

- Song 12 and Prayer

- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- "Jesus Glorified His Father": (10 min.)

7:15-18, 28, 29; 8:29

In all that he said and did, Jesus glorified his heavenly Father. Jesus wanted people to know that his message came from God. So he made the Scriptures the basis for his teaching and frequently quoted from them. When praised, Jesus deflected the acclaim from himself and directed it to Jehovah. His primary concern was to accomplish the work Jehovah had given him to do.—Joh 17:4.

- (John 7:15-18) And the Jews were astonished, saying: "How does this man have such a knowledge of the Scriptures when he has not studied at the schools?" 16 Jesus, in turn, answered them and said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him who sent me. 17 If anyone desires to do His will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or I speak of my own originality. 18 Whoever speaks of his own originality is seeking his own glory; but whoever seeks the glory of the one who sent him, this one is true and there is no unrighteousness in him.
- (John 7:28, 29) Then as he was teaching in the temple, Jesus called out: "You know me and you know where I am from. And I have not come of my own initiative, but the One who sent me is real, and you do not know him. 29 I know him, because I am a representative from him, and that One sent me."
- (John 8:29) And the One who sent me is with me; he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him."

- (John 17:4) I have glorified you on the earth, having finished the work you have given me to do.

How can we imitate Jesus when . . .

- teaching on a Bible study or from the platform?

- praised by others?

- deciding how to spend our time?

Joh 7:15-18—When Jesus was praised for his teaching, he gave credit to Jehovah (cf 100-101 ¶5-6)

(John 7:15-18) 15 And the Jews were astonished, saying: "How does this man have such a knowledge of the Scriptures when he has not studied at the schools?" 16 Jesus, in turn, answered them and said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him who sent me. 17 If anyone desires to do His will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or I speak of my own originality. 18 Whoever speaks of his own originality is seeking his own glory; but whoever seeks the glory of the one who sent him, this one is true and there is no unrighteousness in him.

*** cf chap. 10 pp. 100-101 pars. 5-6 "It Is Written" ***

5 Jesus wanted people to know where his message came from. He said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me." (John 7:16) On another occasion, he said: "I do nothing of my own initiative; but just as the Father taught me I speak these things." (John 8:28) Further, he said: "The things I say to you men I do not speak of my own originality; but the Father who remains in union with me is doing his works." (John 14:10) One way that Jesus proved the truth of such comments was by quoting God's written Word again and again.

6 A close study of Jesus' recorded words reveals that he quoted directly from or referred indirectly to over half of the books of the Hebrew Scripture canon. At first, that may not sound impressive. You may wonder why, in three and a half years of public teaching and preaching, he did not quote from all the inspired books available. In truth, though, he may well have done so. Remember, only a fraction of Jesus' words and deeds are recorded. (John 21:25) In fact, you could probably read aloud all of Jesus' recorded words in just a few hours. Now, imagine talking about God and his Kingdom for just a few hours and managing to work in references to over half of the books of the Hebrew Scriptures! Furthermore, in most cases Jesus did not have written scrolls at hand. When he delivered his famous Sermon on the Mount, he included dozens of direct and indirect references to the Hebrew Scriptures—all from memory!

- Paragraph 5
- (John 7:16) Jesus, in turn, answered them and said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him who sent me."
- (John 8:28) Jesus then said: "After you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing of my own initiative; but just as

the Father taught me, I speak these things.

- (John 14:10) Do you not believe that I am in union with the Father and the Father is in union with me? The things I say to you I do not speak of my own originality, but the Father who remains in union with me is doing his works.
- Paragraph 6
- (John 21:25) There are also, in fact, many other things that Jesus did, which if ever they were written in full detail, I suppose the world itself could not contain the scrolls written.

Joh 7:28, 29—Jesus said that he was sent as God's representative, which indicated his subjection to Jehovah

(John 7:28, 29) 28 Then as he was teaching in the temple, Jesus called out: "You know me and you know where I am from. And I have not come of my own initiative, but the One who sent me is real, and you do not know him. 29 I know him, because I am a representative from him, and that One sent me."

