**Book of John**

**Chapter 5**

**Festivals and Trials**

**Review**

We have been following Jesus travel in Israel from beyond the Jordan to the north—Cana and Galilee—to Jerusalem and back to the north in Galilee country again. We have watched His power in the miracles, each one a gift of compassion and a sign that the temple(s) and the ritual of cleansing were mere symbols of the real living waters and the true worship that Jesus was offering. His invitation to all was that whoever believes in Jesus (trusting and looking up to the cross for salvation) will be released from darkness of sin, live in the light and have life eternal with God.

The “harvest” of followers began with early disciples of John the Baptist, men who were seeking the Messiah, the Lamb of God. While Jewish leadership in Jerusalem was not embracing his authority (the temple cleansing and Nicodemus by night), the harvest continued in the most unexpected places (“unclean Samaria and Capernaum, truling headquarters of the dreaded Herodius Antipas). These early followers knew Jesus by His names from Old Testament promises and invited other to “come and see” this man they claimed as the Messiah.

The Book of John now transitions in its focus. The signs/miracles that reveal who Jesus is, will continue, but so will tensions between Jesus and the ruling class of Jews in Jerusalem while gathered together at annual religious festivals. In this next section of John’s book, Jesus will be in a series of informal trials that will lead up to His final trial and death. We can often organize the sequence of the upcoming stories by looking for:

 1) A crime or violation of Jewish Law

 2) A trial-accusations/witnesses/defense remarks

 4) A reverse trial-Jesus will redirect the trial around toward his Jewish prosecutors.

As we look at these informal trials, we will ask how each each festival might play into the story.

We will also wonder if John wrote this to help the followers of Jesus know how to think and act as the Christian church went through persecution and trials.

**John 5: 1-15) Pick Up Your Mat and Walk**

The Setting

The Jewish Superstition

The Person Selected

The Question Asked:

 Remember Jesus’ questions to the disciples and the woman at the well?

The Action Required

 Remember the action He retired of the Capernaum official?

Where is Jesus

 First

 Then

Jesus Follow Up Message to the Healed Man

Jesus’ Revelation of His Identity

The Crime(s) Against Jewish Law

**Next meeting**, we will follow the subsequent “trial.”