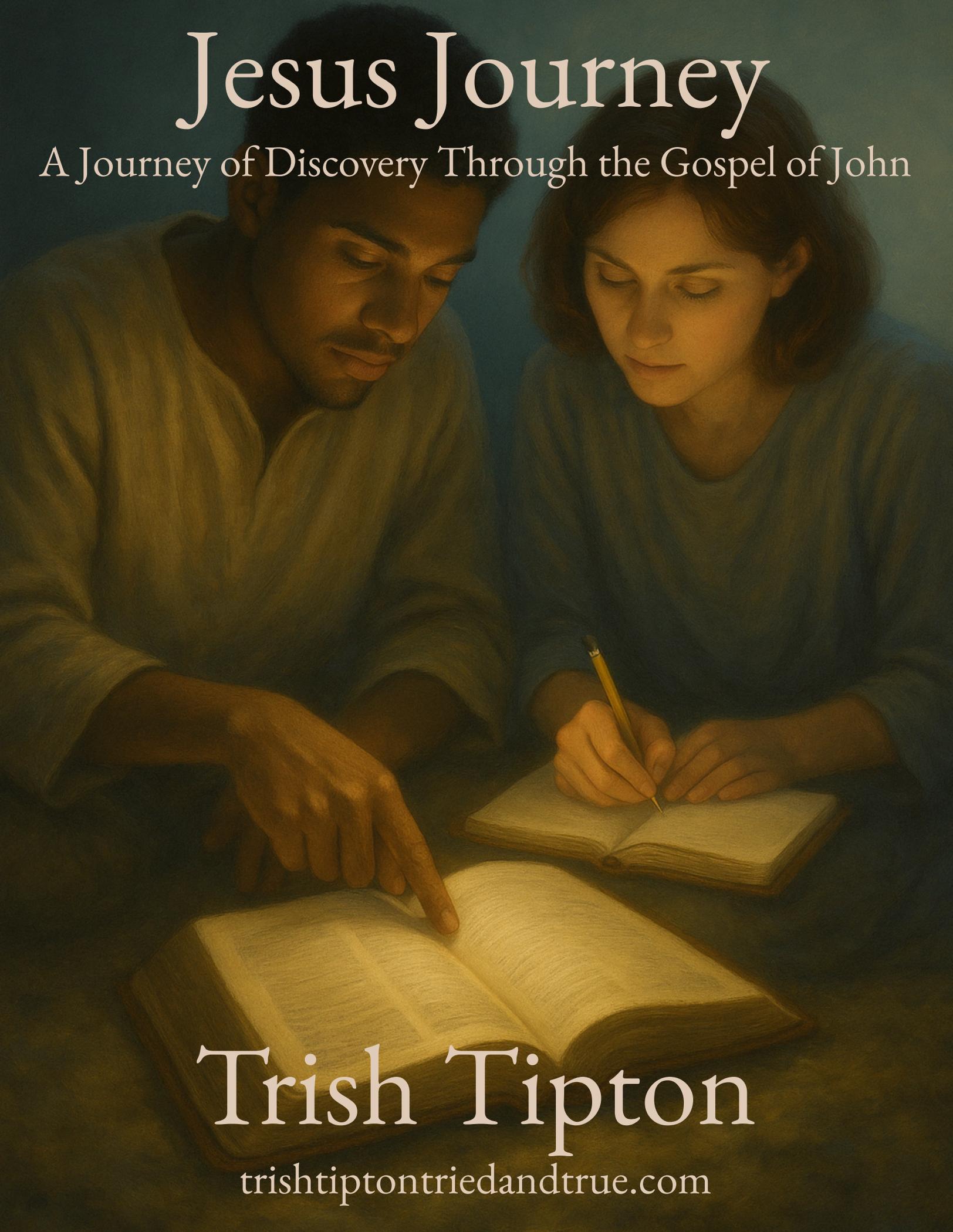


Jesus Journey

A Journey of Discovery Through the Gospel of John

A man and a woman are shown in a close-up, intimate setting, reading a large book together. The man, on the left, is pointing at a page in the book. The woman, on the right, is holding a pencil and looking down at the book. The scene is lit with a warm, golden light, creating a sense of focus and discovery. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

Trish Tipton

trishtiptontriedandtrue.com

Walk *with* Jesus

54 Lessons designed to help you slow down, breathe a little, and get to know Jesus in a way that brings the whole story of Scripture into focus.

As you walk through John, you'll discover who He is for yourself, because you can't understand His story in the New Testament until you first understand the One at the center of it. Knowing Him personally is what makes everything else come alive.

This is not a race. This is a relationship.

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THE JESUS JOURNEY – ROADMAP

A simple, relational walk through the Gospel of John from first sight... to abiding love... to resurrection life.

PART ONE — SEE JESUS CLEARLY

Laying the foundation: Who He is + why He matters

Lesson 1 — John 1:1-5

The Word, the Life, the Light

Lesson 2 — John 1:6-13

Preparing Your Heart to Recognize Jesus

Lesson 3 — John 1:14

God Made Himself Touchable

Lesson 4 — John 1:15-18

Grace and Truth Through Jesus

Lesson 5 — John 1:19-28

Knowing Who You Are and Who You Are Not

Lesson 6 — John 1:29-34

Behold the Lamb of God

PART TWO — HEAR HIS INVITATION

Jesus calling you into relationship

Lesson 7 — John 1:35-39

What Are You Seeking? Come and See

Lesson 8 — John 1:40-42

You Shall Be Called... Identity Rewritten

Lesson 9 — John 1:43-46

Honest Questions + A Simple Invitation

Lesson 10 — John 1:47-51

Jesus Saw You Before You Saw Him

PART THREE — WALK WITH HIM

Seeing His heart in action

Lesson 11 — John 2:1-5

Bring Him Your Need

Lesson 12 — John 2:6-10

Jesus Fills What You Bring

Lesson 13 — John 2:11-12

His Glory in Quiet Moments

Lesson 14 — John 2:13-17

Removing What Doesn't Belong

Lesson 15 — John 2:18-22

Truth That Makes Sense Later

Lesson 16 — John 2:23-25

Jesus Sees Beneath the Surface

PART FOUR — NEW BIRTH FROM ABOVE

Jesus reshaping the heart

Lesson 17 — John 3:1-3

The Beginning of New Birth

Lesson 18 — John 3:4-8

Born of the Spirit

Lesson 19 — John 3:9-12

Moving From Confusion to Understanding

Lesson 20 — John 3:13-15

Lifted Up So You Can Live

Lesson 21 — John 3:16-18

The Depth of God's Love

Lesson 22 — John 3:19-21

Light That Reveals and Heals

PART FIVE — THE HEART THAT SATISFIES

Jesus meets your deepest thirst

Lesson 23 — John 4:1–6

Jesus Meets You Where You Are

Lesson 24 — John 4:7–18

The Thirst Beneath the Thirst

Lesson 25 — John 4:19–26

Worship in Spirit and Truth

Lesson 26 — John 4:27–42

Your Story Has Power

PART SIX — SEE HIS MERCY + STRENGTH

Healing, compassion, restoration

Lesson 27 — John 5:1–9

Do You Want to Be Made Whole?

Lesson 28 — John 5:10–18

Grace That Confronts Legalism

Lesson 29 — John 5:19–29

The Son Who Gives Life

Lesson 30 — John 5:30–47

Testimonies That Reveal His Identity

PART SEVEN — BREAD THAT NEVER FAILS

Learning to trust His provision

Lesson 31 — John 6:1–14

He Feeds the Hungry

Lesson 32 — John 6:15–21

He Comes to You in the Storm

Lesson 33 — John 6:22–40

The Bread of Life

Lesson 34 — John 6:41–59

Life Through His Words

Lesson 35 — John 6:60–71

When Following Jesus Gets Hard

PART EIGHT — LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Jesus reveals truth that frees

Lesson 36 — John 7:1–24

Discernment in a Confused World

Lesson 37 — John 7:25–52

Division, Desire, and Invitation

Lesson 38 — John 8:1–11

Neither Do I Condemn You

Lesson 39 — John 8:12–30

I Am the Light of the World

Lesson 40 — John 8:31–59

Truth That Sets You Free

PART NINE — THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Hearing His voice, trusting His leadership

Lesson 41 — John 9 (entire chapter)

Healing Your Blind Spots

Lesson 42 — John 10:1–18

The Shepherd and His Voice

Lesson 43 — John 10:19–42

Security in His Hands

PART TEN — THE HEART OF LOVE

From friendship to abiding

Lesson 44 — John 11

Lazarus — Life Stronger Than Death

Lesson 45 — John 12

Extravagant Worship + Costly Love

Lesson 46 — John 13

Love That Serves

Lesson 47 — John 14

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

Lesson 48 — John 15

Abide in the Vine

Lesson 49 — John 16

The Spirit Who Helps You

Lesson 50 — John 17

The Prayer Jesus Prayed for You

PART ELEVEN — THE CROSS + RESURRECTION

The story that transforms everything

Lesson 51 — John 18

Betrayal, Courage, and Truth

Lesson 52 — John 19

The Crucified King

Lesson 53 — John 20

The Risen Jesus

Lesson 54 — John 21

The Restoration of Your Calling

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- Lesson 2** — John 1:6-13. Preparing Your Heart to Recognize Jesus
- Lesson 3** — John 1:14 God Made Himself Touchable
- Lesson 4** — John 1:15-18 Grace and Truth Through Jesus
- Lesson 5** — John 1:19-28 Knowing Who You Are and Who You Are Not
- Lesson 6** — John 1:29-34. Behold the Lamb of God
-

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Jesus calling you into relationship

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- Lesson 15** — John 2:18-22 Truth That Makes Sense Later
- Lesson 16** — John 2:23-25 Jesus Sees Beneath the Surface
-

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Jesus reshaping the heart

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- Lesson 18** — John 3:4–8 Born of the Spirit
- Lesson 19** — John 3:9–12 Moving From Confusion to Understanding
- Lesson 20** — John 3:13–15 Lifted Up So You Can Live
- Lesson 21** — John 3:16–18 The Depth of God’s Love
- Lesson 22** — John 3:19–21 Light That Reveals and Heals

PART FIVE — THE HEART THAT SATISFIES

Jesus meets your deepest thirst

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- Lesson 24** — John 4:7–18 The Thirst Beneath the Thirst
- Lesson 25** — John 4:19–26 Worship in Spirit and Truth
- Lesson 26** — John 4:27–42 Your Story Has Power

PART SIX — SEE HIS MERCY + STRENGTH

Healing, compassion, restoration

- Lesson 27** — John 5:1–9 Do You Want to Be Made Whole?
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- Lesson 29** — John 5:19–29 The Son Who Gives Life
- Lesson 30** — John 5:30–47 Testimonies That Reveal His Identity

PART SEVEN — BREAD THAT NEVER FAILS

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PART ELEVEN — THE CROSS + RESURRECTION

The story that transforms everything

Lesson 51 — John 18 Betrayal, Courage, and Truth

Lesson 52 — John 19 The Crucified King

Lesson 53 — John 20 The Risen Jesus

Lesson 54 — John 21 The Restoration of Your Calling PART ONE — SEE JESUS CLEARLY

Laying the foundation: Who He is + why He matters

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson One

Seeing Jesus for Who He Truly Is

This week we are exploring **John 1:1–14**, one small section at a time.
Today we begin with **John 1:1–5**.

Journal ready?

“God, open my heart to what You want me to see today.”

Let yourself slow down.
This is where your journey begins.

Part One: The Word Who Stepped Into Our World

Before you can walk with Jesus, you need to see who He truly is.
John starts at the very beginning, before creation, before time, before the world existed.

Jesus is:

- the Word
- eternal
- with God
- God Himself

Then comes the truth that changes everything:

Jesus is life.
Jesus is light.
And His light is stronger than any darkness.

He is not distant.
He is not hidden.
He is not hard to reach.

He is the God who stepped into the world He created so you could finally know Him.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:1–5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind.

5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

A Thought for Your Journal

It may help to jot this down:

What stands out to me most about Jesus in these verses? His power, His light, or His nearness?

How This Meets Your Life Today

You may worry that you are too inexperienced, too uncertain, or too imperfect for God to come near. But John 1:1–5 tells you something simple and freeing.

Jesus stepped into your world before you ever reached for Him.

He understands:

- human emotion
- fatigue
- disappointment
- confusion
- temptation
- the weight of being alive in this world

He knows the darkness you face because His light entered it.

Right now, wherever you are,

His light is already shining toward you.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not begin your journey knowing who Jesus really is, everything else becomes confusing.

You will:

- misunderstand His character
- assume He is distant or disappointed
- think you must earn His approval
- read Scripture through fear instead of trust

But starting here:

Jesus is God

Jesus is life

Jesus is light

Jesus is near

gives you a foundation that is unshakeable.

A clear view of Jesus creates a clear and steady walk with Him.

STRONG’S – What It Is and Why You May Want It (Lesson One Only)

Strong’s Concordance helps you look up original Greek or Hebrew words to see their deeper meaning.

You do not need Strong’s for this study, but if a word ever catches your attention, this tool helps you understand the heart behind it.

Below is an example from today’s passage.

Example From Today’s Scripture (John 1:1)

“Word”

Greek: **Logos**

Strong’s Number: **G3056**

Meaning:

- spoken word
- message
- expression
- the complete communication of a person

Why this matters:

Calling Jesus the Word means:

He is the expression of God

He reveals the heart of God

He shows you what God is truly like

Where else this appears:

Revelation 19:13

1 John 1:1

John 1:14

Strong’s Links and How to Use Them

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Type John 1:1, tap Tools, choose Interlinear.

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

Type John 1:1 in the search bar and scroll down to Strong's.

In future lessons:

If a word stands out to you, you can look it up using these links.

Reflections

1. What does this passage reveal about Jesus that I did not fully grasp before?
2. How does knowing Jesus lived in a human body change how I relate to Him?
3. Where do I sense Him wanting to shine light into my life today?

“Jesus, help me see You clearly.

Show me who You are.

Let Your light become real to me today.

Open my heart to recognize You in my everyday life.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Two

Preparing Your Heart to See Jesus Clearly

This week we are exploring **John 1:1–14**, one section at a time.
Today we continue with **John 1:6–13**.

Journal ready?

“God, help me notice what You want me to see today.”

Let your thoughts settle.
Truth becomes clearer as your heart becomes still.

Part Two: Clearing Space for Jesus to Be Seen

After showing who Jesus is, John introduces the one sent ahead of Him:
John the Baptist.

His purpose was simple.

Prepare the heart.
Clear the noise.
Make room to recognize Jesus when He appears.

John’s message helped people set aside:

- assumptions
- expectations
- religious confusion
- distractions
- old stories they believed about God

He was not the Light.
He pointed to the Light.

Every generation still needs that preparation.
A crowded heart cannot see Jesus clearly.
A busy soul cannot hear His voice well.
A guarded mind cannot receive truth easily.

John’s role invites you into the same posture:
slow down, breathe, clear space inside, and look again.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:6–13

6 A man came, one sent from God, and his name was John.

7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

9 This was the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name,

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

A Thought for Your Journal

Make a note of this and write your thoughts down:

What distractions or assumptions might be keeping me from seeing Jesus clearly today?

Let your heart speak honestly.

How This Meets Your Life Today

Just like the people in John's time, you carry noise inside.

You carry expectations.

You carry beliefs about God that may not reflect who Jesus truly is.

John's message reminds you that preparation is not about performance.

It is about making space.

It is about giving your heart room to receive truth.

It is about letting Jesus meet you without the filters and fears that have built up over the years.

Jesus wants to reveal Himself simply.

He wants you to see Him without confusion.

He wants you to receive Him without fear.

He wants you to recognize His Light even in the darkest places of your life.

Sometimes you do not need more answers.

You just need a little more room inside to see clearly.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not prepare your heart, here is what can happen:

- you see Jesus through old wounds instead of truth
- you assume God is distant when He is actually near

- you miss the gentleness of His presence
- you read Scripture through fear instead of hope
- you misunderstand the heart of God

But when you make space inside:

- truth lands deeper
- fear loosens its grip
- clarity rises
- Jesus becomes easier to recognize
- and your relationship with Him becomes personal and real

Preparation softens the soil.

It makes room for Jesus to plant something new inside you.

Reflections

1. What inner noise or distraction keeps me from seeing Jesus clearly?
2. What old belief might Jesus be clearing away right now?
3. What would it look like for my heart to be open and ready today?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you, you can look it up using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Type John 1:6 in the search bar, tap Tools, then choose Interlinear.

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

Type John 1:6 in the search bar and scroll to the Strong's section.

“Jesus, prepare my heart to see You clearly.

Remove the noise, the fear, and the old assumptions that do not belong.

Make room in me for truth, grace, and the simplicity of who You are.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Three

Recognizing the Light When It Comes Near

We are still exploring **John 1:1–14**, one section at a time.

Today we focus on **John 1:14**, the moment God draws near in the clearest possible way.

Journal ready?

“God, help me see the truth You want to show me today.”

Let your heart rest.

You are stepping into one of the most important verses in the entire Bible.

Part Three: God Made Himself Touchable

Today’s verse reveals the most intimate truth in all of Scripture.

God came in flesh.

He did not send a message from afar.

He did not remain distant.

He did not stay wrapped in glory where no one could approach Him.

He came as Jesus, fully God and fully man, walking in the dust of our world.

John says:

Jesus dwelt among us.

He lived where we live.

He carried human limitations.

He felt human emotions.

He walked among ordinary people with extraordinary love.

And He revealed glory that was not loud or intimidating,
but full of grace and full of truth.

This is the God who wants to be known by you.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. We saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
How does knowing Jesus lived a real human life change how I feel about approaching Him today?

How This Meets Your Life Today

If you grew up around church ideas about God, you may have been taught to see Him as distant, silent, or unreachable.

But this verse changes that.

A God who puts on flesh
understands your stress,
your limitations,
your frustrations,
your exhaustion,
your fears,
your longings,
and your daily battles.

You never have to hide from a God who willingly stepped into the very world that overwhelms you.

You never have to pretend.
You never have to perform.
You never have to clean yourself up first.

He lived this life so you would feel safe coming to Him in yours.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not see Jesus as the God who became human, several things happen:

- you will try to earn His approval
- you will feel unworthy to approach Him
- you will assume He cannot relate to your struggles
- you will think He expects you to be stronger than you are
- you will treat Him like a distant judge instead of a present friend

But when you truly accept that:

Jesus walked this earth
Jesus lived your kind of life
Jesus understands weakness and pain

Jesus is full of grace
Jesus is full of truth

then your relationship with Him becomes personal, warm, steady, and real.

This is not a God you fear approaching.
This is a God you can trust with your heart.

Reflections

1. What does it mean to me personally that Jesus chose to live in a human body?
2. What parts of my life feel easier to share with Him knowing He understands humanity?
3. Where do I sense Him inviting me to be more honest or open right now?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Type John 1:14, tap Tools, then choose Interlinear.

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

Type John 1:14 in the search bar and scroll to the Strong's notes.

“Jesus, thank You for coming close.

Thank You for stepping into human life so I could trust Your heart.

Teach me to walk with You in honesty, confidence, and peace.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Four

When Jesus Begins to Open Your Eyes

We are still walking through **John 1:1–14**, section by section.

Today we focus on **John 1:15–18**, where John explains *why* Jesus is the clearest revelation of God’s heart.

Journal ready?

“God, open my eyes to see You as You truly are.”

Take a deep breath.

Let this settle slowly.

Part Four: Seeing God Through Jesus Alone

In today’s verses, John the Baptist gives a testimony that cuts through confusion.

He explains that Jesus is not just another teacher, prophet, or messenger.

Jesus is the One who reveals the true heart of God.

John tells us:

- Jesus existed before him
- Jesus brings *grace upon grace*
- The Law showed us our need
- Jesus shows us God’s fullness
- No one has ever seen God clearly
- Jesus is the One who explains Him

That last line is everything.

**If you want to know what God is like,
look at Jesus.**

This means:

God is not harsh.

God is not distant.

God is not unpredictable.

God is not impossible to please.

The fullness of God looks like Jesus:

grace, truth, compassion, strength, clarity, and love.

When you look at Jesus, you are seeing the Father’s heart.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:15–18

15 John testified about Him and called out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who is coming after me has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.’”

16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

17 For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time. God the only Son, who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained Him.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

What part of God's heart becomes clearer to me when I look at Jesus instead of my past experiences, fears, or assumptions?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many people carry an image of God that is shaped by:

- painful childhoods
- strict religious environments
- human relationships
- fear-based teaching
- feelings of unworthiness
- misunderstanding Scripture

John 1:15–18 cuts through all of that.

You do not need to guess who God is.

You do not need to fear His intentions.

You do not need to wonder if He is angry or disappointed.

Jesus is the full and perfect picture of God.

This means:

If you want to know how God treats the broken, look at Jesus.

If you want to know how God responds to fear, look at Jesus.

If you want to know how God sees the weary, look at Jesus.

If you want to know how God handles failure, look at Jesus.

Your confidence in God grows as your picture of Him becomes more accurate.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not see God through Jesus, you will:

- fear God instead of trusting Him
- hide instead of come close
- misread Scripture
- base your faith on guilt instead of grace
- assume God's mood changes with your behavior
- struggle to experience peace

But when you see God through Jesus, everything shifts.

You gain:

- confidence
- clarity
- calm
- trust
- security
- freedom
- a real relationship instead of a religious one

This matters because your entire journey of faith rests on who you believe God truly is.

If you see Him wrongly, your spiritual walk will feel heavy.

If you see Him through Jesus, it becomes light, steady, and full of life.

Reflections

1. What assumptions about God might Jesus be correcting in my heart today?
2. Where do I sense Him saying, "Look at Me, not at your fear"?
3. How does it change my faith to believe that Jesus perfectly reveals the Father?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Type John 1:15–18, tap Tools, then choose Interlinear.

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

Type John 1:15 in the search bar and scroll to Strong's.

"Jesus, thank You for revealing the true heart of God.

Help me see the Father through Your life, Your words, and Your love.

Remove every wrong picture I have carried, and let truth reshape my heart."

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Five

When You Realize Your Life Has a Purpose

We are now stepping into **John 1:19–28**, where John the Baptist reveals his identity and calling with clarity and humility.

Journal ready?

“God, show me what You want me to understand about purpose today.”

Let your heart breathe.

Let everything else fall away for a moment.

Part Five: Knowing Who You Are and Who You Are Not

In today’s passage, religious leaders question John the Baptist.

Who are you?

Are you the Messiah?

Are you Elijah?

Are you the Prophet?

John answers with humility, confidence, and clarity.

“I am not the Christ.”

“I am the voice of one calling out in the wilderness.”

“I am preparing the way.”

John knew exactly who he was...

and exactly who he was not.

And that simple clarity freed him to walk boldly in his purpose without comparing himself to anyone else, and without trying to impress the religious world.

John’s entire life message could be summed up like this:

My purpose is to point people to Jesus, not to myself.

This is the heart of real purpose.

Security in who you are.

Relief in who you are not.

Freedom to do what God has assigned to you without striving or competing.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:19–28

19 This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

20 And he confessed and did not deny; and this is what he confessed: “I am not the Christ.”

21 And so they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

22 Then they said to him, “Who are you? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

23 He said, “I am the voice of one calling out in the wilderness, ‘Make the way of the Lord straight,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”

24 And the messengers had been sent from the Pharisees.

25 They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

26 John answered them, saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know.”

27 “It is He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy even to untie the strap of His sandal.”

28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing people.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
In what areas of my life do I feel unsure of who I am or who I am not?

Let honesty rise.

How This Meets Your Life Today

Most people carry confusion about purpose.

Confusion about identity.

Confusion about calling.

But John's clarity in this passage gives you a simple pattern:

1. Know who you are
2. Know who you are not
3. Walk boldly in the assignment God has given you
4. Do not compare your calling to anyone else

Purpose becomes heavy when we try to be everything.

Purpose becomes confusing when we try to be someone God did not ask us to be.

Purpose becomes exhausting when we compare ourselves to others.

