

7 Iam's, 7 Miracles & 7 Encounters

Bread of Life

Continuing thoughts:

John 4:34 My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me.

- What is the will of God, the Father?
- Making of disciples, ie. People who are forgiven and forgivers.
 - Consider the Lord's Prayer...give us this day our daily bread [will of the Father]. Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors.
 - Reconciliation is God's main objective through Christ.

John 6:55 For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Implication being the result of eating this real food and drink is real life.

- "Real" – lasting, spiritual, pertaining to reality, stuff that makes up what is truly important in life, ie. Relationships, character, condition of the heart, godly perspectives, values, and truthful perceptions
 - Phil.4:8 whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.
 - 6:39, 40 – the Bread of Life will raise us up on the last day
- Application question: how much effort do we put into the spiritual aspect of our lives?
- Is it ok to put off spiritual growth?
- Putting off kingdom priorities is actually being short sighted and even selfish and prideful. These negative qualities cause hindrance to spiritual growth.
- Spiritual life encompasses the physical priorities. "Seek first the kingdom of heaven, and all these shall be added to you." Matt.6:33

Light of the World

Light – revelation of God that exposes sin

- Judgments based on truth, ie. God's estimation and perspective
- Human judgment is often times impaired by pride and ignorance (limited data), perhaps an irrational, emotional response.

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- The light of God is based on His holiness and justice, also His omniscience. But even more so, His light is essentially life and love.

- John 1:4, 5 – Jesus [the Word] is the light that shines in the darkness. He helps people find their way to the Father. Thus the Word of God ie. The objective reality/ construct of the cosmos is the source of life of God which gives light (enablement to see) to His creation. This is ultimate truth. This truth makes things visible. This truth makes God visible. This truth reveals God.
- God is light. His Word is the light of the world. The Word of God living in His people makes them shine for others to see the Father and be drawn to Him. More of His people will create more light that shines brighter which will lead them to the Father.
- Eph.4:17-6:20 Children of Light
 - Their thinking is not driven by lusts and impurity
 - The old self is put off.
 - Being made new in the attitudes of the mind, putting on a new self created to be like God in holiness and true righteousness.
 - Truthful in all relationships
 - Deals with anger in a right way
 - Diligent not lazy
 - Build up others according to their needs
 - No bitterness, malice, or immorality
 - Genuine, loving relationships
 - Fights spiritual battles with the armor of God

What’s the difference between “nice guys” and the “children of Light”?

- Beliefs
- Values
- Identity
- On the narrow path that leads to life
- Consistency
- “nice guys” are lukewarm; Lord said to be hot or cold, not “nice”
- children of Light have made a decision to follow and live in the light; a commitment has been made
- “nice guys” might put limits on how far they will go to be righteous; they will not go all the way; without God, there is not the capacity nor the will to be perfect as the Father is perfect.

May 10, 2004

The Gate and the Good Shepherd

- a gate is an authorized, unique entrance point. Jesus is the authorized entry point into salvation.
- Permission to enter is validation of identity [your retina/heart has been scanned]
- The One who is true is recognized by His own and He knows them by name. There is a personal, relational, intimacy. He leads them and they follow Him.

- **In Christ, His sheep will find freedom and pasture (nourishment to grow). He is the unique source of abundant, eternal life.**
- **Not only is Christ the entry point and source to LIFE but He is a personal Being who knows His own and is knowable by those who listen to Him. He loves His own so much that He laid down His life for them.**
- **As Jesus moves from Bread to Light to Gate then Shepherd, He is introducing the personal dimension of salvation. It is a personal, covenantal relationship of lives interwoven in intimate knowledge of each other. His relationship with the sheep is identical to His relationship with the Father. Oneness is His objective.**
- **Jesus is the Good Shepherd for the Jews and the Gentiles. He is making them into one fold.**
- **There is a relationship between the Gate, the Gate-keeper, and the Good Shepherd.**
- **The Good Shepherd has the authority over His life, death, and resurrection. This is the hallmark of the True Shepherd: death and resurrection.**

The Resurrection and the Life

- Sin results in a life characterized by death
- death is the entry way to resurrection
 - Death is separation.
 - What happens when you die? What happens to the body at the point of death? What happens to your consciousness?
 - Is death final?
 - death is the end for those without Christ
 - it is the beginning for those with Christ
 - death will be swallowed up when the perishable puts on the imperishable and the mortal puts on the immortal
 - he who puts on Christ will experience victory; the firstfruits in this life; the fullest manifestation being the true resurrection
 - it is the identifying of oneself with Christ through baptism [denying self, picking up the cross, following Him and His ways], that we live and never die. Emphasis being on the here and now [11:23, 24].
 - Rom. 6:5-10 Uniting with Christ in death and resurrection
 - Without resurrection, we continue to live in the death cycles of human thinking and the futilities of human efforts
- What is life
 - Life is having purpose
 - “If you have nothing to die for, you have nothing to live for.”
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr
 - The only purpose worthy of life is living to God.
 - If not living to God, you’re already dead, ie. The walking dead.
 - Life involves growth.