Joh 8:29—Jesus told his listeners that he always did the things pleasing to Jehovah (w11 3/15 11 ¶19)

(John 8:29) 29 And the One who sent me is with me; he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him."

*** w11 3/15 p. 11 par. 19 Receive God's Spirit, Not the World's ***

19 Obey Jehovah completely. Jesus always did the things pleasing to his Father. On at least one occasion, Jesus' inclination on how to deal with a situation was different from what his Father wanted. Yet, with confidence he said to his Father: "Let, not my will, but yours take place." (Luke 22:42) Ask yourself, 'Do I obey God even when doing so is not easy?' Obedience to God is essential for life. We owe him implicit obedience as our Maker, the Source and Sustainer of our life. (Ps. 95:6, 7) There is no substitute for obedience. We cannot gain God's favor without it.

- (Luke 22:42) saying: "Father, if you want to, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, let, not my will, but yours take place."
- (Psalm 95:6, 7) Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker. 7 For he is our God, And we are the people of his pasture, The sheep in his care. Today if you listen to his voice,

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Joh 7:8-10—Did Jesus lie to his unbelieving fleshly brothers? (w07 2/1 6 ¶4)

(John 7:8-10) 8 You go up to the festival; I am not yet going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." 9 So after he told them these things, he remained in Gal'i-lee. 10 But when his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not openly but in secret.

*** w07 2/1 p. 6 Why Be Truthful? ***

What example did Jesus Christ set in this regard? On one occasion, Jesus was conversing with some unbelievers who showed interest in his travel plans. "Pass on over from here and go into Judea," they advised him. What was Jesus' reply? "You go up to the festival [in Jerusalem]; I am not yet going up to this festival, because my due time has not yet fully come." Shortly thereafter, Jesus did travel to Jerusalem for the festival. Why did he answer that way? They were not entitled to know the exact details of his whereabouts. So while Jesus did not utter an untruth, he gave them an incomplete answer in order to limit the possible harm they could do to him or to his followers. This was not a lie, for the apostle Peter wrote about Christ: "He committed no sin, nor was deception found in his mouth."—John 7:1-13; 1 Peter 2:22.

- (John 7:1-13) After this Jesus continued traveling about in Gal'i-lee, for he did not want to do so in Ju-de'a because the Jews were seeking to kill him. 2 However, the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near. 3 So his brothers said to him: "Leave here and go into Ju-de'a, so that your disciples may also see the works you are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret when he seeks to be known publicly. If you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 His brothers were, in fact, not exercising faith in him. 6 So Jesus said

to them: "My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always at hand. 7 The world has no reason to hate you, but it hates me, because I bear witness about it that its works are wicked. 8 You go up to the festival; I am not yet going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." 9 So after he told them these things, he remained in Gal'i-lee. 10 But when his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not openly but in secret. 11 So the Jews began looking for him at the festival and saying: "Where is that man?" 12 And there was a lot of subdued talk about him among the crowds. Some would say: "He is a good man." Others would say: "He is not. He misleads the crowd." 13 Of course, no one would speak about him publicly because of fear of the Jews.

- (1 Peter 2:22) He committed no sin, nor was deception found in his mouth.

Joh 8:58—What basis is there for rendering the last expression of this verse "I have been" instead of "I am," and why is this important? ("I have been" study note on Joh 8:58, nwtsty)

(John 8:58) 58 Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, before Abraham came into existence, I have been."

argue that the Greek expression used here, e-go' ei-mi' (rendered "I am" in some Bibles), is an allusion to the Septuagint rendering of Ex 3:14 and that both verses should be rendered the same way. (See study note on Joh 4:26.) In this context, however, the action expressed by the Greek verb ei-mi' started "before Abraham came into existence" and was still in progress. It is therefore properly translated "I have been" rather than "I am," and a number of ancient and modern translations use wording similar to "I have been." In fact, at Joh 14:9, the same form of the Greek verb ei-mi' is used to render Jesus' words: "Even after I have been with you men for such a long time, Philip, have you not come to know me?" Most translations use a similar wording, showing that depending on context there is no valid grammatical objection to rendering ei-mi' as "have been." (Other examples of rendering a present tense Greek verb using a present perfect tense verb are found at Lu 2:48; 13:7; 15:29; Joh 1:9; 5:6; 15:27; Ac 15:21; 2Co 12:19; 1Jo 3:8.) Also, Jesus' reasoning recorded at Joh 8:54, 55 shows that he was not trying to portray himself as being the same person as his Father.

