

Bill & Kipp's Excellent Bible Adventure

John - **Episode 3** - *What Makes John Unique - Part B - Pharisees*

- I. Look at the stories below and determine why the Jewish leaders would have been frustrated and even violent toward Jesus?
 - A. John 5: 9-18 - The Healing at Bethesda
 - B. John 7: 10-13 - Jesus at the Festival of Booths/Light (Hanukah)
 - C. John 9: 18-23 - Man Born Blind - Put out of Synagogue
 - D. John 10: 30-33 - I and the Father are one

- II. Using a site like wikipedia.org or your study Bible, look up “Pharisees” to learn more about their role in Jewish society. They were preservers of the law and scripture and their meaning. Also, they kept the people of Israel connected in a world where the Jewish people were not in charge.
 - A. What kind of Messiah did the Pharisees want?
 - B. What kind of Messiah (with the Lamb as the symbol) did Jesus claim to be?
 - C. Have you ever been disappointed that Jesus operates by sacrificing through love rather ruling through power?
 - D. Where in your life have you struggled to live as the Lamb, sacrificing instead of “lording over” another person?

- III. Saul of Tarsus was a pharisee who was persecuting the church, and held the coats of those who stoned Stephen. Saul met Jesus on the Road to Damascus and is then called Paul.
 - A. What struggle would John have had with Paul, knowing that he was part of the group that killed his friend Stephen?
 - B. With whom do you struggle, having tried to forgive, but finding it difficult to forget what they have done?

- IV. Since John was Jewish, how does his constant references to the “Jews” keep him from being anti-semitic?