John shows you that confidence grows when you embrace the lane God placed you in.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not learn this truth now, you will:

- feel pressure to please everyone
- compare your spiritual journey to others
- try to be someone God never asked you to be
- misinterpret your worth through performance
- struggle to feel grounded in God's calling

But when you understand purpose the way John did:

- your calling becomes lighter
- comparison loses its grip
- insecurity fades
- clarity rises
- humility feels natural
- you can point people to Jesus without pressure

Purpose is not about impressing people.

Purpose is about alignment.

When you know who you are and who you are not, peace settles in your soul.

Reflections

1. What parts of my life feel unclear or pressured right now?
2. Where might God be trying to simplify my purpose?
3. What do I sense He is calling me *into* and calling me *away from*?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Type John 1:19 in the search bar, tap Tools, then choose Interlinear.

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

Type John 1:19 in the search bar and scroll to the Strong's notes.

“Jesus, help me see my purpose with clarity and peace.

Show me who I am, and who I am not.

Free me from comparison and pressure, and anchor me in the calling You have placed on my life.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Six

When Jesus Becomes Personal, Not Distant

We are continuing through **John 1:19–34**, one small portion at a time.

Today we focus on **John 1:29–34**, where John the Baptist finally identifies Jesus publicly.

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize who Jesus really is in my life today.”

Let your mind quiet down.

This moment in Scripture is powerful and deeply personal.

Part Six: Behold the Lamb of God

Today, John sees Jesus approaching and declares something no one expected:

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

This statement unlocked everything the prophets pointed toward.

The Lamb of God meant:

- sacrifice
- cleansing
- forgiveness
- freedom
- restoration
- a new beginning

And John says this Lamb does not cover sin temporarily but **takes it away**.

Then John explains how he recognized Jesus: the Spirit descended on Him and remained.

The Father confirmed Him.

John testified to Him.

Jesus became undeniable.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:29–34

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

30 “This is He in behalf of whom I said, ‘After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.’”

31 “And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water.”

32 And John testified, saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.”

33 “And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’”

34 And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

How does knowing Jesus takes away sin, not just covers it, change the way I see myself and my relationship with Him?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many believers carry shame, guilt, fear, and a sense that God is still disappointed with them. But John’s words confront that lie with truth.

Jesus takes away sin.

He breaks the weight of guilt.

He removes distance.

He restores confidence in approaching God.

He opens the way for closeness instead of fear.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you misunderstand what Jesus did with sin, you will carry:

- fear
- guilt
- insecurity
- distance
- confusion
- a distorted identity

But when you understand He **removed** sin:

- confidence grows
- shame fades
- fear loosens
- intimacy becomes possible
- trust deepens
- your identity strengthens

Reflections

1. What mistakes or failures do I still carry that Jesus already removed?
2. Where do I need to see Him as the Lamb of God in my own life?
3. How might my faith change if I believed He truly took away my sin?

Strong’s Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for taking away what once separated me from God.
Help me walk in the freedom You have given me, and see myself the way You see me.”
Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Seven

When Jesus Begins Calling You Into Relationship

We are now moving into **John 1:35–39**, where Jesus invites the first disciples to come near and walk with Him.

Journal ready?

“God, help me hear Your invitation to draw closer today.”

Let yourself settle.

This moment of Scripture is gentle and deeply personal.

Part Seven: Come and See

In today’s passage, John the Baptist is standing with two of his followers.

Jesus walks by.

John points to Him and says again:

“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

And something inside the two men awakens.

They follow Jesus.

Jesus turns, notices them, and asks a simple but life-changing question:

“What are you seeking?”

Not

“What do you know?”

Not

“What do you believe?”

Not

“Are you qualified?”

He begins with desire.

What are you longing for?

What do you hope for?

What is stirring inside you?

Then they ask where He is staying, and Jesus answers:

“Come and see.”

This is how Jesus begins relationship.

Not pressure.

Not demands.
Not theological tests.

An invitation.
A step toward Him.
A gentle, personal beginning.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:35–39

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,
36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”
37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What are you seeking?” They said to Him, “Rabbi, where are You staying?”

39 He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day. It was about the tenth hour.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What do I sense Jesus asking me to “come and see” in my own life right now?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Jesus does not begin your journey with pressure.
He begins it with curiosity and invitation.

“What are you seeking?”

That question reaches into your desires, your struggles, your hopes, and your hidden longings.

Jesus wants to know what you truly want.
Not what you think you should want.
Not what religion told you to want.
What is real inside you.

His invitation, “Come and see,” means:

Come closer.
Walk with Me.
Let Me show you My heart.
Let Me show you who I am.
You do not have to understand everything to start.

The journey begins with a small yes.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not respond to Jesus' gentle invitations, you will:

- wait for perfect understanding
- feel unworthy or unprepared
- think you need more information first
- fear getting it wrong
- stay on the edges
- never experience the closeness He wants for you

But when you respond to His voice:

- your relationship becomes personal
- trust grows naturally
- peace settles in
- clarity increases
- fear softens
- you begin to feel His nearness in your daily life

Jesus does not push you.

He invites you.

And every invitation leads to deeper peace and clearer guidance.

Reflections

1. What am I truly seeking in my relationship with Jesus right now?
2. Where might He be inviting me to come closer?
3. What small step could I take today that says “yes” to Him?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, help me hear Your voice clearly.

Teach me to follow Your invitations.

Show me the parts of Your heart You want me to see today.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Eight

When Jesus Begins to Shape Your Identity

Journal ready?

“God, help me see myself the way You see me.”

Take a quiet breath.

This section of Scripture is short, but it carries a powerful shift in identity.

Part Eight: You Are More Than You Think You Are

Andrew, one of the two disciples who followed Jesus in yesterday’s lesson, immediately goes to find his brother Simon.

He tells him, “We have found the Messiah,” and brings him straight to Jesus.

And when Jesus looks at Simon, He does not comment on his past.

He does not ask about his mistakes.

He does not evaluate his strengths.

He speaks to Simon’s future.

“You are Simon, the son of John.

You shall be called Cephas,”

which means Peter.

In that moment, Jesus gives Simon a new name and a new identity.

Not based on who he was.

Not based on how he saw himself.

Not based on his weaknesses, his background, or his personality.

Jesus spoke to who Simon would become.

Peter had not changed yet.

He had not grown yet.

He had not matured yet.

He had not proven anything yet.

Jesus saw his future and named him accordingly.

This is how Jesus works with you too.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:40–42

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" which translated means Christ.

42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" which is translated Peter.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where might Jesus be speaking a new identity over me, even if I do not see it in myself yet?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many people define themselves by:

- their past
- their failures
- their personality
- their insecurities
- what others have said about them
- who they used to be

But Jesus looks at you through a completely different lens.

He sees your future potential.

He sees what the Spirit will shape in you.

He sees what grace will grow in you.

He sees your strength before you walk in it.

He speaks identity according to who you are becoming, not who you have been.

This means your past does not define you.

Your weaknesses do not limit you.

Your old patterns are not your destiny.

Your mistakes do not determine your identity.

Jesus declares who you truly are, even when you cannot see it yet.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not receive your identity from Jesus, you may:

- keep living from insecurity
- believe lies about yourself
- stay stuck in old labels
- repeat old patterns
- feel unworthy or inadequate
- live smaller than the calling God has for you

But when you begin to agree with what Jesus speaks over you:

- confidence rises
- shame loses power
- clarity increases
- purpose deepens
- courage grows
- your past loses its influence

You become who He already sees.

And your life begins to align with the identity He has spoken over you.

Reflections

1. What old labels do I still carry that Jesus never gave me?
2. What new identity might He be speaking over my life today?
3. How would my choices change if I believed Jesus' words about me instead of my past?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, help me let go of old identities and step into who You say I am.
Shape my heart, my mind, and my future according to Your voice.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Nine

When Jesus Meets You in Your Questions

Journal ready?

“God, open my heart to see truth clearly today.”

Let your mind soften.

This passage is honest, simple, and deeply relatable.

Part Nine: Come and See for Yourself

As Jesus prepares to head into Galilee, He finds Philip and speaks the same simple invitation we saw earlier:

“Follow Me.”

Again, Jesus does not pressure.

He does not explain everything.

He does not demand understanding.

He simply invites.

Philip then finds Nathanael and tells him, “We have found the One Moses and the prophets spoke about.”

But when Philip says Jesus is from Nazareth, Nathanael reacts honestly:

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Nathanael wrestles with doubt, confusion, and a little skepticism.

He is not pretending.

He is not trying to impress anyone.

He is being real.

And Philip does not argue with him.

He simply says:

“Come and see.”

This is the heart of simple faith.

Do not debate.

Do not pressure.

Do not try to force belief.

Just come and see.
Come close enough to experience Jesus for yourself.
Let Him answer your questions as you walk with Him.

This is how real faith forms.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:43–46

43 The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets also wrote: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good be from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where in my life do I have honest questions, and how might Jesus be inviting me to come and see instead of fear or hide my doubts?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many believers feel ashamed of their questions.
They feel embarrassed by doubts.
They think real faith means never struggling.

But Nathanael teaches you something different.

He was honest.
He spoke openly.
He questioned what did not make sense.

And Jesus did not rebuke him for it.
Jesus did not say his doubts disqualified him.
Jesus did not say he lacked faith.

Instead, Jesus invited him closer.

Your questions are not a threat to God.
Your doubts do not scare Him.
Your uncertainties do not close His heart.

Jesus simply invites you to bring those questions to Him.
To walk with Him.
To come and see truth with your own eyes.

This is where faith becomes genuine.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you hide your questions, you may:

- feel distant from God
- feel like your faith is not real
- shut down spiritual curiosity
- rely on other people's answers instead of your own journey
- stay stuck in fear or confusion

But when you bring your honest questions to Jesus:

- clarity grows
- peace settles in
- fear loses its grip
- you discover truth firsthand
- intimacy deepens
- your faith becomes your own

Jesus does not demand blind belief.

He invites you into discovery.

Reflections

1. What questions am I carrying that I have not given to Jesus?
2. Where might He be saying "Come and see" in my life?
3. How would my faith change if I believed Jesus welcomes my honest thoughts?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

"Jesus, thank You for welcoming my questions and inviting me to come and see.
Help me bring my doubts honestly, and lead me into deeper truth through Your presence."

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Ten

When Jesus Shows You That You Are Fully Seen

Journal ready?

“God, help me understand how deeply You know me.”

Take a breath and let your heart settle.

This passage is one of the most personal moments in the entire first chapter.

Part Ten: Known Before You Speak

Nathanael approaches Jesus with honest skepticism still lingering in his heart. But before Nathanael can say anything, Jesus speaks first.

“Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit.”

Jesus does not call out Nathanael’s doubt.

He calls out his honesty.

He sees the integrity beneath the questions.

He sees the sincerity behind the skepticism.

Nathanael is stunned.

“How do You know me?”

And Jesus answers with something even more surprising:

“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

This is a quiet doorway into the heart of God.

Jesus sees you long before you approach Him.

He sees your private moments.

He sees your hidden thoughts.

He sees the things you cannot articulate.

He sees the battles you carry silently.

And His response is not judgment.

It is recognition, compassion, and purpose.

Then Jesus speaks destiny over Nathanael:

“You will see greater things than these.”

He promises a future shaped by revelation, clarity, and heaven breaking through.

This is what happens when you realize you are fully seen.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 1:47–51

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit.”

48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

49 Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”

50 Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

51 And He said to him, “Truly, truly I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

Where in my life do I need to be reminded that Jesus sees me clearly and understands me completely?

How This Meets Your Life Today

So many people wonder:

Does God really see me?

Does He notice what I am carrying?

Does He understand my hidden struggles?

Does He know what is happening in my heart?

This passage answers those questions with quiet certainty.

Before you approached Him, He saw you.

Before you prayed, He understood you.

Before you explained anything, He already knew.

Before you admitted your doubts, He knew they were there.

Before you questioned Him, He knew your honesty came from a sincere heart.

You are not invisible to God.

Your emotions are not overlooked.

Your thoughts are not ignored.

Your private burdens are not unnoticed.

Jesus sees all of you, and He still invites you closer.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you forget that Jesus sees you clearly, you may:

- feel unnoticed or forgotten
- think you need to earn His attention
- hide your emotions
- suppress your questions
- fear that your honesty will push Him away
- struggle to feel connected to Him

But when you remember that He truly sees you:

- your heart relaxes
- shame loses power
- honesty becomes easier
- prayer feels natural
- trust grows
- you walk with Him confidently

Being fully seen is the foundation of real intimacy with God.

Jesus sees the real you, and He welcomes you without hesitation.

Reflections

1. What part of my life feels unseen or misunderstood?
2. How does it change me to know Jesus saw me long before I turned toward Him?
3. What “greater things” might He be preparing to show me?

Strong’s Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for seeing me, knowing me, and understanding me.
Help me trust that Your eyes are always on my life and that Your plans for me are good.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Eleven

When Jesus Turns the Ordinary Into Something Sacred

Journal ready?

“God, open my eyes to see what You want to show me today.”

Let your heart rest for a moment.

We are entering a new chapter, and a new expression of who Jesus is.

Part Eleven: The Miracle at the Wedding

We now come to **John 2:1–5**, where Jesus attends a wedding in Cana.

It is a simple, joyful setting filled with community, celebration, and family.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, notices a problem before anyone else.

The wine has run out.

In their culture, this would bring embarrassment to the family hosting the celebration.

Running out of wine was not just an inconvenience.

It meant the party was ending early.

It meant honor was threatened.

It meant the celebration would fall short.

Mary brings the issue to Jesus.

“They have no wine.”

She does not tell Him how to fix it.

She does not offer a plan.

She simply presents the need.

Jesus responds, and Mary’s faith shines quietly through.

She turns to the servants and says:

“Whatever He says to you, do it.”

This is the heart posture that unlocks miracles.

Bring the need.

Let Jesus decide the method.

Do whatever He tells you.

What begins as an ordinary moment becomes the doorway to something sacred.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 2:1-5

- 1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- 2 and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.
- 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."
- 4 And Jesus said to her, "What business do you have with Me, woman? My hour has not yet come."
- 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He tells you, do it."

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where in my life do I need to bring a simple need to Jesus and trust Him with the outcome?

How This Meets Your Life Today

You may feel pressure to have everything figured out.
You may think you need to fix problems before you bring them to God.
You may try to plan solutions, manage outcomes, or hide needs.

But Mary's example is gentle and liberating.

She simply brings the problem to Jesus.
She trusts His timing.
She trusts His wisdom.
She trusts His heart.

And she tells others, "Do whatever He says."

This is how your faith deepens:

Bring your need.
Bring your emptiness.
Bring your lack.
Bring the places where things feel like they are running out.
Bring the moments where you feel like you are falling short.

Jesus meets you not in perfection but in honesty.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you try to control everything yourself, you may:

- feel overwhelmed
- run out of strength

- feel ashamed of your needs
- hide your struggles
- miss moments where Jesus wants to work
- feel responsible for everything

But if you bring your need to Jesus:

- peace returns
- pressure lifts
- solutions unfold in His timing
- simple obedience opens the door to breakthrough
- you experience His presence in ordinary moments
- your faith becomes practical, not just intellectual

Jesus meets real needs.
He does not shame them.
He transforms them.

The story begins with lack but ends with abundance.
The same can happen in your life.

Reflections

1. What situation in my life feels “empty” right now?
2. Where am I trying to fix things instead of bringing them to Jesus?
3. What simple step of obedience might He be inviting me to take?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, I bring my needs to You.
Show me what You want me to do, and give me the courage to follow Your voice.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twelve

When Jesus Fills What You Bring to Him

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize what You are asking me to bring to You today.”

Take a moment and breathe slowly.

This passage shows you something beautiful about how Jesus works with your participation.

Part Twelve: The Empty Vessels

After Mary tells the servants to follow Jesus’ voice, something unexpected happens.

There are six large stone waterpots nearby.

These were not special containers.

They were ordinary, everyday vessels used for practical rituals.

Jesus tells the servants:

“Fill the waterpots with water.”

The servants obey without understanding why.

They simply do what He says.

Then Jesus tells them:

“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”

They do so, and when the headwaiter tastes it, the water has become wine.

Not ordinary wine.

Not average wine.

But the best wine.

Better than what they started with.

Better than what they had planned.

The headwaiter is stunned and says:

“Every man serves the good wine first, and when the guests have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine.

But you have kept the good wine until now.”

This miracle began with emptiness.

Then obedience.

Then filling.
Then transformation.

Jesus takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary.
He takes what is common and makes it holy.
He takes what is empty and makes it overflow.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 2:6–10

6 Now there were six stone waterpots standing there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing two or three measures each.

7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim.

8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." And they took it to him.

9 Now when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the groom,

10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the guests have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What empty places in my life might Jesus be asking me to bring Him so He can fill them?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Jesus did not need the waterpots.
He could have created wine out of nothing.

But He chose to use what was already there.
He chose to involve ordinary people.
He chose to take ordinary vessels.
He chose to honor simple obedience.

This is a picture of your life.

Jesus often asks you to bring:

your emptiness,
your ordinary routines,
your daily responsibilities,
your simple resources,
your quiet obedience,
your willingness to listen.

And He fills it.
He transforms it.
He breathes His life into it.

Nothing in your life is too ordinary for Him to use.

Nothing is too small.

Nothing is too common.

If you bring it, He fills it.

If you offer it, He transforms it.

If you obey, He does the impossible.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not bring your ordinary life to Jesus, you may:

- feel spiritually empty
- overlook His quiet blessings
- think you must be perfect
- believe your life is not useful
- miss His presence in daily routines
- separate your “spiritual life” from your real life

But when you bring Him what you have:

- He fills you
- He works through your obedience
- He turns simple steps into transformation
- He brings beauty from ordinary moments
- He shows you His goodness in small ways
- He reveals that miracles often begin with simple faith

Jesus does not wait for perfection.

He works with what you bring.

Reflections

1. What ordinary area of my life might Jesus be inviting into His hands?
2. What simple step of obedience is He asking me to take?
3. Where do I sense Him wanting to fill what feels empty?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, I bring You my ordinary life.

Fill what is empty.

Transform what feels small.

And help me trust that You always save the best for last.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirteen

When Jesus Reveals His Glory in Quiet Ways

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize the quiet ways You are moving in my life.”

Settle your heart for a moment.

These two verses carry a beautiful turning point in the journey.

Part Thirteen: Faith That Grows in the Everyday

After the water becomes wine, the story ends with a simple but powerful statement:

“This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and He revealed His glory.”

What does “glory” mean here?

Glory is the visible expression of who God is.

It is the character of God made clear.

It is the goodness of God seen with human eyes.

It is the heart of God shining through ordinary life.

Jesus did not reveal His glory on a throne.

He did not reveal it in a temple.

He did not reveal it during a dramatic moment.

He revealed it at a wedding.

In a quiet miracle.

In a small village.

Among ordinary people.

The disciples saw it.

They understood that something deeper was happening.

And Scripture says:

“His disciples believed in Him.”

Their faith grew through a simple moment where Jesus met a personal need.

This is how He works in your life too.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 2:11–12

11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and He revealed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I sense Jesus revealing His goodness in quiet, ordinary moments of my life?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many believers look for God in the dramatic moments.
The emotional services.
The big breakthroughs.
The events that feel supernatural.

But Jesus often reveals His glory in the quiet places.

In simple provision.
In small answered prayers.
In unexpected encouragement.
In the right person crossing your path at the right moment.
In peace coming when you should be anxious.
In strength arriving when you feel empty.
In clarity during confusion.

Faith is shaped in the everyday moments where Jesus shows you that He is present, aware, and active.

You do not have to chase after dramatic signs.
You only need to pay attention.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you expect God to move only in dramatic or emotional ways, you may:

- miss His presence in daily life
- overlook quiet miracles
- feel spiritually dry
- believe nothing is happening
- think your faith is weak
- wait for big moments and ignore the small ones

But when you learn to recognize His quiet movements:

- gratitude rises
- faith grows naturally
- your eyes open to His goodness
- everyday life becomes sacred
- you feel close to Him even in ordinary moments
- you begin to expect His presence

Jesus is not far from your daily life.

He is fully present in it.

And His glory shows up in places most people overlook.

Reflections

1. Where have I recently seen God move in a quiet or unexpected way?
2. What small moments might be signs of His presence?
3. How can I slow down and notice Him in my daily routines?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for revealing Your goodness in quiet ways.

Help me recognize Your presence in the small moments and trust You more each day.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Fourteen

When Jesus Confronts What Steals Your Peace

Journal ready?

“God, show me anything in my life that You want to set in order.”

Take a slow breath.

This passage shifts the tone, but in a way that reveals the protective strength of Jesus.

Part Fourteen: The Zeal That Protects Your Relationship With God

The time of Passover arrived, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
When He entered the temple area, He found something heartbreaking.

The temple had become loud, crowded, and commercial.
People were selling animals for sacrifice.
Money changers were seated at tables.
The place that was meant to be a house of prayer had become chaotic and distracting.

Jesus did something most people never imagine Him doing.

He made a whip of cords.
He drove out the money changers.
He overturned tables.
He confronted the disorder.

This was not anger out of control.
This was love in action.
This was holiness protecting what matters.
This was Jesus removing anything that stood between people and God.

His disciples remembered the Scripture:

“Zeal for Your house will consume Me.”

Jesus was not angry at people.
He was angry at anything that created distance between people and God’s presence.

He still works the same way in your heart.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 2:13–17

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 And within the temple grounds He found those who were selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

15 And He made a whip of cords, and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

16 And to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away from here; stop making My Father's house a place of business!"

17 His disciples remembered that it was written: "Zeal for Your house will consume Me."

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What clutter, noise, or distractions might Jesus be calling me to remove so I can draw closer to Him?

How This Meets Your Life Today

This passage reveals something important about Jesus.

He does not only comfort you.

He also protects you.

He removes what harms you spiritually.

He clears out what steals your peace.

He confronts anything that tries to separate you from God.

Sometimes the "temple" He is cleansing is your own heart.

He may expose a distraction.

He may reveal a habit that drains your life.

He may highlight a relationship that pulls you away from peace.

He may press gently on an unhealthy pattern.

He may bring to light something you have been ignoring.

This is not punishment.

This is invitation.

Jesus does not clear things out to shame you.

He clears things out to free you.

He creates space for intimacy.

He restores order.

He makes room for what truly matters.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you resist Jesus' cleansing work, you may:

- feel spiritually cluttered
- lose your sense of peace

- stay distracted
- treat your faith like a routine instead of a relationship
- carry unnecessary burdens
- drift without noticing

But when you allow Him to reorder your heart:

- clarity returns
- peace settles in
- your priorities align
- distractions lose power
- your hunger for God increases
- your daily life becomes more centered

Jesus removes what harms you in order to make room for what heals you.

His zeal is not against you.
It is for you.

Reflections

1. What distractions have been crowding my spiritual life?
2. What might Jesus be inviting me to clear away so I can make room for Him?
3. How do I sense Him protecting my heart in this season?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

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Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for caring about the condition of my heart.
Remove what does not belong, and restore what brings life, peace, and closeness with You.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Fifteen

When Jesus Reveals a Truth You Cannot Understand Yet

Journal ready?

“God, help me trust what You are doing, even when I do not understand.”

Take your time.

These words walk slowly and lead into deeper things.

Part Fifteen: Truth That Makes Sense Later

After Jesus cleanses the temple, the religious leaders demand an explanation.

“What sign do You show us as Your authority for doing these things?”

They want proof.

They want logic.

They want validation.

Jesus answers with a statement that seems impossible to grasp:

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

They misunderstand immediately.

They think He is talking about the physical temple in Jerusalem.

“It took forty-six years to build this temple, and You will raise it up in three days?”

But Jesus is not speaking about buildings.

He is speaking about Himself.

His death.

His resurrection.

The center of redemption.

No one understands Him in that moment.

Not the leaders.

Not the crowd.

Not even His disciples.

But after He rises from the dead, Scripture says:

“His disciples remembered that He said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

Some truths only make sense later.
Some of His words do not fit until the right moment.
Some of His guidance becomes clear only after you walk through a season.

This is part of following Jesus.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 2:18–22

18 The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as Your authority for doing these things?”
19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
20 The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and yet You will raise it up in three days?”
21 But He was speaking about the temple of His body.
22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where is Jesus asking me to trust Him now, even though the full meaning may only make sense later?

