



Who Is Jesus?

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch *Judging Others Is Dangerous* online at bit.ly/JudgeOthers (2min 27sec).

2. Watch a Video

Watch John 6:41-71; 7:1-30 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from 53min 35sec to 1 hr 4min 10sec (10min 25sec).

3. Discuss

People wrestle with who Jesus is. His statements begin to anger the Jewish leaders.

New Church Concept Galilee

Galilee signifies the establishment of the church with the Gentiles, who are in the good of life and receive truths, and are thus in the conjunction thereof, and in combat against evil and falsities. See *Apocalypse Explained* 447.5

Learned and Simple

The learned have less belief than the simple in a life after death, and that in general they see Divine Truths less clearly than the simple do.... This was why the simple believed in the Lord but not the scribes and Pharisees, who were the learned in that nation. *Arcana Coelestia* 4760.4

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 16 | Gospel of John

Watch a Video

Watch *Judging Others Is Dangerous: Powerful Story* (see link on left).

1. How does it feel to be judged?
2. What is the impact of judging others on the person making the judgment? On a the person being judged? On others who hear about it?
3. Under what circumstances could judgments about others be legitimate?

In today's lesson from the Gospel of John Jesus is judged by people who have heard Him speak, but know nothing about who He truly is.

Watch a Video

Watch parts of John 6 and 7 from *The Life of Jesus . English. Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start video at 53min 35sec. Watch until 1hr 4min 10sec; 10min 25sec.**

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. The actor interpreting Jesus in John 6:47-58 (“eat My flesh and drink My blood”) seems to deliberately upset people. Do you agree with his interpretation of this scene? In what way do you imagine Jesus saying these words?
2. Why might Jesus have wanted to shake up peoples' thinking?
3. “Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained....” (John 6:61) How could Jesus know what people said outside of His hearing?
4. What was Jesus' relationship with his Father while He was on earth?
5. Why might Jesus choose Judas as one of the twelve disciples knowing that he would eventually betray Him?
6. God knows all things. Does He choose us to be His disciples even knowing that we may not always follow Him? Even if he foresees a person will choose hell after death?
7. When do we leave the Lord?
8. Who has the potential betray the Lord the most—an atheist (person who does not believe in God), an agnostic (person who's not sure if there is a God), or a person who believes in the Lord, leads a religious life and then leaves the Lord?

New Church Concept Attitude Is Everything

There are two basic attitudes of mind, the first leading to stupidity and insanity, the second to intelligence and wisdom. The first occurs when someone denies everything, saying...he is unable to believe something until he is convinced by things he can grasp in his mind and perceive with his senses. This is an attitude which leads to stupidity and insanity and must be termed the negative attitude. The second occurs when someone regards affirmatively the things which comprise doctrine drawn from the Word, that is, when he thinks within himself and believes that those things are true because the Lord has spoken them. This is an attitude that leads to intelligence and wisdom, and must be termed the affirmative attitude. *Arcana Coelestia* 2568.4

Divine Truth

The Divine truth in the heavens is light proceeding from the Lord as a Sun, which is Divine love. And because Divine truth proceeding from the Lord is the light of heaven, it is also Divine wisdom. It is this that enlightens the minds and eyes of the angels. It also enlightens the minds of people, and enables them to understand truth and perceive good when they read the Word from the Lord. For a person is then in contact with angels, and inwardly in a perception like the spiritual perception of the angels; and that spiritual perception flows into the natural perception proper to him in the world, and enlightens it. A person who reads the Word from the affection of truth has enlightenment through heaven from the Lord. See *Apocalypse Explained* 1067.3

9. What might you say to a friend who has doubts about God?
10. What purpose is there in life for a person does not believe in the Lord?
11. How do we recognize truth from God? Is something true because we feel good when we hear it? Or because we agree with it? Or because we like it and it makes sense to us?
12. Does the Lord choose us to be His followers? Or do we choose Him?
13. As opposition to Jesus' ministry mounted, He withdrew to Galilee, his childhood home, where people knew and loved Him. Do you withhold your religious ideals, or your true self, when you think others might not accept them? What is a safe place, either in yourself, or with others you might withdraw to?
14. Why did Jesus stay behind in Galilee instead of joining his brothers at the feast in Jerusalem?
15. Do we experience the Lord's presence in our lives openly or secretly?
16. What, in us, looks for the Lord's presence to persecute Him, as the Jews looked to persecute Jesus?
17. Many are persecuted because of their religion; many persecute in the name of religion. What does the New Church teach about how we are to treat people of different faiths? Are any religions better than others?
18. Jesus made many bold claims. On whose authority did He make them?
19. In healing a man on the Sabbath Jesus deliberately drew attention to the appropriateness of following the spirit and not the letter of the law. Why is the spirit more important than the letter?
20. Legal systems make judgments based on intentions, as well as actions. Is true judgment possible without considering inner attitudes in addition to actions when laws are broken?
21. How do the incidents in John chapters 6 and 7 help us understand why Jesus was eventually put to death?
22. Jesus' life unfolded according a Divine plan known only to Him. This chapter unveils more of the developing plot to kill Him. How aware was Jesus of what would happen?

Eating Flesh and Drinking Blood

Jewish faith and culture teaches strict observance of the Laws of Moses. Jesus' words, to eat His flesh and drink His blood, would not only have been against Jewish law; they would have been shocking and offensive. The consequences of eating "flesh with its life" (Genesis 9:4) were dire. People were to "be cut off" from their people (Leviticus 17:11-14), and utterly destroyed (Ezekiel 34:29). These words were delivered in the synagogue—where the Law was read, and would lead Jesus into trouble. Jesus real message was to raise people's consciousness above the letter to the spirit of the law to a new level of understanding and spiritual life.