mean to come to Jesus and drink (6:35, 55)? What is the practical meaning of believing in Jesus (3:16; 1:14)? How abundantly do we experience the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus (38–39; Isa 58:11)? ²⁸

²⁸ **37** "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."

Isa 55:1–2 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

6:55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

3:16 ""For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

38–39 ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

Isa 58:11 The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

*Ernest Hemingway was a great novelist. Living without God, his soul suffered in great thirst. He married four times (1921-1946). He loved champagne. He won a Nobel Prize in Literature (1954). None of these things satisfied his soul and he committed a suicide.

Reflection