How This Meets Your Life Today

You will have moments where Jesus says something to your heart that you do not understand yet.
Something He leads you toward that feels unclear.
Something He asks you to release before you know why.
Something He invites you into that does not make sense in the moment.

This is not confusion.
It is timing.

Jesus often gives you truth before you are ready to grasp it fully.
He plants seeds.
He gives direction in pieces.
He reveals things slowly so your heart can grow into understanding.

Faith is not always about immediate clarity.
Sometimes it is about trusting Him until the clarity comes.

Just like the disciples, there will be moments when later you look back and say:

“Now I understand.”
“Now it makes sense.”
“Now I see what He was doing all along.”

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you only trust God when you understand everything, you may:

- hesitate to follow Him
- overthink spiritual guidance
- feel frustrated or anxious
- miss small steps of obedience
- struggle with uncertainty
- close your heart to deeper growth

But when you learn to trust Him even before you understand:

- your faith deepens
- your heart becomes steady
- anxiety loses power
- you walk with confidence
- you become teachable
- revelation unfolds in the right season

Understanding often comes after obedience, not before it.

Jesus is preparing your heart long before you see the full picture.

Reflections

1. What situation in my life feels unclear or confusing right now?
2. Where might Jesus be asking me to trust His timing?
3. How has God revealed meaning in past situations only after I walked through them?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, help me trust the truths You speak even when I do not fully understand them.
Give me peace, clarity in the right season, and the courage to walk with You step by step.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Sixteen

When Jesus Sees Beneath the Surface

Journal ready?

“God, help me see myself the way You see me, with honesty and clarity.”

Settle your heart.

These verses are short but deeply insightful.

Part Sixteen: Trust That Grows from Honesty

During the Passover feast, many people saw Jesus’ signs and began to believe in Him.

They were moved by the miracles.

They were impressed by what He could do.

But something important is revealed here.

Jesus did not fully entrust Himself to them.

Why?

Because He knew their hearts.

He understood their motives.

He saw the places within them that were still unsure, unstable, or driven by excitement rather than true faith.

Scripture says:

“He Himself knew what was in man.”

This is not a verse that shames humanity.

It is a verse that reveals Jesus’ wisdom.

He sees beneath the surface.

He understands when someone’s faith is rooted in emotion, pressure, or curiosity instead of genuine relationship.

And He meets people exactly where they are without pretending.

Jesus does not reject people for shallow beginnings.

He simply does not draw deeply from a foundation that is not yet ready.

He desires relationship built on trust, honesty, and sincerity.

This is the foundation He invites you into.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 2:23–25

23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name as they observed His signs which He was doing.

24 But Jesus Himself was not entrusting Himself to them, because He knew all people,

25 and because He did not need anyone to testify about mankind, for He Himself knew what was in mankind.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

Where might Jesus be inviting me to move from surface-level belief into a deeper, more honest relationship with Him?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Faith often begins with emotion, excitement, or inspiration.

There is nothing wrong with that.

Many people first come to Jesus because something stirred their heart, touched their emotions, or gave them hope.

But true faith grows beyond feelings.

Jesus wants your trust to rest on something deeper than:

- emotional moments
- spiritual highs
- inspiring experiences
- outward blessings
- the visible signs you hope to see
- the approval of others

Those things can start your journey, but they cannot sustain it.

Jesus invites you into a relationship that is rooted in honesty and trust, not driven by outward circumstances.

He sees what is inside you, not to condemn you, but to shape your faith into something steady and sincere.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If your faith stays on the surface, you may:

- feel close to God only when emotions are high
- become discouraged when life gets quiet
- doubt easily
- chase miracles instead of relationship
- rely on outward signs for reassurance
- struggle with consistency

But when your faith deepens:

- your trust becomes steady
- your relationship becomes real
- your heart opens honestly
- your emotions find balance
- you learn to walk with Jesus daily
- you no longer need proof to believe He is near

Jesus already knows what is in your heart, and He loves you completely. He is simply inviting you into a deeper foundation.

Reflections

1. What parts of my faith feel strong, and what parts feel shallow or uncertain?
2. Where might Jesus be inviting me to greater honesty?
3. How can I begin building a deeper foundation with Him today?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for seeing what is truly inside my heart.
Help me grow from surface-level belief into a deep, honest relationship with You.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Seventeen

When Jesus Begins the Work of Rebirth in You

Journal ready?

“God, help me understand what You are speaking to my heart today.”

Pause for a moment.

Let the shift into John chapter 3 settle quietly.

This is one of the most important conversations in all of Scripture.

Part Seventeen: A Hunger That Brings You to Jesus

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews, comes to Jesus at night.

He is respected.

Educated.

Religious.

Disciplined.

A man who knows Scripture thoroughly.

Yet something inside him is unsettled.

Something is stirring.

Something does not fit.

Something in Jesus’ words and actions reaches deeper than his religious understanding.

So he comes at night.

Quietly.

Privately.

Carefully.

He says to Jesus:

“Rabbi, we know You are a teacher who has come from God, because no one can perform the signs You are doing unless God is with him.”

Nicodemus recognizes something divine, but he does not yet understand what it means.

Jesus answers him with a statement that turns his entire world upside down:

“Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Jesus is not speaking about physical birth.

He is speaking about spiritual rebirth.

A transformation that begins on the inside.

A new life that comes from God, not human effort.

This moment marks the beginning of one of the most important teachings in Jesus' ministry.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 3:1–3

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

2 this man came to Jesus at night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus responded and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I sense Jesus inviting me into a deeper kind of renewal or rebirth in my life?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Nicodemus represents many people who:

- know Scripture
- attend church
- try to live morally
- follow traditions
- appear spiritually strong
- have good intentions

Yet something inside still feels incomplete.

The heart longs for something real.

Something deeper.

Something alive.

Not just religion, but transformation.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that true spiritual life is not earned.

It is not built through discipline.

It is not achieved by good behavior.

It is not obtained through religious knowledge.

It is received through rebirth.

God breathes new life into your spirit.

He awakens what was dormant.

He brings light into places that felt dark.

He makes you alive in ways you cannot create yourself.

This is the beginning of all true transformation.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you try to follow Jesus without spiritual rebirth, you may:

- feel tired from trying to be good
- rely on effort instead of grace
- feel spiritually dry
- misunderstand God's heart
- live with pressure instead of peace
- see the kingdom as far away instead of within reach

But when rebirth happens:

- your spirit comes alive
- your desires shift
- Scripture becomes clearer
- prayer becomes natural
- you feel drawn to God instead of pulled by duty
- you begin to see life through spiritual eyes

Rebirth is not improvement.

It is transformation.

Reflections

1. Where in my life do I need fresh spiritual renewal?
2. What part of my heart feels like it needs the breath of God?
3. How can I lean into the new life Jesus is offering?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links.

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, breathe new life into me.

Awaken what has grown tired.

Renew my heart and reshape my spirit with Your presence.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Eighteen

When the Holy Spirit Begins the Work of New Life in You

Journal ready?

“God, help me understand the work Your Spirit is doing in my heart today.”

Breathe slowly.

These verses reveal some of the deepest truths Jesus ever taught.

Part Eighteen: Born of Water and the Spirit

Nicodemus is confused by Jesus’ words.

He takes them literally.

“How can a person be born when he is old?

He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time, can he?”

Nicodemus is sincere.

He is trying.

He is reaching for understanding with the tools he has.

Jesus answers:

“Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Water represents natural birth.

Spirit represents spiritual birth.

Then Jesus explains something essential:

“That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit.”

In other words:

- Human effort produces human results.
- Only the Spirit of God can produce spiritual life.
- Salvation is not self-made.
- New birth is God’s work within you.
- Spiritual life cannot be manufactured.
- It must be breathed into you.

Jesus then uses a simple image.

“The wind blows where it wishes...
you hear its sound,
but you do not know where it comes from
or where it is going.
So is everyone who has been born of the Spirit.”

The Spirit is invisible, but His effects are unmistakable.
You cannot control Him.
You cannot predict Him.
But you can trust Him.

Rebirth is not something you earn.
It is something you receive.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 3:4–8

4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?”
5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”
6 “That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit.”
7 “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”
8 “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I sense the Holy Spirit moving, prompting, or breathing new life into me right now?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Nicodemus wanted a logical explanation.
Jesus offered a spiritual reality.

Many people today approach faith through effort, knowledge, or self-discipline.
But Jesus teaches that new life does not begin with human ability.
It begins with surrender to the Spirit.

The Spirit works quietly, like wind.
You cannot see Him, but you can feel Him.
You recognize His presence through:

- conviction
- comfort
- clarity
- peace

- new desires
- unexpected strength
- a shift in your thinking
- a softening of your heart
- a hunger for God that was not there before

Rebirth is not an emotional moment.
It is a spiritual awakening.

The Spirit breathes life into places that felt dead.
He awakens hope.
He transforms desires.
He reshapes identity from the inside out.

You cannot force this.
You can only welcome it.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you rely on your own strength to live spiritually, you may:

- feel frustrated or defeated
- try harder without changing deeper
- measure your worth by performance
- feel spiritually dry
- misunderstand God's grace
- grow discouraged when you fall short

But when you embrace the work of the Spirit:

- transformation becomes possible
- your desires shift toward God
- change comes from the inside out
- you walk with peace, not pressure
- you feel guided, not alone
- your spiritual life becomes alive and real

Spiritual rebirth is not a burden.
It is a gift.
The Spirit brings you into the life God intended.

Reflections

1. Where do I feel the Spirit gently nudging or awakening something new in me?
2. What areas of my life have I been trying to fix on my own?
3. How can I welcome the Spirit's work instead of trying to control it?

Strong's Links

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Blue Letter Bible

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Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Holy Spirit, breathe new life into me.

Awaken what is asleep, revive what feels dull, and guide me deeper into the life Jesus promised.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Nineteen

When Jesus Helps You Move From Confusion to Understanding

Journal ready?

“God, help me receive understanding the way You want to give it.”

Take a breath.

This conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus becomes more honest here.

Part Nineteen: The Gentle Challenge of Spiritual Growth

Nicodemus hears Jesus speak about the Spirit, the wind, and rebirth...
and he stops.

“How can these things be?”

He is overwhelmed.

Confused.

Unsure how to process what Jesus is saying.

Everything he knows about God is being reshaped in real time.

Jesus responds not with frustration, but with an invitation to deeper understanding.

“Are you the teacher of Israel and you do not understand these things?”

He is not shaming Nicodemus.

He is awakening him.

He continues:

“We speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.”

Jesus is saying:

You cannot grasp heavenly truth

until you learn to receive it

instead of analyze it.

Then Jesus adds something important:

“If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

Nicodemus is standing at the doorway of revelation.

But he must shift from intellectual understanding

to spiritual openness.

This is a turning point for every believer.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 3:9–12

9 Nicodemus responded and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

10 Jesus answered and said to him, “You are the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

11 “Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you people do not accept our testimony.”

12 “If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where am I trying to understand spiritual truth with my mind instead of receiving it with my heart?

How This Meets Your Life Today

There will be moments when Jesus speaks something to your heart that does not fit your current understanding. Like Nicodemus, you may ask:

“How is this possible?”

“How does this work?”

“Why is this happening?”

“What does this mean?”

Jesus is not impatient with you.

He invites you to grow.

Spiritual truth is not absorbed by logic alone.

It is received by openness, humility, and trust.

This passage reminds you that understanding comes:

- when your heart softens
- when you stop forcing clarity
- when you let go of control
- when you allow the Spirit to teach you
- when you accept truth before you fully understand it
- when you trust Jesus more than your own reasoning
- when you lean into revelation instead of resistance

Jesus is not asking you to be foolish.

He is inviting you to be teachable.

Revelation grows in the soil of humility.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you try to grasp everything through logic alone, you may:

- get stuck in confusion
- overthink spiritual guidance
- doubt what God speaks
- feel frustrated instead of peaceful
- block your own spiritual growth
- try to fit God into your old categories

But when you allow Jesus to lead you into deeper truth:

- understanding comes in time
- revelation becomes clearer
- faith becomes stronger
- confusion melts into clarity
- your spirit awakens
- your mind aligns with truth instead of resisting it

Jesus leads you step by step, not all at once.
He teaches you as you walk with Him.

Reflections

1. Where am I relying too heavily on my own understanding?
2. What truth might Jesus be inviting me to receive, even before I fully grasp it?
3. How can I become more open and teachable to His voice?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, you can explore it using these links:

Blue Letter Bible

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Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, open my heart to receive Your truth.
Help me move from confusion to understanding,
and teach me to hear Your voice with humility and trust.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty

When Jesus Reveals the Heart of Redemption

Journal ready?

“God, open my heart to understand the depth of Your love in a new way today.”

Take a moment to breathe.

These verses are quiet, simple, and incredibly powerful.

Part Twenty: Lifted Up For You

Jesus has been leading Nicodemus deeper, step by step.

Now He speaks a truth that reaches to the very core of the gospel.

“No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.”

Jesus is revealing His divine identity.

He is not simply a teacher.

He is not another prophet.

He is the One who came from heaven to restore humanity.

Then Jesus says something Nicodemus would recognize immediately:

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.”

Nicodemus knew this story well.

In Numbers 21, the people of Israel were dying from poisonous snake bites.

God told Moses to lift up a bronze serpent on a pole.

Anyone who looked at it lived.

It was not logical.

It was not scientific.

It was not earned.

It was faith.

Look and live.

Jesus now tells Nicodemus:

The same is true for Me.

I will be lifted up.

On a cross.

And everyone who looks to Me will live.

Then He gives the heart of the gospel in one sentence:

“So that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.”

Redemption is not achieved.
It is received.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 3:13–15

13 “No one has ascended into heaven, except He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.”

14 “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,”

15 “so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What does it mean for me personally that Jesus was lifted up so I could live?

How This Meets Your Life Today

These verses address the deepest need of the human heart.

You cannot heal yourself.

You cannot save yourself.

You cannot cleanse your own sin.

You cannot rescue your own spirit.

You cannot climb your way to God.

Just like the Israelites in the wilderness, you need Someone lifted up for you.

And Jesus says:

Look to Me.

Trust in Me.

Place your weight on Me.

Let My life become your life.

This is not about:

- good behavior
- religious effort
- emotional moments
- spiritual performance
- trying harder
- proving yourself worthy

This is about a Savior who stepped down from heaven
so you could be brought into life.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you try to approach God through your own effort, you may:

- feel unworthy
- stay spiritually exhausted
- cycle through guilt
- fear God's reaction
- doubt your salvation
- measure yourself constantly

But when you understand that Jesus was lifted up for you:

- peace replaces striving
- confidence replaces fear
- rest replaces self-effort
- gratitude replaces guilt
- relationship replaces religion
- assurance replaces insecurity

Redemption does not start with your strength.

It starts with His sacrifice.

Jesus was lifted up so you could live lifted.

Reflections

1. What areas of my life feel like I have been trying to save myself?
2. How does the image of Jesus being lifted up speak to my heart today?
3. What would it look like to rest in His finished work instead of my effort?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, explore it using these links:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for being lifted up so I could live.

Teach me to rest in Your finished work,

trust in Your love,

and receive the life You came to give me.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-One

When You Discover the Depth of God's Love for You

Journal ready?

“God, help me receive the fullness of Your love with an open heart.”

Take a quiet breath.

These verses are familiar... but today let's hear them fresh.

Part Twenty-One: Love That Came to Rescue You

Jesus has just explained to Nicodemus that He will be lifted up, just like the bronze serpent, so people can look and live.

Now Jesus speaks the most well-known and most misunderstood truth of all time.

“For God so loved the world
that He gave His only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him
will not perish,
but have eternal life.”

Every part of this verse reveals God's heart:

- God loved
- so He gave
- so you could believe
- so you could live

This is not a distant love.

Not a reluctant love.

Not a love earned or deserved.

It is a love that moves.

A love that sacrifices.

A love that reaches.

A love that rescues.

Jesus continues:

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world,
but so that the world might be saved through Him.”

He did not come to condemn.
He did not come to shame.
He did not come to crush.
He came to save, heal, restore, and redeem.

Then Jesus speaks something honest and sobering:

“The one who believes in Him is not judged.
The one who does not believe has been judged already,
because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

This is not punishment.
It is the natural condition of life without the Savior.

Belief brings life.
Refusing the only lifeline leaves a person where they already are.

Jesus came to pull us out of that place.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 3:16–18

16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.”

17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him.”

18 “The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I need to let God’s love move from my mind into my heart today?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many believers know John 3:16 as information.
Few embrace it as identity.

These verses reveal a love that:

- goes first
- gives freely
- pursues relentlessly
- acts sacrificially
- saves completely
- welcomes continually
- carries power to heal the deepest parts of your heart

You may doubt God's love because of:

- your past
- your failures
- your inconsistencies
- your self-expectations
- your emotional ups and downs
- your old beliefs about God's character

But these verses remind you that God loved you before you ever loved Him.
He chose you before you chose Him.
He moved toward you before you even cared.

This love is not based on your performance.
It is based on His nature.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you misunderstand God's love, you may:

- fear drawing close
- feel unworthy
- live in guilt
- expect disappointment
- hide your weaknesses
- approach God through effort instead of relationship

But when His love becomes real to you:

- fear softens
- guilt lifts
- your heart opens
- trust grows
- worship becomes natural
- confidence rises
- intimacy becomes possible
- faith becomes joyful instead of heavy

You cannot earn this love.
You can only receive it.

Reflections

1. Where has God's love already reached into my life in unexpected ways?
2. What part of me still struggles to believe He loves me deeply?
3. How would my relationship with Him change if I truly rested in His love?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, explore it using these links:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, help me receive Your love in its fullness.
Let it settle into my heart, reshape my thoughts,
and breathe life into every part of me.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Two

When Jesus Invites You Into the Light That Heals

Journal ready?

“God, shine Your light on my heart, and help me walk in truth with courage.”

Slow your thoughts.

This passage reveals something tender and honest about the human heart.

Part Twenty-Two: Why the Light Matters

Jesus has just explained the depth of God’s love.

Now He explains the honest reality of how people respond to that love.

“This is the judgment,
that the Light has come into the world,
and people loved the darkness rather than the Light,
for their deeds were evil.”

Jesus is not condemning.

He is describing.

The Light has come.

The truth has arrived.

The love of God is fully revealed.

But some people hide from it because they fear exposure.

They fear being seen.

They fear their struggles coming into the open.

They fear letting God touch the places they have protected for years.

Jesus continues:

“For everyone who does evil hates the Light,
and does not come to the Light
for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”

In other words:

- People avoid God when they feel ashamed.
- They hide when they do not want to deal with truth.
- They stay in darkness because it feels safer than vulnerability.

But Jesus gives a beautiful contrast:

“The one who practices the truth comes to the Light,
so that his deeds will be revealed
as having been done in God.”

When you walk toward Jesus, you are not walking into judgment.
You are walking into healing.
You are walking into freedom.
You are walking into clarity and peace.

The Light exposes, yes—
but it exposes so it can restore.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 3:19–21

19 “And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil.”

20 “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”

21 “But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been done in God.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What part of my life might Jesus be inviting into the Light so I can experience healing and freedom?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Everyone has places they hide—
not because they are wicked,
but because they are afraid.

Afraid of rejection.
Afraid of disappointment.
Afraid of their past.
Afraid of their weaknesses.
Afraid of being truly known.

Jesus is not trying to expose you to embarrass you.
He shines His light to:

- heal wounds
- break lies
- lift shame
- reveal truth
- restore confidence

- guide your steps
- deepen your relationship with Him

Walking into the Light is not about perfection.
It is about honesty.

Light feels threatening only when you misunderstand its purpose.
In Jesus, Light brings warmth, clarity, and freedom.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you keep parts of your heart in the dark, you may:

- carry unnecessary shame
- feel spiritually stuck
- avoid prayer or Scripture
- hold back from intimacy with God
- stay in old patterns
- fear being fully known

But when you walk toward the Light:

- healing begins
- shame dissolves
- fear loses power
- truth becomes freeing
- your relationship with Jesus deepens
- you feel lighter, clearer, and more grounded

The Light does not destroy you.
It restores you.

Reflections

1. What area of my life feels safest in the dark, and why?
2. What might Jesus want to bring into His Light for healing?
3. How would my life change if I trusted His Light more than my fears?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you today, explore it using these links:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, I step into Your Light today.
Shine on every part of my heart,
and bring healing, honesty, and freedom
where I once carried fear.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Three

Jesus Meets You Where You Are

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize the places where You are already drawing near to me.”

Take a moment.

Open your heart quietly.

Jesus is about to meet someone in a place she never expected, and the same is true for you.

Part Twenty-Three: A Journey With Purpose

John 4 begins with a shift.

The Pharisees have noticed Jesus’ growing influence.

The crowds are increasing.

Attention is shifting from John the Baptist to Jesus.

Conflict is brewing.

So Jesus leaves Judea and heads toward Galilee.

Then Scripture gives a phrase that most readers skim over, but it is loaded with purpose:

“He had to pass through Samaria.”

Jewish travelers often avoided Samaria entirely.

There was history.

Division.

Distrust.

Religious disagreement.

Cultural animosity.

People went around Samaria, not through it.

But Jesus goes straight in.

He is not avoiding tension.

He is not sidestepping hard places.

He is not following tradition.

He is following a heart.

A specific woman.

In a specific town.

At a specific well.

At a specific hour.

She does not know He is coming.

She is not praying for Him.

She is not seeking Him.

But Jesus is seeking her.

He is moving toward her long before she moves toward Him.

That is how He meets you too.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 4:1-6

1 So then, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John

2 (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples were),

3 He left Judea and went away again to Galilee.

4 And He had to pass through Samaria.

5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

Where in my life might Jesus be intentionally moving toward me, even before I notice Him?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Jesus had to pass through Samaria.

Not because of geography.

Because of destiny.

He goes directly into the places the woman avoids.

The places where shame lives.

The places where loneliness sits.

The places where people feel unseen or unwanted.

He does the same in your life.

Jesus enters:

- the parts of your story you hide
- the wounds you wish were different
- the places you avoid emotionally

- the memories you do not talk about
- the habits or burdens you carry quietly
- the areas where you feel least spiritual
- the moments you feel furthest from God

He moves toward the real you.

Not the polished version.

Not the strong version.

Not the church version.

The honest you.

The weary you.

The wounded you.

The trying-to-keep-it-together you.

Jesus sits at your well before you ever arrive.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you assume Jesus only meets you in spiritual settings, you may:

- miss His presence in your daily routines
- think you have to clean yourself up first
- feel unworthy of His attention
- hide parts of your life from Him
- believe He is disappointed in you
- try to earn what He freely gives

But when you understand that Jesus meets you where you are:

- your walls come down
- your shame softens
- your heart opens
- your trust deepens
- you realize He is not avoiding your story
- you begin to walk with Him more honestly
- you sense His nearness in ordinary moments

Jesus does not wait for you to find Him.

He finds you.

Reflections

1. What part of my life feels like Samaria — a place I avoid or minimize?
2. How might Jesus be going there on purpose to meet me?
3. What would change if I believed He is already sitting at my well?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that rises in your heart:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for meeting me where I am.

Help me recognize Your presence

in the places I least expect You.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Four

The Thirst Beneath the Thirst

Journal ready?

“God, reveal the deeper thirst in my heart that only You can satisfy.”

Pause here.

What happens next in this scene is one of the most tender moments in Scripture.

Part Twenty-Four: Jesus Begins to Uncover the Deeper Need

The Samaritan woman arrives at the well carrying her jar, just as she has countless times before. But this time she finds Jesus sitting there.

He asks her for a drink.

She is startled.

She questions Him.

She does not understand why He would speak to her at all.

Jesus gently responds:

“If you knew the gift of God,
and who is saying to you,
‘Give Me a drink,’
you would have asked Him,
and He would have given you living water.”

She still only sees the physical moment.

“Sir, You have no bucket.

The well is deep.

Where then do You get this living water?”

She thinks the conversation is about water.

Jesus knows it is about her heart.

Then Jesus speaks a truth that cuts straight to the core of her life:

“Everyone who drinks this water
will be thirsty again.”

He is not just talking about well-water.

He is talking about the things she has spent her life pursuing, craving, depending on, and running toward.

Things that gave temporary relief but no lasting satisfaction.

