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John's Gospel is about the life, death, burial, resurrection, and appearances of the Lord Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, the Son of God! Seven signs: changing water into wine, healing an official's dying son from a distance, healing a man who had been without strength for 38 years, feeding 10,000 people with a little boy's lunch, walking on water, giving sight to a blind man, and raising a dead man from the grave! Seven “I AM” statements: Jesus said, “I AM the Bread of life, the Light of the world, the Door of the sheep pen, the good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the Truth, and Life, and the true Vine.” Each of us must make a decision concerning these signs & “I Am” statements.

The apostle John states that Jesus is the purpose of all these signs and “I AM” statements. **Read 20:30-31.** KNOW that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God, & that believing in Him results in life now & throughout eternity!

In **chapters 1-6**, we covered who Jesus was before He became flesh, John the Baptist's introduction of Jesus, the first disciples beginning to follow Him, the changing of water into wine, Jesus' first cleansing of the temple: “My Father's house is not a place of business” and referring to God as His Father. We've seen Jesus interacting with a religious man Nicodemus and later with an immoral Samaritan woman, healing a royal official's dying son and a without-strength man and then explaining His actions to Jewish religious leaders (they accused Him of breaking their Sabbath rules and claiming equality with God). Finally, we've covered Jesus' feeding the 5000 and the crowd wanting to make Him King! Then He walks on water in the midst of a storm. And, lastly Jesus makes His claim that He's the Bread of Life. With these words, everyone but the 12 left Him!! Notice, Jesus met each person and group where he/she/they were and out of His love led them on to make a decision concerning Him! HE is always the issue, for them and us!!

Jesus' 1st year (out of 3+ years) of public ministry is recorded in **Jn. 1-5**. The beginning of His 3rd year of public ministry begins with feeding the 5000 and the sharing that He's the Bread of Life. A 6-month gap most likely takes place between **6:71** and **7:1**. While **chapter 6** occurred around the Passover (**6:4**, March-April), **chapters 7:1-10:21** happen at the feast of Tabernacles (October)

During those six months, Jesus traveled the length of Galilee, from Tyre and Sidon, NW of Galilee (**Mt. 15:21-28**), to Decapolis in the SE (**Mk. 7:31-37**). During that time, He performed miracles, including healing (**Mt. 15:29-31**, **Mk. 8:22-26**), casting out demons (**Mt. 15:21-28**, **17:14-18**), and feeding the 4000 (**Mt. 15:32-38**). Yet most of the 6 months was spent discipling the 12. “He taught them extensively, telling them for the first time of His impending rejection, crucifixion, and resurrection” (**Mt. 16:21**, **17:22-23**). (See Harmony of the Scriptures.) He devoted His time and effort to the small core group of men who would carry on His ministry after He was gone. “The measure of any church's success is not the size of its congregation, but the depth of its discipleship.” I agree wholeheartedly with that statement.

Who or what determines how you spend your time? **Eph. 5:15-18** is helpful.

Read 7:1-9. :1a After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee. Again, 6 months of relative withdrawal, covered in **Mt. 15-18**, **Mk. 7-9**, and **Lk. 9**. Now 1½ years after public ministry in Galilee, He heads back to Judea (map).

:1b for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. He has mostly avoided Judea because ever since He healed on the Sabbath and claimed that God was His Father (**5:18**, **8:49**, **10:30**), the Jews were seeking to kill Him (**5:16-18 read**). The opposition from **5:16-18** (see **7:19,20,32,44; 8:59, 10:39, 11:8**) will climax in **11:47-57 read**. Jesus knew His hour had not come (**2:4, 7:6,8,30, 8:20**). His ‘hour’ wouldn't come until **12:23,27 read**. That hour of His sacrifice would be at the next Passover. 4 Passovers mentioned in **2:13, 5:1, 6:4, and 18:28**.

