

April 1– Read John 6:22-40. Many sincere seekers for God are puzzled about what he wants them to do. The religions of the world are humankind’s attempts to answer this question. But Jesus’ reply is brief and simple: We must believe on him whom God has sent. Satisfying God does not come from the work we do, but from whom we believe. The first step is accepting that Jesus is who he claims to be. All spiritual development is built on this affirmation. Declare to Jesus, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God”, and embark on a life of belief that is satisfying to your Creator. Jesus said he would not lose even one person whom the Father has given him. Thus, anyone who makes a sincere commitment to Jesus as Savior is promised eternal life with Christ. Jesus will not let his people be overcome by Satan and lose their salvation.

April 2. Read John 6:41-70. The religious leaders grumbled because they could not accept Jesus’ claim of divinity. They saw him only as a carpenter from Nazareth. They refused to believe that Jesus was God’s divine Son, and they could not tolerate his message. Many people rejected Christ because they say they cannot believe he is the Son of God. In reality, the demands that Christ makes for their loyalty and obedience are what they can’t accept. So to protect themselves from the message, they reject the messenger. In response to Jesus’s message, some people left; others stayed and truly believed; and some, like Judas, stayed but tried to use Jesus for personal gain. Many people today turn away from Christ. Others pretend to follow, going to church for status, approval of family and friends, or business contacts. But there are only two real responses to Jesus – you either accept him or reject him. How have you responded to Christ?

April 3. Read John 7. Jesus came with the greatest gift ever offered, so why did he often act secretly? The religious leaders hated him, and many would refuse his gift of salvation, no matter what he said or did. The more Jesus taught and worked publicly, the more these leaders would cause trouble for him and his followers. So it was necessary for Jesus to teach and work as quietly as possible. Many people today have the privilege of teaching, preaching, and worshipping publicly with little persecution. These believers should be grateful and make the most of their opportunities to proclaim the Good News. The crowd was asking questions about Jesus. Some believed, others were hostile, and others disqualified Jesus as the Messiah because he was from Nazareth. (We assume they didn’t know where he was born). If they had looked more carefully, they would not have jumped to the wrong conclusions. When you search for God’s truth, make sure you look carefully and thoughtfully at the Bible with an open heart and mind. Don’t jump to conclusions before knowing what more of what the Bible says.

April 4. Read John 8. Jesus himself is the truth that sets us free. He is the source of truth, the perfect standard of what is right. He frees us from the consequences of sin, from self-deception, and from deception by Satan. He shows us clearly the way to eternal life with God. Thus, Jesus does not give us freedom to do what we want, but freedom to follow God. As we seek to serve God, Jesus’ perfect truth frees us to be all that God meant us to be. In a number of places Jesus intentionally challenged the listeners to test him. He welcomed those who wanted to question his claims and character as long as they were willing to follow through on what they discovered. Jesus’ challenge clarifies the two most frequent reasons that people miss when encountering him. (1) They never accept his challenge to test him, or (2) they test him but are not willing to believe what they discover. Have you made either of these mistakes?

April 5. Read John 10. If Jesus had been merely a man, his claims to be God would have proven him insane. But his miracles proved his words true – he really was God. The Jewish leaders could not see beyond their own prejudices, and they looked at Jesus only from a human perspective – Jesus confined in a human box. But Jesus was not limited by their restricted vision. Many people asking for proof do so for the wrong reasons. Most of these questioners didn't want to follow Jesus in the way he wanted to lead them. They hoped that Jesus would declare himself Messiah for perverted reasons. They, along with the disciples and everyone else in the Jewish nation, would have been delighted to have him drive out the Romans. Many of them didn't think we was going to do that, however. These doubters hoped he would identify himself so they could accuse him of telling lies. If we accept Christ as Lord, we also must accept his testimony to the Bible as God's Word.

Adapted from Life Application Study Bible