

- Last week we looked at the events covered in the ninth chapter through the thirteenth chapter of the book of John. We looked extensively at two miracles John records Jesus performing, including curing a blind man on the Sabbath and raising Lazarus from the dead. We also looked at some things Christ said, and how people, including the Pharisees specifically reacted to His teachings and to these two miracles.
- This week we are going to cover a lot of ground by looking at the last eight chapters of the book of John. Specifically, we will look at how John records Jesus' teachings extensively and then see how John also records a prayer Christ said which appears in no other Gospel account. Finally, we will conclude our study of the Gospel account John writes by looking at how he records the events surrounding Christ's betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. As we read John's account, it is important for us to remember the reason he says he wrote the book for us.
- Jesus tells his apostles that He is the only way to God and to Heaven, that He and God are one, and that those who believe in Him will not only go to heaven but will also do great works and have their prayers answered. (John 14:1-14)
- Jesus says He will be leaving them to go back to Heaven but promises to leave a "helper" in the form of the Holy Spirit which will instruct them and cause them to remember what He has said to them. (John 14:15-30)
- Christ says to do good works in His name. He uses the analogy of branches and says that those people that keep his commandments to love one another will bear fruit, and those that do not will be cut off from the tree and thrown into the fire. (John 15:1-17)
- Christ says that the world will turn against his true followers and dislike them for the fact that they are keeping His commands. (John 15:18-27; John 16:1-4)
- We get a little more specifics on what Christ says the Holy Spirit will do for people in the world. Christ says specifically that the Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning 1. sin 2. righteousness and 3. judgement. (John 16:5-15)
- Christ says their sorrow at His death will turn into joy at His resurrection and ascension. He compares it to a woman in childbirth who has great pain but the result is very joyful. (John 16:16-24)
- Christ encourages his followers by saying that He will overcome the world. (John 16:25-33)
- While the other Gospel accounts focus on the way Jesus prays immediately before his arrest (Matthew 26:36-40; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46), John focuses his account on an extensive prayer Christ makes specifically for those who believe and those who will believe in the future (like us). (John 17)
- Jesus and his followers go to a garden area. There John records that a very large arrest party led by Judas Iscariot and containing Roman soldiers and officers of the religious leaders came with torches and weapons. They want Christ and He confesses who He is to them (it was dark and He probably could have run away), and tells them to take Him but let the others go. John mentions this was in fulfillment of scripture. One on hand, Christ had prayed that

specific thing in the previous chapter ([John 17:12](#)) and had also prophesied it would happen ([John 6:39](#)) Peter gets violent and strikes at the head of the high priest's servant named Malchus. He cuts off his ear, and Christ tells him to put his sword away since He needs to give Himself up. ([John 18:1-11](#)). We know from other Gospel accounts that Christ healed Malchus' ear ([Luke 22:51](#))

- Christ was lead before the Jewish religious leader Annas (the father-in-law of the high priest, Caiaphas) who had said ([John 11:48-53](#)) that one man should die so that the Romans would not crack down and kill many of the Jews. ([John 18:12-14](#)).
- Christ is asked if He is Christ and when He explains that plenty of people have heard him say that He was, the questioners think is not being respectful of the high priest so they strike Him and instruct Him to answer the question. Meanwhile Peter is in the courtyard listening and warming himself by a fire. Three different people recognize him but three times he denies that he is the follower of Christ they think he is. After the third time, the rooster crows and Peter remembers Christ had told him this would happen ([John 13:36-38](#)). Christ is lead away after trials before Annas and Caiaphas. ([John 18:15-27](#))
- In the early morning hours, Jesus is taken to the Roman governor in charge of the region, named Pilate. It is already Passover, which means the Jews cannot go into the house of a Roman, so Pilate comes out to them. He tells them to judge Him themselves, but they tell him that it against Roman law for them to hand out the death penalty they are seeking. ([John 18:28-32](#))
- Pilate questions Christ who says that His kingdom is not on earth, and if it were, His servants would be fighting in open rebellion. He says that He has come to bear witness to the truth, to which Pilate famously asks, "what is truth?" Then Pilate says he finds no guilt in Christ but has a custom to free a prisoner at Passover, so he wants to release Christ. The Jews insist they want him to release a famous robber named Barrabas instead. ([John 18:33-40](#)).
- Pilate still does not want to order Christ to be put to death, so he orders Him to be scourged (like a whip, except with metal ends which eat into the flesh), then has the soldiers dress him in a purple robe and put a crown made of thorns on His head and takes Him out to the crowd and says, "behold the man." The Jews are still shouting for Him to be crucified so he questions Christ again and still wants to release Him and asks if he should really crucify their King. The Jews tell him that they have no king but Ceaser and so Pilate orders Christ to be crucified. A lot of people have noted the apparent discrepancy between John's account saying the trial was ending "about the sixth hour" and the other gospel accounts which say that Christ was crucified at the third hour ([Matthew 27:45](#), [Mark 15:25](#), [Luke 23:44](#)) and commentators have suggested at least two very plausible explanations. The first (and in my opinion the more convincing given where John lived) is that John was using a Roman method of reckoning time which started at midnight (rather than a Hebrew method of reckoning time which started at sunrise), the second is that the Hebrew day is divided into four time "windows" (which was also true) which put the third and sixth hour in the same basic time frame. ([John 19:1-16](#)).
- Pilate himself wrote an inscription to be put on Christ's cross saying that He was the King of the Jews. The Jewish leaders object but he has already done it and won't change it. ([John 19:17-21](#))