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- Life has the capacity for reproduction
- Life wants to give life and light to others
 - Life wants to help others receive the light (spiritual sight to see)
 - Life through Jesus makes everything known
- Life involves being connected to the reality of people's lives, ie. The conditions revealed by the truth of God's word; accurate assessment of worth and value of people's motives, actions, and lifestyles.

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

- Jesus is the way to become one with the Father
 - So that the works of the Father may be manifested in us (14:10)
 - Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus would bring His followers to the Father
- Jesus is the truthful knowledge of God
 - Through Jesus, we receive the knowledge (oneness) of God, His will, His commandments, His works
 - Through the Holy Spirit, we receive the truth in a Person who works **in** us to create a heart and spirit to obey God
 - The truth frees us to obey God.
- Jesus is the life of God
 - Jesus makes available His relationship with God. This is inviting us into the intimate life of the CEO, an all access pass to the boundless resources of omnipotence and omniscience.
 - The Father and the Son will make their home **in** us through the Holy Spirit so that we will become a temple where God dwells.

IN

- Operative word is **IN**
- The all important thing is Him being **IN** us, and we being **IN** Him.

The True Vine

- “remaining” or “abiding” in the Vine – emphasizing He is the source, the unique source of nourishment; no other way to live in this corrupted world; rejuvenation, renewal is found in remaining in Him
 - ‡ gotta be plugged into the source
 - ‡ result is learning what it means to love God which is having His will and obeying His command to love as He loves.
 - ‡ Ultimately to love sacrificially
 - ‡ This makes us a friend of God
 - ‡ This is the Master's business – growing the fruit of divine love
 - ‡ **The Master makes explicit His intentions and goals. He chooses, appoints, and directs His followers to bear lasting fruit, ie. The**

- **Today we're given His word, thus we are privy to His business. As we are in Jesus and one with Him, He has made known the Father's business through the Word of God – NOW GO DO HIS BUSINESS, LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**
- **HIS WORD IS TO BE LIVING [ABIDING, REMAINING] IN US – COMMANDING US TO LOVE AS HE LOVES.**
- **Why does the world hate Christ and His disciples? Why is there persecution?**
 - ‡ **He didn't give the world any reason. Man craves darkness and runs from the light. The Light convicts of sin. The world knows not the way of love. What it feeds its people are the ways of self-destruction.**
- **What is ultimate truth? Is Jesus just an option? Are there other sources to eternal life? Is there eternal life?**
- **What is the world?**
- **Identification. The world has convoluted ideas of who we are. The Bible clearly delineates what man's true identity should be.**
- **God is redeeming mankind by giving a new identity in Christ – to be a loving ruler.**

Miracles: indicators of what Jesus (the Word Incarnate) will do when people believe / receive Him

As you work on each passage, use the following guidelines:

- use context to find the significance and relevance of the miracle
- synthesize findings with overall theme found in the "I am's"

1. Jesus turns the water to wine

- a. miracle was preceded by "Word to flesh" prologue, John the Baptist's testimony, and calling of certain disciples where their name was changed.
- b. transformation of contents in the jars
 - i. water – the cleansing word
 - ii. wine – joy of celebration of a union
 - iii. application of the word of cleansing results in joyous life
 - iv. the wedding event – a union; foreshadowing of the union of Deity and humanity, ie. the marriage between Christ and His Church
 - v. what Jesus gives is always of the highest quality
 - vi. Jesus is in the business of transformation into the highest quality
 1. if Jesus is not central, result is inferior quality
 - vii. Old wine in old wine skins; new wine in new skins
 - viii. Though Jesus had a higher agenda, He still performed this miracle for His mother's sake; He made a connection to what was going on around Him. He met a practical need.
- c. this miracle was followed by Jesus' clearing of the temple; a reference to cleansing, a cleansing of the temple – clearing out the market from His Father's house. This would result in a rebirth, regeneration as the temple is

once again dedicated to true worship and not a place to make money. The sacred place of our hearts (the temple) must not be used to make money but rather the giving of the whole self to the Father.

d. this was a miracle that resulted not from Jesus' own initiative (v.4) but out of a practical necessity, He was put into a position where He would reveal His glory to certain individuals.

e. miracle indicative of what the Word would do once a heart received Him.

