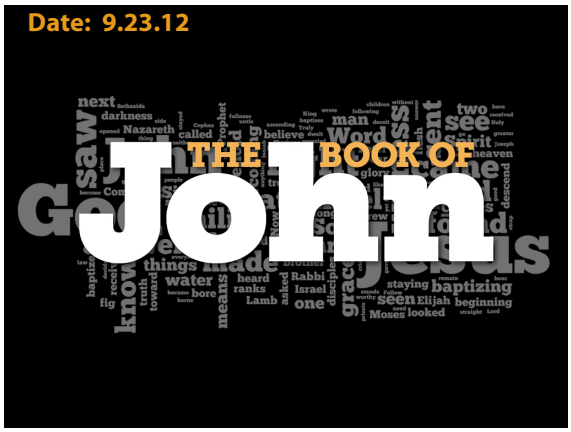

In our study of John we have begun to see a shift from mere reservation and hesitation about Jesus to outright opposition to Jesus. This transition can be seen in Jesus' interaction with the Jewish people in Jerusalem. It is through the act of healing a man on the Sabbath, who had been an invalid for 38 years (5:1-16) that now forces the issue of Jesus' authority to the surface. The issue of obedience to the Sabbath was the launching pad for Jesus' ongoing conflict with the religious leaders of the day. Why? It was because the Sabbath had developed into the centerpiece of Jewish self-righteousness. The Jewish people viewed their relationship with God on the basis of their keeping the Sabbath. In other words, God accepted them because they were good enough to be accepted. Today, we will see another example of self-righteousness in the study of the Scriptures. The Jewish people also had come to believe that it was through diligent and determined study of the Bible that marked them as being righteous, worthy of a relationship with God. However, we will see what their real problem was and how no amount of study would be able to remedy their condition.

Big Idea: Where you set your affection determines your direction.

I. The problem – v. 39

II. Four reasons the problem exists – vv. 40-44

III. The outcome – vv. 45-47

John 5:39-47

39 You search the Scriptures because you think
that in them you have eternal life; and it is they
that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to
come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not
receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you
do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have
come in my Father's name, and you do not
receive me. If another comes in his own name,
you will receive him. 44 How can you believe,
when you receive glory from one another and do
not seek the glory that comes from the only God?
45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the
Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on
whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you
believed Moses, you would believe me; for he
wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his
writings, how will you believe my words?"

Listen to the entire series online at www.forGodsfame.org