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Lesson 1 – God With Us

1) What was the sign given that Jesus was indeed born on this earth?
Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name _____.

The word Immanuel comes from the Hebrew ʿimmānūʾēl, which is made up of the words ʾim (with), ānū (us), and ēl (God). The variant spelling of Immanuel is Emmanuel.

2) What did Paul say about Jesus?
2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the _____ to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

3) How did Paul describe Jesus to the Colossian believers?
Colossians 1:15-17 Who is the _____ of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in _____, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,—God's thought made audible.

4) How does the Psalmist describe Jesus' creative powers?
Psalms 65:6 Which by his strength _____ fast the mountains; being girded with power:
Psalms 95:5 The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands _____ the dry land.

Now sin has marred God's perfect work, yet that handwriting remains. Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence. There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself.

5) What kind of example did Jesus leave for us?
John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do _____ of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.
John 8:50-51 And I seek not mine _____ glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see _____.

Through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all.

6) What did Malachai say about the coming Messiah?
Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with _____ in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

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From the foundation of the world. God had a plan to save humanity from the possibility of falling into sin. God could never use force to push His way through the problem. He must show the universe that His way is trustworthy and just. Only through a ministry of Love could something so wonderful be possible. Only God could figure a way to save fallen creatures and yet leave His Law intact.

7) When was this plan made?
Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world _____,

8) What was that plan?
Hebrews 2:17,18 Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be _____ like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make _____ for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to _____them that are tempted.

9) How thorough was Jesus' suffering and victory?
Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in _____ points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

The apostle Paul tells us in the following verse ***"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."***

10) How did the Psalmist accurately describe Jesus?
Psalm 40:8-10 I delight to do thy _____, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not _____ my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy _____ and thy _____: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

11) Who spoke to Moses on Mt Sinai?
Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, _____ hath sent me unto you.

12) Who did Jesus declare Himself to be to the Pharisees in Jerusalem?
John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before _____ was, I am.

By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God.

13) How did Paul describe Jesus to Timothy?
1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was _____ in the flesh, _____ in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, _____ on in the world, received up into glory.

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He says: "**I AM the Good Shepherd**." **"I AM the living Bread**." "**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**" "**All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth**." John 10:11; 6:51; 14:6; Matthew 28:18. I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. "God with us" is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven.

14) How low did the God of Heaven stoop to save us?
Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he _____ himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

15) How does the Father feel about this sacrifice?
Philippians 2:9-10 Wherefore God also hath highly _____ him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus _____ knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

16) How did Isaiah prophesy the path Jesus would take?
Isaiah 53:5 But he was _____ for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our _____ was upon him; and with his _____ we are healed.

As the high priest laid aside his gorgeous pontifical robes, and officiated in the white linen dress of the common priest, so Christ took the form of a servant, and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim.

By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God ***than if we had never fallen***. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken.

17) **Zechariah 9:16** And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an _____ upon his land.
18) **Ephesians 2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his _____ in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died, here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men. And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift.

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19) What awesome promise was made to John (and the church at large)?
Revelation 21:3-5 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the _____ of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all _____ from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things _____. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Can you see just how AWESOME it is that God would come to us?

Are you interested in getting to know Him better and get ready for the age to come?

When is the time to seek Him?

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Lesson 2 – The Chosen People and the Fullness of the Time

1) What did Isaiah and John tell us about the coming of the Savior?
Isaiah 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor _____; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

2) **Isaiah 53:3-4** He is despised and _____ of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did _____ him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

3) **John 1:11** He came unto his own, and his own _____ him not.

For more than a thousand years the Jewish people had awaited the Saviour's coming. Upon this event they had rested their brightest hopes. In song and prophecy, in temple rite and household prayer, they had enshrined His name. And yet at His coming they knew Him not.

4) What did God promise Abraham?
Genesis 12:2-3 And I will make of thee a great _____, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all _____ of the earth be blessed.

5) What was the promise given by Micah?
Micah 5:7-8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many _____ as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men. And the _____ of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

Yet God had chosen Israel. He had called them to preserve among men the knowledge of His law, and of the symbols and prophecies that pointed to the Saviour. He desired them to be as wells of salvation to the world. What Abraham was in the land of his sojourn, what Joseph was in Egypt, and Daniel in the courts of Babylon, the Hebrew people were to be among the nations. They were to reveal God to men.

6) What were God's plans for Israel given through Moses?
Deuteronomy 26:19 And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an _____ people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.

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Had Israel been true to God, He could have accomplished His purpose through their honor and exaltation. If they had walked in the ways of obedience.

By the Babylonish captivity the Israelites were effectually cured of the worship of graven images. During the centuries that followed, they suffered from the oppression of heathen foes, until the conviction became fixed that their prosperity depended upon their obedience to the law of God.

But with too many of the people obedience was not prompted by love. The motive was selfish. They rendered outward service to God as the means of attaining to national greatness.

7) How did Paul explain the coming to Jesus to the Galatians?
Galatians 4:4-5 But when the _____ of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To _____ them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

8) What was the state of Israel spiritually when Jesus was born?
Ezekiel 12:22 Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are _____, and every vision faileth?

But like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay.

9) What prophecy of Moses was fulfilled at the baptism of Christ?
Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A _____ shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Among the Jews there were yet steadfast souls, descendants of that holy line through whom a knowledge of God had been preserved. These still looked for the hope of the promise made.

10) Was Salvation for the Jewish nation only?
Isaiah 60:3-4 And the _____ shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they _____ themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

The deception of sin had reached its height. All the agencies for depraving the souls of men had been put in operation. The Son of God, looking upon the world, beheld suffering and misery. With pity He saw how men had become victims of satanic cruelty. He looked with compassion upon those who were being corrupted, murdered, and lost.

instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it. Though corruption and defiance might be seen in every part of the alien province, a way for its recovery was provided. At the very crisis, when Satan seemed about to triumph, the Son of God came with the embassage of divine grace. Through every age, through every hour, the love of God had been exercised toward the fallen race.

11) **Acts 4:12** Neither is there _____ in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

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12) **1 John 4:14** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the _____ to be the Saviour of the world.

13) Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was _____.

None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin.

Can you see that Jesus came at the exact right time?

Are you interested in receiving the promises made to humanity?

When is the time to seek Him?

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Lesson 3 – Unto You a Saviour

This chapter is based on Luke 2:1-20.

1) What did the prophet Micah prophesy about the Savior?
Micah 5:2 But thou, _____
Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be _____ in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

As in old time Cyrus was called to the throne of the world's empire that he might set free the captives of the Lord, so Caesar Augustus is made the agent for the fulfillment of God's purpose in bringing the mother of Jesus to Bethlehem. She is of the lineage of David, and the Son of David must be born in David's city.

2) What promises did God make to Israel?
Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my _____ upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:
Psalm 112:4-6 Unto the upright there ariseth _____ in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in _____ remembrance.