2. Jesus heals the nobleman's son

a. Miracle followed conversation with Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman. Precedes the healing at the Pool of

b. "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." A negative response perhaps because Jesus was challenging the nobleman's faith. If he was offended (pride), he might've turned away, but he pursued Jesus further and received what he asked for, "Go thy way; thy son liveth."

c. Testing of one's faith results in the revelation of the truthfulness of one's heart.

d. The miracle is one of revival of one near death. Jesus spoke the word and the boy was resuscitated. This strongly indicates the work that the Word incarnate desires to do.

e. Nobleman obeyed Jesus' command which revealed his faith.

f. Nobleman's faith even spread to his entire household – the power of genuine belief. He acted upon God's Word = FAITH

g. With regards to the seven "I am's", if we have faith in who He is, then we will change on the inside by growing in a godly perspective. We will be in a constant process of renewing the mind and heart to become like God, the Father.

i. As we exercise our faith in what and who Jesus claims to be, if we validate His claims, He will convict us to transform to be like Him in our attitudes and perceptions. There will be a dying of our old selves as we become new persons in Christ.

ii. As we walk with Christ and experience His transformation, when we share with others, we will talk the walk, as we share from the reality of what Christ has done in us and through us and even in spite of us.

3. Jesus heals the man at the pool

a. Man sick for 38 years

i. Was he sick because there was no one to help him or was there some other reason?

b. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed

i. Possibly implying that he did not really want to be healed (he did not really want to stop sinning)

ii. The man's answer seemed to indicate an excuse and / or hesitancy to receive healing (through repentance)

c. Jesus got his attention from the pool to Himself

d. Regardless of the man's condition, Jesus healed him, ie. raised him up.

e. The leaders were focused on the mat and the "breaking of the Sabbath."

- i. Pride blinded them from seeing the significance of human life. Rather, it caused them to put the written code so far above people that it became oppressive and inhumane, which was not the intent of the law; rather the law was meant to serve mankind.
- f. The healed man didn't even know who raised him.
- g. Jesus found him later and told him to stop sinning.
 - i. This implied that the man's lameness was directly associated with his sin.
 - ii. Jesus was actually concerned with the man's sin rather than his physical ability.
- h. The Pharisees began escalating their antagonism towards Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath and claimed equality with God.
- i. Personal application:
 - i. When there's a chance to do God's work, don't get caught up in rules and regulations.
 - ii. When we formulate a program, it should promote and generate life rather than be a focus that causes people to become enslaved or it permits people to remain in the same sinful condition (without the life of God).
 - iii. We should be teaching about the discipleship that deals with sin seriously and where repentance is wholehearted so that life can be received.
 - iv. You can be part of God's plan even if you do not have faith. God's word is that which creates faith to save. From the perspective of God's sovereignty, God's plan will always be carried out.
 - v. Is there something hindering your spiritual growth? Do you want to get well? Some people might be stuck somewhere and they're satisfied with where they're at. It can be viewed as complacency which actually indicates unrepentance.

4. Jesus feeds the 5000

- a. a supernatural growth of provisions to meet a physical need but this miracle gave insight into the spiritual power of the Bread of Life.
- b. Jesus' miracles set Him apart as unique, unquestionably divine.
- c. The miracle was not immediately understood, but actually would serve later as a validation for those disciples who understood who He was.
- d. There's no bounds on the Provision of God – age of boy, finances, amount of food – there was actually leftovers; abundance, overflowing
 - i. Grace
 - ii. Life
 - iii. Love
- e. This miracle was primarily for the disciples, secondarily, for the people. Moreover it was a revelation of who He was, the infinite, boundless Grace of God to feed the soul and spirit.
- f. Jesus' question of where to get the food, was to get attention on man's limitation / finiteness.

g. Application: where man comes to his limitation, God just begins with His possibilities.

i. whatever you run out of, when you turn your eyes and focus on Him, He will give you life (that which is righteous and good) in any and every area

ii. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these will be added to you.

iii. He'll take the least that you have and cause it to become overflowing.

iv. Specifically, our sinful condition / the absence of the life of God is where Jesus desires to give us grace.

5. Jesus walks on water

a. The disciples, after feeding the 5000, got into a boat and found themselves in a storm at sea.

i. when feeding people the Word of God, struggles with opposition will occur (the wind and waves represent the power of the masses)

b. Jesus, knowing their situation, went to them walking on the water. He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

i. Jesus doesn't wait for the disciples to call to Him, but rather being mindful of them, goes to them.

c. After the Lord's revelation, the disciples were willing to receive Him.

i. the sheep know the Shepherd and will only listen and follow Him.

ii. They will not follow thieves and robbers

d. Upon receiving Him, they were immediately brought to safety.

i. His presence is refuge and safety, because He is the Truth and Life.

e. When we are getting the Word of God out, there will be storms. God takes the first step to bring about salvation, to make a way to safety. We just need to listen to His voice.