:2 Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. 1 of the 3 major celebrations (Passover, Pentecost, Festival of Booths) that all Jewish males were supposed to attend (**Dt. 16:16, Ex. 23:14-17**). These festivals were held in Jerusalem, a great gathering of Jews from around the world. It was a time of great rejoicing when everyone played instruments, sang and danced.

:3-4 :3 Therefore his brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. :4 For no one does anything in secret when (lit. and) he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” “Go, where Your followers can see Your miracles. If you can do such wonderful things, prove it to the world. You can't become a public figure if You hide like this.” (NLT). Take Your ‘show’ to Jerusalem! Maximum publicity for Jesus!

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:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him. How disappointing that those who knew Him best didn't believe in Him! They did not become His followers until after the resurrection (**Acts 1:14, 1 Cor. 15:7**). Earlier in His ministry, their unbelief had led them to think He had lost His mind (**Mk. 3:21,31-34**). It would take His resurrection from the dead to finally persuade them that He was the Son of God (**Acts 1:14**).

Read :6-9. :6 So Jesus said to them, “My time (kairos) is not yet here, but your time (kairos) is always opportune.” How did Jesus know it wasn't the right time? He was constantly checking in with His Father. It wasn't yet the appointed hour for Him to give Himself for the sins of the world; there were 6 months left before that time was to come. He did not follow the “wisdom” of the world (His brothers). Jesus' word for ‘time’ (kairos) = an

opportunity, the best time to do something. He would minister in Judea for most of the intervening months (Lk. 9:51-19:11). “Your will be done!”

:7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. World is found 78 times in John’s Gospel and 23 times in his first epistle. In most usages it is referring to the created order that is without God and is in rebellion against Him. In the incarnation, the kingdom of God invaded the kingdom of the world. This world was represented by Jerusalem’s religious hierarchy. Since it is controlled by Satan (1 Jn. 5:19), the activities and priorities of the world are inherently sinful. “When I speak, I expose the evil and darkness and hearts of men.” Our Lord Jesus is the Light of the world. He condemns sin by His very presence and words. “It hates Me because of who I am and what I’m doing and what I’m saying.” Remember **3:18-21**.

:8 “Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time (kairos) has not yet fully come.” His work of redemption would take place at the Passover; it would be because of who He was: The King of Israel, the Son of God, the Light of the world, the Bread of life, the good Shepherd, the Door of the sheepfold, the Resurrection, Life, Way, Truth, the true Vine.

He wasn’t going down south to win public favor by something spectacular. God’s time looks to the real end, which is His glory. Do we operate our lives in concert with the world (the way it thinks and responds) or in concert with the will of God? Remember the definition of authentic Christianity. Jesus was not refusing to go to the Feast, but refusing to go in the way the brothers suggested. Even today, God has already told the Body how to function & has outlined those directions plainly in the NT (1 Pet. 4:7-11, Rom. 12-15, Eph. 4:1-16).

Jesus chose not to go with them in what would have probably been a large caravan of people. When Jesus did lay down His life (6 months later), it would be at the very moment His Father had established.

:9 Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee. They probably left much earlier than the opening day of the festival. An 8-day celebration. They didn’t want to miss a day of it. But Jesus remained in Galilee. It’s hard to go against worldly pressure and people’s expectations. But we must long to please our Father most of all.

Read :10-13. :10 But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret. The Father revealed what He should do and when. So Jesus went, but apparently alone—without His family, His disciples, the great crowds. According to **:14**, Jesus did not arrive in Jerusalem until the middle of the feast. Jesus may have waited until the middle of the feast in order to prevent a premature triumphal entry. Remember how the crowds had responded at the last Passover: “You’re the King, the fulfillment of the OT prophecy.”

:11 So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?” The Jewish leaders were looking for Jesus, but for evil reasons. They were out to kill Him (**5:18, Mk. 3:6, 12:13**) and they were keeping an eye out for His appearance. Remember at the 1st Passover, Jesus had cleansed the Temple. At the 2nd He had healed the without-strength man on the Sabbath. The first

two Passovers had been in Jerusalem. On the 3rd Passover, He’d fed a huge crowd with a little boy’s lunch. “I wonder what He’ll do at this festival?”