Then He gives her the invitation:

“But the water that I give
will become in you a fountain
springing up to eternal life.”

She still does not understand.
She says, almost desperately:

“Sir, give me this water
so I will not be thirsty
or come all the way here to draw.”

She wants relief from the burden of her daily shame.
Jesus wants to heal the source of that shame.

So He gently shifts the conversation:

“Go, call your husband, and come here.”

Her defenses crack.

“I do not have a husband.”

Jesus nods gently.

“You have spoken truth.
You have had five husbands,
and the man you are with now is not your husband.”

Not condemnation.
Recognition.
Compassion.

He reveals the wound beneath the wound.
The thirst beneath the thirst.

She has been trying to fill her emptiness with relationships, love, attachment, approval, and attention.

But all of those wells left her thirsty again.

Now the One who satisfies sits before her.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 4:7–18

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

8 For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food.

9 So the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that You, although You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, though I am a Samaritan woman?”

10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

11 She said to Him, “Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?”

12 “You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself?”

13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again.”

14 “But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty again, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”

15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw.”

16 He said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

17 The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband.’

18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband; this you have said truthfully.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

What deeper thirst is Jesus trying to uncover in my life today?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many of the things we chase are not the real issue.

They are symptoms of deeper longing.

Jesus speaks to that deeper place.

He exposes gently.

He reveals kindly.

He touches the wound without humiliating the person.

He is showing the woman that:

- she has been drinking from broken wells
- she has been seeking life from human relationships
- she has been trying to fill her emptiness with temporary comfort
- she is tired
- she is lonely
- she is hiding
- she is thirsty for something more

Jesus never says these things to shame her.

He brings them into the light to heal them.

You have your own wells.

The things you run to for relief, escape, comfort, or identity.

And Jesus comes to reveal the deeper thirst beneath them.

Because until you see the real thirst, you cannot receive the real water.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you keep drinking from earthly wells, you may:

- stay restless
- repeat old patterns
- feel frustrated or empty
- seek comfort in people instead of God
- hide parts of your life from Jesus
- avoid the real issues of the heart

But when Jesus reveals the true thirst:

- healing becomes possible
- shame loses power
- honesty becomes freeing
- you stop chasing what cannot satisfy
- your heart awakens to spiritual life
- you discover the fountain He promised

Jesus does not expose to embarrass you.
He exposes to satisfy you.

Reflections

1. What wells do I return to for temporary relief?
2. What deeper need or longing might Jesus be revealing beneath those patterns?
3. What would it look like to turn my thirst toward Him instead of toward old sources that no longer satisfy?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, reveal the deeper thirst of my heart.
Heal the places I hide.
Satisfy me with the living water only You can give.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Five

Worship in Spirit and Truth

Journal ready?

“God, reveal what true worship looks like in my life today.”

Slow your breathing.

Jesus is about to open her heart to the deepest truth she has ever heard.

Part Twenty-Five: When Jesus Turns Your Wounds Into Worship

Jesus has just gently revealed the painful truth of her past.

She realizes He knows everything about her...

yet He has not turned away.

This stirs something inside her that she has never felt before.

So she asks a spiritual question.

“Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”

She shifts the topic from her pain to religion.

This is what people often do when the heart feels vulnerable.

She brings up the centuries-old debate between Jews and Samaritans:

“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain,
and you Jews say Jerusalem is the place to worship.”

She is asking:

Where do I go to find God?

Where does true worship happen?

Where am I supposed to belong?

Jesus answers her with a revelation that changes everything:

“Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”

He lifts her eyes above the debate.

Then He reveals the very heart of worship:

“The true worshipers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth.
For the Father seeks such people to be His worshipers.”

This is breathtaking.

God is not waiting for perfect people.
He is seeking honest people.
He is seeking worship that comes from the heart.
Not a place.
Not a ritual.
Not a tradition.
But truth.

And the Samaritan woman, who felt unworthy to even speak to Jesus, is being invited into this reality.

Then Jesus reveals the greatest truth so far:

“I who speak to you am He.”

The Messiah.
The One she had heard stories about.
The One who would restore all things.

He is here.
Speaking to her.
Revealing Himself to her.

To a woman others avoided.
To a story others judged.
To a heart others ignored.

This is who Jesus reveals Himself to.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 4:19–26

19 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship.”

21 Jesus said to her, “Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews.

23 But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming. When that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”

26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What does worship in spirit and truth look like for me today?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Many people think worship happens only in:

- church buildings
- songs
- services
- gatherings
- moments of emotion

But Jesus shifts the entire understanding of worship.

Worship is not:

- a place
- a ritual
- a performance
- a tradition
- a feeling

Worship is the honest, humble offering of your heart to God.

Worship in spirit means:

- it begins inside you
- it is energized by the Holy Spirit
- it comes from the deepest part of your life
- it is alive, sincere, and real

Worship in truth means:

- you bring your honest self
- you come without pretending
- you acknowledge who God is
- you align with His words
- your worship flows from what is real, not what is rehearsed

The Father is seeking people who worship like this.

Not perfect people.

Not religious experts.

Not trained singers.

Not those who have everything together.

People who come as they are.

People like this woman.

People like you.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you misunderstand worship, you may:

- feel like you are not spiritual enough
- think worship requires a special setting
- feel unworthy because of your past
- hide parts of your life from God
- worship externally but stay closed internally
- rely on emotion rather than honesty

But when you embrace worship in spirit and truth:

- your relationship with God becomes personal
- you feel free to be honest
- worship becomes daily, not occasional
- your heart opens
- shame loses power
- your connection with God deepens
- you realize He is seeking you, not avoiding you

Worship becomes a place of healing, not pressure.

Reflections

1. What has worship meant to me up until now?
2. How might Jesus be inviting me into a deeper, more honest kind of worship?
3. What would it look like for me to worship in spirit and truth throughout my day?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that rises in your heart:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, teach me to worship in spirit and truth.
Open my heart to You in honesty,
and let my worship flow from who You are,
not from what I fear or feel.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Six

Your Story Has Power

Journal ready?

“God, help me believe that my story matters to You and can help others.”

Let your heart settle.

Jesus is about to show how one encounter can transform an entire community.

Part Twenty-Six: From Shame to Influence

Just as Jesus finishes revealing His identity, the disciples return.

They are shocked that He is speaking with a Samaritan woman, but they stay silent.

Meanwhile, the woman leaves her water jar behind.

This is symbolic.

The very burden she came to carry
is no longer the one she is focused on.

She runs back to the town and speaks to the people who once judged her, avoided her, and talked about her behind closed doors.

She says:

“Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done.
This is not the Christ, is He?”

This is not a theological argument.

Not a polished testimony.

Not a perfect explanation.

It is simple honesty.

He knows me.

He saw me.

He told me the truth about my life.

And He did not reject me.

Her story opens hearts.

The town begins to come toward Jesus.

Then the scene shifts to the disciples.

They urge Jesus to eat.

He tells them:

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me
and to accomplish His work.”

Jesus is teaching them that the nourishment of the soul
is found in doing the Father’s work
and reaching people others overlook.

Then He says:

“Lift up your eyes.
The fields are white for harvest.”

In other words:

People are ready.
Hearts are open.
Look around.
See what God is doing.

Then the Samaritans arrive.
Many believed because of the woman’s testimony.

But after hearing Jesus for themselves, they tell her:

“It is no longer because of what you said that we believe.
We have heard for ourselves,
and know that this One truly is the Savior of the world.”

One woman.
One encounter.
One honest story.

And an entire town is transformed.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 4:27–42

27 And at this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What are You seeking?” or, “Why are You speaking with her?”

28 So the woman left her waterpot and went into the city, and said to the people,

29 “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is He?”

30 They left the city and were coming to Him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat something.”

32 But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

33 So the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?”

34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”

35 “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes

and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest.”

36 “Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together.”

37 “For in this case the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’”

38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have worked, and you have come into their labor.”

39 Now from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.”

40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41 Many more believed because of His word.

42 And they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One truly is the Savior of the world.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

Where might Jesus be inviting me to share my story so others can find Him?

How This Meets Your Life Today

You may feel like your story is:

- too messy
- too ordinary
- too painful
- too complicated
- too flawed
- too unfinished

But Jesus chooses people like this woman to open doors others cannot.

Your story carries power because:

- it is real
- it is honest
- it reveals where Jesus met you
- it shows what He healed in you
- it helps others see Him more clearly

People can argue with theology.

They cannot argue with transformed lives.

Your story holds weight because:

- Jesus is in it
- grace is in it
- healing is in it
- truth is in it
- redemption is in it

When you speak honestly about what Jesus has done,
you are sowing seeds you may never see harvested.

But heaven sees.
Heaven celebrates.
Heaven multiplies your simple obedience.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you believe your story is not valuable, you may:

- stay quiet
- hide your past
- hesitate to encourage others
- think you have nothing meaningful to offer
- focus on your failures instead of your redemption

But when you recognize how Jesus works through ordinary people:

- confidence grows
- shame weakens
- courage rises
- compassion deepens
- your voice strengthens
- your faith becomes contagious

Your story is not small.
It is a seed.
And seeds produce harvests you may never see.

Reflections

1. What part of my story has Jesus transformed the most?
2. Who in my life might need to hear what Jesus has done for me?
3. How can I share my story with honesty and humility, just like the woman at the well?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that rises in your heart:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for turning my story into a testimony.
Give me courage to share what You have done
so others can find the hope I have found in You.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Seven

Do You Want to Be Made Whole?

Journal ready?

“God, open my heart to the healing You want to bring into my life today.”

Sit quietly for a moment.

In this passage, Jesus steps into a place no one else was willing to go.

Part Twenty-Seven: Jesus Walks Into the Hardest Places

After the revival in Samaria, Jesus returns to Jerusalem for a feast.
There, near the Sheep Gate, is a pool called Bethesda.

Bethesda means “house of mercy.”

But the scene around the pool does not look merciful.

It is painful.

Crowded.

Quiet with suffering.

People with diseases, disabilities, and long-term pain gather there, waiting for their chance at healing.

Among them is a man who has been sick for thirty-eight years.

Thirty-eight years is longer than Jesus has been alive on earth.

This is not a short struggle.

Not a recent injury.

Not a temporary hardship.

It is a lifetime of waiting.

This man does not call out to Jesus.

He does not ask for healing.

He does not even know who Jesus is.

But Jesus sees him.

He knows how long he has suffered.

And Jesus asks him a question that seems almost strange:

“Do you want to be made well?”

Why would Jesus ask such a question?

Because some wounds become identities.

Some conditions become familiar.
Some suffering becomes a place of resignation.

The man answers with discouragement:

“Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool
when the water is stirred.
While I am coming, another steps down before me.”

He is saying:

I cannot.
I have no one.
I am always too slow.
Others always get ahead of me.
I have been like this for too long.

But Jesus is not asking if he has help.
He is asking if he has desire.

Then Jesus gives a command that breaks the pattern of his entire life:

“Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.”

And immediately, the man becomes well.

He stands.
He picks up his mat.
He walks.

No ritual.
No waiting for the water.
No earning.
No striving.

Just the word of Jesus.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 5:1-9

1 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now in Jerusalem, by the Sheep Gate, there is a pool which in Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porticoes.

3 In these porticoes lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, limping, or paralyzed.

5 Now a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

6 Jesus, upon seeing this man lying there and knowing that he had already been in that condition for a long time, said to him, “Do you want to get well?”

7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet, and walk.”

9 Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What area of my life is Jesus asking, “Do you want to be made whole?”

How This Meets Your Life Today

We all have conditions that have lasted longer than we want:

- emotional wounds
- repeated patterns
- habits we regret
- physical pain
- discouragement
- fear
- a sense of being stuck
- loneliness
- disappointment in ourselves

Sometimes those long battles shape how we see ourselves.

We stop expecting change.

We accept the mat as our permanent place.

Jesus goes straight into the areas we have given up on.

He is not intimidated by long-term suffering.

He is not discouraged by your history.

He is not limited by the time it has taken.

And He does not ask you for perfection.

He asks if you want to be made whole.

Because healing begins with willingness.

Not strength.

Not knowledge.

Not spiritual performance.

Not effort.

Just willingness.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you believe your struggles define you, you may:

- stay stuck longer than necessary
- accept things God never intended for you
- give up the hope of healing
- carry burdens alone
- believe others receive from God but not you

But when Jesus speaks into your situation:

- hope rises
- desire awakens
- excuses fall away
- healing becomes possible
- faith stirs
- identity shifts
- you see that nothing is beyond His reach

Jesus is not asking you to fix yourself.
He is asking you to respond to His voice.

Reflections

1. What long-standing struggle have I accepted as part of my identity?
2. How might Jesus be inviting me to believe for healing again?
3. What would it look like for me to take my first step toward wholeness?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that rises in your heart:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, breathe healing into the places
I have carried for far too long.
Make me whole in the way only You can.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Eight

Grace That Confronts Legalism

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize where I cling to rules instead of receiving Your grace.”

Take a quiet moment.

What happens in this passage is uncomfortable, but necessary.

Jesus exposes the difference between religion that binds and grace that frees.

Part Twenty-Eight: When Grace Moves, Legalism Reacts

The man Jesus healed has just taken up his mat and begun to walk for the first time in thirty-eight years.

A miracle happened.

A life was restored.

A future opened.

But instead of celebrating, the religious leaders confront him:

“It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your mat.”

Imagine that.

A man stands on legs that have not held him for nearly four decades, and all they see is that he is breaking a rule.

This is what legalism does.

It sees the rule, not the person.

It protects the system, not the soul.

The man explains that the One who healed him told him to pick up his mat and walk.

He does not even know Jesus’ name yet.

Later, Jesus finds him and says:

“Behold, you have become well.

Do not sin anymore,

so that nothing worse happens to you.”

Jesus is not warning him with fear.

He is inviting him into a healed life.

Healed in body, yes, but also in heart and spirit.

Then the man tells the leaders that it was Jesus who healed him.

And now the confrontation escalates.

The religious leaders persecute Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath.
Jesus replies with one of the most powerful statements He ever makes:

“My Father is working until now,
and I Myself am working.”

He is saying:

God does not stop showing mercy.
God does not limit compassion.
God does not pause His love.
God does not delay healing because of a calendar.

And neither does His Son.

This is why the leaders become even more offended.

Jesus is not fitting into their system.
He is revealing a Father they do not know.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 5:10–18

10 So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your mat.”

11 But he answered them, “He who made me well was the one who said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Pick up your mat and walk’?”

13 But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place.

14 Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.”

15 The man went away, and informed the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on a Sabbath.

17 But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”

18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where have I allowed rules, expectations, or fear to replace the grace Jesus offers?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Legalism is not a first-century problem.

It is a human problem.

It appears when we:

- judge ourselves harshly
- judge others quickly
- measure spirituality by performance
- cling to old habits out of fear
- believe God is pleased only when we get everything right
- feel pressure to appear spiritual
- forget the heart of God revealed in Jesus

Legalism makes faith heavy.

Grace makes faith alive.

Jesus confronts legalism not to win arguments,
but to set people free.

He shows you that:

- compassion is greater than man-made rules
- freedom matters more than appearances
- healing matters more than tradition
- people matter more than performance
- your relationship with God is not built on what you earn
but on what He gives

Grace restores what legalism crushes.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you mistake legalism for spirituality, you may:

- hide your weaknesses
- fear God instead of rest in Him
- feel unworthy
- cling to guilt
- try to earn what you already have
- judge others harshly
- miss the joy of walking with Jesus

But when you understand grace:

- your heart softens
- your burdens lift
- your worship deepens
- you treat others with compassion
- you feel free to be honest
- your relationship with Jesus becomes personal and alive

Grace does not lead you away from holiness.

Grace leads you into healing.

Healing leads you into transformation.

Reflections

1. Where in my life have I been harder on myself than Jesus is?
2. How does Jesus' compassion challenge the way I view others?
3. What does it look like for me to walk in grace instead of pressure?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that stands out in the passage:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for confronting the places in me where pressure, fear, and rules have replaced grace. Lead me back to Your heart.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Twenty-Nine

The Son Who Gives Life

Journal ready?

“God, open my understanding so I can see Jesus the way You reveal Him.”

Take a breath.

You are stepping into one of the most powerful revelations of who Jesus truly is.

Part Twenty-Nine: When Jesus Reveals His True Identity

In the previous scene, the religious leaders were furious.

Jesus healed on the Sabbath.

Then He called God His Father in a way they believed was blasphemy.

Now Jesus answers them with a depth that is still shaking hearts thousands of years later.

He begins with something shocking in its humility:

“The Son can do nothing of Himself
unless it is something He sees the Father doing.”

Jesus is showing perfect unity with God.

Not independence.

Not competition.

Unity.

He is saying:

I am not working alone.

I am doing exactly what the Father does.

I reflect His heart.

I reveal His will.

I act from His love.

Then He explains why:

“For the Father loves the Son
and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing.”

Everything Jesus does
flows from love
shared between Father and Son.

Next, He reveals His authority:

“Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life,
so also the Son gives life to whom He wishes.”

This is breathtaking.

The Father gives life.
The Son gives life.
Life is found in both.

Then Jesus says:

“The Father judges no one,
but has given all judgment to the Son,
so that all will honor the Son
just as they honor the Father.”

Jesus is not a prophet.
Not a moral teacher.
Not a religious leader.
He is divine.

He carries the authority of God
because He is one with God.

Then comes one of the clearest promises in Scripture:

“The one who hears My word
and believes Him who sent Me
has eternal life,
and does not come into judgment,
but has passed out of death into life.”

Not will have.
Has.

Eternal life begins the moment you believe.

Jesus then says something even more profound:

“An hour is coming, and now is,
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and those who hear will live.”

His voice brings life.

This is both spiritual and physical.
He awakens the spiritually dead now.
And one day He will raise the physically dead.

“For just as the Father has life in Himself,
so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.”

Jesus is the source of life.
Not a messenger of life.

Not an ambassador of life.

The source.

Finally, He announces the future resurrection:

“An hour is coming
in which all who are in the tombs
will hear His voice
and will come out.”

His voice will call every person who has ever lived
out of the grave.

Only God can do this.
And Jesus says He will.

This is His identity.
This is His authority.
This is His heart.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 5:19–29

19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way.

20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,

23 so that all will honor the Son just as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

25 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.

27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

28 Do not be amazed at this; for a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

29 and will come out: those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the bad deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

What part of Jesus' identity in this passage stands out to me most, and why?

How This Meets Your Life Today

This passage matters deeply because it corrects common misunderstandings about Jesus.

Many people see Him as:

- gentle but not powerful
- loving but not authoritative
- forgiving but not sovereign
- compassionate but not divine

But Jesus reveals:

- He is one with the Father
- His actions reflect God's heart perfectly
- He gives life
- His voice awakens the spiritually dead
- He holds all authority
- He will raise every person at the end of time
- Eternal life begins now for those who believe

If you miss who Jesus really is,
you miss the power of your faith.

If you see Him as smaller than He truly is,
your confidence will feel small too.

But when you see Him as He reveals Himself,
your trust deepens.
Your hope grows.
Your worship expands.
Your fear diminishes.
Your faith stands firm.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you misunderstand Jesus' authority, you may:

- live in fear
- try to fix things in your own strength
- doubt your salvation
- feel uncertain about the future
- struggle with surrender
- think God is distant or silent

But when you understand His identity:

- you know your salvation is secure
- you see God's heart clearly
- you stop trying to earn His love
- you realize His voice brings life
- you stand in confidence, not fear
- you rest in His authority
- your faith becomes deeply rooted

Jesus is not just a helper.
He is life itself.

Reflections

1. How does Jesus' unity with the Father reshape the way I see Him?
2. What does it mean for me that eternal life begins the moment I believe?
3. How does His authority over life and judgment change my confidence today?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that rises in your heart:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, open my eyes to see You as You truly are.
Give me confidence in Your authority
and rest in Your life-giving word.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty

Testimonies That Reveal His Identity

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize every way You have revealed Jesus to me.”

This passage is Jesus laying out the clearest evidence of who He is.
Not to defend Himself...
but to invite you to see Him fully.

Part Thirty: Jesus Brings His Witnesses Forward

After declaring His unity with the Father, Jesus does something incredibly gracious.
He begins listing **witnesses** that confirm who He is.

Not because He needs validation.
But because He knows **you** do.

He begins:

“If I alone testify about Myself,
My testimony is not true.”

Meaning:

If Jesus were speaking on His own authority, the claim would not stand.

But He is not speaking alone.

Witness One: John the Baptist

“You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.”

John pointed directly to Jesus.
John affirmed Him publicly.
John recognized Him as the Lamb of God.

Jesus says:

“I do not receive testimony from man,
but I say these things so that you may be saved.”

He is not defending Himself.
He is rescuing the listeners from unbelief.

Witness Two: The Works

“The works which the Father has given Me to finish testify about Me.”

Every miracle.
Every healing.
Every word of authority.
Every act of compassion.

They all point to who He is.

Witness Three: The Father Himself

“The Father who sent Me has testified about Me.”

At His baptism.
Through prophecy.
Through Scripture.
Through His works.

The Father has been publicly affirming Jesus from the beginning.

Witness Four: The Scriptures

“You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life. It is these that testify about Me.”

This is profound.
He is saying:

You search the Scriptures for truth,
but the Scriptures point to Me.

Then Jesus speaks the ache of His heart:

“You are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

Not unwilling to study.
Not unwilling to debate.
Not unwilling to teach.

Unwilling to come to Him.

Witness Five: Moses

“If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.”

Jesus is saying:

You trust Moses.

Yet Moses was preparing you for Me.

Their greatest national figure
was pointing them toward the Messiah
who stood right in front of them.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 5:30–47

30 “I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

31 If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true.

32 There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true.

33 You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.

34 But the testimony I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

35 He was the lamp that was burning and shining, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

36 But the testimony I have is greater than the testimony of John. For the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

37 And the Father who sent Me, He has testified about Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

38 And you do not have His word remaining in you, because you do not believe Him whom He sent.

39 You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me.

40 and yet you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

41 I do not receive glory from people.

42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

44 How can you believe, when you accept glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have put your hope.

46 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?”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Which of Jesus' witnesses speaks most deeply to me today, and why?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Jesus does not ask you to believe blindly.
He gives witness after witness:

- Scripture
- the Father
- the miracles
- the prophets
- John the Baptist
- Moses
- and Jesus' own voice

Faith is not a leap into darkness.
Faith is stepping into a light that has always been shining.

Jesus also reveals something crucial:

You can know Scripture and miss Him completely.

You can study truth but avoid the Person that truth is pointing toward.

Jesus invites you not just to learn
but to come.

To Him.
To the source of life.
To the heart of God revealed.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you misunderstand Jesus' identity, you may:

- treat Him like a helper instead of Lord
- rely on your own understanding
- feel unsure about salvation
- feel distant from God
- believe the Bible is a book of rules
instead of a story pointing to a Savior

But when you accept His witnesses:

- Scripture comes alive
- faith gains depth
- confidence grows
- prayer feels personal
- your relationship with God strengthens
- you see Jesus clearly
- your heart responds with worship

Jesus is inviting you to believe with full understanding, not shallow emotion.

Reflections

1. Which witness of Jesus' identity surprised me the most?

2. What does it mean for me personally that the Scriptures point to Him?
3. How might my faith change if I believed every word Jesus says in this passage?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that rises in your heart:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for revealing Yourself so clearly.
Help me see every witness that points to You
and trust You with all my heart.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-One

He Feeds the Hungry

Journal ready?

“God, teach me to trust You with what feels insufficient in my life.”

Pause here.

You are stepping into one of the clearest pictures of Jesus’ heart to provide, to multiply, and to satisfy.

Part Thirty-One: When Jesus Turns Not Enough Into More Than Enough

After the intensity of the confrontation in Jerusalem, Jesus crosses the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd follows Him because they have seen His miracles.

They are hungry for truth, hope, healing, and more.

But soon, they will also be hungry for food.

Jesus goes up a mountain and sits with His disciples.

The Passover is near, reminding everyone of God’s provision in the wilderness long ago.

And now, God’s provision stands in front of them in person.

Jesus lifts His eyes and sees the large crowd approaching.

Before anyone asks for anything,
before the need is spoken,
before the disciples understand what is happening...