- At Christ's crucifixion, the soldiers at the foot of the cross are gambling on who will get the garment of Christ. John notes that this is fulfillment of [Psalm 22:18](#). ([John 19:23-24](#))
- Christ looks down from the cross and tells John and his mother Mary to be in a mother/son relationship from then on. ([John 19:25-27](#)).
- Christ says He is thirsty so He is given a sponge soaked with a sour wine called gall, says his work is finished, then He dies. The soldiers want to make sure He is dead so they put a sword in his side to see if blood comes out but water comes out. This indicates that Christ was dead. If He hadn't been, it was traditional to hasten death (they were in a hurry to finish by sundown because the Passover holiday was fast approaching) by breaking the legs of the person on the cross so they couldn't raise themselves up to draw a breath. Notably, during this whole process, not a single bone of Christ was broken. John notes that many prophecies were fulfilled, including that they will give him gall to drink (Psalm 69:21), his side will be pierced (Zechariah 12:10), and that none of bones will be broken (Psalms 34:20). ([John 19:31-37](#))
- A follower of Christ named Joseph from a place called Arimathea asks Pilate for permission to bury Christ and Pilate approves. Christ is buried in the traditional Jewish way in Joseph's tomb. Nicodemus (the same Pharisee who had come to question Jesus in [John 3:1-21](#)) brings the herbs to anoint Christ in the traditional way. ([John 19:38-42](#)).
- It is worth noting that only John's Gospel account even mentions Nicodemus, and he does so four times. The third and fourth time are mentioned above. The first time he visits Christ and learns about baptism ([John 3:1-21](#)). The second time we learn about him, he reminds his fellow Sanhedrin members that the law requires that a person be heard before rendering judgement on that person. ([John 7:50-51](#))
- Where Jesus' death had occurred on Friday afternoon, early Sunday morning a follower of Jesus named Mary Magdalene came to visit his grave. When she approaches, she noticed the stone was rolled away from the door of the tomb. She tells the apostles what she saw. Peter and John (who never names himself in the book, most likely out of modesty since he was the writer) run to the tomb to see what has happened. John outruns Peter, stops at the entrance to the tomb and sees all the linen cloth that had used to wrap Jesus' body laying outside the tomb. Peter catches up to John and goes into the tomb. As he does he notes that the cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' head was also lying there but in another place than the clothes were and folded neatly by itself. They realize Jesus is risen from the dead but they aren't associating that with scripture yet so they go home. ([John 20:1-10](#))
- Mary Magdalene goes back to the tomb and when she does she sees two angels sitting in the tomb at the places where the foot and the head of Christ had been positioned. She starts crying and one of the angels (who she mistakes for the gardener) asks why she is crying. She says it is because the body of Christ has apparently been moved and she doesn't know where the body has been placed and ask her to tell him where He is. The other angel is the risen Christ who says her name and she immediately recognizes His voice. Remember that Jesus has said that the sheep will know his voice ([John 10:27](#)) Jesus tell her to tell His followers not to cling to Him because He must ascend to his Father. ([John 20:11-18](#))