:12 There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.” There were 2 groups in Jerusalem: the religious leaders and the crowds. Yet we see no ‘saving faith’ in either group.

The crowds were already talking about Him before He even arrived: grumble = mutter, murmur, say something in a low tone, like cooing of doves. “The spectrum ranged from superficial acceptance (He is good) to cynical rejection (He deceives the people).” Some were saying “He’s an inherently good man (whether seen or not).” Others were saying: “He’s a deceiver, leading people to deviate from the right path.” These conversations were behind the scenes because look at **:13**.

:13 Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews. Saying the wrong word in public might mean expulsion from the synagogue (see **9:34**). It was not safe to speak openly; when they talked about Him, they did it in low tones. Political peer pressure. Fear of what others will think or do or say. Cowardice to take a stand with Him. The desire to be liked. Remember when 1000s realized who Jesus was—the Bread of life, they rejected Him. Could He really be the Deliverer? Jesus always brings us to the place of making a decision concerning Him: His identity. “Who then is this?” (**Mk. 4:41**) How often do we hesitate to talk about Jesus, because of what others might think or say or do? Before whom do we live our lives?

Those who are true followers of Jesus have the ability to follow God’s revealed will—because they have been given Him & His Word & His Spirit.

His time in Jerusalem will occupy **chapters 7-10**.

How will you apply the lessons of these verses to your life? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus? Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a, Eph. 5:18**).

Practical Ways to **Apply** God’s Word:

1. Start with Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30) and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**).
2. Practice **SCRAT**: Search, Confess, Review, Allow, and Thank.
3. As part of your immediate family, you have a responsible role to play as a husband, wife, parent, child (**Eph. 5:18-6:4, Col. 3:18-21**).
4. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11, Eph. 4:1-13**). Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24-25**).
5. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, Eph. 4:20-6:18, and 1 Pet. 2:11-3:17** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.

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In **chapters 1-6**, we covered who Jesus was before He became flesh, John the Baptist's introduction of Jesus, the first disciples beginning to follow Him, the changing of water into wine, Jesus' first cleansing of the temple: “My Father's house is not a place of business” and referring to God as His Father. We've seen Jesus interacting with a religious man Nicodemus and later with an immoral Samaritan woman, healing a royal official's dying son and a without-strength man and then explaining His actions to Jewish religious leaders (they accused Him of breaking their Sabbath rules and claiming equality with God). Finally, we've covered Jesus' feeding the 5000 and the crowd wanting to make Him King! Then He walks on water in the midst of a storm. And, lastly Jesus makes His claim that He's the Bread of Life. With these words, everyone but the 12 left Him!! Notice, Jesus met each person and group where he/she/they were and out of His love led them on to make a decision concerning Him! HE is always the issue, for them and us!!

Jesus' 1st year (out of 3+ years) of public ministry is recorded in **Jn. 1-5**. The beginning of His 3rd year of public ministry begins with feeding the 5000 and the sharing that He's the Bread of Life. A 6-month gap most likely takes place between **6:71** and **7:1**. While **chapter 6** occurred around the Passover (**6:4**, March-April), **chapters 7:1-10:21** happen at the feast of Tabernacles (October)

During those six months, Jesus traveled the length of Galilee, from Tyre and Sidon, NW of Galilee (**Mt. 15:21-28**), to Decapolis in the SE (**Mk. 7:31-37**). During that time, He performed miracles, including healing (**Mt. 15:29-31**, **Mk. 8:22-26**), casting out demons (**Mt. 15:21-28**, **17:14-18**), and feeding the 4000 (**Mt. 15:32-38**). Yet most of the 6 months was spent discipling the 12. “He taught them extensively, telling them for the first time of His impending rejection, crucifixion, and resurrection” (**Mt. 16:21**, **17:22-23**). (See Harmony of the Scriptures.) He devoted His time and effort to the small core group of men who would carry on His ministry after He was gone. “The measure of any church's success is not the size of its congregation, but the depth of its discipleship.” I agree wholeheartedly with that statement.

