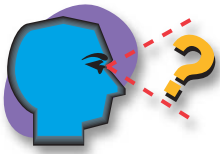


# John



## Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

1. According to the Law of Moses, all Jews were required to come to Jerusalem for certain feast days such as Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles.
2. Sometimes when a person has been sick for a long period of time, they can get comfortable with their illness. There are many reasons for this. They may become dependent on others and enjoy being waited on or even pitied. Some may use their illness as an excuse for not working or for getting special attention. While this is probably not the case with most, it does happen. Another reason could be that the person has given up hope of ever getting better and has resigned themselves to a life of misery and fallen prey to self-pity.

As for specifying the number of years that the man had been sick, John probably wants his readers to see the deeper meaning of this question Jesus is posing. The number thirty-eight also refers to the number of years that God imposed on the unbelieving Israelites to roam in the desert, when they rejected the words of Joshua (a type of Jesus in the Old Testament.) See *Points to Ponder* section for more detailed information on this.

3. In the passages in Nehemiah and Jeremiah, the Israelites are warned by the Prophets of God not to profane the Sabbath by working and "carrying bundles". Properly read in context, these passages were speaking about people carrying bundles of wares for selling or working in some sense. The passages were interpreted by the religious leaders in a very legalistic manner and they had consequently added many specifications. Therefore, they were irate that Jesus had commanded the lame man to carry his mat on the Sabbath since they considered this breaking the Law and profaning the Sabbath. They were not correct in their assessment of the situation. They were so blinded by their own sinful pride and jealousy (of Jesus) that they completely overlooked the fact that a miracle had taken place. The man who had been lame for 38 years was now walking!
4. Although Jesus had healed the man of his physical ailments, he wanted the man to know that it was even more important for him to be aware of the state of his soul and therefore warned him not to continue to sin. Thirty-eight years spent in sickness would be nothing compared to eternity in hell. Once a person has been redeemed, turning back to their old sinful ways is like "a dog that returns to its vomit" (Proverbs 26:11)
5. Jesus is referring to the fact that God never truly stops working. If God quit working, creation would fall into chaos and sin would prevail. What they are accusing Jesus of doing, God does constantly and that is working for the good of all mankind.



## Responses to the Questions (cont.)

6. The Jews were already angry because they felt he profaned the Sabbath but they were even more upset over Jesus' referring to God as his Father. This was considered blasphemy and by law the sentence for blasphemy was death. (Leviticus 24:15-16)
7. Yes. To reject Jesus is to reject the One Who sent him – God the Father. The Father and Son are one.
8. Again, we are to see more than one sense to this. Jesus certainly is speaking about those who are spiritually "dead" and who will answer his "speaking to their hearts". On another level, however, Jesus is God and he can raise the dead. Those who are physically dead can also hear his voice and arise from their graves such as the case with Lazarus and others as well as those who came out of their graves at the crucifixion (Mt. 27:52).
9. The Church teaches that Sundays are holy days of obligation and that the faithful should refrain from any and all work that hinders our worship of God. (There are exceptions such as family needs or important social service that cannot be avoided and CCC 2187 gives other exceptions as well). Sunday is also a time to devote to family as well as personal time for rest, reflection and meditation.
10. As humans, we receive life from God. God does not receive life from anything outside of himself as he is the Source of all life. By stating that he has life in himself just as God the Father does, Jesus is equating himself with God.
11. Jesus stated in John 3:17 that he did not come into the world to judge it, however, by his coming people were faced with a decision of accepting or rejecting him. Those who reject him have come under judgment. The title, "Son of Man" comes from Daniel 7:13-14 which is a prophecy about the Messiah and states that he was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him.
12. Jesus came to do the will of his Father. His human will and his divine will were in perfect alignment because Jesus did not choose to act on his own authority or initiative. His will is God's will.
13. The Law of Moses that the Jews followed stated that truth had to be validated by two or three witnesses. Jesus meant that his own statements about himself were not enough proof, therefore, he cites the testimonies of John the Baptist and God the Father as his witnesses. In addition, Jesus also says that his works bear witness to his claims.
14. At John's baptism of Jesus, God opened the heavens; the Spirit of God descended on Jesus and a voice said, "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:16-17) The miracles also pointed to the fact that he was the Son of God.



## *Responses to the Questions (cont.)*

15. As Jesus stated, they did not have the love of God in their hearts. The Scriptures were filled with prophecies about Jesus but their hearts were hardened and they were blinded by their own foolish pride. They resented Jesus and wanted him dead. Their sinfulness kept them from seeing the Truth.
  
16. Because the writings of Moses prophesied about Jesus but they rejected the One of whom Moses wrote.