

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
IHOP BIBLE STUDY  
August 2003

Topic: The Gospel of John 4: 43 - 5:15 "Demonstrations on who Jesus is"

NOTE: The selected verses are slightly shorter than the Gospel of John Chart indicates. I made a mistake when reading these small numbers. Sorry about that. WES

This is the fifth study session on the Gospel of John. According to the chart of this gospel, this is the second of four sessions we'll study of the topic of "Testimonies, demonstrations and affirmations" that illuminate the Work of God. Perhaps, it is helpful to remember that John's overall purpose is to prove THE WORD IS JESUS THE CHRIST (the Logos).

I. Read the assigned reading through at one time.

II. In these two healing stories we get a travelogue. Jesus returns to Galilee and then goes back to Jerusalem. Observe that Jesus already attended the Passover Feast in Jerusalem. John's treatment is different than Mark's in reporting Jesus' activities in Galilee and Judah. Obviously, these two stories are demonstrations that "illuminate the Work of God." So, what is the activity of healing? From a "Head Trip Analysis," healings are supernatural occurrences; they go against rational and/or scientific understanding. Fortunately, for those of us who are rational and/or scientific, when we use "Gut Trip Analysis" we do not give up our integrity, and the act of healing retains its power. The key words in vs. 4: 48 are the give away. Jesus says, "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders, you will never believe." Belief is all we need!

First: Because we are concerned about "the work of God," go back and review your "gut trip analysis" of the term G - O - D: (Belief in) The Perfect At-One-Ment --- (Belief in) The Guarantor --- (Belief in) The Meaningfulness.

Second, recall that our bodies and "this world" are all temporary. We are strangers in this world, because our real lives, and our real living, is not found in this world. Real life and real living is found in our relationship with G-O-D.

Third, remember that "The Good News" (God's Word, or Logos) is identified in the statement "You can live the life you have and live it abundantly NOW." The good life is a decision!

Observe in 4: 50b: "The man took Jesus at his word. . ." Then in vs. 4: 53b, "So he and all his household believed." Nothing supernatural occurred! The pre-scientific world of Jesus is not denied. The man and all of his household DECIDED they could live abundantly even if the little beloved son was near death.

HOW IS THIS SO? Because, really living does not depend on the life or death of the son. Really living depends on the family's decision to "live they life they have and to live it abundantly NOW." The decision to live is no longer tied to the little son. It is tied to their decision!!

THIS IS THE REAL MIRACLE! It always is.

When this kind of miracle occurs, it is an interesting side light to observe the psychosomatic experiences. Please remember Jesus knew nothing of psychosomatic conditions. This would wait for Freud. However, my own "gut experience" of this situation is that when people make this decision, all life is transformed, and many times our physical bodies are transformed as well.

Now, take the healing demonstration in 5: 1 - 15 and apply the same principles. In this story, "helplessness" is the cause of "hopelessness."

How is G-O-D experienced?

How does "helplessness" deny the "Good News?"

How do you explain the transformation?

III. The last assignment is to discern what all this says about "who Jesus really is?"

Happy trails, everyone!