3) What message was given to the shepherds that were watching the flocks by night?
Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore _____.
Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you _____ tidings of _____ joy, which shall be to all people.
Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord.

In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. Through the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour, and prayed for the coming of the King to David's throne.

4) What did the angel tell the shepherds?
Luke 2:12 And this shall be a _____ unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

5) What happened next?
Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a _____ of the heavenly host _____ God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The joy and glory could no longer be hidden. The whole plain was lighted up with the bright shining of the hosts of God. Earth was hushed, and heaven stooped to listen to the song.

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6) How did the shepherds react to the angels message?
Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto _____, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Faith is belief in action. These shepherds went to see for themselves why the heavenly host were rejoicing. To us in the common walks of life, heaven may be very near. Angels from the courts above will attend the steps of those who come and go at God's command.

7) How did Paul try to describe the hidden riches of God?
Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the _____ and _____ of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

We marvel at the Saviour's sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall.

To think that the Creator God of the Universe would stoop so low to be born as a human, to be swaddled in Mary's death shroud, to be laid in a feed box made for sheep as His bed is almost unimaginable. When we look at the world around us and all the evil that exists, that He would suffer to live as one of us, as we should live, and show us the height and depth and width of His love.

Human pride and self-sufficiency stand rebuked in His presence. Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension.

Into the world where Satan claimed dominion God permitted His Son to come, a helpless babe, subject to the weakness of humanity. He permitted Him to meet life's peril in common with every human soul, to fight the battle as every child of humanity must fight it, at the risk of failure and eternal loss.

8) What did John tell us in his first letter?
1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might _____ through him.
1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the _____ for our sins.

The heart of the human father yearns over his son. He looks into the face of his little child, and trembles at the thought of life's peril. He longs to shield his dear one from Satan's power, to hold him back from temptation and conflict. To meet a bitterer conflict and a more fearful risk, God gave His only-begotten Son, that the path of life might be made sure for our little ones.

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. Romans 9:15

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Can you see the risk that God took to save humanity?

Are you interested in receiving the gift of restoration?

When is the time to seek Him?

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Lesson 4 – The Dedication

Based on Luke 2:21-38

In the Old Testament, after giving birth, a woman was required to bring two offerings to a priest at the entrance of the Tabernacle to be ceremonially clean again:

- Burnt offering: A one-year-old lamb, or two turtledoves or young pigeons if the woman couldn't afford a lamb
- Sin offering: A young pigeon or turtledove

The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner. This gift was to be acknowledged in every household by the consecration of the first-born son. He was to be devoted to the priesthood, as a representative of Christ among men.

1) How did Peter Describe Jesus?
   1 Peter 1:19-20 But with the precious _____ of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was _____ before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

These offerings represented Christ, and from this it is evident that Jesus Himself was free from physical deformity. He was the ***"lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:19***. His physical structure was not marred by any defect; His body was strong and healthy. And throughout His lifetime He lived in conformity to nature's laws.

2) What did God tell Moses to speak to Pharaoh?
   Exodus 4:22-23 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my _____: And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou _____ to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

God claimed the children of Israel in Egypt as His firstborn.

3) How did Pharoah respond?
   Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should _____ his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

The Lord worked for His people by signs and wonders, sending terrible judgments upon Pharaoh. At length, the destroying angel was bidden to slay the first-born of man and beast among the Egyptians. That the Israelites might be spared, they were directed to place upon their doorposts the blood of a slain lamb. Every house was to be marked, that when the angel came on his mission of death, he might pass over the homes of the Israelites.

4) What command was given to the Israelites after they were delivered from Egypt?
   Exodus 13:12 That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every _____ that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S.

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Exodus 13:13 And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of _____ among thy children shalt thou redeem.

After the tabernacle service was established, the Lord chose the tribe of Levi in the place of the first-born of all Israel to minister in the sanctuary. But the first-born was still to be regarded as the Lord's, and were to be bought back by a ransom.

5) Who was blessed at the dedication of Jesus?
Luke 2:25-26 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was _____; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see _____, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

As Simeon enters the temple, he sees a family presenting their first-born son before the priest. Their appearance bespeaks poverty; but Simeon understands the warnings of the Spirit, and he is deeply impressed that the infant being presented to the Lord is the Consolation of Israel, the One he has longed to see.

6) What did he say next?
Luke 2:29-32 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy _____, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A _____ to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

7) What blessing did he pronounce upon our Lord?
Luke 2:34-35 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the _____ and _____ again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many _____ may be revealed.

8) Who else blessed Jesus?
Luke 2:36-37 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the _____, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.
Verse 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for _____ in Jerusalem.

These humble worshipers had not studied the prophecies in vain. But those who held positions as rulers and priests in Israel, though they too had before them the precious utterances of prophecy, were not walking in the way of the Lord, and their eyes were not open to behold the Light of life.

9) What did Simeon's words bring to Jesus' earthly parents mind?
Isaiah 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a _____ shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

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Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called _____, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of _____.

"Behold," Simeon had said, **"this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against."** They must fall who would rise again. We must fall upon the Rock and be broken before we can be uplifted in Christ. Self must be dethroned, pride must be humbled, if we would know the glory of the spiritual kingdom.

10) What did God promise us through Jeremiah?
Jeremiah 29:11-13 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, _____ of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will _____ unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

God's hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work.

The whole treasury of heaven is open to those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, and laid open the resources of infinite power, He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man.

11) What do the redeemed say while they are on the Sea of Glass in Heaven?
Revelation 15:3-4 And they sing the song of _____ the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made _____.

The beginning of your walk with God begins with a dedication. Jesus was the example for all of us. Have you dedicated your life to the only one that can save you? He who overcomes will eat of the Tree of Life. God has worked out a plan to keep His Law intact and yet save humanity. Will you be a partaker of His amazing offer or will you walk away? The universe is watching to see what you will decide. Dedicate your life to Him and you will receive His grace and power to overcome this world. He is waiting, what say you?

Can you see that Jesus was the Firstborn over all creation?

Are you interested in dedicating your life to Him?

When is the time to do that?

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Lesson 5 – We Have Seen His Star

Based on Matthew 2

1) Who were the strangers that made an unexpected visit to see Jesus as a baby?
Matthew 2:1-2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came _____ men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his _____ in the east, and are come to worship him.

As these magi studied the starry heavens, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, they beheld the glory of the Creator. Seeking clearer knowledge, they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures.

2) What did Baalam prophesy while he was blessing God's people?
Numbers 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a _____ out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

In their own land were treasured prophetic writings that predicted the coming of a divine teacher. Balaam belonged to the magicians, though at one time a prophet of God; by the Holy Spirit he had foretold the prosperity of Israel and the appearing of the Messiah; and his prophecies had been handed down by tradition from century to century. But in the Old Testament the Saviour's advent was more clearly revealed. The magi learned with joy that His coming was near, and that the whole world was to be filled with a knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

The wise men had seen a mysterious light in the heavens upon that night when the glory of God flooded the hills of Bethlehem. As the light faded, a luminous star appeared, and lingered in the sky. It was not a fixed star nor a planet, and the phenomenon excited the keenest interest. That star was a distant company of shining angels, but of this the wise men were ignorant.

