

- Last week we started a study of the Gospel account that John wrote. We noted at the author of this Gospel account was the Apostle called John, not John the Baptist. We also noted that his account of the Gospel was written non-chronologically and that he said he wrote the book with a focus on belief in Christ that “you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31) We looked at how he used the word “Light” a lot to describe Christ. We also looked at some events John records surrounding John the Baptist, Christ’ assembling of the first apostles, and Christ’s first miracle.
- This week we are going to look at some key events John records, such as Christ’s interaction with a Samaritan woman, Christ healing a Roman Centurion’s child, Christ healing a lame man on the Sabbath, and some of the key teachings of Christ.
- Jesus has a very interesting and extended interaction with a woman at a well in Samaria. The well was very old and was in fact originally established by Jacob. Samaritans were not looked upon favorably by Jews (thus the parable of the Good Samaritan, for example). One of the main issues was the mountain on which to worship – Jews rightfully believed the temple mount was in Jerusalem, where Samaritans (even to this day) believe it is Mount Gerizim. It is around noon and Jesus disciples have gone into the city to buy food. Jesus asks for water, and the woman wonders how a Jew can ask a Samaritan for water. Jesus explains that He can give anyone living water. The woman asks Him how He can do this when He has nothing to draw from in the well and He says that whoever drinks of His living water will never be thirsty again. She says she wants it. He tells her to go call her husband. She says she doesn’t have any. Jesus says that this is correct because she has had five husbands already and is currently living with a guy to whom she isn’t even married. The woman knows he is a prophet then and asks Him the age-old question – upon which mountain they should worship on. Christ tells her the day is coming when people will not need to worship on mountains but will worship God everywhere in spirit and in truth. She goes into Samaria and tells people that He might just be the Christ. Christ also tells his disciples (who have gotten back now), that this means there are lot of souls to win there. (John 4:1-43)
- Jesus is met by a person on the road who asks Him to heal his son. Jesus doesn’t even go with the man, He just tells the man the son will be well. When the man goes home, he finds out that his son got well at the same time Jesus told him his son was healed. His whole house believes then. We now from other accounts this is probably a Roman Centurion, an officer commanding a large troop of Roman solders. (John 4:46-54)
- There is a pool called Bethesda where a bunch of people who could not walk or see used to hang out. The belief was that when the waters started bubbling up (which they would apparently do periodically) the first person in the water would be healed. One person complains to Jesus that everyone always beats him to the pool because he can’t walk and has no one to lift him up. Christ says to him to be healed and he immediately can walk again. This healing took place on the Sabbath day, so the Jews were really worked up

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about this, but Christ says he and God are working every day, and that the day is coming when even those who are “dead” (meaning dead in their sins) will hear His voice. That makes them even madder because He is equating Himself with God. (John 5:1-29)

- Christ concludes with a specific appeal to authority. He explains that He is doing things that prove that God sent Him. Also, he mentions that they believe they can find God in the scriptures and that they believe in Moses, both of whom prophesied of Him. (John 5:30-47)

1. What does Jesus mean by offering “living water?”
2. What is the mountain controversy between Jews and Samaritans and what does Jesus say when asked about it?
3. How does Jesus say people will be worshipping God?
4. How does Jesus heal the Roman Centurion’s son?
5. How does the Roman Centurion verify that Christ’s pronouncement had done the healing?
6. Describe the events that happened at the pool of Bethesda.
7. Why are the Jews so angry at Christ’s healing at Bethesda?
8. What does Christ mention as evidence that God sent Him?