6. Man born blind

a. Why was this man handicapped? born blind for the opportunity for God to work; for Jesus to work; for disciples to work – we are His workmanship created for good works

b. as long as Jesus is in the world, it is day, good works can be done; He is the unique light of the world

c. night can refer to His crucifixion; night can also refer to times when evil is prevalent, and light is not in effect or people are blinded

d. anointed with clay and sent to wash in Siloam [means Sent]; baptism's cleansing enables sight – vision is determined by identity;

- the Light of the World [ie. the One Sent from God] cleanses the heart to see truth and reality

- when we identify with the Light of the World, His identity cleanses us from an earthly identity, a worldly way of looking at things to see what is eternal and true – ultimate reality

- then we will begin to do the works of Him who sent us through Christ

e. unbelief cannot understand and will not understand transformation; cannot give glory to Christ because they are blind. You can't explain sight to a

- f. belief in the Son of God will result in persecution (thrown out) and worship of the Christ
- g. Christ is the determiner of who sees and who does not
 - blind will see; realization and confession of blindness will result in sight
 - those who see will be blind; proclamation of sight apart from Christ will result in blindness to one's need for forgiveness and cleansing
 - when we do not believe in the One Sent [ie. the Light of the World], we are blinding ourselves to the Truth and thus deceiving ourselves so that we can do as we please
- h. we need to acknowledge our blindness; we need God's Spiritual Wisdom, His light, His Word to transform our view from earthly to a cleansed view; to the pure all things are pure; if eyes are light, then whole body is full of light

7. Raising of Lazarus

- a. why did Jesus let Lazarus die?
 - i. The death would not be the final state
 - ii. For the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified thru it
 - iii. In spite of his love for them, He still delayed so that they could see His glory!
- b. Why was Jesus returning to an area where there was persecution and physical danger?
 - i. To Him, there was no danger because He was the Light and He was walking in the light of God's will [knowledge of His Father]
 - ii. Knowing God's will gives confidence and perseverance
 - iii. Disciples were afraid to return to Judea so they were trying to dissuade Jesus from going; they didn't understand anything that Jesus was saying. Thomas pessimistically agrees to go, even if it meant death.
 - iv. For the disciples' sake, Jesus was returning to Judea so that they might believe.
- c. What did Martha believe about Jesus?
 - i. He could've healed her brother
 - ii. That Lazarus would rise at the final resurrection
 - iii. He was the Christ, the Son of God who is to come into the world
 - iv. Jesus told her that He was the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Him, though he may die, shall live [though dying physically would live in the spirit / die to self, live for Christ]. And whoever lives and believes in Him would never die [while living the new life in Christ, one would never experience spiritual death]
- d. Mary and the Jews that were with her believed that Jesus could've healed Lazarus but they thought that his death was final. And thus their sorrow.

Jesus was deeply moved and groaned in the spirit that they were in such despair and hopelessness.

- i. He wept over their perception of death and their blindness to the One who is the resurrection and the life
- e. Through the raising of Lazarus Jesus emphasized the immediacy of resurrection as the result of faith in the One who is the Resurrection and the Life
 - i. In vs.41 & 42, Jesus is giving glory to the Father so that His miracle cannot be seen as something He did alone but in conjunction with the Father as He has always said in the past how He and His Father are one and He always does what His Father does.
 - f. Just as He called Lazarus out of the dead, so He also calls each one of us out of the grave of our sins to set us free from our old identity [grave clothes] of being the living dead. We receive the new clothing of righteousness – the armor of God.
 - i. The clothes we wear reflect our affections – whether of the world or of the Father and all the attitudes that come with it.
 - ii. Stop walking around like you're dead. Live with the hope of eternal life. Walk around with the new attitudes of Christ.

Persons encountered:

1. Simon Peter

- a. 1:40 – brought to Christ by his brother who heard from John, the witness
- b. name was changed from Simon to Peter (Rock)
- c. Jesus saw who Simon would become, not who he was. He was anything
 - i. For us, we should not look at ourselves and others for what we are but rather what we will become in Christ. God looks at what we can become through His Son.
- d. Jesus' introducing a change in character in the leader of the apostle to the Jews was a forth setting of God's main thrust in salvation. Salvation is transformation of who we are, what we are, what we do, what we think; therefore if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation [beginning with a new mind and heart, eventually a new body.]
 - i. The change did not occur until after Christ's resurrection. Transformation is not immediate, not instantaneous but a process where one goes through internal struggle, turmoil, and even daily death to self. But as we live by faith in God's power to save us and raise us up to be new persons, with perseverance, the Holy Spirit works the change of our hearts to become one with Him.
 - ii. "He ain't no rock; but through a long process, he became the rock." He changed from impulsive to impervious.
 - iii. By God's grace, people are made new and alive to be who He desires us to be.
- e. We never know the power behind each potential recipient, i.e. Andrew bringing his brother, who became the great apostle of the early church.

