Eleven Studies in John

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THE WEDDING AT CANA

John 2: 1-12

1. What sort of occasion is a wedding in your own country? Is it like the wedding described here?

2. How would you feel as host if the wine had finished long before the end of the feast?

3. What does Jesus reply to his mother tell us about himself? (v 4) How did his mother take the reply? (v 5) What does this tell us of her understanding of Jesus?

4. What does the miracle reveal to us about Jesus? Is the turning of the water into wine a sign of anything more?

5. What does "revealed his glory" mean? (v 11) What was the response of the disciples to the miracle?

JESUS AND NICODEMUS

John 3: 1-21

1. What sort of man was Nicodemus - his position, character, attitude to Jesus etc.? When did he go to see Jesus? (v 2) What does this suggest? What attracted him to Jesus? Are there people like him today?

2. What is Jesus reply to Nicodemus? (v 3) Does this seem strange? What is the condition of entering the Kingdom of God? (v 5) What did Jesus mean by being "born again"?

3. How is being "born again" possible? What does Jesus mean when he says "The Son of Man must be lifted up"? How does the death of Jesus bring "eternal life"? (v 16)

4. How are men and women judged? (v 18) Why do people prefer darkness rather than light?

5. What is the most important lesson Nicodemus is taught? What is the most important lesson for us? What is my/our response to Jesus?

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

John 4: 5-30, 39-42

1. Why did Jesus sit down by the well? (v 6,7)

2. Why was it strange for Jesus to ask the woman for a drink? (v 9, 27) What does this tell us of Jesus?

3. What did the woman understand by "life-giving water" which would never make a person thirsty? (v 15)

4. What did Jesus mean by this "life-giving water"? Why did Jesus say "go and call your husband" when she asked for the life-giving water?

5. Who then did the woman understand Jesus to be? (v 19) What was her understanding of God and the coming Messiah? (v 20, 25)

6. What did Jesus reveal to be real worship and a real understanding of God? (v 21-24, 26)

7. What was the response of the woman to this? (v 29) And what of others? (v 39-42) What is your response to Jesus and what he says?

THE HEALING AT THE POOL

John 5: 1-23

1. Where did the healing took place and when? Describe in your own words what happened.

2. What were the sick man's problems?

3. What was Jesus response to the man's needs? (v 8)

4. What was the attitude of the Pharisees to the Law? 9v 10, 16) How did their attitude contrast to that of Jesus?

5. Was the man's illness his only problem? (v 14) What was his deeper need? Do you think his deeper need was met? (v 15)

6. How does Jesus describe his relationship with God? (v 17, 19-23) And how does he describe God's relationship with himself?

7. What is the response of the Jews to what Jesus does and who he said he is? Is this logical? What other response could they have made? What is our response?

JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6: 25-51, 66-69

1. Why were the crowds so excited and looking for Jesus? (v 25-26)

2. What was the purpose of Jesus' miracles? (cf 2: 11) How do the people show that they do not really understand Jesus miracles? (v 30-31)

3. What two types of food/bread does Jesus speak of? What does Jesus say about each type of food?

4. What is the "bread from heaven", the bread of life which God gives? How do we receive that bread?

5. List the promises given to those who believe. (v 33-35)

6. Why did Jesus' listeners did not accept him?

7. What part does God play in our coming to Jesus? (v 37, 44) How is acceptance of Jesus described? Why is the death of Jesus so important? (v 47, 51)

8. What are the two reactions to Jesus? Why is there such a clear cut division? Is there that division today? What is your response?

JESUS AND THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

John 8: 1-11

1. Who are the various people in the account? What are their relationships with each other like?

2. What does the story tell us of Jesus' relationship with God and with other people?

3. What was the attitude of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law towards the woman? (v 3) What was their purpose in bringing the woman to Jesus? (v 6)

4. Did Jesus say that the Law was wrong? What does his reply say about sin, of God's attitude to it? And what does it say about the sinner?