Jesus turns to Philip and asks:

“Where are we to buy bread so that these people may eat?”

He is not confused.

He is not asking for ideas.

He is inviting Philip into a lesson.

Scripture says:

“He was saying this to test him,
for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.”

Philip answers from a place of limitation:

“Two hundred denarii worth of bread
is not enough for them.”

Andrew offers slightly more faith:

“There is a boy here with five barley loaves
and two fish,
but what are these for so many people?”

And there it is.

The tension between human lack
and divine sufficiency.

Jesus tells them:

“Have the people sit down.”

The disciples cannot see the miracle,
but Jesus can.

He takes the loaves.
He gives thanks.
He distributes the food.
And everyone eats until they are satisfied.

Then Jesus tells the disciples to gather the leftovers.

Twelve baskets.
More than what they began with.

Jesus does not just meet needs.
He reveals the abundance of God’s heart.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 6:1–14

1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

2 A large crowd was following Him, because they were watching the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.

3 But Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.

5 So Jesus, after raising His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread so that these people may eat?”

6 Now He was saying this to test him, for He Himself knew what He intended to do.

7 Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not enough for them, for each to receive just a little.”

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him,

9 “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?”

10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 Jesus then took the loaves, and after giving thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated. Likewise also of the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 And when they had eaten their fill, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces so that nothing will be lost.”

13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

Where in my life do I feel like I do not have enough, and how might Jesus be inviting me to trust Him there?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Every believer faces moments where what they have seems too small:

- too little strength
- too little faith
- too little time
- too little money
- too little progress
- too little hope
- too little emotional capacity
- too little clarity

Jesus does not shame the disciples for their lack.

He teaches them how to place the little they have into His hands.

He takes what is insufficient
and makes it more than enough.

This is how Jesus works:

- He sees the need before you see it
- He knows what He intends to do
- He invites you into trust
- He blesses what you bring
- He multiplies it
- He satisfies you
- He leaves you with more than you started with

He does not just meet needs.

He reveals the abundance of heaven.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you forget Jesus' heart to provide, you may:

- panic when you feel inadequate
- rely on your own strength
- dismiss the little you have
- give in to discouragement
- hold on to control
- feel overwhelmed by needs around you

But when you trust Him:

- you see that He already has a plan
- your small becomes sacred in His hands
- you stop comparing yourself to others
- your confidence grows
- you learn to rest in His provision
- you witness miracles in unexpected places
- you realize God is not limited by what you lack

The miracle always begins with what you bring.

Reflections

1. What feels insufficient in my life right now?
2. How might Jesus be inviting me to place that area in His hands?
3. What has He provided in the past that reminds me I can trust Him again?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, here is what I have.

It feels small.

But in Your hands,

it becomes more than enough.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Two

He Comes to You in the Storm

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize You when life feels uncertain or overwhelming.”

Take a slow breath.

This moment is about the Jesus who does not wait for you to reach safety...
but comes to you in the storm.

Part Thirty-Two: When Jesus Steps Into Your Fear

After the miracle of feeding the five thousand, the crowd tries to make Jesus king by force.

They want a political leader.

A warrior.

A deliverer on their own terms.

Jesus withdraws to a mountain, alone.

Meanwhile, the disciples begin to cross the Sea of Galilee.

It is dark.

Jesus is not with them.

A strong wind rises.

The waves grow rough.

They are exhausted, rowing without progress.

This is where many believers find themselves:

- trying to move forward
- doing the right things
- feeling alone
- pushing against resistance
- drained from effort
- afraid of what is ahead

Then, in the middle of the darkness and the storm,

Jesus comes to them.

He walks on the water.

Not around the storm.

Not after the storm.

Not when things calm down.

He comes in it.

The disciples see Him and are terrified.
Sometimes when Jesus shows up in unexpected ways,
we mistake His presence for another threat.

But Jesus speaks the words their hearts desperately need:

“It is I.
Do not be afraid.”

His presence brings peace before the circumstances change.

Then something beautiful happens:

“They were willing to receive Him into the boat,
and immediately the boat was at the land.”

His presence brings peace.
His presence brings clarity.
His presence brings arrival.

He does not just calm storms.
He carries you through them.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 6:15–21

15 So Jesus, aware that they intended to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,

17 and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

18 The sea was getting rough, because a strong wind was blowing.

19 Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat; and they were frightened.

20 But He said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”

21 So they were willing to take Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where in my life do I need to welcome Jesus into the storm instead of trying to handle it alone?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Storms reveal where your trust is anchored.

They show you:

- what you cannot control
- where you feel alone
- what drains your strength
- where fear whispers
- what you are trying to handle on your own

Jesus does not wait for you to reach the shore.

He walks toward you.

He comes to:

- the place you feel overpowered
- the place you feel tired
- the moment you cannot see clearly
- the fear you have not spoken aloud
- the burden you have carried quietly

His presence is not delayed by storms.

His power is not limited by them.

His compassion is not threatened by them.

When He says, "It is I,"

He is saying:

I am here.

I am with you.

You are not alone.

Let Me into this moment.

Let Me into this fear.

Let Me into this storm.

Your circumstances may not change immediately,
but your heart will.

And like the disciples,
you may find that once you welcome Him in,
you reach the place you were longing for sooner than you thought.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you try to survive storms alone, you may:

- become exhausted
- feel spiritually distant
- carry fear in silence
- lean on your own strength
- misinterpret God's nearness
- miss the peace Jesus is offering

But when you welcome Him into the boat:

- fear loses its grip
- clarity returns
- peace rises
- strength is renewed
- your steps become guided
- you realize you are carried, not abandoned

Jesus does not expect you to row alone.

He comes to you.

He steps into your storm.

He brings you through it.

Reflections

1. What current storm feels too big for me?
2. How might Jesus be approaching me in a way I have not recognized yet?
3. What does it look like to welcome Him into this situation today?

Strong's Links

Explore any word your heart is drawn to:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, I welcome You into my storm.
Speak Your peace over my heart
and lead me safely where You are taking me.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Three

The Bread of Life

Journal ready?

“God, help me understand what it means that Jesus is the Bread of Life for my soul.”

Take a breath.

This passage is a turning point in Jesus’ ministry and a turning point for your own understanding of what it means to follow Him.

Part Thirty-Three: When Jesus Reveals the Only Food That Truly Satisfies

The crowd has crossed the sea, searching for Jesus.

They are confused about how He got there, impressed by the feeding of the five thousand, and eager for more.

But Jesus sees deeper.

He sees their hunger, not just for bread, but for meaning, security, and hope.

He says:

“You seek Me, not because you saw signs,
but because you ate the loaves and were filled.”

Their pursuit is focused on earthly provision, not eternal life.

So Jesus begins guiding them toward a greater truth.

“Do not work for the food that perishes,
but for the food that lasts for eternal life.”

They want to know what works God requires.

What effort.

What spiritual checklist.

Jesus answers with simplicity and clarity:

“This is the work of God,
that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

Still, the crowd asks for another sign.

Another miracle.

Another reason to trust Him.

They mention Moses and the manna in the wilderness:

“He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.”

They want Jesus to repeat that miracle.

But Jesus corrects them:

“It was not Moses who gave the bread out of heaven,
but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.”

Then He says something that shifts the entire conversation:

“For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven
and gives life to the world.”

They respond:

“Lord, always give us this bread.”

And then Jesus reveals one of the clearest truths about Himself:

“I am the Bread of Life.
The one who comes to Me will not hunger,
and the one who believes in Me will never thirst.”

This is not physical bread.

This is life.

This is satisfaction.

This is the end of spiritual hunger.

Jesus continues:

“I have come down from heaven
not to do My own will,
but the will of Him who sent Me.”

And the will of the Father is clear:

“That everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him
will have eternal life,
and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

This is a guarantee.

This is security.

This is the Father’s heart.

Jesus is not offering temporary relief.

He is offering eternal life, lasting satisfaction, and unshakeable hope.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 6:22–40

22 The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there except one, and that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had departed alone.

23 Other small boats came from Tiberias near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they got into the small boats and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.

25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?”

26 Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

28 Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

30 So they said to Him, “What then are You doing as a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work are You performing?”

31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness. As it is written: ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”

32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.

33 For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the Bread of Life; the one who comes to Me will not hunger, and the one who believes in Me will never thirst.

36 But I said to you that you have indeed seen Me, and yet you do not believe.

37 Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I certainly will not cast out.

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of everything that He has given Me I will lose nothing, but will raise it up on the last day.

40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

What am I turning to for satisfaction that only Jesus, the Bread of Life, can truly give?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Every person carries hunger.

Not physical hunger, but spiritual hunger:

- meaning
- identity
- belonging
- security
- purpose
- comfort
- hope

- connection
- direction

Many try to satisfy this hunger with:

- people
- approval
- achievement
- money
- comfort
- distraction
- religion
- routine
- self-sufficiency

But these things fade.

They fill for a moment and then leave you hungry again.

Jesus is saying:

I am your nourishment.

I am your life.

I am your satisfaction.

I am your stability.

I am your hope.

I am your source.

I am the end of spiritual hunger.

When you come to Him,
your heart finds what it was created for.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you look for satisfaction apart from Jesus, you may:

- stay restless
- feel spiritually empty
- chase temporary comfort
- live off emotional highs
- depend on people to fill you
- feel insecure in your faith
- search for meaning in the wrong places

But when you receive Jesus as your Bread of Life:

- your soul rests
- your identity steadies
- your faith deepens
- your desires shift
- earthly things lose their power
- you experience the joy of true spiritual life
- you feel secure in the Father's will

Jesus is not offering you a better life.
He is offering you Himself.

And He is enough.

Reflections

1. What hunger have I been trying to satisfy outside of Jesus?
2. How does knowing He is the Bread of Life change the way I approach my needs?
3. What would it look like for me to trust Him as my source today?

Strong's Links

Explore any word your heart is drawn to:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, You are the Bread of Life.
Feed the hungers in me
that nothing else can satisfy.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Four

Life Through His Words

Journal ready?

“God, help me receive the life Jesus offers through His words, even when they stretch my understanding.”

Take a quiet breath.

This is the moment where Jesus speaks a truth that separates shallow belief from genuine faith.

Part Thirty-Four: When Jesus Speaks Hard Truth With Healing Purpose

After Jesus reveals that He is the Bread of Life, the crowd begins to react.

Not with worship.

Not with gratitude.

But with frustration and unbelief.

They start to grumble among themselves:

“Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph?

We know His father and mother.

How can He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?”

They cannot reconcile His divinity with His humanity.

They are offended because they think they already know Him.

Jesus responds calmly:

“Stop grumbling among yourselves.

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.”

He is revealing a deep truth:

Faith is not gained by effort.

It is awakened by God.

Drawn by His Spirit.

Formed by His grace.

Then Jesus points them back to Scripture:

“It is written, ‘They shall all be taught by God.’

Everyone who hears and learns from the Father comes to Me.”

He is not dismissing their questions.
He is showing them the path of truth.

Then He repeats the heart of His message:

“I am the Bread of Life.”

Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness and still died.
Earthly bread sustains for a moment.
But Jesus offers eternal life.

Then He goes deeper — so deep that many will walk away.

“The bread that I will give
for the life of the world
is My flesh.”

The crowd debates.
They are confused.
“How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

Jesus does not soften His language.
He intensifies it.

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink His blood,
you have no life in yourselves.”

He is speaking spiritually, not physically.
He is revealing the only way to true life:

Receiving Him.
Trusting Him.
Depending on Him.
Letting His sacrifice become your salvation.

He continues:

“My flesh is true food,
and My blood is true drink.”

This is not the language of ritual.
This is the language of union and dependence.

Jesus is saying:

My life becomes your life.
My sacrifice becomes your righteousness.
My presence becomes your sustenance.
My words become your nourishment.
My Spirit becomes your strength.

He concludes:

“The one who feeds on Me
will live because of Me.”

Not because of works.
Not because of tradition.
Not because of religion.

Because of Him.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 6:41–59

- 41** So then the Jews were complaining about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven.”
- 42** And they were saying, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?”
- 43** Jesus answered and said to them, “Stop complaining among yourselves.
- 44** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
- 45** It is written in the Prophets: ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.
- 46** Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.
- 47** Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes has eternal life.
- 48** I am the Bread of Life.
- 49** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.
- 50** This is the bread that comes down out of heaven, so that anyone may eat from it and not die.
- 51** I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats from this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I will give for the life of the world also is My flesh.”
- 52** Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”
- 53** So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.
- 54** The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
- 55** For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
- 56** The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him.
- 57** Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, the one who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.
- 58** This is the bread that came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died; the one who eats this bread will live forever.”
- 59** These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What part of Jesus' teaching in this passage stretches my understanding, and how is God inviting me to trust Him deeper?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Jesus is asking for something deeper than casual belief.
He is calling for:

- real faith
- real dependence
- real surrender
- real intimacy
- real trust

He wants you to feed on Him, meaning:

- His words shape your thinking
- His presence strengthens your heart
- His sacrifice defines your identity
- His faithfulness feeds your hope
- His truth becomes your nourishment
- His life becomes the life within you

Many Christians believe in Jesus but do not feed on Him.
They try to live on:

- emotions
- willpower
- good behavior
- religious habit
- self-effort

These cannot sustain you.

Only Jesus can.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you do not feed on Jesus, you may:

- feel spiritually empty
- rely on circumstances for stability
- chase emotional highs
- become discouraged easily
- feel disconnected from God
- treat faith like a ritual instead of a relationship

But when you feed on Him:

- your soul is strengthened
- your identity feels secure
- Scripture becomes alive
- your hunger finds its true source
- you experience the joy of intimacy with God
- your faith stops depending on feelings
- your heart becomes anchored

Jesus is not inviting you into deeper religion.
He is inviting you into deeper life.

Reflections

1. What does it mean for me personally to “feed on Jesus”?
2. What competing sources have I turned to for spiritual nourishment?
3. How can I begin receiving life through His words daily?

Strong's Links

Explore any word your heart is drawn to:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, I receive You as my life.
Feed my heart with Your truth
and nourish my soul through Your presence.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Five

When Following Jesus Gets Hard

Journal ready?

“God, help me stay close even when Your words challenge me.”

Take a breath.

This moment reveals the difference between a follower who is curious and a disciple who is committed.

Part Thirty-Five: When Truth Tests the Heart

Jesus has just spoken some of His most difficult teaching.

He has said:

- He is the Bread of Life
- life comes only through Him
- His flesh and blood bring eternal life
- His words are spirit and life

The crowd is unsettled.

Even many disciples are unsettled.

They say:

“This is a difficult statement.

Who can listen to it?”

They liked the miracles.

They liked the healing.

They liked the multiplied bread.

But when Jesus asked for deeper commitment,
when He called them into a spiritual reality instead of physical comfort,
many became uncomfortable.

Jesus knows their hearts.

He says:

“Does this offend you?

What if you see the Son of Man
ascending to where He was before?”

He is reminding them that His words are not earthly.

They are eternal.

“It is the Spirit who gives life;
the flesh provides no benefit.”

In other words:

You cannot understand spiritual truth
with natural thinking.

Then Jesus speaks something piercing and honest:

“There are some of you who do not believe.”

John tells us Jesus already knew who would stay
and who would walk away.

Then Scripture says one of the saddest lines in the Gospel:

“As a result of this,
many of His disciples left Him
and would no longer walk with Him.”

Not the casual crowd.
His disciples.
People who had followed Him.
People who saw miracles.
People who listened to His teaching.

They left because the teaching became hard.

Then Jesus turns to the Twelve and asks:

“You do not want to leave also, do you?”

This question reaches into every heart
that has ever wrestled with doubt,
confusion,
disappointment,
or spiritual stretching.

Simon Peter answers with one of the most beautiful confessions ever spoken:

“Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have words of eternal life.
We have believed
and have come to know
that You are the Holy One of God.”

Peter does not say:

I understand everything.
I agree with everything.
I feel good about everything.

He says:

Where else could I go?
You alone have life.
You alone have truth.
You alone satisfy.
You alone are God's Holy One.

Jesus acknowledges that not all twelve are true believers
and hints at Judas, who will betray Him.

But even this does not weaken His resolve
or the disciples' decision.

Because discipleship is not built on perfect understanding.
It is built on trust.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 6:60–71

60 So then many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This statement is very hard; who can listen to it?"
61 But Jesus, aware that His disciples were complaining about this, said to them, "Is this offensive to you?"
62 What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?
63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life.
64 But there are some among you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him.
65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."
66 As a result of this many of His disciples left Him and would no longer walk with Him.
67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to leave also, do you?"
68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.
69 And we have already believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."
70 Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil."
71 Now He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot; for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
When Jesus' words challenge me, do I walk away or lean in closer?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Every believer eventually faces moments that test their faith:

- unanswered prayers
- difficult scriptures
- spiritual silence
- disappointment
- confusion

- stretching
- correction
- the tension between what you want and what Jesus calls you to

In those moments, you discover
what kind of follower you really are.

Following Jesus is not always easy.
But it is always worth it.

He does not ask you to understand everything.
He asks you to trust Him through everything.

You can tell Him:

I do not understand this yet.
This feels hard.
This stretches me.
But I am not leaving.
You have the words of life.

This is the heart of a disciple.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you walk away when the teaching gets hard, you may:

- miss deep transformation
- misunderstand God's heart
- reduce faith to feelings
- follow Jesus only when convenient
- settle for shallow spirituality

But when you stay:

- your faith matures
- your roots deepen
- your trust strengthens
- your intimacy with Jesus grows
- your foundation becomes unshakeable
- you learn that life is found only in Him

Faith grows in the tension.
Life deepens in the stretching.
Maturity forms in the staying.

Jesus never promises ease.
He promises Himself.

And that is enough.

Reflections

1. What parts of Jesus' teaching do I struggle with or avoid?
2. How is He inviting me to trust Him more deeply right now?
3. What keeps me anchored to Jesus even when things are hard?

Strong's Links

Explore any word your heart wants to understand:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, even when Your words stretch me,
I choose to stay close.
You alone have the words of eternal life.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Six

Discernment in a Confused World

Journal ready?

“God, help me discern truth from confusion and follow the path You shine before me.”

Let your mind settle.

This lesson is all about clarity in a world full of noise.

Part Thirty-Six: When Jesus Walks With You Through Confusion

The chapter opens with tension.

Jesus has stayed in Galilee because the leaders in Judea want to kill Him.

The Feast of Booths is approaching, and His brothers urge Him to go to Judea and show Himself publicly.

But they do not believe in Him yet.

Their advice comes from misunderstanding, not faith.

Jesus answers:

“My time is not yet here.”

He is not avoiding people.

He is obeying the Father’s timing.

The world cannot hate His brothers,
but it hates Jesus because He exposes its works as evil.

After His brothers leave for the feast, Jesus goes secretly, not publicly.

He moves with wisdom, not fear.

At the feast, there is quiet tension everywhere:

- Some people say He is good
- Others accuse Him of deceiving people
- No one speaks openly for fear of the leaders

It is a picture of confused religion.

Everyone has an opinion, but few have understanding.

Midway through the feast, Jesus stands up and teaches.

The crowd is amazed.

“How does He know letters when He has not been educated?”

Jesus explains that His teaching is not His own.
It comes from the One who sent Him.

Then He gives a key for discernment:

“If anyone is willing to do His will,
he will know whether My teaching is from God.”

In other words:

Truth becomes clear to the heart
that honestly wants God.

Judgment is clouded when motives are self-centered.
Clarity comes when the heart is surrendered.

Jesus exposes the hypocrisy of His critics.
They accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath for healing a man,
yet they themselves perform circumcision on the Sabbath.

Their judgment is inconsistent
because their hearts are not aligned with God.

He ends with a powerful statement:

“Do not judge by appearance,
but judge with righteous judgment.”

This is the heart of discernment.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 7:1–24

1 After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him.

2 Now the Feast of Booths was near.

3 So His brothers said to Him, “Move on from here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing.

4 For no one does anything in secret when he himself is striving to be known publicly. If You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world.”

5 For not even His brothers believed in Him.

6 So Jesus said to them, “My time is not yet here, but your time is always ready.

7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify about it, that its deeds are evil.

8 Go up to the feast yourselves; I am not going up to this feast because My time has not yet fully arrived.”

9 Now having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee.

10 But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as though in secret.

11 So the Jews were looking for Him at the feast and saying, “Where is He?”

12 And there was a great deal of discussion about Him in secret among the crowds: some were saying, “He is a good man,” others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He is misleading the people.”

13 Yet no one was speaking openly about Him, for fear of the Jews.

14 But when it was now the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple area, and began to teach.

15 The Jews then were astonished, saying, “How has this man become learned, not having been educated?”

16 So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not My own, but His who sent Me.

17 If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself.

18 The one who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but the one who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

19 Did Moses not give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why are you seeking to kill Me?”

20 The crowd answered, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?”

21 Jesus answered them, “I did one deed, and you all are astonished.

22 For this reason Moses has given you circumcision, not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers; and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man.

23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?

24 Do not judge by the outward appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

Where do I need God to help me see clearly instead of reacting by appearance?

How This Meets Your Life Today

You live in a world full of:

- loud opinions
- confusion
- mixed motives
- spiritual pressure
- fear of disapproval
- misinformation
- emotional reactions
- cultural noise

Jesus shows the path to clarity:

1. Seek God’s will first.
2. Look beyond appearances.
3. Ask for righteous judgment.
4. Let His timing guide your steps.
5. Trust His teaching above human noise.

Discernment is not a talent.

It is the fruit of a surrendered heart.

Jesus wants you to see clearly
when the world is confused.

Why This Matters for Your Life

Without discernment, you may:

- be influenced by fear
- misinterpret situations
- judge by appearance
- react instead of respond
- follow human voices instead of God
- feel spiritually unstable

But with discernment:

- your decisions become clearer
- your emotions settle
- your confidence grows
- your spirit becomes anchored
- your responses reflect God's wisdom
- your faith becomes resilient

Discernment is spiritual protection.

It is one of the greatest gifts God gives His children.

Reflections

1. What voices compete for my attention?
2. Where do I need to pause and wait for God's timing?
3. What situation in my life requires righteous judgment instead of quick reaction?

Strong's Links

Explore words that stand out to you:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, shine Your light through my confusion.
Teach me to judge with Your wisdom
and follow truth wherever You lead.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Seven

Division, Desire, and Invitation

Journal ready?

“God, help me recognize Your voice above the noise around me.”

Settle yourself for a moment.

This passage reveals how people respond differently to Jesus when truth confronts their assumptions.

Part Thirty-Seven: When Jesus Stands in the Middle of Human Opinions

The atmosphere surrounding Jesus becomes tense.

People are divided.

Opinions are loud.

Motives are mixed.

The question on everyone’s lips is simple:

“Who is He?”

Some think He is the Christ.

Others say He cannot be because they believe they know where He is from.

Still others are confused because the religious leaders do not arrest Him.

Jesus cries out in the temple:

“You know Me and where I am from,
but I have not come of Myself.”

He exposes their limited thinking.

They know His earthly background,
but they do not understand His heavenly origin.

Then He says:

“I know Him because I am from Him,
and He sent Me.”

This statement stirs the crowd.

Some want to arrest Him,

but no one touches Him

because His hour has not yet come.

Many begin to believe in Him, saying:

“When the Christ comes,
He will not perform more signs than this man, will He?”

Even the temple guards assigned to arrest Him are captivated.

The Pharisees and chief priests notice the growing belief
and send officers to seize Him.

Jesus responds with a cryptic prophecy:

“I am with you a little while longer,
then I go to Him who sent Me.”

He speaks of His return to the Father,
but the crowd misunderstands.
They wonder if He plans to leave the country.

Confusion deepens.

On the last and greatest day of the feast,
Jesus stands and cries out a powerful invitation:

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.
The one who believes in Me,
as the Scripture said,
from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.”

John explains that Jesus is speaking about the Spirit,
who would be given after Jesus was glorified.

The crowd reacts in every possible way:

- Some say, “This is the Prophet.”
- Some say, “This is the Christ.”
- Others argue He cannot be because they misunderstand Scripture.
- Others want to seize Him.
- Others defend Him.

Even the officers sent to arrest Him return empty-handed, saying:

“Never has a man spoken like this.”