- f. Jesus' first words to Peter were, "Come follow Me." Jesus' last words to Peter were, "You must follow Me."
 - i. Words have the power to forge a person's destiny. But in order to be a blessing, the words must be from a truthful and gracious source.

2. Nathanael

- a. Found by Philip
- b. A practical skeptic – "can anything good come out of..."
- c. But he was willing have an open heart to see if there was something. He responded to Philip's invitation to "Come and see."
- d. Jesus identified Nathanael as a true Israelite, in whom was nothing false. Jesus doesn't flatter. He knows the real identity of a person. He recognized the genuineness of Nathanael's faith and even told him that He knew him before Philip called him. Thus Nathanael believed and even praised Christ.
 - i. Jesus revealed to Nathanael that heaven would open and angels would ascend and descend on the Son of Man. Perhaps Nathanael was meditating on Jacob's Ladder and Jesus was the making the connection between his thoughts under the fig tree with Himself.
 - ii. A true Israelite is one who is not only a descendant of Israel but also not a hypocrite.
 - iii. Jesus didn't mind Nathanael's skepticism. Rather He appreciated his sincerity.
 - 1. Christians should strive to be true, to be real people.
 - 2. Our thought life should not be dualistic in nature. Jesus knows the real us; though we have our weakness, He knows our lives can be changed by His grace. And as a result, He can send us out to touch others.
 - a. The integrity of our faith is strengthened as we grow as believers. Through ups and downs of life experiences, our confidence in the Lord increases so that our faith does not waiver in the midst of volatile circumstances. Without His grace, instead of becoming integral, our faith will become easily shaken and we won't be any good to anybody.

3. Money Changers

- a. Jesus was angry at the misuse of the temple. Instead of a place for worshippers to pray, the area was filled with booths for the selling of animals and the exchanging of money. The outer court, where Gentiles were permitted to enter and pray, had become a marketplace; so that even if the Gentiles wanted to worship, the area was entirely inconducive to quiet reflection and meditation.
 - i. The condition of the temple court was indicative of the people's hearts.
- b. A market place mentality with all of its practices was at work. Profit and greed had become a primary concern and turned a place of prayer and worship into opportunity to take advantage of people's need.

- c. Jesus' act symbolized what He would do to with the true temple, the place of worship, i.e. in a person's spirit and soul.
 - d. Jesus' zeal for His Father's house, the temple, the place of true worship, consumed His being. Because of His intense love for the place where God dwells, Jesus was driven and consumed with the desire to cleanse it. Being holy God, His passion was for its purification.
 - e. By what authority did Jesus have to cleanse the temple? Jesus gave the truest answer by making reference to His death and resurrection as the authoritative base for His right to cleanse the temple. Only God's sacrifice is accepted by God to cleanse the worshipper. Also, being the Son of God, the house belonged to Him. His zeal for His own consumed Him to drive out the evil.
 - i. We would be zealous for the safety and cleanliness of our own homes, and we would be totally in the right for doing so.
 - f. Jesus didn't need the testimony of men to validate His identity. He didn't need anyone's approval because of man's sinfulness.
4. **Nicodemus** ch.3:1-21
- a. Nicodemus came at night. Being a Pharisee, he didn't want to be seen going to Jesus. Nicodemus is mentioned 3 times in the book of John. The second mention is when he stood up for Jesus and the third is when he accompanied Joseph of Arimathea to the tomb. Each mention showed him as growing in maturity and commitment to Jesus.
 - b. Possibly, when he said, "we know You are a teacher who has come from God..." he was referring to some of the sect which he represented that acknowledged Jesus' authority.
 - c. In response to Nicodemus' acknowledgement of Jesus' authority, which was a roundabout way of questioning Jesus' messiahship, Jesus' immediate reply about being born again is implying that what Nicodemus saw in Jesus was not even close to the reality of what had come.
 - i. Jesus cut to the chase and told Nicodemus first what he had to do to truly know Christ's identity.
 - ii. Jesus explained that rebirth occurred through water and the Spirit. Only Spirit could give birth to spirit. This birth is something not controlled by man. Man does not know the Spirit's origin or its destiny but they can observe His power.
 - iii. Rebirth comes through God's revelation of the Son who came from heaven. Those who believe in the One who was lifted up, the One who is the Light come into the world are not condemned but have been reborn with everlasting life.
 - iv. Through this belief, people are saved from darkness. It is natural for people to stay in darkness. But out of His great love, He sent His Son to draw us out. If we come out of the darkness, we will see that God drew us out.
 - v. Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light and sees all the great things that God has done. This last statement corresponds to Nicodemus' first statement of knowing that Jesus was from God.