Who or what determines how you spend your time? **Eph. 5:15-18** is helpful.

Read 7:1-9. :1a After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee. Again, 6 months of relative withdrawal, covered in **Mt. 15-18, Mk. 7-9, and Lk. 9**. Now 1½ years after public ministry in Galilee, He heads back to Judea (map).

:1b for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. He has mostly avoided Judea because ever since He healed on the Sabbath and claimed that God was His Father (**5:18, 8:49, 10:30**), the Jews were seeking to kill Him (**5:16-18 read**). The opposition from **5:16-18** (see **7:19,20,32,44; 8:59, 10:39, 11:8**) will climax in **11:47-57 read**. Jesus knew His hour had not come (**2:4, 7:6,8,30, 8:20**). His ‘hour’ wouldn’t come until **12:23,27 read**. That hour of His sacrifice would be at the next Passover. 4 Passovers mentioned in **2:13, 5:1, 6:4, and 18:28**.

:2 Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. 1 of the 3 major celebrations (Passover, Pentecost, Festival of Booths) that all Jewish males were supposed to attend (**Dt. 16:16, Ex. 23:14-17**). These festivals were held in Jerusalem, a great gathering of Jews from around the world. It was a time of great rejoicing when everyone played instruments, sang and danced.

:3-4 :3 Therefore his brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. :4 For no one does anything in secret when (lit. and) he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” “Go, where Your followers can see Your miracles. If you can do such wonderful things, prove it to the world. You can’t become a public figure if You hide like this.” (NLT). Take Your ‘show’ to Jerusalem! Maximum publicity for Jesus!

:3 Mt. 13:55 lists Jesus’ (half) brothers as James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. James and Jude, who, after they came to faith, were to write 2 of the letters of the NT. Jesus also had sisters. His miracles were drawing big crowds so they wanted Him to go to the feast in Jerusalem and promote Himself.

:4 “Yes, in year 1 of public ministry, in Jerusalem You cleansed the Temple (**Jn. 2**). You had a one-on-one with a ruler of the Jews (**Jn. 3**). The noted miracle You did there was the curing of the helpless man (**Jn. 5**).” Yet those things had been done 1½ years earlier. “But like the crowd that wanted to make Him king (**6:14-15**), Jesus’ brothers completely misunderstood His mission.”

:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him. How disappointing that those who knew Him best didn’t believe in Him! They did not become His followers until after the resurrection (**Acts 1:14, 1 Cor. 15:7**). Earlier in His ministry, their unbelief had led them to think He had lost His mind (**Mk. 3:21,31-34**). It would take His resurrection from the dead to finally persuade them that He was the Son of God (**Acts 1:14**).

Read :6-9. :6 So Jesus said to them, “My time (kairos) is not yet here, but your time (kairos) is always opportune.” How did Jesus know it wasn’t the right time? He was constantly checking in with His Father. It wasn’t yet the appointed hour for Him to give Himself for the sins of the world; there were 6 months left before that time was to come. He did not follow the “wisdom” of the world (His brothers). Jesus’ word for ‘time’ (kairos) = an

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opportunity, the best time to do something. He would minister in Judea for most of the intervening months (Lk. 9:51-19:11). “Your will be done!”

:7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. World is found 78 times in John’s Gospel and 23 times in his first epistle. In most usages it is referring to the created order that is without God and is in rebellion against Him. In the incarnation, the kingdom of God invaded the kingdom of the world. This world was represented by Jerusalem’s religious hierarchy. Since it is controlled by Satan (1 Jn. 5:19), the activities and priorities of the world are inherently sinful. “When I speak, I expose the evil and darkness and hearts of men.” Our Lord Jesus is the Light of the world. He condemns sin by His very presence and words. “It hates Me because of who I am and what I’m doing and what I’m saying.” Remember **3:18-21**.

