



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

John 5:39-47 Study Hints for Discussion

[*Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [*Class Preparation Guide*](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [*Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout*](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why did the religious leaders search the Scriptures? According to Jesus, what is one reason to study the Scriptures?

They searched the Scriptures thinking that they could find the way of or to eternal life through their study of the Scriptures. In Matthew 19:16, a rich young man asked Jesus what good deed or thing he needed to do to inherit eternal life. The religious leaders searched the Scriptures for similar reasons, and developed laws of “good things” to do and “bad things” to avoid in order to inherit eternal life. Jesus said that one reason to study the Scriptures, the most important reason, was because they testified on His behalf (He was/is the Way to eternal life)—the Way, the Truth, the Life.

2. What are some of the benefits of coming to Jesus?

We can have life, eternal life. We can receive power to become children of God. Jesus will pour the love of God into us through the Holy Spirit.

3. What was missing in the lives of the religious leaders? What was one or more of the effects of this?

The love of God was not in them. Lacking love, they did not glorify God when they learned Jesus healed people. They wanted to kill Jesus.

4. What did Jesus say about people seeking glory?

Many people seek glory from one another, rather than seeking the glory that comes from God.

5. When Jesus spoke to the religious leaders, what did Jesus say about Moses and them?

Moses will accuse them before the Father, because they did not believe Moses. If they believed Moses, they would believe Jesus. Moses wrote about Jesus. If they will not believe what Moses wrote, how will they believe what Jesus says.

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083 and lgp@theiblf.com.