Jesus was pinpointing the issue of being of the truth and living by it; for truth is of God and the result of God's work in people's lives.

5. Samaritan Woman

- a. Leaving Judea to avoid confrontation with the Pharisees, Jesus headed up north to Galilee. On the way, He stopped by Sychar, a town of Samaria.
 - i. Jesus went to someone who needed to hear the Gospel rather than enter into polemics with opposition; He spoke with a person of second class status and of despised ethnicity, rather than with the esteemed members of society.
 - ii. The time of day was at a point when not many people would be at the well to draw water. The woman probably did not want to be around the town's people because of her shameful past. She was most likely a person without security and protection. She had had 5 husbands, each possibly having put her away with certificates of divorce. And the man she was with at that time, was not even in legal union with her. This strongly indicated that she lacked true love, care, and concern.
 - iii. Coincidentally, Jesus used the analogy of the water and the well. He did not dwell on her state of abject poverty, but rather brought the focus ultimately on Himself. From the offer of living water to His revelation of His messianic identity.
 - iv. Jesus seeks us out. We tend to hide behind our poor attempts to find love (significance and security) in all the wrong places.
 - v. Worship deals with quenching a thirst; the filling of a deep well. True worship is receiving the living water that God gives. Jesus offered living water by which one would never thirst again. True worshippers drink this water and they worship in spirit and truth the God who is Spirit and Truth.
 - vi. The Father seeks true worshippers. Jesus' food is to do the will of the Father, to seek true worshippers and finish the work of the harvest (through His disciples who sow and reap.) The work does not involve individuals but rather it is the work of a corporate body, "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." Our food should also be to do the Father's will, i.e. the work of harvesting. This is true food and it both nourishes and satisfies the soul.
 1. Work is food in the sense that people live and breath their accomplishments and attainments. How often, we find satisfaction and fulfillment in our own deeds and end up placing those things as first priority. It has then become worship. We are a nation that tends to worship our work or play. We work at our play and play at our work. Or we play at our worship and worship our play. Real satisfaction

comes only from worshipping God, ie. doing the will of the Father.

- vii. The harvest occurs when people believe the word of those who testify about Jesus and they also go on to believe because of Jesus' own word. Their belief is the result of the work of the Father in their hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- b. Jesus purposely sought out the Samaritan woman to do the Father's will. If it were up to His disciples, they would've gone around Samaria and never encountered the woman. The Father's will is to bring the Living Water, Jesus, to people who do not appeal to natural estimations, the socially accepted, elitists of the culture. He came for the lost, the sinner. This is actually anybody and everybody. We may hide behind wealth, social status, or other outward appearances, but in reality, in God's full knowledge of our true and eternal condition without Him, we are just like that Samaritan Woman with no one to truly love, protect, and provide us a true eternal dwelling.

6. Jesus' Brothers

- a. After preaching in Capernaum (Galilee) about Himself being the Bread of Life, many disciples turned away in disbelief. But He remained in Galilee and stayed away from the opposition of the Jews in Judea until the Feast of Tabernacles.
- b. His brothers were urging Him to go to the center of attention in Judea and show Himself to a larger more "important" crowd.
 - i. It appeared to be out of jealousy that His brothers were urging Jesus to go. They did not believe Him to be the Messiah.
 - ii. Perhaps they were trying to get Him to prove Himself so that they might see if He was the real King. They were looking for an earthly king.
 - 1. imagine the benefit the brothers might receive if Jesus was truly the King they wanted.
 - 2. this is a timeless problem where people want the God that they want rather than the God who is.
 - iii. Mark 3:20 – 31 Jesus' brothers and mother went to get Him away because they thought He was out of His mind.
- c. Jesus was not going to allow anyone to force Him to be out of His Father's time table. He went up to the Feast according to His Father's initiative. He fulfilled God's will according God's timing. The revelation of His identity would unfold only as God would determine.
 - i. 2:4 "My hour has not yet come."
 - ii. 7:6 "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready."
 - 1. people do not have the bigger picture. Without divine revelation, anytime seems to be the right time to reveal God's will.
 - 2. we often question why God does not show us what we want to see at the time we want to see it.