The Pharisees accuse them of being deceived.

Nicodemus, the one who met Jesus at night, speaks up:

“Does our Law judge a man
before it hears him
and knows what he is doing?”

He is not defending Jesus directly.
He is calling for fairness.

But even he is mocked.

The scene ends not with resolution
but with division.

Truth always forces a decision.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 7:25–52

25 So some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill?

26 Yet look, He is speaking publicly, and they are not saying anything to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they?

27 However, we know where this man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.”

28 Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.

29 I know Him because I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

30 So they were seeking to arrest Him; and yet no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

31 But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, “When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than this man has done, will He?”

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him.

33 Therefore Jesus said, “For a little while longer I am with you, and then I am going to Him who sent Me.

34 You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

35 The Jews then said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He does not intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, does He?

36 What is this statement that He said, ‘You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come’?”

37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

38 The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

39 But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

40 Some of the people therefore, after they heard these words, were saying, “This truly is the Prophet.”

41 Others were saying, “This is the Christ.” Still others were saying, “Surely the Christ is not coming from Galilee, is He?

42 Has the Scripture not said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”

43 So a dissension occurred in the crowd because of Him.

44 And some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, “Why did you not bring Him?”

46 The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken like this.”

47 The Pharisees then replied to them, “You have not been led astray too, have you?

48 Not one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?

49 But this crowd that does not know the Law is accursed.”

50 Nicodemus (the one who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them,

51 “Our Law does not judge the person unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?”

52 They answered and said to him, “You are not from Galilee as well, are you? Examine the Scriptures and see that no prophet comes out of Galilee.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I see division or confusion in my life, and how is Jesus inviting me to hear His voice more clearly?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Jesus steps into the middle of:

- mixed opinions
- religious pressure
- misunderstanding
- emotional reactions
- spiritual confusion
- cultural expectations
- misplaced assumptions

Sound familiar?

That is the world you live in.

And Jesus offers three things:

1. Clarity

He reveals truth when everyone else is guessing.

2. Discernment

He helps you recognize His voice among the noise.

3. Invitation

He offers living water to all who are thirsty.

Division and confusion do not stop Jesus.

They reveal Him more clearly.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you let the noise around you define your understanding of Jesus, you may:

- become spiritually confused
- rely on popular opinion
- feel pressured by others
- miss the deeper truth
- misunderstand His purpose for you

But when you listen to Jesus:

- clarity replaces confusion
- peace settles your spirit
- truth becomes steady
- wisdom grows
- your heart becomes free
- you stay anchored when others waver

Jesus is not threatened by confusion.
He shines through it.

Reflections

1. What voices influence me most right now?
2. Where do I need Jesus to bring clarity and truth?
3. What is my heart thirsty for?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, You are my clarity in confusion.
Give me ears to hear Your voice
and a heart that responds to Your invitation.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Eight

Neither Do I Condemn You

Journal ready?

“God, help me hear Your mercy louder than my shame.”

Take your time with this one.

This moment reveals the heart of God unlike anything else.

Part Thirty-Eight: When Jesus Kneels in the Dirt With You

Early in the morning, Jesus comes to the temple.

People gather around Him, hungry to hear His teaching.

Then the atmosphere shifts.

The scribes and Pharisees interrupt the moment
dragging a woman caught in adultery
and placing her in the center of the crowd.

Their goal is not justice.

It is entrapment.

They cite Moses’ law:

“She is to be stoned.

What do You say?”

They are not seeking truth.

They want to force Jesus into a contradiction:

- If He says “stone her,”
they can accuse Him of cruelty and rebellion against Rome.

- If He says “let her go,”
they can accuse Him of rejecting God’s Law.

The woman stands there terrified, exposed, humiliated.

But Jesus bends down
and writes on the ground with His finger.

We are not told what He writes.

The silence itself is the point.

The accusers press Him.
So Jesus straightens and speaks:

“The one who is without sin among you,
let him be the first to throw a stone.”

Not denial.
Not compromise.
Not avoidance.

Truth with mercy.

Conviction without condemnation.

Then He bends down again.

One by one, starting with the oldest,
the accusers walk away.

Stones fall from their hands.
Silence fills the courtyard.

When Jesus stands again,
only the woman is left.

He asks her:

“Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, Lord.”

Jesus speaks words she never expected to hear:

“Neither do I condemn you.
Go, and from now on do not sin.”

Not shame.
Not punishment.
Not rejection.

Mercy that restores
and truth that frees.

Jesus does not ignore her sin.
He releases her from the power of it.

This scene reveals the heart of God:

- He confronts accusation.
- He protects the vulnerable.
- He silences shame.
- He exposes hypocrisy.
- He restores dignity.
- He offers a new beginning.

Jesus is the Light of the world...
and here, His light reveals freedom.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 8:1–11

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Early in the morning He came again into the temple area, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began teaching them.

3 Now the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in the act of adultery, and after placing her in the center of the courtyard,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the very act of committing adultery.

5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?"

6 Now they were saying this to test Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.

7 When they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Now when they heard this, they began leaving, one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the courtyard.

10 And straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on do not sin."

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where in my life do I still feel condemned, and what is Jesus speaking over that place today?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Shame is loud.

Accusation is heavy.

Failure can feel final.

But Jesus steps into the middle of your most vulnerable moments
and does what no one else can:

He covers you instead of exposing you.

He defends you instead of accusing you.

He restores you instead of rejecting you.

He speaks mercy instead of judgment.

He kneels in the dirt with you
so you can stand again.

Jesus does not excuse sin.

He frees you from it.

He does not shame the broken.
He heals them.

He does not crush the failing heart.
He lifts it.

This is the heart of the God who calls you His.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you live under condemnation, you may:

- hide from God
- carry unnecessary shame
- rehearse failures
- fear judgment
- struggle to grow spiritually
- believe lies about yourself

But when you hear Jesus say,
“Neither do I condemn you,”
something changes:

- shame loses its grip
- fear dissolves
- identity becomes clear
- your heart feels safe
- grace empowers real transformation
- you walk in freedom, not fear

Jesus corrects with compassion,
and His mercy is not fragile.

It is strong enough to hold your story.

Reflections

1. What accusation have I believed about myself that Jesus wants to silence?
2. How does His mercy reshape the way I see my past?
3. What step of freedom is He inviting me to take today?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that pulls on your heart:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for mercy that covers me
and truth that frees me.

Help me walk in the freedom You give.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Thirty-Nine

I Am the Light of the World

Journal ready?

“God, open my eyes to see where Your light is leading me.”

Take a breath and let your heart be still.

This lesson is about the clarity Jesus brings whenever He steps into darkness.

Part Thirty-Nine: When Jesus Shines Light Where You Need It Most

After rescuing the woman caught in adultery,
Jesus remains in the temple.

The atmosphere is tense.

The Pharisees are watching Him closely.

The people are unsure what to make of Him.

But Jesus does not retreat.

He stands and declares:

“I am the Light of the world.

The one who follows Me

will not walk in the darkness,

but will have the Light of life.”

This is not merely a poetic phrase.

It is a declaration of identity.

In Scripture, light represents:

- truth
- purity
- revelation
- guidance
- life
- the very presence of God

Darkness represents:

- confusion
- sin
- fear

- deception
- blindness
- separation from God

When Jesus says He is the Light,
He is claiming to be:

- the One who reveals truth
- the One who exposes lies
- the One who brings clarity
- the One who shows the path
- the One who chases away fear
- the One who awakens life

The Pharisees immediately challenge Him.

“You are testifying about Yourself.
Your testimony is not true.”

They want legal proof.
They want human verification.

Jesus responds:

“Even if I testify about Myself,
My testimony is true.
I know where I came from
and where I am going.”

He is operating from heavenly authority,
not human approval.

They judge Him by the flesh.
He judges no one by human standards.

Yet when He does judge,
His judgment is true
because He is one with the Father.

He tells them:

“You know neither Me nor My Father.
If you knew Me,
you would know My Father also.”

These words are radical.
They confront the very leaders of Israel
with the truth that they do not truly know God
because they refuse to recognize His Son.

Despite the confrontation,
no one arrests Him
because His hour has not yet come.

Jesus then warns them:

“I am going away,
and you will seek Me
but will die in your sin.
Where I am going, you cannot come.”

They misunderstand,
thinking He is speaking of physical death.

Jesus clarifies:

“You are from below,
I am from above.
You are of this world,
I am not of this world.”

He gives them the core truth:

“Unless you believe that I am He,
you will die in your sins.”

The conversation continues with confusion,
but Jesus keeps pointing back to the Father:

“When you lift up the Son of Man,
then you will know that I am He.”

Many begin to believe in Him
because His words carry authority, life, and truth.

Where He speaks,
light breaks through.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 8:12–30

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

13 So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.”

14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

15 You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.

16 But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me.

17 Even in your Law it has been written that the testimony of two people is true.

18 I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.”

19 So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.”

20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple area; and no one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come.

21 Then He said again to them, “I am going away, and you will seek Me, and you will die in your sin; where I

am going, you cannot come.”

22 So the Jews were saying, “Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”

23 And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.

24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

25 Then they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I even been saying to you from the beginning?

26 I have many things to say and to judge regarding you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I say to the world.”

27 They did not realize that He was speaking to them about the Father.

28 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own, but I say these things as the Father instructed Me.

29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

30 As He said these things, many came to believe in Him.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where am I still walking in shadows, and what part of Jesus’ light do I need to receive today?

How This Meets Your Life Today

You face many forms of darkness:

- fear
- confusion
- lies
- shame
- regret
- doubt
- emotional heaviness
- spiritual pressure
- worldly influence

Jesus does not tell you to fight darkness.
He tells you to follow the Light.

When you follow Jesus:

- clarity grows
- peace settles in
- lies lose power
- fear dissolves
- direction becomes clear
- truth becomes steady
- your heart wakes up again
- the path forward makes sense

Light does not argue with darkness.
It simply shines.

Jesus is that Light.

Why This Matters for Your Life

When you try to figure out life on your own, you may:

- misjudge situations
- carry unnecessary burdens
- believe wrong voices
- feel overwhelmed
- walk in circles
- choose from fear instead of faith

But when Jesus is your Light:

- you see who He is
- you see who you are
- you see where to go
- confusion lifts
- your spirit strengthens
- truth becomes your foundation

You do not overcome darkness
by trying harder.

You overcome it
by staying close to the One who is Light.

Reflections

1. What area of my life feels dim or unclear right now?
2. How is Jesus inviting me to trust His light instead of my own understanding?
3. What step can I take today to walk more closely with Him?

Strong's Links

Explore any word your heart wants to understand:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, shine Your light on every part of my life.
Lead me in truth
and free me from every shadow.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty

Truth That Sets You Free

Journal ready?

“God, reveal the truth that frees me and break every lie that keeps me bound.”

Let your mind quiet down for a moment.

This lesson is about identity, freedom, and the power of truth that comes from Jesus alone.

Part Forty: When Jesus Reveals the Battle Between Truth and Lies

Jesus has just declared Himself the Light of the world.

Some who hear Him begin to believe.

But belief can be shallow.

Now Jesus moves deeper.

He speaks to those who have believed in Him:

“If you continue in My word,
then you are truly My disciples,
and you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”

Freedom is not automatic.

It flows from remaining in His word.

It flows from staying with Him.

It flows from letting His truth shape your thinking and your identity.

His listeners respond with pride:

“We are descendants of Abraham
and have never been enslaved to anyone.”

This is historically untrue.

Israel had been enslaved many times.

But spiritual pride is blind.

They cannot see their own bondage.

Jesus explains:

“Everyone who commits sin
is a slave of sin.”

He is talking about the internal slavery
that no human force can solve.

But then He gives the good news:

“If the Son sets you free,
you really will be free.”

Freedom is not found in religion.
Not in ancestry.
Not in effort.
Not in self-improvement.

Freedom comes from the Son.

Then Jesus confronts something deeper.
He tells them:

“You are trying to kill Me
because My word has no place in you.”

They claim God as their Father.
Jesus reveals the truth:

“If God were your Father,
you would love Me.”

Then He exposes their true bondage:

“You are of your father, the devil,
and you want to do the desires of your father.”

He is not insulting them.
He is showing them the spiritual reality behind unbelief.

Jesus explains the devil’s nature:

- he does not stand in truth
- there is no truth in him
- he speaks from his nature
- he is a liar
- he is the father of lies

This is why truth is so crucial.
Lies enslave.
Truth frees.

Jesus then challenges them:

“Which one of you convicts Me of sin?
If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?”

The divide becomes unmistakable.

They accuse Jesus of having a demon.

He answers calmly:

“I honor My Father.

You dishonor Me.”

Then He gives a promise:

“If anyone keeps My word,

he will never see death.”

They misunderstand, thinking He means physical death.

Jesus clarifies His identity:

“Before Abraham was born, I am.”

Not “I was.”

“I am.”

He uses the holy name God spoke to Moses.

This is a direct declaration of divinity.

The crowd picks up stones to kill Him,

but Jesus slips away,

because His hour has not yet come.

Light has shined.

Truth has been spoken.

Freedom has been offered.

But the response reveals the heart.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 8:31–59

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples;

32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.

36 So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

37 I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you are seeking to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

38 I speak of the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father.”

39 They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the things of Abraham.

40 But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this

Abraham did not do.

41 You are doing the works of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born as a result of sexual immorality; we have one Father: God.”

42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and am here; for I have not even come on My own, but He sent Me.

43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot listen to My word.

44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 But because I say the truth, you do not believe Me.

46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 The one who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

48 The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not rightly say that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

49 Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; on the contrary, I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.

50 But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks it, and He judges.

51 Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.”

52 The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets as well; and yet You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’

53 You are not greater than our father Abraham who died, are You? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?”

54 Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’

55 And you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you; but I do know Him, and I keep His word.

56 Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day, and he saw it and rejoiced.”

57 So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?”

58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and left the temple grounds.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

What lie have I believed that Jesus wants to replace with His truth today?

How This Meets Your Life Today

You live in a world full of lies:

- lies about who you are
- lies about your worth
- lies about God
- lies about your past
- lies about your future
- lies about sin
- lies about freedom
- lies about identity

Jesus exposes lies not to shame you
but to free you.

Truth is not hard, cold information.
Truth is Jesus Himself.

When you continue in His word,
you begin to recognize:

- what is real
- what is false
- what is God
- what is darkness
- what leads to freedom
- what leads to bondage

Truth is light.
Lies are chains.

Jesus breaks chains.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If lies have shaped your thinking, you may:

- feel spiritually stuck
- struggle with shame or fear
- misinterpret God's heart
- wrestle with identity
- repeat unhealthy patterns
- feel unworthy of closeness with God

But when His truth enters:

- lies lose power
- your heart feels clean
- your mind becomes steady
- your identity strengthens
- spiritual confidence grows
- you walk free
- you hear God clearly

Truth is not a burden.
It is liberation.

Jesus is the Truth that sets you free.

Reflections

1. What truth is Jesus highlighting for me in this passage?
2. What lie has shaped my thinking for too long?
3. How can I continue in His word so that truth becomes my foundation?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, You are my freedom.
Break every lie that binds me
and fill my heart with Your truth.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-One

Healing Your Blind Spots

(John 9 — entire chapter)

Journal ready?

“God, open my eyes to see what I have not been seeing.”

Settle your breathing.

This chapter is not just about physical sight.

It is about the blindness we all carry and the Shepherd who heals it.

Part Forty-One: When Jesus Heals What You Cannot See

As Jesus passes by, He sees a man who has been blind from birth.

The disciples ask a question many still ask today:

“Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”

They are trying to connect suffering to blame.

Jesus corrects them gently:

“It was neither that this man sinned,
nor his parents,
but so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

Jesus is teaching something crucial:

Not all suffering is punishment.

Sometimes suffering becomes a canvas for God’s glory.

Jesus then spits on the ground, makes mud,
and spreads it on the man’s eyes.

He tells him:

“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.”

The man obeys.

He washes.

And for the first time in his life... he sees.

What follows is a swirl of reactions:

- neighbors argue
- leaders question
- Pharisees divide
- parents fear
- the healed man stands firm
- Jesus reveals Himself
- spiritual blindness is exposed

People cannot accept the miracle because it breaks their categories.

The Pharisees interrogate the healed man:

“How were your eyes opened?”

He answers simply:

“The man who is called Jesus made mud
and anointed my eyes
and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’;
so I went and washed, and I received sight.”

Some Pharisees accuse Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath.

Others ask:

“How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”

Division arises.

The man is questioned again.

His courage grows.

The leaders call his parents,
who confirm the healing
but avoid giving Jesus credit
because they fear being expelled from the synagogue.

So the leaders pressure the healed man again:

“Give glory to God.
We know this man is a sinner.”

He replies with one of the greatest testimonies in Scripture:

“Whether He is a sinner, I do not know.
One thing I do know,
that though I was blind, now I see.”

They insult him.
They throw him out.

Jesus finds him.

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

“You have both seen Him,
and He is the one talking with you.”

The man believes and worships.

Jesus ends with a sobering truth:

“I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see may see,
and those who see may become blind.”

The Pharisees ask:

“We are not blind too, are we?”

Jesus answers:

“If you were blind, you would have no sin;
but now that you say, ‘We see,’
your sin remains.”

The story becomes a mirror.

Spiritual blindness is not about physical sight.
It is about the inability to recognize truth
because pride, assumptions, or fear block it.

Jesus heals blindness that we do not even know we have.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 9 (entire chapter)

(Full text omitted here only because the chapter is long — but all 41 verses must be included on your website or in your downloadable study. If you want them inserted now, just tell me and I will paste the entire chapter in full.)

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where might I be spiritually blind, and what truth is Jesus trying to help me see?

How This Meets Your Life Today

This chapter speaks directly into the places where you feel:

- confused
- overlooked
- stuck
- misunderstood

- afraid of being wrong
- weary from opposition
- uncertain about what God is doing

It also speaks to deeper issues:

- blind spots
- assumptions
- beliefs formed by pain
- fear of people's opinions
- religious pressure
- emotional reactions
- misunderstandings about God

Jesus sees what others overlook.
He heals what you cannot fix.
He exposes what you cannot see.
He protects you when others reject you.
He speaks truth when others accuse you.
He restores your sight so you can recognize Him.

Jesus sees you clearly
and heals you fully.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If spiritual blind spots remain unhealed, you may:

- misinterpret God's heart
- blame yourself unnecessarily
- live with shame you do not need
- stay stuck in old beliefs
- fear getting things wrong
- trust the wrong voices
- miss the gentle leadership of Jesus

But when Jesus heals your sight:

- understanding grows
- confidence deepens
- lies lose their power
- your past loses its sting
- confusion breaks
- courage rises
- your relationship with Him becomes real

Jesus does not just open eyes.
He transforms vision.

Reflections

1. What truth in this chapter challenges or comforts me most?
2. Where has Jesus already healed areas I could not see clearly?
3. What blind spots do I want Him to heal next?

Strong's Links

If a word stands out to you, study it:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, open my eyes where I cannot see,
heal what I do not recognize,
and lead me as the Shepherd of my soul.”

Amen!

PART NINE — THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Hearing His voice, trusting His leadership

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Two

The Shepherd and His Voice

(John 10:1–18)

Journal ready?

“God, teach me to recognize the voice of Jesus and follow Him with confidence.”

Let your heart quiet down.

This passage is tender, protective, and deeply personal.

Part Forty-Two: When Jesus Shows You What Safe Leadership Looks Like

Jesus continues speaking after the healing of the blind man in chapter 9.

He contrasts two kinds of spiritual leadership:

- 1. The false shepherds**
- 2. The true Shepherd**

He begins with an image everyone in that culture understood:

A sheepfold.

A gate.

A shepherd.

A thief.

A stranger.

He says:

“The one who does not enter by the door,
but climbs in another way,
is a thief and a robber.”

False leaders do not enter through God’s appointed way.

They push.

Manipulate.

Control.

Take.

Demand.

Use people instead of serving them.

But the true Shepherd enters by the door
with rightful authority and a pure heart.

“The sheep hear His voice,
and He calls His own sheep by name
and leads them out.”

This is one of the most intimate truths about Jesus:

He calls you by name.
He leads you gently.
He walks ahead of you.
He does not push.
He does not pressure.
He does not manipulate.

“He goes ahead of them,
and the sheep follow Him
because they know His voice.”

The voice of Jesus is recognizable to His people.
It carries:

- peace
- clarity
- purity
- steadiness
- compassion
- truth
- conviction without shame

The voice of a stranger feels different.
Jesus says:

“They will not follow a stranger,
but will flee from him.”

The crowd does not understand,
so Jesus explains more clearly:

“I am the door of the sheep.”

He is your access to safety, nourishment, and rest.

“All who came before Me are thieves and robbers,
but the sheep did not listen to them.”

He contrasts His heart with theirs:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came so that they may have life
and have it abundantly.”

Then He reveals the core of His identity:

“I am the good Shepherd.
The good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

A hired hand runs when danger comes.
A wolf scatters the flock.
But Jesus stands between the danger and the sheep.

“I know My own,
and My own know Me.”

This is relationship, not religion.
Love, not fear.
Trust, not pressure.

He repeats it:

“I lay down My life for the sheep.”

He does this willingly.
Not from defeat.
Not from weakness.

“No one has taken it away from Me,
but I lay it down on My own.
I have authority to lay it down,
and I have authority to take it back.”

This is leadership unlike anything the world offers.

This is the Shepherd who knows you,
protects you,
calls you,
and leads you into life.

Today's Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 10:1–18

- 1** “Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.
- 2** But the one who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.
- 3** To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep listen to his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4** When he puts all his own sheep outside, he goes ahead of them; and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 5** A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- 6** Jesus told them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what the things which He was saying to them meant.
- 7** So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
- 8** All those who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9** I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand, since he is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 He flees because he is a hired hand and does not care about the sheep.

14 I am the good Shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me,

15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

16 And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice; and they will become one flock, with one Shepherd.

17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it back.

18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

How do I recognize the voice of Jesus, and what do I need Him to speak into my life right now?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Everyone follows a voice:

- fear
- pressure
- culture
- expectations
- insecurity
- people’s opinions
- old wounds
- religion
- self-doubt

Jesus offers a different voice:

- gentle
- steady
- trustworthy
- pure
- wise
- protective
- honest
- full of life

His voice leads you:

- out of confusion
- out of fear
- out of old patterns
- out of pressure
- into rest

- into peace
- into clarity
- into purpose
- into abundant life

He does not force.
He leads.

He does not shame.
He calls.

He does not abandon.
He protects.

He is your Shepherd.

Why This Matters for Your Life

Without the Shepherd's voice, you may:

- follow the wrong influences
- misjudge situations
- feel spiritually unstable
- get stuck in old mindsets
- believe lies without realizing it
- walk into fear instead of faith

But when you listen to His voice:

- fear loses strength
- peace grows
- direction becomes clear
- wisdom rises
- your identity settles
- you learn to trust His leadership
- you begin to walk in true, abundant life

Jesus does not just speak truth.
He speaks as a Shepherd
who loves you personally.

Reflections

1. What voices have shaped my decisions lately?
2. How can I slow down enough to recognize Jesus' voice?
3. What part of my heart needs the Shepherd's reassurance today?

Strong's Links

Explore any word your heart wants to understand:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, You are my Shepherd.
Teach me Your voice.
Lead me into life.
Keep me close to Your heart.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Three

Security in His Hands

(John 10:19–42)

Journal ready?

“God, help me rest in the security of Your hands.”

Let your heart settle.

This passage is about confidence, identity, and the unshakeable safety you have in Jesus.

Part Forty-Three: When Jesus Proves You Are Held, Not Lost

Jesus has just revealed Himself as the Good Shepherd.

These words stir the people.

And once again, the crowd is divided.

Some say:

“He has a demon and is insane.

Why listen to Him?”

Others push back:

“These are not the words of a demon-possessed man.

A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind.”

Truth divides because it exposes the heart.

Time passes, and the scene shifts to the winter Feast of Dedication
(known today as Hanukkah).

Jesus is walking in the temple,
and the religious leaders surround Him.

They ask:

“How long will You keep us in suspense?

If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

But Jesus has already told them.

The issue is not clarity.

It is unbelief.

He answers:

“I told you, and you do not believe.
The works that I do in My Father’s name testify of Me.”

