

Digging into the Life of Jesus

Lesson 32




Overview

2nd July 2020

1. Insights Corner

"INSIGHTS" CORNER

- Elder Rocky



What would it be like to yield to Christ in the details of our daily lives?

What would it be like to follow His direction and instruction in all the small decisions that add up to the life we find ourselves living?

2. Review of

What We've Covered Over the Last Seven Weeks


3. Jesus is the True Vine and the Work of the Holy Spirit (John 15)

“INSIGHTS” CORNER



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What would it be like to follow His direction and instruction in all the small decisions that add up to the life we find ourselves living?

Outline of John

Prologue: 1:1-18

The Book of Signs: 1:19—12:50

The Book of Glory: 13:1—20:31

Epilogue: 21:1-25



Jesus Turns Water into Wine	John 2:1-11
Jesus Heals the Official's Son	John 4:43-54
Jesus Makes the Lame Walk	John 5:1-15
Jesus Walks on Water	John 6:16-24
Jesus Feeds the Multitudes	John 6:1-15
Jesus gives sight to the Blind	John 9:1-38
Jesus raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:1-44

Jesus' Farewell Discourse			Death and Resurrection	
Foot Washing	Jesus' Departure; Spirit's Arrival	High Priestly Prayer	Arrest, Trial, and Death	Resurrection
13:1 - 38	14:1 - 16:33	17:1-26	18:1 - 19:42	20:1 - 20:31



is a grand story of God's love
for us and His interaction with
humanity in history.

The biblical drama will challenge you to ask
“of what story do I find myself a part?”

Our lives will be shaped
by **that divine story...**

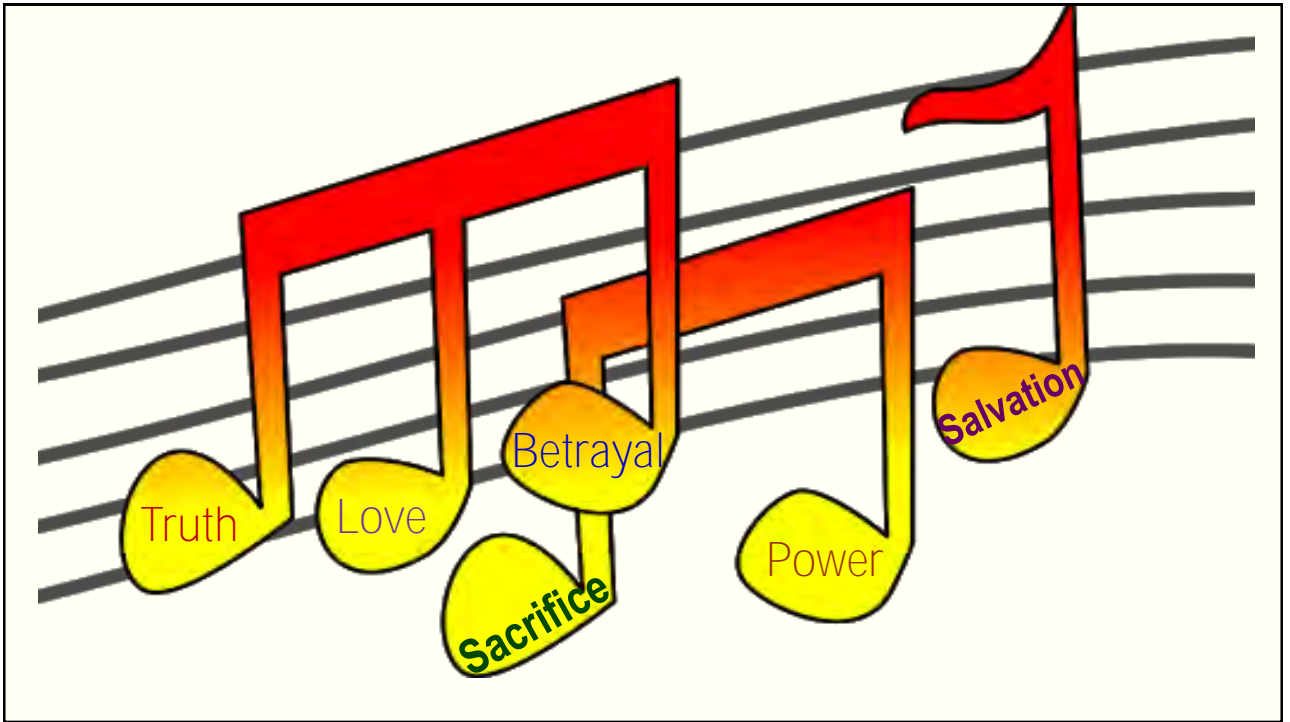
TRANSFORMED



Themes:

The themes in any story are its underlying messages, critical beliefs, philosophies, propositions, assumptions or convictions.





The Bible is not a mere mishmash and assortment of history, poetry, ethics, morality theology, promises, principles, commands, disconnected quotes and episodes.

Instead, it is fundamentally coherent.

Every part of the Bible – each event, book, character, command, prophecy and poem – must be understood in the context of one-story line.


Major Lessons and Themes from John 10

- The Good Shepherd
- The Door
- Abundant Life



10:3-4 ...he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out....

and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.



10:9 I am the gate;
whoever enters
through me will be
saved.

He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

10:10b I came that they may
have life and have it abundantly.



Abundant life is eternal life, a life that begins the moment we come to Christ and receive Him as Saviour, and goes on throughout all eternity.

10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will **snatch** them out of my hand.



10:29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Major Lessons from John 11:

- Prayer & Waiting
- **Jesus' Claim**
- **Jesus' Compassion**



11:6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

We must be willing to let God answer in his own time, according to His schedule, His timetable — whenever He thinks is best!

God is never late for an appointment that He schedules!

God's
Perfect
Timing



John 11:25-26 “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

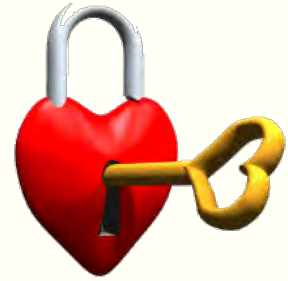
The one who believes in Christ has eternal life that transcends physical death.



Embracing the reality of eternal life radically alters our mindset, perception and conduct.

To embrace Jesus is to be reconciled to God and to intentionally immerse into His Story.

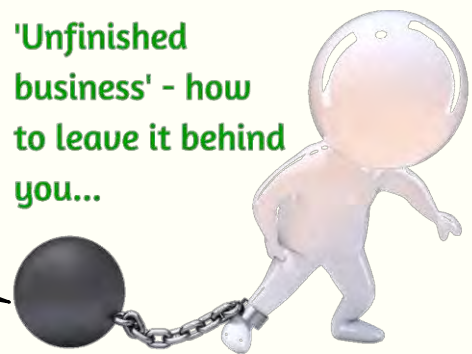
His Story can unlock something inside us and liberate us from our worn out and uninspiring life script.



His Story is our inspirational source from which we draw in the editing and rewriting of our life script.

Unfinished Business
Has Deep Roots!

'Unfinished
business' - how
to leave it behind
you...



34-35 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept.

In Jesus we see

- a God who is deeply affected by our pain,
- a God who is moved to compassion because of our suffering,
- a God who weeps with us,
- a God who desires to answer our prayers
- and bring healing to our lives.

Major Lessons
from John 12:

- Gratitude
- Courage



3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

She considered her precious ointment only good enough for His feet! Mary presented it as an offering of love and gratitude.

Gratitude
IS THE BEST
attitude

Gratitude is the celebration of the goodness of God, the act of living with the fundamental conviction that God is very, very good.

The alternative postures are complaint and entitlement.





Such celebrations of honour would definitely catch the attention of the Roman authorities!

- a sense of foreboding, caused by the presence or nearness of a perceived danger or pain that is real or imagined.



Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment and belief that God is far **BIGGER** and **MORE IMPORTANT** than fear!

Remember, that the **Fear of the Lord** banishes all other fears!

Major Lessons from John 13:

- Servanthood
- Love



13:15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

The end goal of our life as Christ followers is to be transformed to His image and to live the life He has purposed for us, not to use God to give us what we want.