3. we make judgments only based on the outward appearance.
4. we want ease and acclaim, immediate riches and gratification. Jesus came to suffer as a Man of sorrows. His main claim to fame was the road to Golgotha.
- iii. We should also wait for God's timing with regards to the salvation of our family members. James and Jude eventually received Jesus as the Christ, not because they saw what they wanted to see but according to God's revelation and timing.
- iv. It comes down to what we want when we want. We need to submit and surrender on a daily basis to His timing especially with regards to suffering and faithful adherence to His teaching. This is an essential part of denying self to follow Christ to Calvary.
- v. There are no short cuts to God's revelation of Jesus Christ. We need the entire breadth of Scripture to see God in all His glory in Christ!!! Suffering and trials lived out with the Word of God in the heart and mind in all its fullness resulting in a transformed life is the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 1. Israel's history was full of suffering and trials
 2. Job went through immense suffering to see God.
 3. Jesus went through much sorrow, anguish, and despair before death and ultimately resurrection.

7. Woman caught in adultery

- a. Where's the man? Why was the woman brought to Jesus alone? This was obviously not a concern for the law or even the people involved, but the woman was used to trap Jesus in saying something against the law. The scribes and Pharisees were anticipating Jesus to go against the law of Moses.
- b. Jesus gave the go ahead for them to stone her if they had no sin. Only He would have had the right to stone, but He came not to judge but to save.
 - i. John 5:17
- c. In His writing on the ground, Jesus illustrated the principle of confronting the plank in one's own eye before dealing with the speck in another's eye. His writing convicted the people to drop their stones and leave.
- d. The woman was justified because her sin had been exposed (and Jesus told her that He did not condemn her; possibly she gave Him glory by revering His authority and mercy) but the others walked away unjustified because they did not confess their sins (they did not seek mercy from Jesus possibly even after He exposed their sin).
 - i. The older ones walked away first; they were probably more aware of their sin. Or possibly, Jesus was writing names of women that some of them were having affairs with. Regardless, He was evidently exposing their sin. As a result of their aversion to light, they walked away, not wanting to remain with the Light as the woman did.

- e. Jesus claimed to be the Light of the world. As the Light, He reveals sin and the need for forgiveness and salvation because the exposure condemns.
 - i. His claim is supported by the fact that He knew where He came from and where He was going. Jesus' testimony was also backed up by the Father whom He knew. The Jews did not know the Father because they did not know Him.
 - ii. He knew that His revelation is right because of His relationship with the Father.
 - iii. Some people as they listened to Him placed their faith in Him because they were drawn to the light and going to the Father.
 - iv. Those who did not / do not go to the Father while Jesus is revealing their sin, will die in their sin.
 - v. Those who abide in Christ's teachings are true disciples who know the truth, the truth that makes them free from sin.
 - 1. It is not the natural descendants of Abraham who are children but those who hold onto Jesus' teachings are true children of Abraham and God.
 - 2. True children of Abraham do the deeds of Abraham. They believe the One who came from God and revealed the truth from God.
 - 3. True children of God love Jesus Christ because He proceeded from God and was sent by God.
 - 4. True children / disciples honor the True Son of God who is the Great I Am.
 - vi. Jesus revealed the Jews' darkness in their response of hatred, name calling, and intent to kill.
 - vii. The more Jesus revealed of Himself, the more darkness was revealed by the Jews. When Jesus came out and revealed Himself as the I Am, the Jews picked up stones.
- f. The more Jesus reveals of Himself to you, you are left with the decision to determine who He is. The Word of God drives you farther toward one end or the other – glorifying the Son or hating Him.
- g. The Light of the World reveals the darkness but also He reveals the Life that is in God and from God. With this revelation, we can contrast and compare our perspective and condition with His. Then we can conclude whether we are a true child of God / Christian.

Reinstatement of Peter:

Upon obeying Jesus' instruction to cast the net on the right side, the disciples experienced a tremendous catch of 153 fish which did not break their net.

Immediately after a miraculous catch, Jesus drew the disciples near into an intimate setting, breakfast over hot coals. By this time the disciples had reached a point where they dared not question Jesus' identity. They had seen the resurrected Christ twice before. And now at this incident, they were fellowshiping with Him over fish and bread.

Jesus brought into focus the primary importance of loving Him. We must not focus on success and accomplishments no matter how great or miraculous. The Lord will always draw His followers near to fellowship and communion in order to affirm and nurture the love relationship with Him. We are in many ways like Peter, impulsive and quick to act. But Jesus wants our attention on loving Him through obedience, especially in the area of leading those God has entrusted to our care.