3) How did Abraham react to his calling?
Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not _____ whither he went.

So did these Gentiles go forth to find the promised Saviour. The Eastern country abounded in precious things, and the magi did not set out empty-handed. It was the custom to offer presents as an act of homage to princes or other personages of rank, and the richest gifts the land afforded were borne as an offering to Him in whom all the families of the earth were to be blessed.

4) How did Herod react when he saw this retinue of wealthy strangers?
Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was _____, and all Jerusalem with him.

With eager steps they press onward, confidently expecting the Messiah's birth to be the joyful burden of every tongue. But their inquiries are in vain. Entering the holy city, they repair to the temple. To their amazement they find none who seem to have a knowledge of the newborn king.

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5) What did Herod do next?
Matthew 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he _____ of them where Christ should be born.

The indifference with which the priests turned to the rolls of prophecy enraged the jealous tyrant. He thought them trying to conceal their knowledge of the matter. With an authority they dared not disregard, he commanded them to make close search, and to declare the birthplace of their expected King.

6) What was their response?
Matthew 2:5-6 And they said unto him, In _____ of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a _____, that shall rule my people Israel.

7) How did the priests and scribes feel about this inquiry?
_____

They would not even go to Bethlehem to see whether these things were so. And they led the people to regard the interest in Jesus as a fanatical excitement. Here began the rejection of Christ by the priests and rabbis. From this point their pride and stubbornness grew into a settled hatred of the Saviour.

8) Who is the Gospel message meant for?
Isaiah 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the _____, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

The magi had no idea what to expect. Such wonderful news and the land with the miracle happening inside of it knew it not. But they pressed on in faith.

After the long journey they had been disappointed by the indifference of the Jewish leaders, and had left Jerusalem less confident than when they entered the city. At Bethlehem they found no royal guard stationed to protect the newborn King. None of the world's honored men were in attendance.

9) What did they do when they found Jesus?
Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and _____ him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
10) Did the Wise Men honor Herod's request?
Matthew 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to _____, they departed into their own country another way.

In a dream they received a divine message to hold no further communication with him. Avoiding Jerusalem, they set out for their own country by another route.

When God enters your life, you go out a different way than you came in.

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11) What were the instructions for Joseph and Mary?
Matthew 2:13 And when they were departed, behold, the _____ of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Joseph obeyed without delay, setting out on the journey by night for greater security.

Satan was bent on shutting out the divine light from the world, and he used his utmost cunning to destroy the Saviour. But He who never slumbers nor sleeps was watching over His beloved Son.

12) What did Jeremiah prophesy about the land near Bethlehem?
Jeremiah 31:15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be _____ for her children, because they were not.

Herod in Jerusalem impatiently awaited the return of the wise men. As time passed, and they did not appear, his suspicions were roused. The unwillingness of the rabbis to point out the Messiah's birthplace seemed to indicate that they had penetrated his design, and that the magi had purposely avoided him.

He was maddened at the thought. Craft had failed, but there was left the resort to force. He would make an example of this child-king.

This act of cruelty was one of the last that darkened the reign of Herod. Soon after the slaughter of the innocents, he was himself compelled to yield to that doom which none can turn aside. He died a fearful death.

13) What did God do for the family while they were in Egypt?
Matthew: 2:20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of _____: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.
Matthew 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go _____: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
Matthew 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a _____.

Joseph chose an out of the way place to raise the child. He didn't return to the land of his nativity because Herod's sons had taken the place of their father and wanted to make a name for themselves by seeking revenge on their fathers' enemies. This was less of a factor to the north in Galilee where another less vicious son of Herod ruled.

God could not trust His beloved Son with men, even while carrying forward His work for their salvation. He commissioned angels to attend Jesus and protect Him till He should accomplish His mission on earth, and die by the hands of those whom He came to save.

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Can you see that God is capable of keeping you safe even in troublesome times?

Are you interested in seeing Him work out His plans for you?

When is the time to let God be in control of your destiny?

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Lesson 6 – As a Child

Based on Luke 2:39, 40, 41-51

The childhood and youth of Jesus were spent in a little mountain village. There was no place on earth that would not have been honored by His presence. The palaces of kings would have been privileged in receiving Him as a guest. But He passed by the homes of wealth, the courts of royalty, and the renowned seats of learning, to make His home in obscure and despised Nazareth.

1) How did Luke describe Jesus' upbringing?
   Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and _____ strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

2) What else did Luke tell us about him?
   Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in _____ and stature, and in favour with _____ and man.

As a child, Jesus manifested a peculiar loveliness of disposition. His willing hands were ever ready to serve others. He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that would never sacrifice integrity. In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy.

Fathers and mothers were to instruct their children that the law of God is an expression of His character, and that as they received the principles of the law into the heart, the image of God was traced on mind and soul.

3) According to Paul, how far away from us is God?
   Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not _____ from every one of us:

As in our day, the experience which is obtained through a personal acceptance of God's word had no place in the educational system. Absorbed in the round of externals, the students found no quiet hours to spend with God. They did not hear His voice speaking to the heart. Therefore, Jesus' first teacher was his mother.

From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother's knee.

4) The Jewish people question Jesus, what did they say?
   John 7:15-16 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How _____ this man letters, having never learned? Jesus answered them, and said, My _____ is not mine, but his that sent me.

5) What advice did He give them?
   John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall _____ of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

God was His teacher. God is YOUR teacher as well.

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Since He gained knowledge as we may do, His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures shows how diligently His early years were given to the study of God's word. And spread out before Him was the great library of God's created works.

From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose; He lived to bless others.

6) What did Nathaniel ask about Nazereth?
John 1:46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any _____ thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

There was never a time when Satan did not make Jesus' life difficult. There were temptations and troubles around every corner, but He expected much; therefore He attempted much.

7) What did Jesus reveal about His character?
John 9:4-5 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is _____: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the _____ of the world.

8) What prophetic words were given by Isaiah?
Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul _____; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

9) How did John describe Him?
John 1:4-5 In him was life; and the life was the _____ of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the _____ comprehended it not.

10) What event marked a special event in Jesus' life?
Luke 2:41-42 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the _____. And when he was _____ years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

11) How careful were Joseph and Mary to watch Him?
Luke 2:43-44 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus _____ behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they _____ him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

Joseph and Mary were in great perplexity and distress. In the departure from Jerusalem, they had lost sight of Jesus, and they knew not that He had tarried behind. The country was then densely populated, and the caravans from Galilee were very large.