- Later, Jesus appears to some of His followers and tells them to have a forgiving attitude if they want forgiveness too. Thomas is not with them and says he won't believe unless he can touch Christ's wounds. Christ appears again to the disciples eight days later. This time Thomas is with them and Christ does allow Him to verify His identity by touching his wounds. Thomas does and professes his belief. Christ says that those people who haven't seen Him and still believe are even more blessed. (John 20:24-29)
- John describes the reason why he wrote his Gospel account in the first place. He says he wrote his account so that people may believe in Christ and have life in His name. (John 20:30-31).
- Jesus appears again by the sea of Tiberius and sees the apostles fishing. He asks if they are catching anything and they say they aren't. He instructs them to try putting their fishing nets on the other side of the boat. They do and catch 153 large fish, so many their nets are straining but not breaking. When they get to shore, Jesus has started a fire and eats fish with them. (John 21:1-14)
- Three times Jesus asks Peter if Peter loves Him. Each time Peter responds that he does, Jesus tells him to feed His sheep, meaning take care of His followers. Peter asks Jesus who will betray Him and who will follow Him and Christ tells him that is irrelevant, Peter should focus on following him. (John 20:15-24)
- We don't know all the thing Jesus did during His resurrection and before the other Gospel accounts record that He ascended back to heaven (a period of 40 days). We do know that other historians such as Josephus and Eusebius confirmed that Christ was alive and even interviewed people who had seen Him. We also know that Christ appeared to at least 500 people during that time. (I Corinthians 15:11)
- John explains that Jesus did many other things, and that if all those acts were recorded, that the world could probably not contain all the books. He is obviously exaggerating to make a point – that it would have been impossible for everyone to write down everything Christ did. (John 21:25)

#### Questions:

1. How does Jesus say a person can get to heaven?
2. What does Christ say he will leave behind as a "helper" when He returns to heaven?
3. What does Christ say the role of that helper within His followers will be?
4. What comparison does Christ make to those who keep his commands and those who do not?
5. How does Christ say the world will react to His true followers?
6. What does Christ say the Holy Spirit will do for people in the world?
7. What comparison does Christ use to say His followers sorrow will turn to joy?
8. How does Christ encourage his followers?
9. For whom does John record Christ as praying?
10. Who comes to arrest Christ?
11. What scriptures were fulfilled at Christ's arrest?
12. What was the name of high priest's servant Peter struck and what was the result?
13. Who was Jesus taken before first and what his relationship to the high priest?

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14. What had the high priest previously said?
15. What is asked of Jesus at the trials by Annas and Caiaphas? How does He respond?
16. What happens when Peter is recognized? How many times does that happen?
17. What is the name of the Roman in charge of that region? Why can't the Jews enter his house?
18. Why do the Jews say they can't judge Christ?
19. What does Pilate do with Christ while He is on trial with him?
20. How does the time of Christ's crucifixion differ in John from other Gospel accounts? How do we reconcile that?
21. What does Pilate write to put on the cross where Christ is crucified?
22. What do the soldiers do at Christ's death and what prophesy does that fulfill?
23. What does Christ tell John and Mary as He is being crucified?
24. What prophesies does John mention were fulfilled in Christ crucifixion?
25. Who was Joseph of Arimathea and what did he do?
26. Who was Nicodemus and what do we know about him?
27. Who is the first to see the stone rolled away from the tomb and what does she do about it?
28. Who goes to the tomb when they hear about the stone being rolled away and what do they see?
29. Who does Mary Magdalene think is the gardener? What do they say to each other?
30. Who is the second "angel" and how does Mary recognize Him?
31. What does the second "angel" tell Mary?
32. What two things does the risen Christ tell His disciples? What does He let Thomas do?
33. Why does John say he wrote his account of the Gospel of Christ?
34. What does the risen Jesus tell Peter to do three times and what does He mean?
35. Are there other confirmations that Christ was resurrected? What are they?
36. What does John say about the number of things Christ did?

Originally developed by Madison Laird for high school study at the East Foothill Church of Christ in San Jose, CA following a curriculum outline by Aaron Curtis. Edited by Betty Brown of Jackson, TN. Material may be used free of charge without license or royalty. Questions or comments: [madison@madisonlaird.com](mailto:madison@madisonlaird.com)