

Gospel of John – The Parable of Joy
Chapters 4 and 5

John 4: 1-42

1. The only thing more unusual than a woman at the well during the middle of the day was a Jewish Rabbi talking to a Samaritan woman and asking for a drink from her jar. Why do you think unfolded as they did?
2. Jesus wants her to aid in quenching His thirst, and in return He could quench her thirst. She ponders over why is this Jew talking to me and Christ states if she only knew who she was talking to. Sound familiar?
3. Jesus reveals to her that he knows she has had five husbands, not to point fingers, but to show that He knows of her wounds. He seems to be saying “I know where you have been and what you are searching for, open your eyes for here I am.”
4. In 26 Jesus says, “I Am ...the one Speaking to you.” Look at Exodus 3: 14. Notice the similarities.
5. Read Jeremiah 2:13. What importance is found in Jesus calling Himself the fount of Living Water?
6. Once she has been discovered, the woman tries to hide behind religious talk. Why does this seem to be the route people take when they have been discovered? What were Jesus’ comments? Did He agree that worship had to take place at certain location?
7. When ever Jesus reveals Himself, He chooses the most unlikely witnesses, but yet they still come running by the millions. Why?

John 4: 43-54.

1. Here we have a royal official that has come running to Jesus to beg Him to heal his son. A simple trust in the stories of healing that he has heard.
2. Jesus points out that signs are all people are interested in, He prefers faith without seeing.
3. Jesus doesn’t use any bright lights or magical words, but simply says, “Go home your son lives.” How often do we allow our desire for a light show and a booming voice from heaven, keep us from seeing the everyday miracles God has so freely given?
4. The suggestion is there that the miracle that day wasn’t the healing, but the fact that the man took Jesus at His word. What are we waiting for?

John 5: 1-18.

1. Why do you think is that when Jesus ask the man , “ Do you want to become well?”, his first response is to offer excuses and point blame as to why he hasn't entered the pool?
2. Why did Jesus not say, “By your faith you are healed”? The heart of the man is untouched. How do we know this?
3. Notice that the Jews aren't concerned with the fact that the man is healed, but that he is carrying his mat on the Sabbath. Typical reaction, the condition of one's heart blinds them from seeing what has actually taken place.
4. The man has been an invalid for 38 years and is now healed, yet he doesn't even find out the name of the one that healed him. In fact when Jesus tells him, “stop sinning our worse things will happen.” Instead of agreeing, he runs to the Jews so that he can betray the one that healed him, there's gratitude for you. Why is it that we always want more? Why isn't he thankful for what is had been given?

John 5: 19-47.

1. Jesus tries to point out that He is the Prophet that Moses was talking about. In fact if we look at what the prophets of old were used for, to speak the words given to them by the Father, the first few words of this section make perfect sense. Jesus is here to carry out the words of His Father and every word that comes from Jesus' mouth originated from the mouth of the Father. We go back to John 1, the Father spoke the Word, and Jesus, and the deed became it or carried it out.
2. Jesus warns of the resurrection of life and judgment that is to come by referring to the promise in Deuteronomy 18:17-19. The ones who have not listened to the Prophet will be guilty, simply for refusing to listen.
3. Jesus mentions the writings of Moses, simply because He knows how much the Pharisees pride themselves on their knowledge of Moses' writings. Jesus seems frustrated that they have allowed themselves to be blinded by their works of studying the scriptures and have totally missed that He has fulfilled what they were studying.
4. In essence Jesus tells them, “He wrote about me. If you do not believe what he wrote, how can you believe what I say?” In fact he says, “Don't take my word for it, I am not the accuser, Moses himself will point out where you have fallen short in your studies. “
5. So far it seems that the burning question in John is, “What are you searching for?” Then without a word Jesus provides it, the only problem is most of those searching have allowed the quest to control their lives so much , that they fail to see that the answer is standing right in front them. What are we allowing to blind us from seeing what our heart is searching for?