12) Where did they find Him?
Luke 2:46 And it came to pass, that after _____ days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

In the school of the rabbis they found Jesus. Rejoiced as they were, they could not forget their grief and anxiety.

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13) What did Mary say to Him?
Luke 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee _____.

14) How did the young Jesus reply?
Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my _____ business?

And as they seemed not to understand His words, He pointed upward. On His face was a light at which they wondered. Divinity was flashing through humanity.

His words started a train of thought that would never be forgotten.

15) What words of the angel came back to Mary?
Luke 1:32-33 He shall be great, and shall be called the _____ of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall _____ over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

If Joseph and Mary had stayed their minds upon God by meditation and prayer, they would have realized the sacredness of their trust, and would not have lost sight of Jesus. By one day's neglect they lost the Saviour; but it cost them three days of anxious search to find Him.

So with us; by idle talk, evil speaking, or neglect of prayer, we may in one day lose the Saviour's presence, and it may take many days of sorrowful search to find Him, and regain the peace that we have lost.

16) What was Paul's encouragement to the Corinthian believers?
2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are _____ into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

By beholding the beauty of His character, we shall be changed

Can you see that Jesus was tempted as we are?

Are you interested in spending time with our Creator?

When is the time to take that step?

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Lesson 7 – The Voice in the Wilderness

Based on Luke 1:5-23, 57-80, 3:1-18; Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8

1) How were John the Baptist's parents described in the Bible?
   Luke 1:5-6 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of _____, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord _____.
2) What promise was given to them?
   Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the _____ of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

From among the faithful in Israel, who had long waited for the coming of the Messiah, the forerunner of Christ arose. This was after hundreds of years of prophetic silence from the Lord.

In the Bible, a forerunner is someone who goes before others to announce their arrival or to scout out a place.

3) How did God reveal His plan to Zechariah?
   Luke 1:8-9 And it came to pass, that while he executed the _____ office before God in the order of his course, According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn _____ when he went into the temple of the Lord.

4) What happened next?
   Luke 1:11-12 And there appeared unto him an _____ of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and _____ fell upon him.

He was standing before the golden altar in the holy place of the sanctuary. The cloud of incense with the prayers of Israel was ascending before God. Suddenly he became conscious of a divine presence.

For many years he had prayed for the coming of the Redeemer; now heaven had sent its messenger to announce that these prayers were about to be answered; but the mercy of God seemed too great for him to credit. He was filled with fear and self-condemnation.

5) How did the angel respond?
   Luke 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy _____ is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.
   Verse 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his _____.
   Verse 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be _____ with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.
   Verse 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he _____ to the Lord their God.
   Verse 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of _____, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

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6) How did Zechariah respond?
Luke 1:18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an _____ man, and my wife well stricken in years.

7) What sign did God give him to help him to trust the promises?
Luke 1:19-20 And the angel answering said unto him, I am _____, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be _____, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

For a moment the aged priest turns his thought to the weakness of humanity. He forgets that what God has promised, He is able to perform.

8) The worshippers at the Temple were waiting for him to come out and pronounce a blessing, what did they see instead?
Luke 1:22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a _____ in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

9) What happened when he named his son John according to the command?
Luke 1:64-65 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue _____, and he spake, and praised God. And _____ came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

10) What was God's calling for the child of promise?
Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make _____ a people prepared for the Lord.

11) What prophecies did John learn by heart in preparation for his life's work?
Isaiah 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a _____ shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon _____, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;
Isaiah 32:1-2 Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

He was ready to go forth as Heaven's messenger, unawed by the human, because he had looked upon the Divine. He could stand erect and fearless in the presence of earthly monarchs, because he had bowed low before the King of kings.

He saw his people deceived, self-satisfied, and asleep in their sins. He longed to rouse them to a holier life. The message that God had given him to bear was designed to startle them from their lethargy, and cause them to tremble because of their great wickedness. Before the seed of the gospel could find lodgment, the soil of the heart must be broken up. Before they would seek healing from Jesus, they must be awakened to their danger from the wounds of sin.

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12) What was John preaching in wilderness?
Matthew 3:1-2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the _____ of Judaea, And saying_____ ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

With a new, strange power it moved the people. Prophets had foretold the coming of Christ as an event far in the future; but here was an announcement that it was at hand.

With the spirit and power of Elijah he denounced the national corruption, and rebuked the prevailing sins. His words were plain, pointed, and convincing.

13) How did the people respond?
Matthew 3:5-6 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about _____, And were baptized of him in Jordan, _____ their sins.

As a symbol of cleansing from sin, he baptized them in the waters of the Jordan. Thus by a significant object lesson he declared that those who claimed to be the chosen people of God were defiled by sin, and that without purification of heart and life they could have no part in the Messiah's kingdom.

14) What did John say to some of the church leaders that came out to hear him?
Matthew 3:7-8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his _____, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for _____:

John was impressed by the Holy Spirit that many of these men had no real conviction of sin. They were timeservers. As friends of the prophet, they hoped to find favor with the coming Prince. And by receiving baptism at the hands of this popular young teacher, they thought to strengthen their influence with the people.

15) How will God change us for good?
Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their _____; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

To a people in whose hearts His law is written, the favor of God is assured. They are one with Him.

16) What warning was given to those churchmen?
Matthew 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which _____ not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

John declared to the Jews that their standing before God was to be decided by their character and life. Profession was worthless. If their life and character were not in harmony with God's law, they were not His people.

17) What seminal moment marked a huge change for both Jesus and John?
Mathew 3:13-15 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to _____all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

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18) What words of wisdom did John give concerning their ministries?
John 3:30 He must increase, but I must _____.

In the time of John the Baptist, Christ was about to appear as the revealer of the character of God. His very presence would make manifest to men their sin. Only as they were willing to be purged from sin could they enter into fellowship with Him. Only the pure in heart could abide in His presence.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Can you see that God has BIG plans for everyone?

Are you interested in going to Heaven?

When is the time to ask God to reveal His plan for you?

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Lesson 8 – The Baptism

Based on Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21, 22.

Tidings of John the Baptist and his wonderful announcement, spread throughout Galilee. The message reached the peasants in the remotest hill towns, and the fisher folk by the sea, and in these simple, earnest hearts found its truest response.

In Nazareth it was told in the carpenter shop that had been Joseph's, and One recognized the call. His time had come. Turning from His daily toil, He bade farewell to His mother and followed in the steps of His countrymen who were flocking to the Jordan.

1) How did John react when he saw Jesus?
   Matthew 3:13-14 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John _____ him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

When Jesus came to be baptized, John recognized in Him a purity of character that he had never before perceived in any man. The very atmosphere of His presence was holy and awe-inspiring.

Never had he come in contact with a human being from whom there breathed an influence so divine. All this was in harmony with what had been revealed to John regarding the Messiah. Yet he shrank from granting the request of Jesus. How could he, a sinner, baptize the Sinless One? And why should He who needed no repentance submit to a rite that was a confession of guilt to be washed away?

