

THE JESUS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

Seeing Jesus in John's Gospel

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Lesson 4: Confronted by Jesus

INTRODUCTION

In **Gospel of John Chapters 5–7**, Jesus moves from private conversations to public confrontation. His miracles and teachings no longer produce curiosity alone — they provoke controversy, hostility, and division. As Jesus reveals His equality with God, His authority over the Sabbath, and His identity as the source of eternal life, people are forced to choose sides.

This section answers a pressing question for every generation: What do we do when Jesus challenges our traditions, authority, and comfort?

READ JOHN CHAPTERS 5–7

A. Healing at the Pool of Bethesda — Authority Over the Sabbath (5:1–18)



Jesus heals a man who had been disabled for 38 years, but He does it on the Sabbath. Rather than rejoicing, the religious leaders accuse Him of breaking the law. Jesus responds by declaring that He works as His Father works — making Himself equal with God.

Key emphasis: Jesus values compassion over legalism and claims divine authority over religious traditions.

B. Jesus Claims Equality with God (5:19–47)

Jesus explains that the Father has given Him authority to give life and execute judgment. He calls witnesses to His identity: John the Baptist, His works, the Father, and the Scriptures — yet His opponents still refuse to believe.

Key emphasis: Rejecting Jesus is not an intellectual problem but a heart problem.

C. Feeding the Five Thousand — The Bread of Life (6:1–15)

Jesus miraculously feeds a massive crowd, revealing Himself as the true provider. The people want to make Him king, but they misunderstand His mission — seeking political rescue instead of spiritual salvation.

Key emphasis: Many want Jesus for what He gives, not for who He is.

D. Walking on Water — Lord Over Fear (6:16–21)

Jesus walks on the stormy sea to His disciples, declaring, “It is I; do not be afraid.” His presence calms both the storm and their fear.

Key emphasis: Faith grows when we recognize who Jesus is in the middle of life’s storms.

E. The Bread of Life Discourse — Hard Truths (6:22–71)

Jesus declares Himself the Bread of Life, calling people to believe in Him completely. Many disciples are offended and leave. Peter responds with a confession of faith: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Key emphasis: True disciples follow Jesus even when His teachings are difficult.

F. Growing Opposition and Division (7:1–24)

Jesus teaches at the Feast of Tabernacles, exposing the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and calling for righteous judgment rather than surface-level religion.

Key emphasis: Religious familiarity can blind people to spiritual truth.

G. Rivers of Living Water — Final Invitation (7:25–52)

On the final day of the feast, Jesus invites the spiritually thirsty to come to Him and receive living water — speaking of the Holy Spirit. The crowd is sharply divided over who He is.

Key emphasis: Jesus alone satisfies spiritual thirst, but not everyone is willing to receive Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus’ healing on the Sabbath provoke such anger among religious leaders (John 5:16–18)?
2. Why does Jesus say that the Scriptures testify about Him, yet the leaders still reject Him (John 5:39–40)?

3. What does the feeding of the five thousand reveal about shallow belief (John 6:26–27)?

4. Why did many disciples abandon Jesus after the Bread of Life teaching (John 6:60–66)?

5. What causes the division of opinion about Jesus in John 7?

SUMMARY

John 5–7 reveals a turning point in Jesus' ministry. The crowds thin, opposition intensifies, and true discipleship becomes costly. Jesus is no longer merely admired — He is contested. He presents Himself as equal with God, the Bread of Life, and the only source of living water. Every response to Jesus reveals the heart.

APPLICATION

1. **Don't let religion keep you from** _____.

Rules cannot replace faith in Christ (5:39–40).

2. **Follow Jesus for who He is, not just** _____.

True faith remains when the crowds walk away (6:68).

3. **Come to Jesus when you are** _____.

Only He can satisfy the deepest needs of the soul (7:37–38).