

***John: The Gospel of Light and Life***  
***Adam Hamilton***  
***Chapter 5 Discussion***  
***The Farewell Discourse (pgs. 119-136)***

***Opening Prayer***

*Holy God of light and life, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who was willing to suffer and die for our salvation. Bless our time together as we study this Gospel. Open our hearts so that we may be receptive to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

***Before we Start.....***

***Remember:***

***Synoptic Gospels (n.)-*** the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which describe events from a similar point of view, as contrasted with that of John.

***Read about the arrest in all four Gospels...***

*Matthew 26:36-56 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1671-1672)*

*Mark 14: 32-52 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1725)*

*Luke 22:39-53 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1794-1795)*

***Read about the Trial in all four Gospels...***

*Matthew 26:57-68, 27:1-14 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1673-1674)*

*Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-15 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1725-1727)*

*Luke 22:54, 62-71 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1795-1796)*

***Read about the Crucifixion in all four Gospels...***

*Matthew 27:47-60 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1677-1678)*

*Mark 15:33-47 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1730-1731)*

*Luke 23:44-56 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1797-1798)*

***Make connections and note the differences in the three different accounts prior to our Session on the Gospel of John.***

- What differences did you notice while you were reading and comparing the different accounts?

- Did the same details appear in each account?
- Where there any Gospels that were less detailed?

*In our Last session...*

### *The Arrest of Jesus*

We studied Jesus' words in the Farewell Discourse with his disciples at the Last Supper, just before he was arrested. What happens next you ask? Let us read *John 18:1-14*. Keep in mind this maybe different from the other four Gospels that we read prior to this session.

- What is the significance of Jesus' answer "I am"?

Notice that the author notes that the previous three Gospels are called the synoptic Gospels. These Gospels emphasize the humanity of Jesus, while John's Gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus.

- How did Jesus' appearance and actions in this account support John's purpose of revealing Jesus' divinity?

We have already taken a moment to read these accounts, did find anything interesting or appealing?

- These texts from the Synoptic Gospels emphasize the humanity of Jesus., and the text from John's Gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus.
- How do the two approaches work together to reveal the person and ministry of Jesus?

## *The Trial of Jesus*

*Read John 18: 19-24, 28-38, 19:1-16 (pg. 139-141) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1848-1851)*

- Why did Pilate change the charge from blasphemy to insurrection?
- What is the “kingdom” that Jesus speaks about in *John 18:33-37 (pg.140) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1849)*
- What did Jesus mean when he said, “My kingdom is doesn’t originate from this” and “My kingdom isn’t from here”? *John 18:36 (pg.140) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1849)*
- What does it mean for us to accept Jesus as our King?
- How do we live in the kingdom Jesus spoke about during our life on Earth?

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## *Food for Thought...*

- *Have you ever had to make tough decision between your faith and the world’s values? If yes, what happened?*

*To live faithfully is a process. God sends the Holy Spirit to help us discern right from wrong. The Holy Spirit is with us to grant us strength and courage to make decision that reflect or faith. Yet, there will be times when we falter, and like Peter, deny that we even know Jesus. Remember that Jesus died for our sins. Through Christ we have forgiveness of sins and the opportunity for new life.*

## *Passover*

*Read Exodus Chapter 12 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 128-131)*

- In the Synoptic Gospels note the timing of the Passover Festival.
- In the Synoptic Gospels, the Passover meal was the setting for the Last Supper.
- In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says, "I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples." *Matthew 26:18- (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1670)*
- John sets the Last Supper and foot-washing ritual with the disciples "before the Festival of Passover" *John 13:1- 12 (pg. 111) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1838)*
- In John's timeline, the Crucifixion occurred on the day of preparation for Passover.
  - Why was it significant for John to place the Crucifixion on the day of preparation for Passover?
  
  - Why is it significant in the Synoptic Gospels that the Last Supper took place while Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples?

*It is important to note that we do not know historically, what the actual timeline was. We do know that Jesus chose to go to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover Festival. We can conclude that Jesus wanted his followers to understand the events of what we now call Holy Week in light of the meaning and symbolism of Passover. Passover is a celebration of God's gift of deliverance and salvation from slavery in Egypt. Jesus came for the salvation of all people.*

*Read John 19:16-30 (pg. 140-142) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1851-1853)*

- What claim did the "public notice written and posted on the cross" make about Jesus (*John 19:19*)?
  
- Why was it written three languages?

- How did the Jewish chief priests react to the claim that Jesus was “the King of the Jew?” (*John 19:21*)?
- Why do you think Pilate identified Jesus as “the king of the Jews”?
- What do you imagine Pilate was thinking when he made the remark in *John 19:22*?
- What would you have written and posted on the cross about Jesus?

***Read the following words in the Farewell Discourse John 17:1-5 (pg. 117) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1845-1846)***

- How was Jesus’ glory revealed on the cross?
- How did Jesus glorify God through his Crucifixion?

***Read Exodus 12:22 (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 130)***

***Read John 19:29 (pg. 142) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1853)***

- How does mention of “a hyssop branch” add meaning to John’s account of the crucifixion?

***Read John 19:30 (pg. 142) (Cultural Background Study Bible pgs. 1853)***

- What did Adam Hamilton think Jesus meant by these final words?
- What do you think?

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### *Hymn Study and Discussion*

#### *Go to Dark Gethsemane* *James Montgomery*

##### *Verse 1*

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
ye that feel the tempter's power;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
watch with Him one bitter hour,  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

##### *Verse 2*

See Him at the judgment hall,  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall!  
O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
learn of Christ to bear the cross.

##### *Verse 3*

Calvary's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;  
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

**Verse 4**

Early hasten to the tomb  
where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes;  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

- What message or story is this Hymn portraying?
- By listening just to the poetry alone, can you hear the suffering and power this hymn alludes to?
- What did you feel or hear after listening to the recording?

**Wrapping Up**

The Author describes all of these events in the Gospel of John as the “Dramatic Climax”

Items to reflect upon:

- What has been said about Jesus?
- How does Jesus bring life to me?
- What response is required of me?

**Closing Prayer**

*Merciful God, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the amazing gifts of salvation and forgiveness. Let us always be mindful of your great love for us. Let us walk in the light of Christ with love and faith all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*