

# Listening Guide 3

March 23rd 2018

John's Gospel 4.43-9.41

## Knowing Jesus

### Bread of Life and Light of the world

- whose real food is to do his Father's will
- whose words are heard, and as we trust the Father who sent him, we immediately pass over, out of death into life.
- as the future Judge of the world, as Son of man
- who has weighty testimony about Himself
- who himself is real food which sustains life forever
- who is God's Passover Lamb for us
- who shields us from God's holy anger
- who fortifies us to live properly with God
- who is the Light of the world
- who is a true Apostle, speaking for his Father
- who has the great Drink of the Spirit to give
- who does not condemn us, but will have us live a godly life.
- who releases us from the power of sin which dominates our lives
- who teaches us to obey, so that we know truth
- who teaches us to honour his Father as he himself did.

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A series conducted in 2018: from 7.00-8.30pm over seven Friday nights in the Leederville Town Hall, 84 Cambridge Street, West Leederville.

# 1st half of the Evening - John 4.43-6.71

## ⌘ Jesus' meat - what sustains his life [John 4.27-38]

- The doing of his Father's will [the inner relation of life] and completing the work [the Father's task for him] he has been given is what constitutes the meat of his life.  
Bringing in the harvest of God, with his disciples.

## ⌘ 2nd sign - the official's son fixed by a word [John 4.43-54]

- In Galilee, a man asks for healing for his son, is told he will live. Taking Jesus at his word, the man goes and finds it so. His whole household believed.

## ⌘ Life through the Son [John 5.1-30]

- God is working, breaking the sabbath: they decide to kill him.  
Son can do nothing of himself. Father does healings all the time  
Father shows the Son all He is doing = open relationship  
What if he [1] raises the dead [2] judges the world  
So that all may honour the Son as they do the Father  
I hear the words of the Son, believe in the Father who sent him  
have eternal life, not condemned  
passed over out from death into Life [Passover]
- Jesus the future judge of all the dead; we can trust his judgement  
because He does what he hears from the Father - a co-regency

## ⌘ Scripture: record of self revelation of God experienced by men and women [John 5.31-47]

- Valid testimony: not from yourself: from John the baptiser: and also from the Father, which is far weightier.  
Works of Jesus testify that the father sent him.  
No one has seen God: Scriptures speak of Jesus; won't come to him.

## ⌘ Jesus: I am [no.1] the bread of life [John 6.1-40]

- Feeding 5000 - miracle of multiplication, God's provision.  
They search for Jesus for food which perishes, it goes off/goes stale  
Jesus provides enduring, constantly fresh food/life  
To believe in the One who sent Jesus; this is proper human work  
Jesus is the true manna [bread from heaven] = life for the world  
Never loses those the Father has given him. His own are safe.

## ⌘ God's Passover Lamb: eating Jesus' flesh and drinking his blood [John 6.41-59]

## ⌘ Some disciples desert him - words of life [John 6.60-71]

- Jesus' Ascension proves he came from heaven.

## ⌘ Jesus attends the Feast of Tabernacles [John 7.1-13]

- His unbelieving brothers advise him on how to become a public figure,

## 2nd half of the Evening - John 7.1-9.41

but it is not Jesus' right time. The crowd have a mixed assessment of him.

### ⌘ Jesus teaches at the Feast [John 7.14-24]

- "My teaching is not my own. Comes from Father who sent him. Obedience releases the certainty that we are taught of God [6.45] Judging by appearances - in relation to the Sabbath

### ⌘ Public try to assess him [John 7.25-44]

- I am not here in my own - I am from Him who sent me  
I am with you for a short time - then go to Him who sent me
- Promise of the Spirit - thirsty, drink. Spirit = stream of living water [Isaiah 58.11]; not yet given because Jesus not yet glorified = died, risen and ascended  
People divided as to whether he is the Christ. Confusion: Bethlehem, Galilee

### ⌘ Unbelief of the Jewish leaders [John 7.45-52]

- Nicodemus pleads for the leaders to not condemn Jesus without a hearing.

### ⌘ Woman discovered in adultery [John 8.1-11]

- Application of the Law: they want to trap Jesus. The issue for Jesus goes to the difference in upholding Law in regard to actions, and being a judge of a person. He does not condemn, but tells her to change her ways and stop being adulterous.

### ⌘ Valid testimony - I am [no.2] the light of the world [John 8.12-30]

- Light of the world [5.35] followers don't walk in darkness, have light of life. The Pharisees cannot test his validity, not knowing where he is from.  
He has good judgment because He serves his Father; he has his own testimony and his Father's.
- Where is your Father? You will die in your sin. They are of the world: don't know Father, and when they have "lifted up" the Son of Man then they will know He spoke truly.

### ⌘ Children of Abraham [John 8.31-41]

- Hold to his teaching you will know the truth, and be free. Slaves, in what sense, to whom? They are slaves to sin [seen here as a power as for Paul Romans 3.9].  
Abraham is our father - but their father is the devil because they obey him.

### ⌘ Children of the devil [John 8.42-47]

- They cannot hear Jesus because they are listening - and therefore committed - to their own father- the devil, wanting to carry out his desires. Murder and lies are his will. Which is what they are bent on doing to Jesus.

### ⌘ Jesus claims [John 8.48-59]

- I honour my Father: I don't seek my own honour. He who keeps my word will never see death. Abraham died - greater than him?? Before Abraham was, I am.

### ⌘ Jesus heals a man born blind [John 9.1-12]

## Reflecting on the 3rd Reading

### *Hearing the Son and trusting the Father*

If we have really taken in the words of Jesus and received them as true, then we will find that He directs us to the Father who sent him. We are to trust the Father, who initiated this whole self-revelation through his Son. We shall then come to a relationship with God as the children of the Father - a matter which Jesus authorises simply by being the sent Son of the Father; and we hear his words and begin to trust the One who sent him. Jesus is acting here as a true 'sent one' - a true authorised messenger - as a true apostle.

### *The simple life as it is in Jesus*

It may sound simple, but the minute we put our trust in the Father [and God] of Jesus Christ then we have begun a proper relationship with God. A relationship that he sees as a righteous way to relate to Him - that is to simply trust his word as it came through his Son. This is at the same time, for us, a crossing over from being a condemned person, who can only perish, into eternal life - the life of God shared. Do not be put off by the simplicity of this action. Don't despise it because it is so uncomplicated. This is the great power of the good news - it immediately opens us to shared life with God through the only means anyone shares anyone else's life - by taking them at their word and relating on that basis.

### *The Spirit of Jesus not yet given*

Regarding the promise of the Spirit Who is to be given to each of Jesus' disciples, we learn at 7.39 was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified. This anticipates the teaching of Jesus presented to us by our writer in chapters 14-16.

There, we learn that the coming of the Spirit into a person brings an internal, knowing experience of the Father and the Son. But also, the Spirit will not speak about Himself, but will convey all that Jesus wants conveyed. The Spirit will apply - make actual in our experience - the things of Jesus' life, death and resurrection so that we can know them and live off the results of them ourselves.

It is this last idea that makes sense of 7.39. Jesus is glorified in his life with his Father, shown to us at this stage. But the full matter awaits his death, resurrection and ascension. So, the Spirit was not yet given to the disciples at this early stage of their following of Jesus. For they will need to wait until He has accomplished the matters of his "hour". Then, if they receive his Spirit they will know them for themselves. Their own experience will be what was worked for them at that "hour". Behind this exchange is a grand idea - that the Old Testament teaches in 2 Kings 2, of which more later.