

## Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

### Fourth Quarter 2024: *Themes in the Gospel of John*

### Lesson 6 “More Testimonies About Jesus”

#### Read for this week’s study

John 3:25–36; John 1:32–36; Daniel 7:18; John 6:51–71; John 5:36–38; John 7:37–53.

#### Memory Text

“ ‘And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself’ ” (John 12:32, NKJV).

#### Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Humility of Soul: John the Baptist Testifies Again
- III. A New Understanding of the Messiah
- IV. Acceptance and Rejection
- V. The Witness of the Father
- VI. The Witness of the Crowd
- VII. Further Study

#### Questions and Notes for Consideration

##### Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. This week’s lesson looks at some of those who witnessed and testified about Jesus. In each of these incidents, some aspects of who Jesus really is are revealed. (Sabbath Afternoon’s Lesson)
2. One would expect in John that the Baptist, having fulfilled his mission to point to someone greater, would disappear from the narrative, but he reappears a couple of chapters later. Read John 3:25-36. How does the Baptist compare himself to Jesus? (Sunday’s Lesson)
3. Read John 1:32-36. What does the Baptist say here that is contrary to the people’s expectations? How is it possible that the Baptist “did not know” Jesus if they were cousins? How could they be cousins when they belonged to different tribes (Jesus was from Judah, the tribe of David, Zechariah was a priest, from the tribe of Levi)? If Jesus is fully equal with God, in what sense can He be called the “Son of God”? (Monday’s Lesson)

4. Lesson 2 described the feeding of the 5000 in John, chapter 6, but didn't cover the final section of that story, John 6:51-71. Jesus' interpretation of the feeding miracle caused a mass exodus from His following. What was the issue that people had trouble accepting? What does Jesus mean when He says that the bread from heaven is His flesh (John 6:51)? If Jesus came to reveal what God is like, why does He so often speak in cryptic riddles in the Gospel of John? (Tuesday's Lesson)
5. Read John 5:37-38. Jesus says that the Father bears witness to Jesus. But if Jesus' hearers have never seen, heard or touched God the Father, how is it that the Father testifies about Jesus? Read John 5:36. How does this verse answer the previous question? On the rare occasions that the Father does speak to people directly, what does He say about Jesus (Matt 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22; 2 Pet 1:17-18; John 12:28)? (Wednesday's Lesson)
6. Read John 7:37-53. What was Jesus claiming in this statement? What was the response of many in the temple crowd? Many in Jesus' day debated whether He came from Bethlehem or Nazareth. According to John, where did Jesus come from? What attitude did the religious leaders have toward the common believers in their religion? (Thursday's Lesson)
7. In *Desire of Ages*, 393, Ellen White says, "To leave Jesus was to fall among sticklers for rites and ceremonies, and ambitious men who sought their own glory." What do you understand her to be saying? (Friday's Lesson)
8. Why, in the face of the evidence available, did some accept Jesus as the Messiah and others reject Him? (Friday's Lesson)
9. Why is it important for faith to repeatedly recount the things God has done in our own lives? (Friday's Lesson)

### Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

Obviously Jesus did not die to win His Father. And how clear Paul is on this. Look quickly at the remaining verses. Second Corinthians 5:19: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." (RSV) Nowhere ever does the Bible suggest that God had to be reconciled to us. Never once! But God paid the price to reconcile us to Himself! Nor did Jesus die to pay some mere legal penalty. He died to reveal the truth about God and the falsity of Satan's charges. And even the angels had to learn this. Look at Colossians 1:20: ". . . and through him to reconcile to himself **all things, whether on earth or in heaven**, [emphasis supplied] making peace [not war, but, making peace] by the blood of his cross." (RSV)

As Jesus said in the next verse, John 12:32: "When I am lifted up from the earth I will draw everyone to me" (GNT). Not all men, everyone in the whole family of the universe. You see, viewed in the larger setting of the Great Controversy the way in which Jesus suffered and died

is the greatest revelation of the truth about God and His government that the universe will ever see or ever need. Correctly understood, the message of the cross is final defeat for the adversary. No wonder Satan has worked so hard to obscure and misrepresent and even pervert the meaning of the cross.

But to some of us, the cross is great good news. Yes, it is true that sinners will die, but we have no need to be afraid of God; and He died to prove it. And this message has great power to win to repentance and to trust. Paul was so proud of this good news. Look at his understanding of it in the last verses. 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18:

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel [what is the gospel, the good news, about?], and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ [that's the gospel] be emptied of its power [his good news has great power]. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (RSV)

Now compare with that Romans 1:16, that very famous righteousness by faith verse:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel [this good news]: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith [wherein lies the power?]. . . . For in it [something is revealed] the righteousness of God is revealed. (RSV)

The good news is that God is not the unrighteous kind of person His enemies have made Him out to be. And it's so wonderful to see all through the Bible that even before the cross God had good friends who trusted Him always to do the right thing, the merciful thing, and they were proud to know him and proud to speak about Him to others. Look at Jeremiah 9:24:

Let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord. (NIV)

{Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Conversations About God, #8, "The Most Costly and Convincing Evidence" recorded March 1984, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link: <http://pkp.cc/8MMCAG>*

### **Further Study with Ellen White**

When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be

known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. {SD 23.2}

Christ is ready to impart all heavenly influences. He knows every temptation that comes to man, and the capabilities of every human agent. He weighs his strength. He sees the present and the future, and presents before the mind the obligations that should be met, and urges that common, earthly things shall not be permitted to be so absorbing that eternal things shall be lost out of reckoning. {SD 23.3}

“The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.” Matthew 20:28. Christ’s work below is His work above, and our reward for working with Him in this world will be the greater power and wider privilege of working with Him in the world to come. {Ed 308.1}

Jesus has given us an example in His life of purity and perfect holiness. The most exalted being in heaven, He was the most ready to serve. The most honored, He humbled Himself to minister to those who a short time before had been disputing as to who should be the greatest in His kingdom. {TDG 192.6}

We receive Christ through His word, and the Holy Spirit is given to open the word of God to our understanding, and bring home its truths to our hearts. We are to pray day by day that as we read His word, God will send His Spirit to reveal to us the truth that will strengthen our souls for the day’s need. {MB 112.3}

God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfill the requirements of God. {DA 251.1}