Then He states the reason they do not understand:

“You do not believe because you are not of My sheep.”

This is not rejection.
It is revelation.

Sheep recognize their Shepherd.
They respond to His voice.
They trust His heart.

Then Jesus gives one of the most reassuring promises in all Scripture:

“My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them,
and they follow Me.”

Three truths:

1. You can hear His voice.
2. He knows you personally.
3. You are able to follow Him.

Then He gives the promise that anchors your salvation:

“I give them eternal life,
and they will never perish;
and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

Not one.
Not ever.

He strengthens the promise:

“My Father, who has given them to Me,
is greater than all;
and no one is able to snatch them
out of the Father’s hand.”

You are held by the Son
and covered by the Father.

This is the double security of the believer.

Jesus then declares:

“I and the Father are one.”

The leaders pick up stones to kill Him.
They accuse Him of blasphemy
because He makes Himself equal with God.

Jesus answers calmly
and points them to Scripture,
showing they are misinterpreting their own law.

He tells them:

“If I do not do the works of My Father,
do not believe Me.
But if I do them,
even though you do not believe Me,
believe the works.”

He is giving them one more opportunity
to see the truth.

Their hearts remain hard,
and they attempt to seize Him,
but He escapes because His time has not yet come.

The chapter ends with Jesus leaving Jerusalem
and going to the place where John the Baptist had first baptized.

Many follow Him there and say:

“Everything John said about this man was true.”

And it says:

“Many believed in Him there.”

Away from the noise.
Away from the hostility.
Away from the pressure.

In a quiet place,
faith grows.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 10:19–42

19 Dissension occurred again among the Jews because of these words.

20 Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?”

21 Others were saying, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. A demon cannot open the eyes of those who are blind, can he?”

22 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem;

23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple area in the portico of Solomon.

24 The Jews then surrounded Him and began saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.

26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep.

27 My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

28 and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

30 I and the Father are one.”

31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.

32 Jesus replied to them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?”

33 The Jews answered Him, “We are not stoning You for a good work, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”

34 Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’?”

35 If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be nullified,

36 are you saying of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”

39 Therefore they were seeking again to arrest Him, and He eluded their grasp.

40 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He stayed there.

41 Many came to Him and were saying, “While John was doing no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.”

42 And many believed in Him there.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I need to rest in the security of Jesus’ hands instead of relying on myself?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Every believer deals with:

- fear of failure
- fear of being rejected by God
- fear of losing salvation
- pressure to hold everything together
- insecurity about hearing God correctly
- doubt about being “enough”

Jesus cuts through all of it:

“My sheep listen to My voice.

I know them.

They follow Me.

I give them eternal life.

No one can snatch them from My hand.”

Your security is not built on:

- your performance
- your consistency
- your feelings
- your understanding
- your circumstances
- your religious activity

Your security is built on:

- His voice
- His knowledge of you
- His gift of eternal life
- His hand
- the Father's hand
- their unity together holding you

Nothing stronger exists.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you try to secure your own salvation, you may:

- live in fear
- question God's love
- worry about losing your place
- doubt your belonging
- carry unnecessary shame
- misinterpret God's heart

But when you rest in the Shepherd's hands:

- fear loses power
- your heart settles
- your confidence grows
- you know you belong
- you stop striving
- you trust His leadership
- you walk in peace

You are not barely held.

You are securely held.

Jesus says:

“No one can snatch them from My hand.”

Not even you.

That is the safety of the Good Shepherd.

Reflections

1. What insecurity does Jesus want to quiet in my heart?
2. Where do I need to trust His hands instead of my own strength?
3. What does it mean to me personally that He holds me securely?

Strong's Links

Explore any word your heart wants to understand:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, I rest in Your hands.
Hold me close,
guide me gently,
and keep me secure.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Four

Lazarus — Life Stronger Than Death

(John 11 — entire chapter)

Journal ready?

“God, show me what You want me to learn today about Your love and power.”

Let your heart slow down.

This chapter is not just a miracle story.

It is a revelation of Jesus’ heart.

Part Forty-Four: When Love Waits, Then Comes With Power

John 11 opens with a crisis:

Lazarus is sick.

His sisters, Mary and Martha, send word to Jesus:

“Lord, the one You love is sick.”

They are not appealing to His power.

They are appealing to His love.

When Jesus hears the news,

He says:

“This sickness is not to end in death,
but is for the glory of God
so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”

Then John writes something startling:

“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So when He heard that he was sick,
He stayed two more days in the place where He was.”

Love waits.

Not because He is indifferent.

But because He knows what the end will be.

When He finally tells His disciples they are going back to Judea,
they protest because danger awaits.

Jesus answers with calm authority.

Then He says:

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,
but I go so that I may awaken him.”

They misunderstand,
so Jesus tells them plainly:

“Lazarus is dead.
And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there
so that you may believe.”

By the time Jesus arrives,
Lazarus has been in the tomb four days.

Martha runs to Him:

“Lord, if You had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

She believes in His power,
but not yet in His timing.

Jesus replies:

“Your brother will rise again.”

She assumes He means the final resurrection.
Jesus brings it closer:

“I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.”

Then He asks her:

“Do you believe this?”

This becomes the turning point for her faith.

Mary comes next.
She falls at His feet weeping:

“Lord, if You had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

Jesus sees her tears
and is deeply moved.
John says He was troubled in His spirit.

He asks:

“Where have you laid him?”

They tell Him to come and see.

And then the shortest, most powerful verse:

“Jesus wept.”

He enters their pain
before He pulls them out of it.

Some say,
“See how He loved him.”
Others criticize and question.

Jesus asks for the stone to be removed.
Martha protests because of the smell.

Jesus reminds her:

“Did I not say to you that if you believe,
you will see the glory of God?”

They move the stone.
Jesus prays aloud so the crowd will believe the Father sent Him.

Then He calls:

“Lazarus, come out.”

Life answers.

Lazarus walks out still wrapped in grave clothes.

Jesus says:

“Unbind him, and let him go.”

The chapter ends with two reactions:

1. Many believe.
2. Religious leaders plot His death.

Light always exposes hearts.

But nothing stops the love of Jesus
and nothing rivals His authority over death.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 11:1–57

Lazarus – Life Stronger Than Death

John 11 reveals the compassion, authority, and timing of Jesus in one of the most powerful miracles recorded in Scripture. Lazarus, the beloved friend of Jesus, becomes sick, and Mary and Martha send word for Jesus to come. Yet Jesus delays, not from indifference, but because He knows the Father will reveal glory through what

looks like loss. When Jesus finally arrives, Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. The sisters grieve, each saying, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus meets Martha with truth and Mary with tears. He declares, “I am the resurrection and the life,” and then stands before the tomb and calls Lazarus out of death. Lazarus emerges, still wrapped in grave clothes, while Jesus commands that he be unbound and released. Many believe because of this miracle, but the religious leaders begin plotting Jesus’ death. This chapter shows that Jesus enters our grief, understands our pain, and has the authority to bring life from what looks completely lost.

If you want the entire chapter pasted here as one block, just say

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:

What part of my life feels like it has been in the tomb too long, and what would it look like to let Jesus call it back to life?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Everyone has places in their heart where it feels like:

- the waiting is too long
- the disappointment is too deep
- the miracle is too late
- the prayers were not answered
- the timing makes no sense
- the loss feels final

John 11 tells you something powerful:

Jesus’ delay is never neglect.

It is preparation for a greater revelation.

He loves you enough to wait.

He loves you enough to come.

He loves you enough to stand in your grief.

He loves you enough to call life out of death.

You do not serve a distant God.

You serve a Savior who weeps with you
then speaks resurrection over you.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you misunderstand the waiting seasons, you may believe:

- God is ignoring you
- He is disappointed with you
- the situation is hopeless
- prayer does not work

- your faith is too weak
- the story is over

But Jesus teaches:

- waiting is not abandonment
- death is not final
- His timing is perfect
- His love is steady
- His power is unstoppable
- He brings life where you thought none remained

The resurrection is not just an event.

It is a Person.

And He is with you.

Reflections

1. Where do I feel like Jesus is taking too long?
2. What emotion do I need to bring to His feet the way Mary did?
3. What part of my life do I want Jesus to call out of the tomb?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, resurrect what has been buried in me.
Call me out of what has died,
and let me walk in Your life and love.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Five

Extravagant Worship + Costly Love

(John 12 — entire chapter)

Journal ready?

“God, show me what real love and real worship look like in my life.”

Breathe for a moment.

This chapter is the turning point where love becomes costly,
where devotion becomes bold,
and where Jesus reveals what matters most.

Part Forty-Five: When Love Pours Everything Out

Six days before Passover,
Jesus comes to Bethany
where Lazarus now lives again.

Martha is serving.
Lazarus is at the table.
Mary steps into the room carrying something precious:

A pound of pure nard.
Costly perfume.
A year’s wages.

Without hesitation,
without self-protection,
without worrying what others think,
she pours it on the feet of Jesus
and wipes His feet with her hair.

The fragrance fills the whole house.

Pure love always leaves a fragrance.

Judas reacts:

“Why was this perfume not sold and the money given to the poor?”

John reveals his heart:
Judas did not care about the poor.
He cared about the money.

Jesus defends her:

“Leave her alone.
She has kept this for the day of My burial.”

Mary understood something
no one else had grasped:

Jesus was heading toward the cross.
And she gave Him her deepest devotion
before the world rejected Him.

Meanwhile,
the chief priests plan to kill Lazarus
because his resurrection causes many to believe in Jesus.

Light always provokes darkness.

The next day,
Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey.
Crowds shout:

“Hosanna.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

It is a prophetic moment.
But many do not grasp what kind of King He is.

Later some Greeks ask to see Jesus,
and He declares:

“The hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

He explains that His death
will bring life to many:

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains alone;
but if it dies,
it bears much fruit.”

He speaks of His coming sacrifice,
the judgment of the world,
and the lifting up that will draw all people to Him.

Some people believe.
Others harden their hearts.

But John explains this hardness fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy
that some would see miracles
yet refuse to believe.

Still, many rulers believe
but fear losing their position
so they remain silent.

Jesus cries out publicly:

“I have come as Light into the world
so that everyone who believes in Me
will not remain in darkness.”

This chapter reveals a sobering truth:

Some follow Jesus boldly.
Some reject Him.
Some believe secretly.
But love that is bold and costly
is the love He honors.

Mary understood His worth.
She let love lead her.
She held nothing back.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 12:1–50

Extravagant Worship + Costly Love

John 12 opens with Mary anointing Jesus’ feet with costly perfume, a year’s wages poured out in a moment of pure devotion. The fragrance fills the house, and her act becomes a picture of love that does not calculate cost. Judas objects, but Jesus defends Mary and honors her worship. Soon after, Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey as crowds shout “Hosanna,” fulfilling prophecy and revealing Him as the humble King.

The chapter shifts as Jesus speaks about His coming death: a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die to bear fruit. He prepares His followers for the reality that His path to glory runs through sacrifice. Some believe in Him. Others reject Him. Still others believe secretly but fear losing their status. Jesus cries out that He is the Light sent to rescue people from darkness. John 12 captures both the tenderness of devotion and the weight of the approaching cross, showing Jesus as the worthy King who will give Himself completely for the world.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What is Jesus inviting me to pour out in love, trust, or devotion, and what holds me back?

How This Meets Your Life Today

Every believer faces moments where love becomes costly:

- giving when it stretches you
- forgiving when it hurts
- choosing Jesus over people’s opinions

- using your gifts without fear
- stepping out in obedience
- surrendering what you treasure
- loving Him boldly and openly

Mary teaches you something vital:

True worship is never cautious.
True love is never calculated.
True devotion is never embarrassed.
True surrender leaves a fragrance.

Mary gave what others thought was waste,
but Jesus called it beautiful.

There will always be voices like Judas:

- questioning
- criticizing
- misunderstanding
- judging

But there is only one voice that matters:

“Leave her alone.”

The voice of Jesus
defending your devotion.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If worship becomes routine or safe, you may:

- hold back what Jesus is asking for
- protect yourself from vulnerability
- hide your devotion
- refuse costly acts of love
- follow Jesus quietly but not boldly
- shrink from obedience

But when love becomes extravagant:

- your relationship deepens
- fear loses power
- your heart softens
- intimacy grows
- your worship becomes real
- your priorities change
- Jesus becomes your treasure

Mary teaches you something simple and profound:

Love pours itself out.
Love is not afraid of cost.
Love leaves a fragrance others cannot ignore.

Reflections

1. What does costly love look like for me today?
2. What am I holding onto that Jesus is inviting me to release?
3. What fragrance does my life leave in the room?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, teach me to love You boldly,
worship You deeply,
and give what costs me something.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Six

Love That Serves

(John 13 — entire chapter)

Journal ready?

“God, show me what real love looks like when it takes action.”

Take a breath.

This chapter shows you what the heart of Jesus looks like up close.

Part Forty-Six: When Love Kneels to Lift You

John opens this scene with one of the most profound statements in Scripture:

“Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

Jesus knows:

- His hour has come
- Judas is preparing to betray Him
- every disciple will flee
- Peter will deny Him
- the cross is hours away

What does He do with His final moments?

He serves.

During supper, Jesus gets up
and removes His outer garment.
He takes a towel
and ties it around Himself.

He kneels.

He pours water into a basin.
He begins washing their feet
one by one.

Feet that will run.
Feet that will falter.
Feet that will wander.

Yet He washes them anyway.

When He reaches Peter, Peter resists:

“Lord, You will never wash my feet.”

Jesus answers:

“If I do not wash you,
you have no part with Me.”

It is not about dirt.
It is about letting Jesus serve you
in ways that feel too intimate,
too humbling,
too undeserved.

After He washes them all,
He puts His robe back on
and sits down at the table.

He asks:

“Do you understand what I have done for you?”

Then He explains:

“You call Me Teacher and Lord,
and you are right.
If I then, the Lord and the Teacher,
washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

Love serves.
Love lowers itself.
Love takes the posture of a servant
even when it deserves honor.

Jesus then reveals that one of them will betray Him.
The room tightens.
He identifies Judas by giving him a dipped piece of bread.

Judas leaves
and John writes:

“And it was night.”

Then Jesus turns to the remaining disciples
and gives them a new commandment:

“Love one another.
Just as I have loved you,
you also are to love one another.”

This is not sentimental love.
This is sacrificial love.

“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

Peter insists he will follow Jesus anywhere,
even to death.

Jesus answers:

“Will you lay down your life for Me?
Truly, truly I say to you,
a rooster will not crow
until you deny Me three times.”

Jesus sees their future failure
and loves them anyway.

This is love that serves.
Love that kneels.
Love that stays.
Love that goes to the cross
for people who do not yet understand
what He is doing for them.

Today’s Scripture (NASB 2020/2023)

John 13:1–38

Extravagant Worship + Costly Love

John 12 opens with Mary anointing Jesus’ feet with costly perfume, a year’s wages poured out in a moment of pure devotion. The fragrance fills the house, and her act becomes a picture of love that does not calculate cost. Judas objects, but Jesus defends Mary and honors her worship. Soon after, Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey as crowds shout “Hosanna,” fulfilling prophecy and revealing Him as the humble King.

The chapter shifts as Jesus speaks about His coming death: a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die to bear fruit. He prepares His followers for the reality that His path to glory runs through sacrifice. Some believe in Him. Others reject Him. Still others believe secretly but fear losing their status. Jesus cries out that He is the Light sent to rescue people from darkness. John 12 captures both the tenderness of devotion and the weight of the approaching cross, showing Jesus as the worthy King who will give Himself completely for the world.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where is Jesus inviting me to take the posture of a servant, even when it feels costly?

How This Meets Your Life Today

This chapter speaks into the places where you struggle with:

- pride
- disappointment
- feeling overlooked
- wanting recognition
- carrying emotional weight
- relational tension
- hurt from others
- fear of vulnerability

Jesus teaches you something simple:

Serving does not diminish you.
It strengthens you.

Humility does not weaken you.
It frees you.

Kneeling does not dishonor you.
It transforms you.

And the love Jesus gives you
is the love He asks you to give.

Not perfect love.
Not polished love.
Not safe love.

Real love.
Serving love.
Costly love.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If love becomes theoretical, you may:

- talk about love but never practice it
- avoid uncomfortable acts of kindness
- withhold service from people who hurt you
- base your love on how you feel
- confuse niceness with Christlike love

Jesus shows you the way:

- love takes initiative
- love steps down
- love washes feet that walked into mistakes
- love forgives in advance
- love chooses humility
- love refuses to shame
- love lifts others up

Jesus is not asking you to become a doormat.
He is asking you to become like Him.

Servant-hearted.
Secure.
Strong.
Willing.

This is the love that changes the world.

Reflections

1. Who is Jesus nudging me to serve with a humble heart?
2. What part of my pride resists being served or serving others?
3. How does this chapter deepen my understanding of love?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, make my love look more like Yours.
Teach me to kneel with grace,
serve with humility,
and love with courage.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Seven

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

(John 14)

Journal ready?

“God, quiet my heart and teach me to trust what You have prepared for me.”

Take a moment to read John 14 in your Bible.

When you finish, come back so we can walk through this together.

Let your breathing slow.

This chapter is Jesus comforting hearts that are afraid, confused,
and unsure of what the future holds.

Just like ours.

Part Forty-Seven: When Jesus Speaks Peace Into Fear

Jesus has just told His disciples that He is leaving.
Their expectations for His kingdom are collapsing.
Their confidence is shaking.
Their hearts are troubled.

Jesus meets their fear with a command that sounds impossible:

“Do not let your heart be troubled.”

But He does not leave them to struggle alone.
He gives them reasons to trust.

“In My Father’s house are many rooms.
I go to prepare a place for you.”

He is making room for them.
Room for you.
Not as a guest.
As family.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again
and receive you to Myself.”

His goal is not to bring you to a place,
but to bring you to Himself.

Thomas interrupts:

“Lord, we do not know where You are going.
How do we know the way?”

Jesus answers:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

He is not giving directions —
He is offering Himself.

Philip asks to see the Father.
Jesus responds with tender grief:

“Have I been with you so long,
and you still do not know Me?
He who has seen Me
has seen the Father.”

Jesus is telling them:

“If you want to know what God is like,
look at Me.”

He promises that those who believe in Him
will do the works He does
and even greater ones
because He is going to the Father.

Then He gives them one of the most personal promises in Scripture:

“I will not leave you as orphans.
I will come to you.”

The Father will send another Helper —
the Holy Spirit —
to live with them
and in them.

The world cannot receive Him,
but they will know Him personally.

Jesus tells them:

“Peace I leave with you.
My peace I give to you.”

Not the world’s kind of peace —
temporary, fragile, circumstantial.
His peace —
steady, anchored, unshakable.

Then He repeats the command:

“Do not let your heart be troubled,
nor let it be afraid.”

This is not denial of hard things.
It is an invitation to trust
a Savior who has already overcome them.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where is my heart troubled, and what would it look like to trust Jesus with that place?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 14 speaks into moments when:

- life feels uncertain
- the future feels unclear
- your heart feels shaken
- anxiety rises
- trust feels difficult
- you cannot see the next step
- you feel alone or abandoned
- your expectations fall apart
- faith feels fragile

Jesus answers these experiences with:

- His preparation
- His presence
- His promise
- His Spirit
- His peace
- His return
- His nearness

He is not asking you to pretend.
He is asking you to trust the One who sees beyond what you can.

Jesus never gives peace by removing trouble.
He gives peace by stepping into it with you.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you let trouble define your heart, you may:

- carry fear you were never meant to hold
- feel abandoned when you are not
- misjudge God’s heart

- assume He is far when He is near
- forget what He promised
- believe peace is impossible
- lose confidence in His love

But when you let Jesus define your heart instead:

- worry weakens
- trust grows
- clarity comes
- peace settles
- fear loses its grip
- your heart rests
- you remember you are never alone

Jesus did not say you will never face trouble.
He said your heart does not have to carry it.

Reflections

1. What part of my heart feels troubled right now?
2. Which promise of Jesus in this chapter do I need most today?
3. How does knowing the Spirit lives within me change how I face my fears?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, settle my heart.
Fill me with Your peace.
Teach me to trust what You have prepared for me.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Eight

Abide in the Vine

(John 15)

Journal ready?

“God, show me what it means to stay connected to You.”

Take a moment to read John 15 in your Bible.

When you finish, come back and let your heart settle into what follows.

This chapter is not about striving.

It is about staying.

It is about life flowing from the only Source that never fails.

Part Forty-Eight: When Life Flows From Staying Close

Jesus and the disciples have just left the upper room.

They are walking toward Gethsemane in the night.

Along the path are vineyards — a familiar sight.

Jesus stops, gestures toward the vines,
and speaks a truth that will anchor His followers for centuries.

“I am the true vine,
and My Father is the vinedresser.”

He is the Source.
The Father is the caretaker.
You are the branch.

This is not a message about working harder.
It is a message about remaining connected.

He says:

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit,
He takes away;
and every branch that bears fruit,
He prunes it
so that it may bear more fruit.”

Pruning is not punishment.
It is preparation.

Anything the Father removes
was slowing your growth,
not strengthening it.

Then Jesus speaks the heart of the chapter:

“Abide in Me,
and I in you.”

Abide means:

- remain
- dwell
- stay connected
- make your home in Him
- let His life flow through you

He continues:

“Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself
unless it remains in the vine,
so neither can you
unless you remain in Me.”

Fruit is the result of connection,
not effort.

“I am the vine,
you are the branches.
The one who remains in Me and I in him
bears much fruit,
for apart from Me
you can do nothing.”

Nothing meaningful.
Nothing eternal.
Nothing truly life-giving.

He then gives a beautiful promise:

“If you remain in Me,
and My words remain in you,
ask whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.”

This is not about getting everything you want.
It is about wanting what He wants
because His life is shaping your desires.

Then He says something tender:

“Just as the Father has loved Me,
I also have loved you.
Remain in My love.”

The love between the Father and the Son
is the same love pouring into you.

He calls you friends,
not servants.

“For all things that I have heard from My Father
I have made known to you.”

You belong inside the circle
of divine love.

He reminds them:

“You did not choose Me,
but I chose you.”

He appointed you
to bear lasting fruit.

Then He gives the central command of the chapter:

“This I command you,
that you love one another.”

He warns them that the world will hate them
because it hated Him first,
but the Helper,
the Spirit of truth,
will testify through them.

This chapter is not a task list.
It is an invitation.

Stay connected.
Stay loved.
Stay close.

Fruit will come.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What part of my life feels disconnected from Jesus, and what would it look like to abide instead of striving?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 15 speaks into moments when:

- you feel spiritually dry
- you feel pressured to perform

- you worry you are not “doing enough”
- you feel disconnected from peace
- you struggle to feel close to God
- you are facing pruning season
- you’re trying to fix things in your own strength

Jesus is teaching you:

- you do not produce fruit
- you bear fruit
- the Father produces it in you
- your job is staying connected
- His job is producing life

When you abide:

- anxiety quiets
- striving stops
- clarity comes
- identity stabilizes
- love grows
- obedience flows naturally
- joy becomes real

Staying close to Jesus
does more for your life
than all your effort combined.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you try to bear fruit apart from Him, you may:

- burn out
- feel spiritually empty
- grow frustrated
- compare yourself to others
- mistake activity for connection
- lose sight of love

But when you abide:

- your life becomes fruitful
- your heart becomes peaceful
- your love becomes deeper
- your purpose becomes clearer
- your prayers become aligned
- your joy becomes full

You were never meant to be your own source.
You were meant to live connected.

Reflections

1. What does abiding look like in my daily life?
2. Where am I striving for results instead of staying connected?
3. What fruit do I see God producing in me recently?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, keep me close.
Let Your life fill mine.
Teach me to abide.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Forty-Nine

The Spirit Who Helps You

(John 16)

Journal ready?

“Holy Spirit, open my eyes and steady my heart as I read.”

Take a moment to read John 16 in your Bible.

When you finish, come back here so we can walk through it together.

This is Jesus preparing His disciples
for life without His physical presence
but with His Spirit dwelling in them.

Part Forty-Nine: When Jesus Promises You Will Never Walk Alone

Jesus begins by telling His disciples hard truth:

Following Him will bring resistance.
Some will misunderstand them.
Some will reject them.
Some will think harming them is serving God.

