



## INTRODUCTION

## Part 3 - Faith is All that is Required

The gospel can be confusing.

What exactly should be included in the presentation of the it? What does God require of us to receive forgiveness of our sins? How do we receive the gift of eternal life?

Clear as Mud will answer these questions and more. No message is more important than the gospel—so, let's clear it up.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think most people insist on trying to earn their way into heaven? What's wrong with trying to get to heaven by good deeds, church attendance or being kind to others?
2. Read John 1:29-35. What do we learn about Jesus from these verses? Realizing that John was born about six months before Jesus, what did John mean when he said that Jesus surpassed him because he existed before him? What do you think John meant by the statement, "Here's the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world?"
3. Read John 3:13-18. What do we learn about Jesus from these verses? Read Numbers 21:4-9. What did the people have to do in order to be forgiven or healed of their sin? What can we learn from this about how we get right with God? Why do you think John said the one who doesn't believe in Jesus is already condemned?
4. Read John 4:4-14. Why is living water a good illustration of who Jesus was and what he came to do? Read John 4:15-18. Why was it important for Jesus to point out this woman's "brokenness?" Read John 4:25-26, 42. Why was it important for Jesus to reveal to this woman who he was?
5. Read John 4:28-29 and John 4:39-42. How is faith the common thread to all of the stories we have looked at tonight?
6. What can we learn from the interactions Jesus had with people about how to be more effective in sharing our faith with others?
7. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

## APPLICATION

The gospel can be unclear. If you've ever had questions about the bible, faith, or Jesus, you're not alone. Its message can be easily misunderstood. However, we can use illustrations from the bible to reinforce the right message.

First, Jesus is the spotless lamb who came from heaven to die in our place and for our sins. He takes away our sin when, by faith, we place our hands on him. Second, Jesus is the serpent on a pole. He hung on a cross because of our rebellion. Whoever looks to him by faith will be healed spiritually, and will not perish but receive eternal life. Third, Jesus is the life-giving water that quenches our spiritual thirst when we believe or put our trust in Him..

The reason people struggle to believe that salvation is a gift, and not something we work for, is that they don't understand how sinful and undeserving we really are. It's about what Jesus did for us; it's not about what we do for God.

## KEY VERSES

- John 1:29-34
- John 3:13-18
- Daniel 7:13-14
- Numbers 21:8-9
- John 4:7-18
- John 4:39-42