What has this week's Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week's Bible reading?

*** nwtsty John Study Notes—Chapter 8 ***

8:58

I have been: The opposing Jews wanted to stone Jesus for claiming that he had "seen Abraham," although, as they said, Jesus was "not yet 50 years old." (Joh 8:57) Jesus' response was to tell them about his prehuman existence as a mighty spirit creature in heaven before Abraham was born. Some claim that this verse identifies Jesus with God. They

Bible Reading:) Joh 8:31-47

(4 min. or less) •

(John 8:31-47) 31 Then Jesus went on to say to the Jews who had believed him: "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They replied to him: "We are Abraham's offspring and never have been slaves to anyone. How is it you say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them: "Most truly I say to you, every doer of sin is a slave of sin. 35 Moreover, the slave does not remain in the household forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be truly free. 37 I know that you are Abraham's offspring. But you are seeking to kill me, because my word makes no progress among you. 38 I speak the things I have seen while with my Father, but you do the things you have heard from your father." 39 In answer they said to him: "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them: "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. 40 But now you are seeking to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You are doing the works of your father." They said to him: "We were not born from 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 I am here. I have not come of my own initiative, but that One sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? Because you cannot listen to my word. 44 You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a murderer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. 45 Because I, on the other hand, tell you the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Who of you convicts me of sin? If I speak truth, why is it that you do not believe me? 47 The one who is from God listens to the sayings of God. This is why you do not listen, because you are not from God."

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit: (3 min. or less)**
Begin with the sample conversation. Then invite the person to the meeting.

○○● **SECOND RETURN VISIT**

Question: How do we know that God understands us?

Scripture: Ps 139:1, 2, 4

Link: How can God's care benefit us?

- (Psalm 139:1, 2) O Jehovah, you have searched through me, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up. You discern my thoughts from afar.
- (Psalm 139:4) There is not a word on my tongue, But look! O Jehovah, you already know it well.

- **Third Return Visit: (3 min. or less)**
Choose your own scripture, and offer a study publication.

• **Bible Study: (6 min. or less) lvs 9-10 ¶10-11**

*** lvs chap. 1 pp. 9-10 pars. 10-11 God's Love Lasts Forever ***

10 Why do we obey Jehovah? It is not just to avoid punishment or the problems that come from making bad decisions. (Galatians 6:7) No, we obey Jehovah because we love him. Just as children want to make their father happy, we want to make our heavenly Father happy. Nothing could be better than knowing that Jehovah is pleased with us!—Psalm 5:12; Proverbs 12:2; see Endnote 2.

11 We don't obey Jehovah only when it is easy or when we have no other choice. And we don't choose which of his laws and standards to follow and which ones not to follow. (Deuteronomy 12:32) Instead, we obey him completely, like the psalmist who said: "I am fond of your commandments, yes, I love them." (Psalm 119:47; Romans 6:17) We want to be like Noah, who showed his love for Jehovah by doing everything Jehovah commanded him to do. The Bible says that Noah "did just so." (Genesis 6:22) Do you want Jehovah to say that about you?

- (Galatians 6:7) Do not be misled: God is not one to be mocked. For whatever a person is sowing, this he will also reap;
- (Psalm 5:12) For you will bless anyone righteous, O Jehovah; You will surround them with approval as with a large shield.
- (Proverbs 12:2) The good person obtains Jehovah's approval, But He condemns the man of wicked schemes.
- (Deuteronomy 12:32) Every word that I am commanding you is what you should be careful to do. You must not add to it nor take away from it.
- (Psalm 119:47) I am fond of your commandments, Yes, I love them.