2) What did Jesus say to John?
   Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all _____. Then he suffered him.

Jesus did not receive baptism as a confession of guilt on His own account. He identified Himself with sinners, taking the steps that we are to take, and doing the work that we must do. His life of suffering and patient endurance after His baptism was also an example to us.

3) What happened next?
   Matthew 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was _____, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well _____.

Upon coming up out of the water, Jesus bowed in prayer on the riverbank. A new and important era was opening before Him. He was now, upon a wider stage, entering on the conflict of His life. Though He was the Prince of Peace, His coming must be as the unsheathing of a sword.

Alone He must tread the path; alone He must bear the burden. Upon Him who had laid off His glory and accepted the weakness of humanity the redemption of the world must rest. He saw and felt it all, but His purpose remained steadfast.

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Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. But no; the Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son. Direct from the throne issue the beams of His glory. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a dovelike form of purest light, a fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One.

4) What did the Father say about Jesus in the presence of everyone?
Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved _____, in whom I am well pleased.
5) What did John the Baptist say afterward about his cousin?
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the _____ of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**.**

None among the hearers, and not even the speaker himself, discerned the import of these words, “the Lamb of God.”

6) What did Isaac ask Abraham about the sacrifice on Mt Moriah?
Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the _____ for a burnt offering?
7) What was Abraham’s reply to his son?
Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will _____ himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

In the ram divinely provided in the place of Isaac, Abraham saw a symbol of Him who was to die for the sins of men.

8) What did Isaiah prophesy about our Saviour?
Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the _____ of us all.
Isaiah 53:7 He was _____, and he was _____, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

The people of Israel had not understood the lesson. Many of them regarded the sacrificial offerings much as the heathen looked upon their sacrifices, as gifts by which they themselves might propitiate the Deity.

God desired to teach them that from His own love comes the gift which reconciles them to Himself.

9) What did Paul tell the Ephesian believers?
Ephesians 1:6-7 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us _____ in the beloved. In whom we have _____ through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

The glory that rested upon Christ is a pledge of the love of God for us. It tells us of the power of prayer, how the human voice may reach the ear of God, and our petitions find acceptance in the courts of heaven.

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By sin, earth was cut off from heaven, and alienated from its communion; but Jesus has connected it again with the sphere of glory.

10) What did John say in his first letter?
1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see _____ as he is.

Our Redeemer has opened the way so that the most sinful, the neediest, the most oppressed and despised, may find access to the Father.

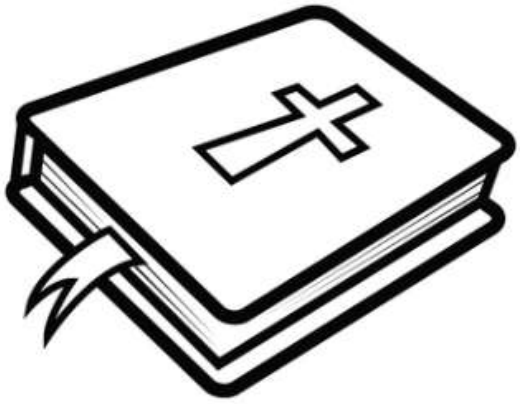
11) How does Jesus describe Himself in the message to the Philadelphian church?
Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is _____, he that is _____, he that hath the _____ of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

His love has encircled man, and reached the highest heaven. The light which fell from the open portals upon the head of our Saviour will fall upon us as we pray for help to resist temptation. The voice which spoke to Jesus says to every believing soul, This is My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased.

Can you see the enormity of the task Jesus took on?

Are you interested in having the strength that Christ had here on earth?

When is the time to seek His blessing?



Thy Word have I hid my heart

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Lesson 9 – The Temptation and the Victory

Based on Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1-13

1) What did Jesus do immediately after getting baptized?
   Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the _____,
2) How did Mark describe it?
   Mark 1:13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, _____ of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.
3) What did Like add to the description?
   Luke 4:2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat _____: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted, He was led by the Spirit of God. He did not invite temptation. He went to the wilderness to be alone, to contemplate His mission and work. By fasting and prayer He was to brace Himself for the bloodstained path He must travel.

Satan knew that the Saviour had gone into the wilderness, and he thought this the best time to approach Him.

4) What promise was given to Adam and Eve right after sin entered the world?
   Genesis 3:15 And I will put _____ between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

There was seen in men the working of a power that withstood his dominion. With intense interest he watched the sacrifices offered by Adam and his sons. In these ceremonies he discerned a symbol of communion between earth and heaven. He set himself to intercept this communion.

At the birth of Jesus, Satan knew that One had come with a divine commission to dispute his dominion. He trembled at the angel's message attesting the authority of the newborn King.

The image of God was manifest in Christ, and in the councils of Satan it was determined that He should be overcome.

5) How did Paul describe Jesus' appearance on this earth?
   Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the _____ of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

The Father had before communicated with humanity through Christ previously; now He communicated with humanity ***in*** Christ.

6) What was the first temptation for Jesus?
   Matthew 4:2-3 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, _____ thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made _____.
7) What was Jesus' reply?
   Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every _____ that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

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For our sake He exercised a self-control stronger than hunger or death.

8) How did Isaiah describe Christ in His temptation?
Isaiah 52:14 As many were astonied at thee; his _____ was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men
9) What was the temptation where Eve and Adam fell?
Genesis 3:1-3 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not _____ of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall _____ eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

The word of God was Christ's assurance of His divine mission. He had come to live as a man among men, and it was the word that declared His connection with heaven. It was Satan's purpose to cause Him to doubt that word.

Christ was not to exercise divine power for His own benefit. He had come to bear trial as we must do, leaving us an example of faith and submission.

10) What did Jesus quote when He said "*man shall not live by bread alone*"?
Deuteronomy 8:2-3 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that _____ out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.
11) What promise is given to the obedient?
Isaiah 33:16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: _____ shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Let him who is struggling against the power of appetite look to the Saviour in the wilderness of temptation. See Him in His agony upon the cross, as He exclaimed, "I thirst." He has endured all that it is possible for us to bear. His victory is ours.

12) What was the second temptation of Christ?
Matthew 4:5-6 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, _____ thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Satan now supposes that he has met Jesus on His own ground. The wily foe himself presents words that proceeded from the mouth of God.

The tempter thought to take advantage of Christ's humanity, and urge Him to presumption. But while Satan can solicit, he cannot compel to sin.

The tempter can never compel us to do evil. He cannot control minds unless they are yielded to his control. The will must consent, faith must let go its hold upon Christ, before Satan can exercise his power upon us.

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13) What Scripture was Satan quoting to Jesus?
Psalms 91:11-12 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to _____ thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

14) What was Jesus' reply this time?
Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not _____ the Lord thy God.

