

Women's Bible Study

Study Questions for February 21, 2017

John 5 – Gretchen Steer

Key verse: “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” (John 5:24)

1. What is the message of this chapter, summed up in one sentence?

2. Now write a few brief phrases to sum up what has happened in John 1-4 (hint: try looking at the chapter headings in your Bible). Approximately how much time elapsed between John the Baptist coming on the scene, and the events of chapter 5? (There are often time charts in your study Bible). Why was Jesus “on the radar” for the Jewish leaders? Why did they mistrust him so greatly?

3. Who testifies to the truth of Jesus' statements about himself? Why is it important to the Jews that Jesus' testimony is validated in some way? Why does Jesus say that Moses will be the accuser of the Jews?

4. In this long passage of Jesus' words (John 5:17-47) he says many things that put him in direct conflict with the Jewish leaders. Look at John 5:16-18. Which Old Testament teachings does Jesus seem to be challenging?

5. Is work as something inherently bad or difficult? Look up Genesis 2:1-3, Genesis 2:15, Genesis 3:17-19, John 5:36 and Colossians 3:23. Did work for mankind predate the fall, or is it a result of the fall? What should be our attitude towards work?

6. John's gospel teaches much of what we know about the nature of the Trinity – that God is three co-equal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In chapter 5, find three different things that Jesus tells us about his relationship to God. Do these have any practical application for us in our day to day living? How do these truths affect us?

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1. Is it difficult to believe that Jesus did actual miracles like healing a paralyzed man? Does God still perform miracles of healing today, even though we don't have Jesus in person on earth?

2. Sometimes we dilute the meaning of the word "miracle" by using it about non-miracular events (as in, "It was a miracle that I got a parking space that day!"). What defines a true miracle? How does the healing in John 5 fit that criteria?

3. Why did Jesus perform miracles? And why did he choose to do some of them on the Sabbath, when this would surely put him in conflict with Jewish leaders? What was the reason for that conflict? (look up Exodus 20:8-11)

4. According to Jesus, what is the point of work? What was his motivation for working?

5. Do you think of work as something inherently bad or difficult? What does the Bible tell us about work? Look up Genesis 2:1-3, Genesis 3:17-19, John 5:36 and Colossians 3:23. What should be our attitude towards work?

6. What will you take away from chapter 5 that might change how you approach life this week?