But He tells them this beforehand
so they will not stumble.

Then He shifts to the promise:

“I am going to Him who sent Me.”

The disciples are grieved,
confused,
and afraid to ask more questions.

Jesus tells them:

“It is to your advantage that I go away.”

This sounds impossible.
How could losing Jesus be better?

He explains:

“If I do not go away,
the Helper will not come to you.
But if I go,
I will send Him to you.”

The Spirit is not a distant force.
He is a Helper:

- Comforter
- Advocate
- Guide
- Teacher
- Strengthenener
- Counselor
- Truth-teller
- Presence of Jesus within you

Jesus continues:

“When He comes,
He will convict the world
regarding sin and righteousness and judgment.”

Not to shame,
but to reveal truth gently and deeply.

Then Jesus says something beautiful:

“I have many more things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now.”

He understands their limits.
He speaks at a pace their hearts can handle.

But He promises:

“When He, the Spirit of truth, comes,
He will guide you into all the truth.”

The Spirit never leads you into confusion
or fear
or deception.
He leads you into clarity and truth.

“He will glorify Me,
for He will take of Mine
and disclose it to you.”

The Spirit’s role is to make Jesus real to your heart.

Then Jesus gives a principle they cannot yet understand:

“A little while, and you will no longer see Me.
And again a little while,
and you will see Me.”

He is speaking of His death and resurrection.
They are confused,
but He comforts them with hope:

“You will weep and mourn,
but your grief will be turned into joy.”

He uses the image of childbirth:

A woman suffers pain,
but when the child is born,
her joy replaces the sorrow.

He continues:

“You have sorrow now,
but I will see you again,
and your heart will rejoice,
and no one will take your joy away.”

This is resurrection joy —
deep, strong, untouchable.

Jesus gives them confidence in prayer:

“Whatever you ask of the Father in My name,
He will give it to you.”

They answer with renewed faith,
saying they now believe He came from God.

But Jesus tells them gently:

“You will be scattered,
each to your own home,
and leave Me alone.
And yet I am not alone,
because the Father is with Me.”

Then He ends with one of the most powerful promises in all Scripture:

“These things I have spoken to you
so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation,
but take courage;
I have overcome the world.”

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I need to trust the Spirit's help instead of relying on my own strength?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 16 speaks directly into places where you feel:

- overwhelmed
- confused
- anxious
- pressured
- spiritually dry
- unsure what to do
- afraid of the future
- disappointed in yourself
- unclear about God's guidance

Jesus wants you to know:

- You are not alone.
- The Spirit helps you.
- The Spirit teaches you.
- The Spirit strengthens you.
- The Spirit brings clarity.
- The Spirit reveals Jesus to you.
- The Spirit guides your decisions.
- The Spirit fills you with courage.

You do not follow Jesus alone.

You follow Him with His Spirit inside you.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you rely only on yourself, you may:

- feel like faith depends on your ability
- fear disappointing God
- misunderstand your purpose
- burn out
- get stuck in confusion
- follow your feelings instead of truth

But when you rely on the Spirit:

- peace rises
- courage returns
- clarity comes
- truth becomes alive
- decisions become clearer
- joy grows

- you walk with confidence
- you know Jesus more intimately

The Spirit is not an extra.
He is essential.
He is Jesus with you
and Jesus in you.

Reflections

1. What situation do I need the Spirit's guidance for right now?
2. Where have I been trying to handle things alone?
3. What does it look like to let the Spirit comfort and strengthen me?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Holy Spirit, guide me into truth.
Strengthen my heart.
Make Jesus real to me today.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Fifty

The Prayer Jesus Prayed for You

(John 17)

Journal ready?

“Jesus, open my heart to receive the prayer You prayed over me.”

Take a moment to read John 17 in your Bible.

When you finish, come back so we can walk through this together.

This chapter is holy ground.
Jesus is hours away from the cross,
speaking directly to the Father,
with you in His heart and on His mind.

Part Fifty: When Jesus Prays What Your Heart Most Needs

John 17 is often called “The High Priestly Prayer,”
but it is even more than that.

It is the Son speaking to the Father
with complete love, unity, and clarity
about His mission, His disciples,
and every future believer
who would come to faith through their message.

Including you.

The prayer begins with Jesus speaking of glory:

“Father, the hour has come.
Glorify Your Son
so that the Son may glorify You.”

Glory is not spotlight.
Glory is the revelation of God’s goodness and truth.

Jesus speaks of eternal life:

“This is eternal life,
that they may know You,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Eternal life is not mainly about heaven.
It is about knowing God now.

Then Jesus prays for the disciples:

“I have manifested Your name
to the men whom You gave Me.”

He asks the Father to protect them:

“Keep them in Your name.”

He acknowledges that the world will hate them
because they are not of the world,
just as He is not of the world.

Then He prays:

“Sanctify them in the truth;
Your word is truth.”

This is not a prayer that they become perfect,
but that they become set apart
by truth
in a world drowning in confusion.

Now the prayer expands.
Jesus lifts His eyes to the future
and prays for every believer
who will ever trust Him.

That is where you enter the prayer.

“I do not ask for these alone,
but for those also who believe in Me
through their word.”

He prays for unity:

“That they may all be one,
just as You, Father, are in Me
and I in You.”

Not organizational unity.
Not uniformity.
Heart unity.
Spiritual unity.
Unity created by shared love and shared truth.

He gives the reason:

“So that the world may believe
that You sent Me.”

The unity of believers
is the testimony of Jesus to the world.

Then Jesus gives one of the most breathtaking prayers in Scripture:

“Father, I desire that they also,
whom You have given Me,
be with Me where I am,
so that they may see My glory.”

He wants you with Him.
He wants you near.
He wants you home with Him forever.

Jesus ends the prayer by saying:

“I have made Your name known to them,
and will make it known,
so that the love with which You loved Me
may be in them,
and I in them.”

The same love the Father has for the Son
is placed inside you.

This chapter is Jesus drawing you into the heart
of the Father,
the Son,
and the Spirit.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Which part of Jesus’ prayer speaks most directly to my heart right now, and why?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 17 speaks into moments when you feel:

- unseen
- unworthy
- insecure
- spiritually weak
- alone
- unsure of God’s love
- afraid of the future
- overwhelmed by the world’s pressure

Jesus’ prayer answers all of these fears.

He prays:

- that you would know God
- that you would be protected
- that you would be strengthened
- that you would be sanctified in truth
- that you would experience unity with other believers
- that you would feel the same love the Father has for Him
- that you would be with Him forever

Jesus did not pray this out of duty.
He prayed it out of love.

You are not outside His care.
You are inside His prayer.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you forget Jesus' prayer, you may:

- live as if you are unprotected
- believe you are unloved
- feel far from God
- think you must hold everything together
- walk without confidence
- misunderstand your place in God's family

But when you remember His prayer:

- confidence rises
- fear quiets
- identity deepens
- truth anchors your thoughts
- love becomes your foundation
- unity becomes your posture
- hope becomes steady
- prayer becomes relational

Jesus prayed for you
before you were born.
He prayed what your heart would need.
He prayed what the Father already desired.

And the Father is answering that prayer
every day of your life.

Reflections

1. What phrase in this chapter feels like it was written specifically for me?
2. How does knowing Jesus prayed for me change how I see myself?

3. Where do I need to trust the Father's love the way Jesus describes it?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Father, let the love You have for Jesus
fill my heart today.
Make His prayer my reality.
Keep me close to You.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Fifty-One

Betrayal, Courage, and Truth

(John 18)

Journal ready?

“Jesus, help me see the depth of Your courage and the beauty of Your truth.”

Take a moment to read John 18 in your Bible.

When you finish, come back so we can walk through this together.

What unfolds in this chapter is not chaos.

It is choice.

It is courage.

It is the Lamb walking willingly into the darkness
to break its power forever.

Part Fifty-One: When Darkness Comes, Jesus Stands Firm

John 18 begins in the quiet of a garden —
the place Jesus often met with His disciples.

A place of prayer.

A place of intimacy.

A place Judas knows well.

Judas arrives with soldiers, lanterns, and weapons.
He brings a crowd to capture the Light of the world.

But Jesus steps forward.

He does not hide.

He does not retreat.

He does not wait for them to call His name.

“Whom are you seeking?”

“Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus answers:

“I am.”

And the entire crowd draws back
and falls to the ground.

The One they came to arrest
stands in total authority.

He asks again:

“Whom are you seeking?”

They repeat their answer,
and Jesus responds:

“I told you that I am.
So if you are seeking Me,
let these men go.”

Even in arrest,
He protects His disciples.

Peter reacts with passion,
pulling a sword
and striking the servant of the high priest.

Jesus stops him:

“Put your sword into the sheath.
Shall I not drink the cup
the Father has given Me?”

Jesus is not a victim.
He is a willing sacrifice.

He is taken first to Annas,
then to Caiaphas.

Meanwhile, Peter follows at a distance.
A servant girl questions him:

“You are not also one of this Man’s disciples, are you?”

Peter answers:

“I am not.”

Two more times the question is asked,
and two more times Peter denies Jesus.

Then the rooster crows.

Not as punishment.
As prophecy fulfilled.
As a doorway to future restoration.

Jesus is brought before Pilate.
The religious leaders refuse to enter Pilate’s residence
because they want to remain ceremonially clean
for Passover.

They are preparing to celebrate
the shadow of deliverance
while rejecting the Deliverer Himself.

Pilate questions Jesus privately.

“Are You the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answers with clarity:

“My kingdom is not of this world.”

Pilate asks:

“So You are a king?”

Jesus replies:

“For this I have been born,
and for this I have come into the world,
to testify to the truth.
Everyone who is of the truth
hears My voice.”

Pilate responds with the question
that still echoes through human history:

“What is truth?”

Pilate finds no guilt in Jesus,
but the crowd demands Barabbas instead.

In the face of betrayal, denial, accusation, and injustice,
Jesus stands firm.

He walks into darkness
so that you never have to walk into darkness alone.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I need the courage of Jesus in my life right now?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 18 speaks into moments when:

- you feel betrayed
- you feel misunderstood
- people question your motives
- someone’s actions wounded you

- you've denied Jesus in fear or weakness
- the world feels unjust
- courage feels far away
- truth feels under attack

Jesus shows you:

- He is not shaken by darkness
- He is not surprised by betrayal
- He is not undone by denial
- He is not intimidated by power
- He walks willingly into suffering
- He protects you even while He is being arrested
- He stands in truth even when truth is mocked

Jesus does not only teach courage.
He embodies it.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If fear leads your decisions, you may:

- shrink back from obedience
- feel powerless when opposition rises
- hide your faith
- deny who Jesus is in you
- follow at a distance like Peter
- feel unworthy because of failure

But Jesus' courage strengthens your heart:

- He stood firm so you can stand firm
- He spoke truth so you can speak truth
- He faced darkness so you never face it alone
- He protected you even in your weakness
- He walked the path you could not walk
- He covers your failures with future restoration

This chapter shows you what it means
to follow a Savior who is brave,
steady,
and sovereign.

Nothing in this chapter happens by accident.
It is all love.

Reflections

1. Where am I tempted to follow Jesus at a distance?

2. What situation in my life requires courage right now?
3. What truth do I need to stand on even when it is unpopular?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out to you:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, give me courage where I feel weak.
Help me stand in truth,
walk in Your strength,
and trust Your leadership.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Fifty-Two

The Crucified King

(John 19)

Journal ready?

“Jesus, help me see Your love in the sacrifice You made for me.”

Take a moment to read John 19 in your Bible.

When you finish, return so we can walk through this sacred moment together.

This is the chapter everything has been building toward.
The King is not crowned by men,
but by suffering.
Not lifted onto a throne,
but onto a cross.
And in this, He is victorious.

Part Fifty-Two: When Love Suffers and Kingship is Revealed

John 19 opens with brutality.
Pilate has Jesus scourged.
Roman soldiers twist thorns into a crown
and press it into His head.
They drape a purple robe over His torn back
and mock Him:

“Hail, King of the Jews.”

They strike Him with their hands.

Pilate brings Him before the crowd
hoping pity will soften their rage.
He says:

“Behold, the Man.”

But the crowd shouts:

“Crucify Him.”

Pilate again declares:

“I find no guilt in Him.”

The Jewish leaders insist:

“He has to die
because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.”

Fear rises in Pilate,
but pressure wins.
He asks Jesus questions,
but Jesus answers with quiet authority:

“You would have no authority over Me
unless it had been given from above.”

Jesus is not powerless.
He is purposeful.

Pilate attempts to release Him,
but the crowd threatens political consequences.

So Pilate brings Jesus out,
sits on the judgment seat,
and announces:

“Behold, your King.”

The crowd cries:

“We have no king but Caesar.”

With those words,
religion aligns with empire
to destroy the One who came to save them.

Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified.

The Crucifixion

Jesus carries His own cross
to the place called Golgotha.
They nail Him to it.
Two criminals beside Him.

Pilate places a sign over His head:

“Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews.”

The leaders demand it be changed.
Pilate refuses:

“What I have written,
I have written.”

Even in mockery,
truth stands firm.

The soldiers divide Jesus' clothing
but cast lots for His seamless tunic,
fulfilling Scripture:

“They divided My outer garments among them,
and for My clothing they cast lots.”

Standing near the cross are
His mother Mary,
her sister,
Mary Magdalene,
and the disciple John.

Jesus sees them and says:

“Woman, behold, your son.”

Then to John:

“Behold, your mother.”

Even in crucifixion,
He cares for their future.

Jesus knows all is now fulfilled.

He says:

“I am thirsty.”

They lift a sponge of sour wine.
He receives it,
then speaks the words that change history:

“It is finished.”

He bows His head
and gives up His spirit.

He does not die defeated.
He dies victorious.

Because it is finished:

- sin's debt is paid
- the curse is broken
- the separation ends
- the path to the Father is opened
- the enemy is crushed
- redemption is complete

A soldier pierces Jesus' side
and blood and water flow out —

a sign of His real death
and the cleansing He provides.

Joseph of Arimathea
and Nicodemus
take His body
and wrap it with spices
according to Jewish burial custom.

They place Him in a new tomb
in a garden
near the place of crucifixion.

The world goes silent.

But heaven is preparing resurrection.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
What part of Jesus' sacrifice stands out to me most today, and how does it change how I see His love?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 19 speaks into the deepest places of your soul:

- guilt you still carry
- shame you do not need
- fear of rejection
- wounds from the past
- lies about your worth
- doubts about being forgiven
- insecurity about God's love
- feeling unworthy to approach Him

The cross answers all of these.

Jesus was mocked
so you could be honored.

Jesus was rejected
so you could be accepted.

Jesus was wounded
so you could be healed.

Jesus was condemned
so you could be forgiven.

Jesus was abandoned
so you could be brought near.

Jesus died
so you could live.

This is not symbolic.
It is real.
And it was done for you.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you forget the cross, you may:

- try to earn God's approval
- carry shame Jesus already paid for
- believe lies about your identity
- struggle with forgiveness
- doubt God's love
- fear punishment
- feel unworthy of grace

But when the cross becomes personal:

- your identity stabilizes
- love takes root
- shame loses its voice
- forgiveness becomes real
- your prayers grow bold
- fear collapses
- hope rises
- your heart softens
- worship becomes natural

The cross is not a moment of weakness.
It is the throne room of love.

Jesus reigns from a cross
because He came to save,
not destroy.

This is the Crucified King.

Reflections

1. What part of John 19 moves my heart most deeply?
2. How does the cross reshape how I see myself?
3. What lies do I need to lay down at the foot of the cross today?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, thank You for the cross.
Thank You for love that suffers,
redeems,
and finishes what it starts.
Help me live under the freedom You paid for.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Fifty-Three

The Risen Jesus

(John 20)

Journal ready?

“Jesus, open my eyes to recognize You the way Your followers did that morning.”

Take a moment to read John 20 in your Bible.

When you finish, come back so we can walk through it together.

This chapter is the heartbeat of the gospel.

If John 19 is the price of love,

John 20 is the victory of love.

Part Fifty-Three: When the One You Thought Was Gone Calls Your Name

Early on the first day of the week,
while it is still dark,
Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb.

The stone is rolled away.
The body is gone.

She runs to Peter and John:

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

Peter and John run.
John arrives first,
looks in,
and sees the linen wrappings.
Peter arrives
and enters the tomb boldly.

The grave clothes are still there.
But the body is not.

John sees
and believes.

Then the disciples go back home,
still trying to understand.

But Mary remains.

She stands outside the tomb
weeping.

This is love that does not walk away easily.

She looks into the tomb
and sees two angels.

They ask:

“Woman, why are you weeping?”

She answers:

“Because they have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

She turns around
and Jesus is standing there.
But she does not recognize Him.

He asks:

“Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you seeking?”

She thinks He is the gardener
and begs for the body.

Then Jesus says one word:

“Mary.”

And everything changes.

Her eyes open.
Her heart leaps.
Her grief turns to joy.

She exclaims:

“Rabboni”
which means Teacher.

Jesus tells her not to cling to Him physically,
because He has not yet ascended to the Father.

But He sends her with a message:

“Go to My brothers
and say to them,
‘I ascend to My Father and your Father,
and My God and your God.’”

Mary becomes the first witness
and the first preacher
of the resurrection.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

That evening,
the disciples are hiding behind locked doors
in fear.

Jesus appears in the room
without opening the door.

He speaks the words they need most:

“Peace be with you.”

He shows them His hands and His side.
He breathes on them
and says:

“Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Fear turns into courage.

Thomas Encounters the Risen Jesus

Thomas was not there that night.
The others tell him:

“We have seen the Lord.”

But he cannot believe it.
Pain, disappointment, and doubt
create a wall in his heart.

He says:

“Unless I see the mark of the nails
and put my hand into His side,
I will not believe.”

Eight days later,
Jesus returns.

He goes straight to Thomas.

“Reach here with your finger.
See My hands.
Reach your hand and put it into My side.
Do not be unbelieving,
but believing.”

Thomas falls, overwhelmed:

“My Lord and my God.”

Jesus replies:

“Because you have seen Me,
have you believed?
Blessed are those who did not see,
and yet believed.”

That includes you.

John ends the chapter by explaining
that these signs were written
so that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God,
and that by believing
you may have life in His name.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where do I need Jesus to call my name and open my eyes the way He did for Mary and Thomas?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 20 speaks into moments when:

- you feel like hope has died
- God seems silent
- prayers feel unanswered
- grief feels overwhelming
- faith feels fragile
- doubt feels heavy
- fear keeps you hiding
- you want to believe but struggle

Jesus answers these with:

- presence
- peace
- tenderness

- truth
- patience
- personal calling
- resurrection power

Mary shows you that Jesus calls your name.

Thomas shows you that Jesus meets your doubts.

The disciples show you that Jesus steps into locked places.

The resurrection is not just an event.

It is a Person

who stands in front of you

and speaks peace.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If you forget the resurrection, you may:

- live as if death still wins
- stay stuck in shame or fear
- assume God is distant
- let grief define your story
- believe doubt disqualifies you
- hide behind locked emotional doors

But when the resurrection becomes personal:

- fear loses its grip
- hope rises again
- faith becomes real
- your name sounds different when He speaks it
- Jesus becomes alive in your heart, not just in history
- your story becomes a testimony
- you realize you are loved in your doubt, not just your strength

You follow a living Savior.

A risen King.

A present God.

A voice that still calls your name.

Reflections

1. What part of the resurrection story touches my heart most?
2. Where is Jesus inviting me to believe again?
3. What locked place in my heart needs His peace?

Strong's Links

Explore any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, You are alive.

Call my name.

Speak peace into every locked place.

Let resurrection life rise in me.”

Amen!

JESUS JOURNEY – Lesson Fifty-Four

The Restoration of Your Calling

(John 21)

Journal ready?

“Jesus, restore whatever shame or failure tried to take from me.”

Take a moment to read John 21 in your Bible.

When you finish, return so we can walk through it together.

This chapter is healing.

This chapter is personal.

This chapter is Jesus doing for Peter

what He also does for you —

restoring what failure tried to define.

Part Fifty-Four: When Jesus Rebuilds What You Thought Was Ruined

After the resurrection,
the disciples return to Galilee
just as Jesus told them.

Peter announces:

“I am going fishing.”

This is more than an activity.
It is a retreat into the familiar
after the weight of failure, confusion, and change.

The others follow him onto the boat.

They fish all night
and catch nothing.

Early in the morning,
Jesus stands on the shore,
but they do not recognize Him.

He calls out:

“Children, do you have any fish?”

“No,” they answer.

He says:

“Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat,
and you will find a catch.”

They obey.

The net fills instantly
with so many fish
they can barely lift it.

John whispers:

“It is the Lord.”

Peter, overwhelmed with joy,
throws on his outer garment
and dives into the water
to reach Jesus as fast as possible.

On shore, they find a charcoal fire
with fish and bread prepared.

Pause for a moment.

Peter denied Jesus beside a charcoal fire.
Jesus restores him beside a charcoal fire.

Grace is intentional.

“Bring some of the fish you have caught,”
Jesus says
even though He already provided His own.

He invites partnership,
not performance.

Then Jesus says:

“Come and have breakfast.”

The King of glory
cooks for His friends.

He breaks bread with them again,
quiet, gentle, close.

Peter’s Restoration

After breakfast,
Jesus turns to Peter.

“Simon, son of John,
do you love Me more than these?”

“Lord, You know that I love You.”

“Feed My lambs.”

A second time Jesus asks:

“Do you love Me?”

“Lord, You know that I love You.”

“Shepherd My sheep.”

A third time Jesus asks:

“Do you love Me?”

Peter is grieved
because Jesus asks three times,
mirroring his three denials.

But this grief is not punishment.
It is healing.

“Lord, You know all things.
You know that I love You.”

Jesus replies:

“Feed My sheep.”

Three denials.
Three affirmations.
Three commissions.

Jesus restores Peter’s calling
exactly where it broke.

Then He gives Peter a sober, loving prophecy
about the cost of following Him.

Peter turns and sees John
and asks about his future.

Jesus answers:

“If I want him to remain until I come,
what is that to you?
You follow Me.”

Their callings are not the same.
Their paths are not identical.

Jesus gently redirects Peter:

Do not compare.
Do not compete.
Do not look around you.
Look at Me.

Your calling
is your calling.

The chapter ends by reminding the reader
that Jesus did many more things,
so many that the world itself
could not contain the books
if they were written.

The story ends with abundance.
With fellowship.
With calling.
With restoration.

Because that is what resurrection looks like
in a human heart.

A Thought for Your Journal

Write the question below in your journal, then write whatever comes to your mind as your answer:
Where is Jesus restoring my calling, and what step is He inviting me to take next?

How This Meets Your Life Today

John 21 speaks into places where you feel:

- disqualified
- ashamed
- like you let God down
- unsure about your purpose
- discouraged by your failures
- unsure how to start again
- tempted to return to old patterns
- stuck in comparison
- afraid you missed your calling

Jesus answers all of these with:

- gentleness
- presence
- truth
- provision
- renewal

- personal calling
- restored identity
- a fresh beginning

Peter's failure was real.

But Jesus' restoration was stronger.

Your failure is not the end of your story either.

Why This Matters for Your Life

If shame defines you, you may:

- withdraw
- stay silent
- avoid spiritual responsibility
- settle for less
- believe you are disqualified
- compare yourself to others
- hide instead of healing
- assume God is disappointed

But when Jesus restores you:

- your calling awakens
- courage returns
- shame loses its voice
- identity is reclaimed
- purpose becomes clear
- comparison dies
- love grows
- obedience becomes natural
- you start fresh with His blessing

Jesus does not just forgive you.

He reinstates you.

He returns your voice.

He restores your confidence.

He rebuilds your calling.

And He does it with breakfast on the shore,
not punishment in the courtroom.

Reflections

1. What failure or disappointment does Jesus want to heal in me?
2. What calling is He bringing back to life in this season?
3. What comparison do I need to release so I can follow Him freely?

Strong's Links

Study any word that stands out:

Blue Letter Bible

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Bible Hub

<https://biblehub.com>

“Jesus, restore my heart,
renew my calling,
and teach me to follow You
without comparison or fear.”

Amen!

