

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a blue button-down shirt. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's right hand is resting on the page. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the book.

NEW TESTAMENT

in a year - December

Daily Bible Reading Plan

DEC 1

JOHN 4

DONE

- What did our Lord mean by 'living water' (verse 10)? Why, when he had wakened in the woman a desire for it, did he not at once grant her request? What was necessary before he could do so?
- Trace the successive steps by which Jesus brought the woman to feel her need of salvation, and pointed her to himself. What can we learn from this to help us as we seek to lead others to him?
- In verses 19, 20 was the woman evading the demand for a personal response? How does Jesus' answer meet the need of those today who evade the claims of God by professing to follow a correct form of worship? Where must all look for salvation?

DEC 2

JOHN 5

DONE

- Verses 2-9, the third 'sign'. What features of Jesus' power does it reveal? What did he do for the man, and demand from the man, apart from making him walk? See verses 6 and 14.
- Verses 17-29. In what terms is Jesus' relationship with God described? What functions concerning judgment has God given to Jesus, and why? How do these truths concern us?
- Verses 39, 40. Is it still possible to study the Bible without finding life? If so, what is lacking? What reasons does Jesus give for the Jews' failure? Cf. 2 Cor. 3:14-16.

DEC 3

JOHN 6:1-21

DONE

- Taking this fourth 'sign' in the context of verses 1-13, note what it reveals concerning: (a) why the people were attracted to Jesus; (b) his own attitude to the people; (c) his testing of his disciples' faith; (d) his use of their cooperation; (e) the source of the answer to men's need. What overall lesson was this miracle intended to convey?
- Verse 15. Why did not Jesus wish to be made king by these people? What can we learn from his withdrawing from the place of success to be by himself? Cf. Luke 5:15, 16.

DEC 4

JOHN 6:22-40

DONE

The miracle of verses 4-13 is the basis of the dialogue between Jesus and the Jews in verses 25-59.

- The people saw the outward form of the miracle, but failed to discern what it signified spiritually (verse 26). Why? From what motives did they seek Jesus? Are you more concerned about spiritual development than material prosperity (verse 27)?
- How did the people relate the word 'work' in verse 27: (a) to the work they were expected to do (verse 28), (b) to the work of Moses compared with that of Jesus (verses 30, 31)? What work did Jesus: (a) require from them (verse 29) and (b) offer from himself (verse 32-40)? What, therefore, is the answer to the question in verse 28?
- How do verses 35-40 present God's answer to man's hunger?

DEC 5

JOHN 6:41-71

DONE

Today's portion falls into four parts: (a) verses 41-51, Jesus' reply to murmurings of the Jews; (b) verses 52-59, Jesus' answers to the wrangling of the Jews; (c) verses 60-65, Jesus' reply to murmurings of his disciples; (d) verses 66-71, Jesus asks the Twelve, 'you do not want to leave too, do you?'

- Comparing verses 36-37 with 43-45, why do you think some people will not accept Jesus' words? By what steps do others come to experience salvation?
- The closing verses, 60-71, make clear that what Jesus offers to men is not fleshly or material gain (cf. verse 27), but spiritual life through union with himself. What three reasons does Peter give why he and his fellow disciples remained faithful when many others went back?
- How did Jesus give his flesh for the life of the world? What is meant by eating his flesh and drinking his blood?

DEC 6

JOHN 7:1-52

DONE

Chapters 7:1 - 10:21 give an account of Jesus' visit to Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles six months before his death. The story vividly portrays the various attitudes towards Jesus among different groups. These groups fall into two main classes: one, 'the Jews', who included the chief priests, Pharisees, rulers and 'the people of Jerusalem'; and the other, 'the people', that is, the general multitude from all parts, who were attending the feast. The first of these two classes was, in the main, hostile to Jesus.

- How do the words of Jesus' brothers in verses 3-8 show that they did not understand him? What did Jesus mean by 'my time'? The world's attitude to Jesus prevented him from showing himself to them, as other men might (verses 4, 7). Can you expect any different reception from the world (cf. 15:18-21)? Has verse 13 any reproach for you?
- Verses 17, 18. What two tests does our Lord suggest by which a man can discover whether Jesus' teaching was true and of divine origin? What will it cost you to apply these tests?
- In what way is the promise of verses 37, 38 an advance on that of 4:13, 14? What difference does the Holy Spirit make to your life? Cf. Acts 1:8.

DEC 7

JOHN 7:53 - 8:29

DONE

- 7:53 - 8:11. What two different types of sinners can you see in the Pharisees and in the woman? Why did Jesus treat her so gently? Would his words to her bring conviction of her sin?
- In verses 13-29 what does Jesus say about his origin, his ultimate destination, his relation to the world, his relation to God?
- What was lacking in the Pharisees that prevented them from recognizing the truth of Jesus' words? How can I see the light of truth? How does light lead to life? See verses 12, 24.