34-35 **A new commandment** I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gold standard for living out Christian belief.

There should be a special presence of love among followers of Jesus Christ.

Love would be the identifying mark of His disciples.

Major Lessons from John
14:

- **Christ's Comfort**
- Christ is the Way to God
- **Praying in Christ's Name**
- The Measure of Our Love

1a **“Let** not your hearts be troubled.”

= **“Don’t let your heart shudder.”**

No weapon or threat formed against you can prosper.
Just because everything in your life seems spinning out of control does not mean you have to.

1b “Believe in God; believe also in me.”

The way to have an untroubled heart is to believe in God and believe in Jesus. That is all there is to it.

14:6 Jesus said to him, **“I** am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).

14 **“If** you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

To pray in the name of Christ means that our prayers must be based on all that Christ is, has done, is doing, and will do.



It is not to be used as a magical charm.

It is both a guarantee and a limitation on the petition.

In prayer we call on Him to work out His purpose, not simply to gratify our whims and fancies.



15 **“If** you love me, you will keep my commandments.

This is the measure of our love for Jesus.

Love is not just an emotion or feeling. It is a choice and a resolve in the heart and will.

It must show itself in how we act.



Loving Jesus is most difficult when it demands that we give up a preference, an interest, a freedom, a prized possession or something that is special to us.

Continuation from where we last stopped...

24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

We cannot claim to love Christ and yet not keep His commandments!

The only person who would not keep **Christ's** commandments would be a person who did not in fact love Christ!!



Being obedient to Jesus' words includes His teachings on the **Father's** will.

Thus, loving Jesus is demonstrated by one's obedience to the revealed will of God, the Bible.

As new believers we feed on pure gospel "milk" (1 Peter 2:2).

We must progress to solid food.

If we refuse solid food, we never mature (Hebrews 5:12; 1 Cor 3:2-3)



25-26 **“These** things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

The 3 separate individuals of the Godhead:

- The Father would send the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus.
- So, the Holy Spirit is not the Father, but the Father sent the Spirit.
- And the Holy Spirit is not the Son **but was sent in the Son's** name.



We have continuous, daily access to the Holy Spirit for wherever we go He is with us – and He has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us.



27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

This peace **doesn't** mean exemption from conflict and trial. Jesus Himself was "troubled" (12:27) by the impending Crucifixion.

This peace is the calmness of confidence in God. Jesus had this peace because He was sure of the **Father's** love and approval.

With this peace, He was able to unwaveringly meet the crisis without fear.

His peace would be the source of courage for the disciples.

However, the disciples continued to show their dismay as they contemplated Jesus' departure.



THE PEACE
OF GOD

Jesus had no fortune to bequeath His followers, but He gives them gifts that can't be bought - the presence of the Holy Spirit and the presence of peace.

Most external conflicts originate in the absence of internal peace.

And while this restless craving for peace is at the heart of being human, most of us look for it in the wrong places.

28 **“You** heard me say to you, **‘I** am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”

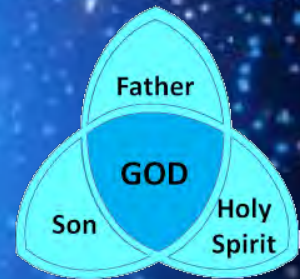
The Father is greater than I = Both possess Deity, so it cannot be that the Father is Deity and Jesus is not!

While He was on earth, Jesus subjected Himself to the Father as we humans must do. Yet, there is also a sense in which the Father continues to have authority over the Son (1 Cor. 11:3).

There is a variation in authority and roles among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

But that does not in any way affect us.

To us, their authority is all the same. They each have complete authority over created things in that we must obey all they say.



29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

Before “it” takes place = His departure (death, burial, resurrection and ascension) plus His subsequent future coming to them in the person of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Jesus had told them all these things ahead of time so that, when they came to pass, they would believe in Him.

**The Essence
of Fulfilled
Prophecy**

This in turn strengthens faith so people do not fall away in times of hardship.

Instead of thinking that these terrible events were a great defeat for Jesus, proper understanding would lead men to see that God intended this all along.

Instead of shaking **men's** faith, it ought to confirm it.

