

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Q1. Since teachers usually sat, Jesus' standing drew special attention to His teaching. Had you been in the audience, what must you have felt and thought as you heard Jesus' loudly-spoken words?

Q2. How do you interpret the teaching, "streams of living water will flow from within him"?

Proverbs 14:27 [NIV-1984]

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life [some translations: 'spring of living water'], turning a man from the snares of death.

Jeremiah 2:13 [NIV-1984]

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

Jeremiah 17:13 [NIV-1984]

O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of living water.

John 4:10 [The Message (MSG)]

Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water."

 Alas. There is no verse in Scripture that translates precisely into the Lord Jesus' statement in verse 38. The 18th century commentator Charles Ellicott wrote, "It may be that the words which our Lord actually uttered in the current language of Jerusalem were nearer to the very words of some passage in the Old Testament than they seem to be in the Greek form in which St. John has preserved them to us. But it is instructive that the thought is that which our Lord Himself, or St. John as representing Him, considers as the essence of the quotation." [©about 1880, *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, edited by Charles J Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/john/7-38.htm>]

Lesson 12: John 7:37-8:20



For further study, the student may want to read the following passages provided by Mr. Ellicott:

Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:11; Psalm 114:8; Isaiah 44:3; Isaiah 55:1; Isaiah 58:11; Joel 2:23; Joel 3:18; Ezekiel 47:1; Ezekiel 47:12; Zechariah 13:1; Zechariah 14:8.

(Click this link <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+7&version=ESV;NIV;MSG;PHILLIPS> and then copy-and-paste the listed verses into the search bar near the top of the webpage.)

³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Q3. What does “glorified” mean?

⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”

⁴¹ Others said, “He is the Christ.”

Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee?”

Q4. Looking at the map of Israel, to what city (or village) does “Galilee” imply?

Matthew 2:21-23 [The Message (MSG)]

Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother, and reentered Israel. When he heard, though, that Archelaus had succeeded his father, Herod, as king in Judea, he was afraid to go there. But then Joseph was directed in a dream to go to the hills of Galilee. On arrival, he settled in the village of Nazareth. This move was a fulfillment of the prophetic words, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

John 1:43-46 [NIV-1984] [Jesus is searching and assembling His disciples.]

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.

Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

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⁴² Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?"

Q5. It seems relatively simple for the Jews to look up Jesus' true birthplace. Why do you think they did not?

Psalm 89:3-4

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, ⁴ 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

2 Samuel 7:4-5^a, 11^b-16

⁴ But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: ^{5a} "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: . . .

^{11b} "'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'"

 Note: refer also to Micah 5:2 for the "Bethlehem" prophecy

Micah 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

Q6. Why were the people unable to "[lay] a hand on Him"? Who were the people within this division?

Unable to lay a hand on Him?

Who?

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Day 2

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Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders

⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

⁴⁶ "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

Q7. For whom did the guards work?

Q8. To return empty-handed to their bosses took courage. Why did they fail to carry-out the orders they had received?

⁴⁷ "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. ⁴⁸ "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹ No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law — there is a curse on them."

⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, ⁵¹ "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?"

Q9. Does Nicodemus believe in the Lord Jesus?

Q10. When Nicodemus asks the question, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?" What is his implied accusation against his colleagues?

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 Through their education, the religious leaders knew these passages and had probably memorized them. These passages will be instrumental in demonstrating the extent to which these religious leaders will degrade God's Law to kill their Messiah.

Exodus 20:16

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Numbers 35:30b

But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

Deuteronomy 17:6

On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

⁵² They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

 Note: John 7:53–8:11 is not found in the earliest handwritten copies.

⁵³ Then each went to his own home.

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¹ But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

Q11. Can you locate the Mount of Olives on the map?

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

Q12. It is speculation, but what do you think Jesus was teaching?

Matthew 4:23

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”

Q13. Did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees judge in a just, unbiased way?

Q14. Why was the woman’s partner not brought before Jesus, too?

Leviticus 20:1-2 & 10

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² “Say to the Israelites: . . . The people of the community are to stone him. ¹⁰ ““If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife — with the wife of his neighbor — both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

Q15. Why did God pass down the law to Moses requiring that sin be treated with death?

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Leviticus 20:22-24 & 26

²² “Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. ²³ You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. ²⁴ But I said to you, “You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations.

²⁶ You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

Day 4

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^{6a} They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

Q16. Why did teachers of the law and the Pharisees want to “trap Him”?

Q17. What did teachers of the law and the Pharisees want to accuse Jesus of doing?

Q18. If the teachers of the law and the Pharisees were successful in their strategy toward Jesus, what result were they seeking?

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^{6b} But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

Q19. It is speculation – what do you think Jesus was writing?

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

Q20. Why did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees go away?

¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

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Day 5

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The Validity of Jesus' Testimony

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Q21. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the light of the world"?

Q22. How would you define "light of life"?

John 1:3-9

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."

Q23. Why did the Pharisees say, "Your testimony is not valid"?

Deuteronomy 17:6

On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

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Deuteronomy 19:15

One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.

Q24. How would you explain Jesus’ statement, “you have no idea where I come from or where I am going”?

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Day 6

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¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.

Q25. Isn't Jesus the final judge? Why does He state that "I pass judgment on no one"?

John 5:22-23 & 27

²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him . . . ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Matthew 25:31-46 [Jesus teaches about the Final Judgment:]

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those [sheep] on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous [the sheep] will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left [goats], 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷ In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. ¹⁸ I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

Q26. Jesus said, “the testimony of two men is valid” (verse 17) and then He said, “my other witness is the Father” (verse 18)? Why would His Father’s testimony be valid?

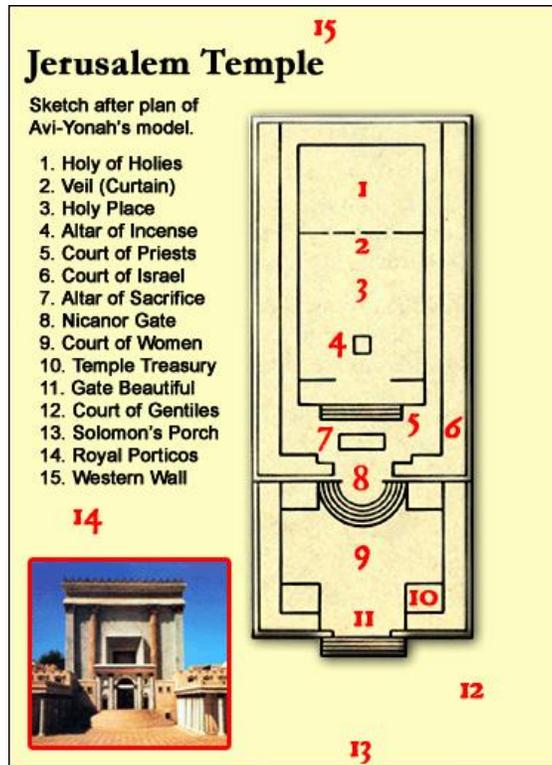
¹⁹ Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”
“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

Q27. Why were the Jews having such trouble understanding Jesus?

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²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his time had not yet come.

Q28. Find "temple treasury" on the diagram.



The Jewish Temple, Jerusalem

Source: http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-3oTwnSwlnSY/ThJOBj_0P3I/AAAAAAAAAFcc/OKBu4390PnU/s1600/JEWISH_TEMPLE%2Bdrawing.gif

Q29. Jesus was not seized because "His time had not yet come"; what does "His time had not yet come" mean or imply?

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