



Walking With the Savior

Through An Eyewitness Account of John

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come. **Let's embark on an inspiring journey with John as we walk alongside Jesus.**

Background Matters

The temple guards, who were sent to arrest Jesus (v. 32) returned without Him. Responding to the question **Why?** the guards answered, **No one ever spoke the way this Man does.** Literally this is, "Never spoke thus a man," which implies that the guards sensed that He was most unusual or perhaps more than a man. The Gospels often reveal Jesus as a most impressive Teacher and Speaker (e.g., Matt. 7:29; 22:46). Though Jesus was opposed, many of those who heard Him were moved by Him (cf. John 7:15; 12:19).

7:47–48. The Pharisees' question to the guards, **Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in Him?** reveals their pride. They thought they were too educated (v. 15) to be taken in by a deceiver. Ironically a number of the rulers *did* believe (12:42; 19:38–39). The Pharisees were jealous of Jesus' great popularity ("The whole world has gone after Him" [12:19]).

7:49. The Pharisees explained Jesus' popularity among the populace by suggesting that the people were too ignorant to recognize Jesus as a deceiver. The crowd (**this mob**), according to the Pharisees, did not know **the Law**. They did not study it, so they could not obey it. And since they did



not obey it, they were under God's **curse** (Deut. 28:15). The irony of the situation was that the Pharisees, not the mob, were under God's wrath because they rejected God's revelation in Jesus (John 3:36).

7:50–51. The Mosaic Law (Deut. 1:16–17) and Rabbinic law stipulated that a person accused of a crime should get a fair **hearing**. Nicodemus appeared as a fair-minded man who did not want the Sanhedrin to make a false or hasty judgment. He had personally spoken with **Jesus** and knew He was from God (John 3:1–3; cf. 12:42; 19:38–39).

7:52. Even though Nicodemus was a respected teacher in the nation (3:10), he was insulted by the other members of the Sanhedrin. Their prejudice and hatred against Jesus were already strong enough to overthrow reason. The Sanhedrin accused Nicodemus of being as ignorant as the Galileans. **A prophet does not come out of Galilee**, they argued. So the messianic Prophet cannot be a Galilean (cf. 7:41).¹

This week in "Walking With the Savior"

We continue to explore John chapter 7, considering the Rabbi's perspective towards individuals who lack familiarity with the law, John's remarks in this context are particularly revealing. Nicodemus, who is a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council, highlights a fundamental principle of legal procedure that has been recognized and upheld since the time of Moses, a foundational figure in Jewish law, and acknowledged by all traditional Jewish interpreters.

This response from Nicodemus underscores a tendency toward regional bias rather than a substantive understanding of the Scriptures. Specifically, the reference to 2 Kings 14:25 illustrates the error in presuming that prophetic voices could only emerge from certain geographic areas. Historical evidence indicates that prophets did indeed arise from various tribes throughout Galilee, a point later acknowledged by rabbis.

The religious leaders were so blinded by their hatred of Jesus that they misquoted the Old Testament and Jewish tradition. The rabbis' education, geographical upbringing, and wealth contributed to their contempt for Jesus' ministry and teachings.

Study Guide 24

This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to

¹ Edwin A. Blum, "John." in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 302.



meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

How Deep is Your Doubt?

Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders

John 7:45–52

Topics:

Acceptance, Authority, Influence, Jesus Christ, Leadership, Motives, Peer Pressure, Prejudice, Society, Status, Unbelievers, World

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. Why do people join groups, clubs, and associations?

Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. *To what groups do you belong? Which is your favorite?

3. What explanation did the temple guards give for not bringing Jesus to the chief priests and Pharisees? (7:45–46)

4. *How can we infer that the temple guard recognized Jesus' authority? (7:46)

5. Of what did the Pharisees accuse the temple guards? (7:47)



6. What groups of people had not believed in Jesus? (7:48)

7. Why did the Pharisees claim there was a curse on the mob of people who believed in Jesus? (7:49)

8. *To what group did Nicodemus belong? (7:50)

Push on Wednesday, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

9. What question did Nicodemus ask? (7:51)

10. What question was Nicodemus asked? (7:52)

11. *What claim did the Pharisees make about Galilee? (7:52)

12. In your view, how does this chapter contribute to John's overall purpose for writing this book?

13. *To what groups in your church do you belong?

14. How might your membership in certain groups influence your opinions or beliefs?



15. What religious groups have power and authority in today's society?

16. *How might today's religious leaders react to Jesus if He came back today?

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. Why do we tend to judge others before we actually get to know them?

18. How do we sometimes abuse spiritual authority?

19. *What groups that further the cause of Christ can you support? How?

Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

20. How can you glorify God in the places of authority you hold?

A Journey Through The Gospel of John **2026**

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