



Discussion Guide for the week of **SEPTEMBER 11, 2011**

Sermon Topic: The Forest for the Trees – John 5 – Matt Cassidy

Introduction: From the series title, “All In”, you can surmise that we want people to be evaluating their current walk with God. We are taking a fresh look at what God expects from us as obedience follows of our Savior, Jesus. This week Matt looks at John 5 where we get a sense of Jesus’ attitude toward legalistic religious rules that distort God’s principles.

Study Questions:

- 1. Read John 5:1-15. Describe the scene at Bethesda. How does the man’s response to Jesus indicate that he was missing Jesus’ intent? What are the possible ways that Jesus could have meant His questions to be understood? If Jesus were viewing your life condition right now, what might He be saying to you by the question, “Do you want to get well?”**
- 2. Describe the rationale behind the Pharisees confrontation with the man carrying his pallet. How had they twisted the 4th commandment to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy? How was the man’s obedience to Jesus an expression of worship and gratitude? How is the Pharisee’s response to Jesus an express of John 1:4?**
- 3. Describe the concept of “legalism.” How does it create a competitive Christianity? What are the signs of religion that Matt spoke of? What does legalistic religion produce in those that adhere to it? What are the subtle forms of legalism that are a part of contemporary Christianity? Why is legalistic religion so repulsive to Jesus?**
- 4. How do we twist God’s principles into legalistic list that govern our walk with God? What is God’s purpose for the many lists of things we find in the Bible about things to do and not to do? Why is it so easy to slip into a form of religion that denies God’s power in our life? Why is it impossible to mix religion with love?**
- 5. Read John 5:16-47. Try to identify the six claims Jesus makes regarding being the Lord of the Sabbath. List the various testimonies that Jesus says point to Him.**
- 6. What needs to happen for you to be “all in” in following Jesus in your daily life? How can this group help you?**