Jesus would not force Providence to come to His rescue, and thus fail of giving man an example of trust and submission.

We should not present our petitions to God to prove whether He will fulfill His word, but because He will fulfill it; not to prove that He loves us, but because He loves us.

15) What was the promise Paul quoted to the Hebrew believers?
Hebrews 11:6 But without _____ it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression.

16) What was the third temptation of our Saviour?
Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and _____ me.

Placing Jesus upon a high mountain, Satan caused the kingdoms of the world, in all their glory, to pass in panoramic view before Him. The sunlight lay on templed cities, marble palaces, fertile fields, and fruit-laden vineyards. The traces of evil were hidden. The eyes of Jesus, so lately greeted by gloom and desolation, now gazed upon a scene of unsurpassed loveliness and prosperity.

17) How did Jesus reply to this temptation?
Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is _____, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

The tempter offered to yield up the power he had usurped. Christ might deliver Himself from the dreadful future by acknowledging the supremacy of Satan. But to do this was to yield the victory in the great controversy.

Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ.

When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, Christ still remained the rightful King.

When the tempter offered to Christ the kingdom and glory of the world, he was proposing that Christ should yield up the real kingship of the world, and hold dominion subject to Satan.

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18) What counsel did Jesus give us?
Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the _____ of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

While Satan allures people with the hope of worldly dominion, he gains dominion over the soul. But he offers that which is not his to bestow, and which is soon to be wrested from him.

In Jesus' replies, Divinity flashed through suffering humanity. Satan had no power to resist the command. Writhing with humiliation and rage, he was forced to withdraw from the presence of the world's Redeemer. Christ's victory was as complete as had been the failure of Adam.

19) What promise did James give us?
James 4:7-8 _____ yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.
20) **Proverbs 18:10** The name of the LORD is a _____ tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

The angels now ministered to the Son of God as He lay like one dying. He was strengthened with food, comforted with the message of His Father's love and the assurance that all heaven triumphed in His victory. Warming to life again, His great heart goes out in sympathy for man, and He goes forth to complete the work He has begun; to rest not until the foe is vanquished, and our fallen race redeemed.

Christ was made the mark of every weapon of hell.

Can you see how deceptive Satan is?

Are you interested in defeating Pride, Presumption, and Appetite in your life?

When is the time to surrender to God?

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Lesson 10 - We have found the Messiah

Based on John 1:19-51

John the Baptist was now preaching and baptizing at Bethabara, beyond Jordan. It was not far from this spot that God had stayed the river in its flow until Israel had passed over. A little distance from here the stronghold of Jericho had been overthrown by the armies of heaven.

The preaching of John had taken so deep a hold on the nation as to demand the attention of the religious authorities. The danger of insurrection caused every popular gathering to be looked upon with suspicion by the Romans, and whatever pointed toward an uprising of the people excited the fears of the Jewish rulers. John had not recognized the authority of the Sanhedrin by seeking their sanction for his work; and he had reproved rulers and people, Pharisees and Sadducees alike. Yet the people followed him eagerly.

1) What question did the delegation of the Sanhedrin ask John?
   John 1:19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent _____ and _____ from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
2) How did John respond?
   John 1:20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the _____.

It was well known that the seventy weeks of Daniel's prophecy, covering the Messiah's advent, were nearly ended; and all were eager to share in that era of national glory which was then expected. Such was the popular enthusiasm that the Sanhedrin would soon be forced either to sanction or to reject John's work. Already their power over the people was waning. It was becoming a serious question how to maintain their position.

3) **Verses 21-22** And they asked him, What then? Art thou _____? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that _____? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?
4) What did John declare?
   John 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the _____, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.
5) What prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled before their eyes?
   Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a _____ for our God.

Anciently, when a king journeyed through the less frequented parts of his dominion, a company of men was sent ahead of the royal chariot to level the steep places and to fill up the hollows, that the king might travel in safety and without hindrance.

6) How did the rabbis continue in their questioning?
   John 1:25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why _____ thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

It was believed that before the Messiah's advent, Elijah would personally appear. This expectation John met in his denial; but his words had a deeper meaning.

7) What did Jesus say about His cousin later?
   Matthew 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is _____, which was for to come.

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John came in the spirit and power of Elijah, to do such a work as Elijah did. The Elijah message always precedes the power and movements of the Lord. There will always be a call to repentance and a call to remembrance of our Creator.

8) John being filled with the Holy Ghost said what?
John 1:26-27 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there _____ one among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is _____ before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

Suddenly, as his glance swept over the throng, his eye kindled, his face was lighted up, his whole being was stirred with deep emotion. With outstretched hands he cried***, "I baptize in water: in the midst of you standeth One whom ye know not, even He that cometh after me, the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to unloose."***

JOHN DECLARED THAT THE MESSIAH WAS READY TO ENTER THE SCENE!!!

9) What was brought to John's mind when he saw Jesus for the baptism?
Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a _____ to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
10) What did he declare the very next day to one and all?
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the _____ of the world.
John 1:32-33 And John bare record, saying, I saw the _____ descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which _____ with the Holy Ghost.

As the people looked upon Jesus, they saw a face where divine compassion was blended with conscious power. Every glance of the eye, every feature of the countenance, was marked with humility, and expressive of unutterable love.

To the multitude, however, it seemed impossible that the One designated by John should be associated with their lofty anticipations. Thus, many were disappointed, and greatly perplexed.

11) Not everyone missed the message, John the disciple and which other heard their teacher's report and followed Christ?
John 1:40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was _____, Simon Peter's brother.

Moved by an irresistible impulse, they followed Jesus, anxious to speak with Him, yet awed and silent, lost in the overwhelming significance of the thought, "Is this the Messiah?"

12) How did John (the disciple) and Andrew come to Jesus?
John 1:37-39 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they _____ Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What _____ ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and _____. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

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In a brief interview by the wayside they could not receive that for which they longed. They desired to be alone with Jesus, to sit at His feet, and hear His words.

13) Where did Andrew go after confirming his faith in Jesus?
John 1:41-42 He first findeth his own brother _____, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called _____, which is by interpretation, A stone.
14) According to John, what disciple came next?
John 1:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth _____, and saith unto him, Follow me.
15) Who did he immediately tell?
John 1:45 Philip findeth _____, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Philip knew that his friend was searching the prophecies, and while Nathanael was praying under a fig tree, Philip discovered his retreat. They had often prayed together in this secluded spot hidden by the foliage.

16) How did Nathaniel respond to Philip's statement?
John 1:46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any _____ thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.
17) What words of encouragement did Jesus give Nathanael?
John 1:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no _____!
18) Nathanael questioned Jesus, what assurance did Jesus Give him?
John 1:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I _____ thee.