5. What was the attitude of the Pharisees to sin and the sinner? Did they think that they were sinners?

6. How could Jesus forgive the woman her sin? Are we too in need of forgiveness? Everyone?

THE PHARISEES INVESTIGATE THE HEALING OF A MAN BORN BLIND

John 9:13-41

A) Briefly relate the story of the healing.
B) Explain, if necessary, Pharisee, Sabbath, Moses.

1) What was the attitude of the Pharisees towards the Law? What was the attitude of Jesus towards the Law?

2) Examine the changing attitude of the blind man to Jesus; a) verses 11,15; b) verse 17; c) verse 33; d) verse 38.

3) In what ways does this miracle illustrate Jesus' statement in verse 5?

4) What was the cost for the man to acknowledge Jesus as Lord (verse 34)? Was it worth it? If so why? Contrast the man with his parents' decision (verse 22).

5) What was the attitude of the Pharisees to Jesus? (verse 16) What did Jesus man in verses 39-41?

6) "I believe, Lord ..." (verse 38) What should our response be to Jesus today? What does it mean in our lives? And what is the cost?

THE SHEEPFOLD AND THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-21

1) What are the characteristics of sheep, shepherds, sheepfolds, etc. which Jesus uses for teaching people?

2) What do the sheep represent?

3) How does Jesus describe himself in verse 7 and in verse 9? What does he mean by this?

4) What is the purpose of Jesus coming? What is characteristic of "life in all its fullness"?

5) How does Jesus describe himself in verse 11? What are the characteristics of a shepherd (verses 2 to 4), especially the good shepherd?

6) How is the good shepherd like Jesus?

7) Opinions about Jesus differ (look at verses 19 and 20). What is your opinion of Jesus? Why?

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

John 11:17-48

(Briefly outline the situation in verses 1 to 16)

1) Did the sisters - Mary and Martha - believe that Jesus could raise Lazarus? (look at verses 21 and 32)

2) What does Jesus mean in verses 25-26? How is what he says possible? What assurance does this give to those who put their trust in Jesus?

3) How does Jesus show his deep love for the family? What are other people's response to Jesus' emotion? (look at verses 33-37)

4) What does the miracle tell us of Jesus' position and authority? Look back at verse 4: what was the purpose of the death of Lazarus (verse 4, 40, 42)? Why did John write about this (and other) miracles? (look at John 20: 30-37)

5) What was the response of different people? (look at verse 45, 47) Why were some so blind to the truth? If Jesus has this authority over life and death, what should be our response to him?

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

John 12: 12-26

1) Why did the crowds come to see Jesus? (verse 17-18) Who did they believe Jesus to be?

2) What sort of King did they believe and want Jesus to be? Do you think this was the sort of king that Jesus came to be?

3) Why were the Pharisees so worried? (look at verse 19) What did they want to do with Jesus? (look at 11:57 and 12:10) Why did the Pharisees have this attitude? (look at 11: 47-18)

4) What did Jesus mean by receiving "great glory"? How was he to receive that glory?

5) How does a person come to have a fruitful new life? What does the illustration of the grain of wheat mean in practical terms for us today?

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

John 18: 28-40

1) Why did the Jews bring Jesus to Pilate? (verses 31 and 32) Why did they want to kill Jesus? (look at 11: 45-53) Was there any justice in their demand? What was his crime? (verses 29-30)

2) What sort of king was Pilate talking of? (verse 33) What sort of kingdom did Jesus mean? (verse 36)

3) What was the purpose of Jesus coming? (verse 37) And who listens to Jesus and his teaching?

4) What does Pilate's question (verse 38) show of Pilate's character? What did he mean by saying this?

5) Why didn't Pilate set Jesus free if he was innocent? (verses 38-39)

6) Imagine you were Barabbas: how would you see the sentence of Jesus (to death) and you being set free? Are we in the same position as Barabbas? Does Jesus' death mean anything today?