



PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

WEEK 3: JOHN 5-6

WARM UP

- What are some examples, from your own observation or experience, of how intense & polarised society is? How does this affect the way you feel, think and act?

PART 1: GOOD DEEDS

1. Read John 5:1-9a or 6:1-13 (or both!). Jesus does a good thing, a powerful act of love, in public. Imagine you were the recipient... how would you have felt?

2. In Matt 5:15-16 Jesus says, *"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* How "seen" is your faith?

PART 2: FOES

3. Read John 5:9b-18. Immediately the critics come out (in John 6:41-59 we also find them "grumbling" and "arguing"). What is their problem?

4. Read John 5:19-30. Jesus doesn't back down one bit! In fact, he hits them hard with the truth. Think of a situation where you might be criticised for your faith... how could you reply in the same spirit as Jesus did?

5. Read John 5:31-37a. What four pieces of evidence does Jesus offer here in support of his claims? What evidence can you provide in support of your own faith?

6. Read John 5:37b-47. Jesus turns it around and challenges his opponents. But then, he's Jesus! What are some things we should consider when challenging others on their beliefs/actions? (see 1 Peter 3:15-16)

PART 3: FANS

7. Read John 6:14-24. This time Jesus gets a very different reaction! And also reacts very differently himself. Why do you think he responds in this way?

8. Read John 6:25-40. What is Jesus' main message to his "fans"? What does he want them to do?

9. Read John 6:41-59. To his opponents, Jesus goes into a very graphic and confronting description of what they must do. Focus on verse 51: what does this mean?

PART 4: FOLLOWERS

10. Read John 6:60-66. Even Jesus' disciples thought this was all too much! In what ways is the gospel a "hard teaching"? How are you tempted to make it "easier"?

11. Read John 6:67-69. Do Peter's words express your heart towards God? Use v68-69 as your prayer to God.