It was enough. The divine Spirit that had borne witness to Nathanael in his solitary prayer under the fig tree now spoke to him in the words of Jesus. Though in doubt, and yielding somewhat to prejudice, Nathanael had come to Christ with an honest desire for truth, and now his desire was met.

If Nathanael had trusted to the rabbis for guidance, he would never have found Jesus. It was by seeing and judging for himself that he became a disciple.

19) What promise did God give trough Ezekiel?
Ezekiel 34:26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a _____; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

All who are consecrated to God will be channels of light. God makes them His agents to communicate to others the riches of His grace.

20) What was Philip's challenge to Nathanael?
John 1:46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, _____ and _____.

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Philip did not ask Nathanael to accept another's testimony, but to behold Christ for himself. Now that Jesus has ascended to heaven, His disciples are His representatives among men, and one of the most effective ways of winning souls to Him is in exemplifying His character in our daily life.

21) What is the promise of Proverbs 11:25?
Proverbs 11:25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be _____ also himself.

In order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must share in His work. In order to enter into His joy, the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice, we must participate in His labors for their redemption.

22) What awesome promise did Jesus give Nathanael?
John 1:50-51 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see _____ things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the _____ of man.

The angels of God are ascending, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and descending, bringing blessing and hope, courage, help, and life, to the children of men.

In taking upon Himself humanity, our Saviour unites His interests with those of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam, while through His divinity He grasps the throne of God. And thus Christ is the medium of communication of men with God, and of God with men.

Can you see God is calling YOU?

Are you interested in a life well lived?

When is the time to surrender to His teachings?

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Lesson 11 – At The Marriage Feast

Based on John 2:1-11

The past two months had been very sorrowful for Mary. Joseph had died some time before, and Jesus was an amazing comfort to her. Then He mysteriously departs to the wilderness. She had been parted from Jesus.

1) What words of Simeon come to her mind?
   Luke 2:35 (Yea, a _____ shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

He met His mother, from whom He had for some time been separated. Mary had heard of the manifestation at the Jordan, at His baptism. The tidings had been carried to Nazareth, and had brought to her mind afresh the scenes that for so many years had been hidden in her heart.

At the marriage feast she meets Him, the same tender, dutiful son. Yet He is not the same. His countenance is changed. It bears the traces of His conflict in the wilderness, and a new expression of dignity and power gives evidence of His heavenly mission. With Him is a group of young men, whose eyes follow Him with reverence, and who call Him Master.

2) What did these young men say about Him?
   John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did _____, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

It was the custom of the times for marriage festivities to continue several days. On this occasion, before the feast ended it was found that the supply of wine had failed. This discovery caused much perplexity and regret. It was unusual to dispense with wine on festive occasions, and its absence would seem to indicate a want of hospitality.

3) What did Mary mention to Jesus when the feast ran out of wine?
   John 2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no _____.
4) Jesus replied:
   John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine _____ is not yet come.
5) Was Jesus being rude to His mother?
   Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy _____: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

This answer, abrupt as it seems to us, expressed no coldness or discourtesy. The Saviour's form of address to His mother was in accordance with Oriental custom. It was used toward persons to whom it was desired to show respect. Every act of Christ's earthly life was in harmony with the precept He Himself had given.

6) What did Jesus tell Mary at the temple when He was a child?
   Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my _____ business?

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These words struck the keynote of His whole life and ministry. Everything was held in abeyance to His work, the great work of redemption which He had come into the world to accomplish.

As Son of the Most High, and Saviour of the world, no earthly ties must hold Him from His mission, or influence His conduct. He must stand free to do the will of God. This lesson is also for us. The claims of God are paramount even to the ties of human relationship. No earthly attraction should turn our feet from the path in which He bids us walk.

7) What was the immediate calling the Father had for Jesus?
Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of _____, and acquainted with _____: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

In saying to Mary that His hour had not yet come, Jesus was replying to her unspoken thought, to the expectation she cherished in common with her people. She hoped that He would reveal Himself as the Messiah, and take the throne of Israel. But the time had not come.

8) What did Mary say in the hearing of those around to prepare the way for Christ?
John 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, _____ _____.

It was to honor Mary's trust, and to strengthen the faith of His disciples, that the first miracle was performed. The disciples were to encounter many and great temptations to unbelief.

9) What did Jesus have the servants of the feast do?
John 2:6-8 And there were set there six _____ of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with _____. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the _____ of the feast. And they bare it.

Instead of the water with which the vessels had been filled, there flowed forth wine. Neither the ruler of the feast nor the guests generally were aware that the supply of wine had failed.

10) How did the ruler of the feast respond when he tasted the new batch?
John 2:9-10 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the _____, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the _____ wine until now.

As men set forth the best wine first, then afterward that which is worse, so does the world with its gifts. That which it offers may please the eye and fascinate the senses, but it proves to be unsatisfying. The wine turns to bitterness, the gaiety to gloom. That which was begun with songs and mirth ends in weariness and disgust.

The gifts of Jesus are ever fresh and new. The feast that He provides for the soul never fails to give satisfaction and joy. Each new gift increases the capacity of the receiver to appreciate and enjoy the blessings of the Lord. He gives grace for grace. There can be no failure of supply.

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11) What did Jesus tell Nathanael?
John 1:50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see _____ things than these.

The gift of Christ to the marriage feast was a symbol. The water represented baptism into His death; the wine, the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world. The water to fill the jars was brought by human hands, but the word of Christ alone could impart to it life-giving virtue.

12) What promise did Jesus make to His disciples at the Passover service just before His crucifixion?
Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it _____ with you in my Father's kingdom.
13) What does the new wine at the communion service commemorate?
1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this _____, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Jesus began and ended His ministry by offering the cup of His sacrifice to His disciples and ended with a promise to drink it new with them in the kingdom.

14) How did Isaiah liken the Second Advent of Christ?
Isaiah 62:5 For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom _____ over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

To the mind of Jesus the gladness of the wedding festivities pointed forward to the rejoicing of that day when He shall bring home His bride to the Father's house, and the redeemed with the Redeemer shall sit down to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

15) What did John see in vision concerning our future?
Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the _____ of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.
Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the _____ of saints.
Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the _____ sayings of God.

Can you see heaven is missing YOU?

Are you interested in seeing that day?

When is the time to prepare to see God?

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Lesson 12 – In His Temple

Based on John 2:12-22

1) How does our lesson open today?
John 2:12-13 After this he went down to _____, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. And the Jews' _____ was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

Going back to the earlier verses in John 2, you'll see that the "after this" was referring to Jeus turning water into wine at the marriage feast in Cana. We are still very early into Jesus' earthly ministry.

2) What had been the message that John the Baptist was preaching and was spreading like wildfire across the land?
Matthew 3:2-3 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at _____. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the _____ of the Lord, make his paths straight.

The hope of national greatness was dwelt upon with kindling enthusiasm. Jesus knew that this hope was to be disappointed, for it was founded on a misinterpretation of the Scriptures. With deep earnestness He explained the prophecies, and tried to arouse the people to a closer study of God's word.

