

The Story of Jesus
(Lesson 25)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 3:18 we are instructed to grow in the knowledge of Christ.
2. According to John 5:39, this growth is accomplished through careful Bible study.
3. Four books [the Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John] record the Lord's biography.
4. A general knowledge of these books is helpful as we study them.
5. This lesson is a study of the Gospel of John.

Discussion:

- I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS' BIOGRAPHY BY JOHN
 - A. The writer of this book is identified as *"the disciple whom Jesus loved"* (21:20-24).
 1. This disciple is mentioned several times (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7).
 2. A number of ancient sources identify this disciple as John.
 - B. Concerning the writer's identity, John:
 1. was a fisherman, a son of Zebedee and brother of James (Matthew 4:21-22)
 2. was chosen to be an apostle (Matthew 10:1-4)
 3. was given the responsibility of caring for Mary (John 19:25-27)
 4. wrote 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation.
 - C. The Gospel of John does not seem to have been written for any particular group of people.
 1. Its theme is revealed in 20:30-31.
 2. Recording all of the Lord's works was not possible (21:25).
 3. However, John did record 7 of the Lord's miracles to prove that He is God's Son, including *turning water into wine* (2:1-11), *healing the nobleman's son* (4:46-54), *healing the man at Bethesda* (5:1-9), *feeding the 5,000* (6:5-14), *walking on the water* (6:15-21), *healing the blind man* (9:1-7), and *raising Lazarus from the grave* (11:1-45).
- II. OUTLINE (Whitmire)
 - A. (1:1-18) Prologue [Introduction]
 - B. (1:19-ch.12) The Lord's Public Ministry
 - C. (ch.13-17) The Lord's Private Ministry
 - D. (ch.18-20) The Lord's Passion Ministry
 - E. (ch.21) Postscript [Conclusion]
- III. IMPORTANT POINTS OF INFORMATION REVEALED IN JOHN
 - A. Christ is a member of the eternal Godhead (1:1-3).
 - B. Christ did, however, become flesh (1:14; 3:16-17; 1 John 4:1-3).
 - C. In addition to recording 7 of the Lord's miracles which prove that He is God's Son, John also recorded the testimony of witnesses who revealed the Lord's identity, including:
 1. John the Baptist (1:34)
 2. Nathanael (1:49)
 3. Peter (6:69)
 4. Martha (11:27)
 5. Thomas (20:28).
 - D. John contains the 7 *"I am"* statements of Christ (6:35; 8:12; 8:58; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1).
 - E. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the new birth consists of being *"born of water and of the Spirit"* (3:1-7).
 - F. In His conversation with the Samaritan woman, Jesus revealed some important information about worship (4:23-24).
 1. Worship is to be directed to God.
 2. God desires to be worshipped.
 3. Acceptable worship must be offered:
 - a. *"in spirit"* [with the right disposition and attitude]
 - b. *"in truth"* [according to God's Word].