- (Romans 6:17) But thanks to God that although you were once the slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over.
- (Genesis 6:22) And Noah did according to all that God had commanded him. He did just so.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 103

• **"Demonstrate Christlike Humility and Modesty": (15 min.) Discussion. Play each video.**

Even though Jesus was the greatest man who ever lived, he showed humility and modesty by glorifying Jehovah. (Joh 7:16-18) On the other hand, Satan became the Devil, which means "Slanderer." (Joh 8:44) Satan's attitude was manifested by the Pharisees, whose pride caused them to belittle anyone who showed faith in the Messiah. (Joh 7:45-49) How can we imitate Jesus when we receive privileges or responsibilities in the congregation?

WATCH THE VIDEO "HAVE LOVE AMONG YOURSELVES"—AVOID JEALOUSY AND BRAGGING, PART 1, AND THEN DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

- How did Alex manifest pride?

WATCH THE VIDEO “HAVE LOVE AMONG YOURSELVES”—AVOID JEALOUSY AND BRAGGING, PART 2, AND THEN DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

- How did Alex manifest humility?

- How did Alex encourage Bill and Carl?

WATCH THE VIDEO “HAVE LOVE AMONG YOURSELVES”—REPUDIATE PRIDE AND INDECENCY, PART 1, AND THEN DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

- How did Brother Harris fail to demonstrate modesty?

WATCH THE VIDEO “HAVE LOVE AMONG YOURSELVES”—REPUDIATE PRIDE AND INDECENCY, PART 2, AND THEN DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

- How did Brother Harris demonstrate modesty?

- What did Brother Harris’ example teach Faye?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

ly chap. 36

CHAPTER 36

A Centurion Shows Great Faith

(Matthew 8:5-13) When he entered Ca-per'na-um, an army officer came to him, pleading with him 6 and saying: "Sir, my servant is laid up in the house with paralysis, and he is suffering terribly." 7 He said to him: "When I get there, I will cure him." 8 The army officer replied: "Sir, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but just say the word and my servant will be healed. 9 For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard that, he was amazed and said to those following him: "I tell you the truth, with no one in Israel have I found so great a faith. 11 But I tell you that many from east and west will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of the heavens; 12 whereas the sons of the Kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be." 13 Then Jesus said to the army officer: "Go. Just as you have shown faith, so let it come to pass for you." And the servant was healed in that hour.

(Luke 7:1-10) When he had completed what he had to say to the people, he entered Ca-per'na-um. 2 Now an army officer's slave, who was dear to him, was seriously ill and about to pass away. 3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some elders of the Jews to him to ask him to come and make his slave well. 4 They came up to Jesus and began to plead with him earnestly, saying: "He is worthy of your granting him this, 5 for he loves our nation and he himself built our synagogue." 6 So Jesus went with them. But when he was not far from the house, the army officer had already

sent friends to say to him: "Sir, do not bother, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard these things, he was amazed at him, and he turned to the crowd following him and said: "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found so great a faith." 10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Paragraph 2 on Page 93

(Matthew 8:6) and saying: "Sir, my servant is laid up in the house with paralysis, and he is suffering terribly."

(Luke 7:4, 5) They came up to Jesus and began to plead with him earnestly, saying: "He is worthy of your granting him this, 5 for he loves our nation and he himself built our synagogue."

Paragraph 3 on Page 93

(Luke 7:6, 7) So Jesus went with them. But when he was not far from the house, the army officer had already sent friends to say to him: "Sir, do not bother, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed.

(Matthew 8:9) For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."

Paragraph 4 on Page 93

(Acts 10:28) He said to them: "You well know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or approach a man of another race, and yet God has shown me that I should call no man defiled or unclean.

(Luke 7:7) That is why I did not consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed.

Paragraph 5 on Page 93

(Luke 7:9) When Jesus heard these things, he was amazed at him, and he turned to the crowd following him and said: "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found so great a faith."

Paragraph 6 on Page 93

(Matthew 8:11, 12) But I tell you that many from east and west will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of the heavens; 12 whereas the sons of the Kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be."

[Box on page 93]

◇◇ Why do Jews plead on behalf of a Gentile army officer?

◇What may explain why the centurion has not asked Jesus to enter his house?

◇ What prospect for Gentiles does Jesus highlight?

· Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

- Song 119 and Prayer