:8 “Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time (kairos) has not yet fully come.” His work of redemption would take place at the Passover; It would be because of who He was: The King of Israel, the Son of God, the Light of the world, the Bread of life, the good Shepherd, the Door of the sheepfold, the Resurrection, Life, Way, Truth, the true Vine.

He wasn’t going down south to win public favor by something spectacular. God’s time looks to the real end, which is His glory. Do we operate our lives in concert with the world (the way it thinks and responds) or in concert with the will of God? Remember the definition of authentic Christianity. Jesus was not refusing to go to the Feast, but refusing to go in the way the brothers suggested. Even today, God has already told the Body how to function & has outlined those directions plainly in the NT (1 Pet. 4:7-11, Rom. 12-15, Eph. 4:1-16).

Jesus chose not to go with them in what would have probably been a large caravan of people. When Jesus did lay down His life (6 months later), it would be at the very moment His Father had established.

:9 Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee. They probably left much earlier than the opening day of the festival. An 8-day celebration. They didn’t want to miss a day of it. But Jesus remained in Galilee. It’s hard to go against worldly pressure and people’s expectations. But we must long to please our Father most of all.

Read :10-13. :10 But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret. The Father revealed what He should do and when. So Jesus went, but apparently alone—without His family, His disciples, the great crowds. According to **:14**, Jesus did not arrive in Jerusalem until the middle of the feast. Jesus may have waited until the middle of the feast in order to prevent a premature triumphal entry. Remember how the crowds had responded at the last Passover: “You’re the King, the fulfillment of the OT prophecy.”

:11 So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?” The Jewish leaders were looking for Jesus, but for evil reasons. They were out to kill Him (**5:18, Mk. 3:6, 12:13**) and they were keeping an eye out for His appearance. Remember at the 1st Passover, Jesus had cleansed the Temple. At the 2nd He had healed the without-strength man on the Sabbath. The first

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two Passovers had been in Jerusalem. On the 3rd Passover, He'd fed a huge crowd with a little boy's lunch. "I wonder what He'll do at this festival?"

:12 There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray." There were 2 groups in Jerusalem: the religious leaders and the crowds. Yet we see no 'saving faith' in either group.

The crowds were already talking about Him before He even arrived: grumble = mutter, murmur, say something in a low tone, like cooing of doves. "The spectrum ranged from superficial acceptance (He is good) to cynical rejection (He deceives the people)." Some were saying "He's an inherently good man (whether seen or not)." Others were saying: "He's a deceiver, leading people to deviate from the right path." These conversations were behind the scenes because look at **:13**.

:13 Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews. Saying the wrong word in public might mean expulsion from the synagogue (see **9:34**). It was not safe to speak openly; when they talked about Him, they did it in low tones. Political peer pressure. Fear of what others will think or do or say. Cowardice to take a stand with Him. The desire to be liked. Remember when 1000s realized who Jesus was—the Bread of life, they rejected Him. Could He really be the Deliverer? Jesus always brings us to the place of making a decision concerning Him: His identity. "Who then is this?" (**Mk. 4:41**) How often do we hesitate to talk about Jesus, because of what others might think or say or do? Before whom do we live our lives?

Those who are true followers of Jesus have the ability to follow God's revealed will—because they have been given Him & His Word & His Spirit.

His time in Jerusalem will occupy **chapters 7-10**.

How will you apply the lessons of these verses to your life? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus? Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a, Eph. 5:18**).

Practical Ways to **Apply** God's Word:

1. Start with Jesus (**Mt. 11:28-30**) and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**).
2. Practice SCRAT: Search, Confess, Review, Allow, and Thank.
3. As part of your immediate family, you have a responsible role to play as a husband, wife, parent, child (**Eph. 5:18-6:4, Col. 3:18-21**).
4. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11, Eph. 4:1-13**). Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24-25**).
5. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, Eph. 4:20-6:18, and 1 Pet. 2:11-3:17** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.

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