Jesus emphasized lastly the mandate to follow Him without regard for what happens to other followers. The death that Jesus revealed to Peter is indicative of the death that He calls all believers to – a life that is less and less self-directed and more and more submissive to a life reflective of the cross.

John systematically presented Jesus' claims with evidence that demands a verdict. The author affirms that Jesus' testimony about Himself is true. This is the life of Christ which transforms lives. If we believe His testimony, we will experience a change for the better, not necessarily situationally, but rather from a selfish / sinful focus to a Christ centered / loving focus.

“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them was written down...” Jesus continues to do innumerable good works in His followers which cannot be recorded by worldly means.

The Gospel of John

Revelation of the Great I Am

- † Jesus was here on earth to reveal who God is by His works and to reveal the works of God.
- † Always emphasize God in Christ.

The Word

- † Creator
- † The True Light who gives light to all men.
- † To those who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God (Rev.3:20)
 - ...born of God (CF: Jn.3, conversation with Nicodemus)
 - Notice the quick decisions to follow Christ by Andrew, Philip, Nathanael, Samaritan woman; yet Jesus took time to minister and witnessed to them.
- † Becoming flesh and making His dwelling among us. He came down to breathe our air and suffer our day to day grind.

- † The conversations with Nicodemus, Samaritan woman at the well, the woman found in adultery – notice the one on one aspect of the Word pursuing His loved ones.
- † The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
 - John uses the Passover Feast as the central event around which Jesus' ministry revolves.
- † Vs.34 – confession that Jesus is the Christ is only through the Holy Spirit

7 I Am's

- † Bread of Life – eating = receiving / internalizing Jesus
- † Light of the World – Jesus lighting our eyes with His perspective
- † Gate for the Sheep – seeing as God sees gives us access to the rulership of God's Word
- † The Good Shepherd – the Voice that leads and is known by the contents of what is spoken.
- † The Resurrection and the Life – living by faith the eternal life
- † The Way, Truth, and the Life – He is the One who makes all things (redemption and reconciliation) possible; and He is the
- † The True Vine – true connection with God through loving according to His commandment.

The glory of God in the awesome love relationship between the Father and the Son:

Jesus is showing the love of God, the love the Father has for the Son, the love the Son has for the Father, as well as the love God has for us. It is the oneness of the Trinity for which Christ died and rose. Jesus is the fullest revelation of God!

Major Thesis:

**The Life of Christ changes lives:
Getting the Word of God into you so that you can get
into the Word. Receiving Christ so that He will receive
you.**

Three developments of the Major Thesis:

1. I Am's – Receiving Jesus means becoming one with Christ's identity so that it becomes manifested in us and through us. As you ingest Him, He changes you from within. The true change comes through denying self so that He, the Word of God, grows in us and His life becomes more and more evident. His truth makes us alive by giving us faith in Him so that our confidence rests upon His goodness and grace

rather than our own sinful and self-destructive ways. Then we will no longer be dead in our sins. This dying is not a single occurrence but rather a daily practice, a continual struggle against Satan, the sin-nature, and the world's system.

2. **Miracles – As Jesus transforms our spirits to one filled with joy and love, we are healed from various forms of sicknesses, i.e. High-fevers (resulting from internal invasion by enemies), paralysis, blindness, actual death. His life has the power to multiply transformation without limit. Human limitations do not hinder His life-changing work in us so that we can experience a life and love beyond ourselves. Ultimately, Jesus desires us to live a life full of faith in the midst of trials and tribulations in the world. This will result in a true vision of reality which enables us to be alive and responsive to God's Word.**
3. **Personal Encounters – When Jesus comes into our lives, He captures our attention and he doesn't speak above you but addresses things in your life that are relevant and significant. He talks to you one on one; He directs His words to you personally to get you to focus your attention on Him. Once you get your attention on Him, He exposes your darkness by shining His light (love) in you. Then you can see and be convicted of the need for Him, who is the love of God that is able to save you from sin and death.**

Objectives:

2. **Students will better understand Christ in who He is and what He has done for us and what He continues to do for us and what He will do in the future.**
3. **Students will come to understand His desire to have a personal relationship with us and also the nature of that relationship through the "I am's".**
4. **Students will come to embrace the concept of His sacrifice to bridge the gap between man and God.**
5. **Students will be able to accurately delineate the person of Christ.**
6. **Students will be motivated to further study the Word of God.**
7. **Students understand why God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.**
8. **Students will be led to grow towards a deeper understanding, knowledge, and relationship with God through Christ, the Word of God.**

- 9. Students will understand what it means to believe and its awesome fruit as well as the consequences of unbelief.**
- 10. students will gain reverence for Christ rather than bring Him down to an overly familiar perception**