Jesus is known to be the Son of God because He fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.

However, He Himself made predictions that came true.

The power to predict the future is just one more of the many proofs that confirm Him to be the Son of God.

30-31 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

Jesus goes forth willingly, not as one who is being overwhelmed by Satan.

Satan has no power to compel Jesus to go to the cross.

Jesus goes in loving obedience to God the Father, and out of love for fallen humanity.



Christ's analogy of the vine (15:1-8)

- Abiding in Christ bears fruit (15:1-3)
- Abiding in Christ bears much fruit (15:4-6)
- Abiding in Christ brings answered prayer (15:7-8)



1. **“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.**
2. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
3. **Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.**
4. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
6. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

The Vineyard

A familiar symbol: The grapevine was a symbol of national life. It appeared on coins minted during the Maccabean period.



So precious was the symbol to the Jews that a huge, gold grapevine decorated the gates of the temple.

The Old Testament refers to Israel as His vine/vineyard.

Psalm 80:8-9 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

Isaiah 5:1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

Isaiah 5:7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry.

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”

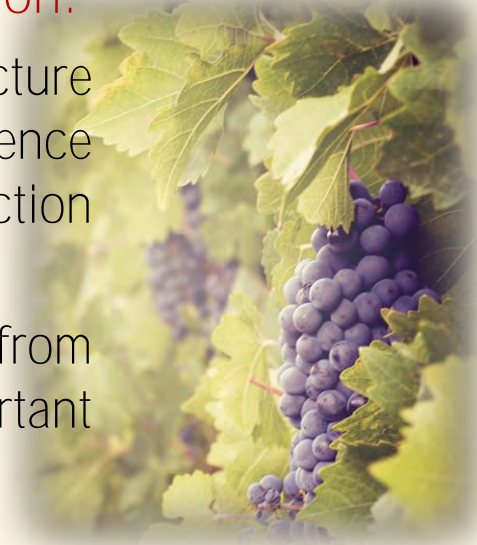
Christ is the vine, we are the branches, and God the Father is the gardener.

The picture of a vineyard with true believers organically related to Christ and of the Father lovingly tending to them so they will bring forth fruit.

The Vine and Branch Connection:

The vine and branch picture emphasizes complete dependence and the need for constant connection and nutrition.

As Jesus was about to depart from His disciples, this was important encouragement.



2a Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he **takes away**,

Takes away: The branches that do not bear fruit, are not properly abiding in the vine. They have to be taken away.

Takes away can also be translated as **“cut off”** or (literally) **“lift up”**.

ESV and NIV translate it as **“takes away.”** Reason?

- If translated as **“cut off”** it means believers can lose their salvation.
- If we take the literal meaning of **“lift up”**, it gives us a picture of the Father lifting up unproductive vines off of the ground so that they could get more sunlight and bear fruit better.



2b and every branch that does bear fruit he **prunes**, that it may bear more fruit.

Prunes: Pruning always hurts! But necessary!

Psalm 119:67 - **“Before** I was afflicted I went astray.”

Psalm 119:71 - **“It** is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”



Reasons for Pruning?

The vine-grower is concerned that the vine be healthy and productive.

Whatever the reason for pruning, our natural selves always want to escape it.

No one naturally wants the knife.

Nevertheless, the results of **God's** pruning will be beneficial for us and for Him.

As we move along, we will face difficulties and even discipline!

For some, the entire purpose of their journey is to avoid as much pain as possible.

If you live this way, however, you shut out many learning and growth possibilities.

To experience all of that, you have to become open, vulnerable, and willing to experience a certain amount of hurt and pain.

Afflictions would only stop if they were useless, and that is why they never stop.

God's hand is never closer than when he prunes the vine.

During those times of painful cutting He may seem distant. But actually he is the closest.

His pruning may be painful. But **it's** not harmful.

The more we are pruned, the more fruitful we become.

3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

The work of pruning, of cleansing, had already begun in the eleven disciples Jesus spoke to.

