

SMALL GROUPS STUDY GUIDE

The Holy Gospel According to Saint John

Lesson #5

- 1) Have someone read Chapter Five and then take time to discuss it.
- 2) Note the directions, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem, the name of the gate in the City wall – Sheep Gate, the pool called Bethzatha. See if you can find these on a map or diagram of Jerusalem.
- 3) The name Bethzatha or Bethesda means “house of mercy.” This miraculous pool was the reason the sick were there. They were looking for an opportunity to be healed of their infirmities.
- 4) Note verse 4 is disputed. It is an important example of a “variant” that is, text which may or may not have been in the original gospel.
- 5) Jesus has mercy on the man who was sick for 38 years. He is healed, but this provokes a dispute with the Pharisees. The man was carrying his bed on the Sabbath in violation of Mosaic Law. They then wanted to know who told the man to violate the Sabbath.
- 6) Jesus then finds the man and tells him to sin no more (vs 14). It seems his paralysis was a punishment for some sin. Can you think of an example where sin has consequences (punishments) in this life?
- 7) Note that Jesus claims to do what He does by the authority of the Father. From His words the Jews understood Him to be claiming equality with God. Hence the punishment of death for blasphemy.
- 8) Jesus explains why He does what He does in verses 19 to 29. Jesus the Son does what the Father does. Jesus will judge. He has been given authority to do so (verse 27)
- 9) Note verse 23. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father. What are the implications of this verse?

10) Note verse 24. A condition for eternal life, faith.

11) The hour is coming when the dead will arise for final judgment.

12) What is the difference between authority and power? Those with authority are responsible for how they use it to those who gave it to them.

13) Verse 33: Saint John the Baptist bore witness to the truth ... the truth of what?

14) Note that the miracles (works) Jesus does serve as proof that the Father has sent Him (verse 36). The miracles could only be done by God; hence, Jesus is God.

15) To what does verse 37 refer?

16) In their pride, the Pharisees had already judged themselves worthy of heaven. Jesus tells them instead that they must have faith in Him to gain eternal life (verse 40).

17) Jesus says that Moses, the author of the Law, will condemn them for their lack of faith in Jesus.