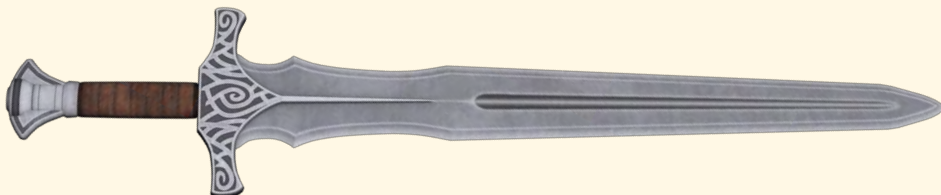
THE WORD OF GOD is a cleansing agent.



Hebrews 4:11-12 –

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



Hebrews 10:23-25 –

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

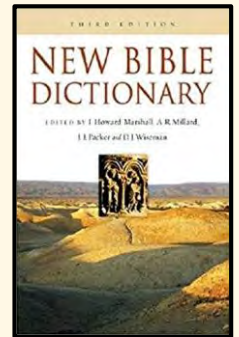
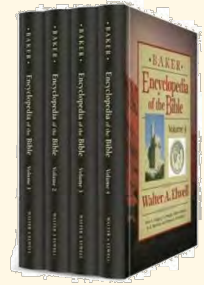
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Set aside time to read the Scriptures every day.
Schedule it in your day.

Immerse yourself into stories and discover how patiently God has worked, teaching us His ways and preparing us for the coming of the Lord.

And **don't** be afraid to use reliable commentaries and dictionaries to help you.

The more you know about the background, history, and context of the Bible, the better you can piece together its story.



4 **Abide** in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

We are abiding in Christ when our life is an outflow of **Christ's** life.

Abide = remain connected, live or continue in, be dependent on



It is expressed by our will, seen in the choices and decisions we make.

We must decide to do things which expose ourselves to Him and keep ourselves in contact with Him.



We are designed to bloom
and blossom when we are
connected to God.

5a I am the vine; you are the branches.

Perhaps they were so accustomed to thinking of Israel as the vine and thought mainly in terms of their connection to Israel, that they have to be told to think of Jesus as the vine, and emphasize their connection to Him.

5b Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,

Fruit bearing is inevitable with abiding.

The quality and quantity of the fruit may differ, but the presence of fruit will be inevitable.

What kind of fruit must we bear?

Colossians 1:10 – so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Jesus requires us to live a godly, righteous life, with all the good works righteousness (Philippians 1:9-10).

Galatians 5:22-24 – The fruit of the Spirit.

To do this successfully, we must put to death the works of the flesh (verses 19-21) – these are the thorns and thistles we must remove.

2 Peter 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5c for apart from me you can do nothing.

There are many things we can do without Christ. We can earn a living, raise a family, and practice generosity.

Meaning? We cannot bear spiritual fruit without Him. We can tie fruit onto our lives like ornaments on a Christmas tree, but the real fruit of His character comes from the vine itself.

We can do nothing without Him!

6 **“If** anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”

Jesus knows who abides and who does not.

The Greek text seems to imply that it refers to the person who did not abide in the vine at the outset. A possible reference to Judas Iscariot.

Note: fruitfulness is normal for believers.

There are no true disciples who do not abide.

The branch must remain connected to the vine or it has no life and is of no lasting good.

Your spiritual growth and fruitfulness will be determined not by being busy but by the time you spend with the Lord.

7 **“If** you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

Christ is not promising His disciples that they will receive anything they wish for in prayer without any conditions or stipulations.

It means that a person truly **“in Christ,”** and asking in accordance with the **Father’s** Word, will and plan, will have his prayers answered.

Your Personal Reflection

- If you **aren’t** seeing answered prayer, are you praying in **God’s** will ?
- Is your praying shaped by Scripture, the Word of God?
- Is your praying a ritual or the overflow of **God’s** life flowing through you?

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

The proof of discipleship is fruit bearing. This statement coincides with Jesus' teaching in the other gospel accounts: **“By their fruit you will recognize them”** (Matt 7:20; cf. Luke 6:43-44).

The purpose of fruit bearing is to bring glory to God, not to the disciple.

Fruit: may include the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

But it refers more to conversions of unbelievers.

No Christian, and no church, can be considered truly **“in Christ”** unless it passionately engaged in winning people for Christ.