3) What did Jesus see when he entered the Temple campus?
John 2:14 And found in the temple those that _____ oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

during the Passover week large numbers assembled, coming from all parts of Palestine, and even from distant lands. The temple courts were filled with a promiscuous throng. Many were unable to bring with them the sacrifices that were to be offered up as typifying the one great Sacrifice. For the convenience of these, animals were bought and sold in the outer court of the temple. Here all classes of people assembled to purchase their offerings. Here all foreign money was exchanged for the coin of the sanctuary.

4) What else was the believer supposed to bring with him to the temple?
Exodus 30:12-14 When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a _____ for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a _____ after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an _____ unto the LORD.

Besides this, large sums were brought as freewill offerings, to be deposited in the temple treasury. And it was required that all foreign coin should be changed for a coin called the temple shekel, which was accepted for the service of the sanctuary. The money changing gave opportunity for fraud and extortion, and it had grown into a disgraceful traffic, which was a source of revenue to the priests.

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A great number of sacrifices were offered at the time of the Passover, and the sales at the temple were very large. The consequent confusion indicated a noisy cattle market rather than the sacred temple of God. There could be heard sharp bargaining, the lowing of cattle, the bleating of sheep, the cooing of doves, mingled with the chinking of coin and angry disputation.

5) What rules did Moses give concerning Mt Sinai when God visited them in the Book of Exodus?
Exodus 19:12-13 And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to _____: There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth _____, they shall come up to the mount.

Thus was taught the lesson that wherever God manifests His presence, the place is holy. The precincts of God's temple should have been regarded as sacred. But in the strife for gain, all this was lost sight of.

Among them, unrecognized and unhonored, stood the One symbolized by all the Temple services. He had given directions in regard to the offerings. He understood their symbolical value, and He saw that they were now perverted and misunderstood. Spiritual worship was fast disappearing. No link bound the priests and rulers to their God.

6) What did Jesus do?
John 2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he _____ them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

As He beholds the scene, indignation, authority, and power are expressed in His countenance. The attention of the people is attracted to Him. The eyes of those engaged in their unholy traffic are riveted upon His face. They cannot withdraw their gaze.

7) What does Jesus say?
John 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of _____.

The confusion is hushed. The sound of traffic and bargaining has ceased. The silence becomes painful. A sense of awe overpowers the assembly. It is as if they were arraigned before the tribunal of God to answer for their deeds. Looking upon Christ, they behold divinity flash through the garb of humanity. The Majesty of heaven stands as the Judge will stand at the last day.

8) What Psalm did the disciples quote when they took all this in?
Psalms 69:9 For the _____ of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Soon the tumultuous throng with their merchandise are far removed from the temple of the Lord. The courts are free from unholy traffic, and a deep silence and solemnity settles upon the scene of confusion.

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9) What did Malachi say of this day?
Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his _____, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

And why did the priests flee from the temple? Why did they not stand their ground? He who commanded them to go was a carpenter's son, a poor Galilean, without earthly rank or power. Why did they not resist Him? Why did they leave the gain so ill acquired, and flee at the command of One whose outward appearance was so humble?

Christ spoke with the authority of a king, and in His appearance, and in the tones of His voice, there was that which they had no power to resist.

10) What was the message for those who were left in the Temple?
Psalms 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will _____ thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
11) For what cause was Jesus brought into the world?
John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the _____. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

The people pressed into Christ's presence with urgent, pitiful appeals: Master, bless me. His ear heard every cry. With pity exceeding that of a tender mother He bent over the suffering little ones. All received attention. Everyone was healed of whatever disease he had. The dumb opened their lips in praise; the blind beheld the face of their Restorer. The hearts of the sufferers were made glad.

12) After a time, the temple authorities returned sheepishly to the Temple, what question did they ask Jesus?
John 2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What _____ shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?
13) What did Jesus reply?
John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in _____ days I will raise it up.
14) How did they respond?
John 2:20-21 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in _____, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.

It was for the sake of those who should believe on Him afterward, that these words of Christ were spoken. He knew that they would be repeated. Being spoken at the Passover, they would come to the ears of thousands, and be carried to all parts of the world. After He had risen from the dead, their meaning would be made plain. To many they would be conclusive evidence of His divinity.

15) How did Paul explain the Divinity and Power of Christ?
Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, _____ over them in it.

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16) What did Paul tell the Hebrew believers?
Hebrews 8:2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the _____ tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

17) What did Zechariah prophesy about Jesus?
Zechariah 6:12-13 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The _____; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of _____ shall be between them both.

18) What happened on the day of Pentecost AD 31?
Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect _____, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

19) How did Christ rebuild the Temple in 3 days?
Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own _____ he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

20) What promise did Jesus leave us with?
Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you _____, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The Truth about God had been subverted by the greed and short-sightedness of man. In essence what was being performed at the Temple when Jesus cleansed it, did not accurately represent the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

21) What command was given by Paul to the Hebrew believers (and us)?
Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high _____, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet _____ sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the _____ of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Can you see the danger in misrepresenting God?

Are you interested in revealing Him accurately?

When is the time to come boldly to His throne?

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Lesson 13 - Nicodemus

Based on John 3:1-17

1) Who heard the words of Jesus and was deeply impressed?
John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named _____, a ruler of the Jews:

Nicodemus held a high position of trust in the Jewish nation. He was highly educated, and possessed talents of no ordinary character, and he was an honored member of the national council. With others, he had been stirred by the teaching of Jesus. Though rich, learned, and honored, he had been strangely attracted by the humble Nazarene. The lessons that had fallen from the Saviour's lips had greatly impressed him, and he desired to learn more of these wonderful truths.

2) What did he do?
John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by _____, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a _____ come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

He greatly desired an interview with Jesus but shrank from seeking Him openly. It would be too humiliating for a ruler of the Jews to acknowledge himself in sympathy with a teacher as yet so little known. And should his visit come to the knowledge of the Sanhedrin, it would draw upon him their scorn and denunciation.

Since hearing Jesus, Nicodemus had anxiously studied the prophecies relating to the Messiah; and the more he searched, the stronger was his conviction that this was the One who was to come. With many others in Israel he had been greatly distressed by the profanation of the temple.

3) What cryptic words did Jesus reply with?
John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be _____ again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus bent His eyes upon the speaker, as if reading his very soul. In His infinite wisdom He saw before Him a seeker after truth. He knew the object of this visit, and with a desire to deepen the conviction already resting upon His listener's mind, He came directly to the point.

4) What did Nicodemus reply?
John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is _____? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Nicodemus understood the idea of the second birth, but by virtue of his birth as an Israelite he regarded himself as sure of a place in the kingdom of God. He felt that he needed no change. Hence his surprise at the Saviour's words. He was irritated by their close application to himself. The pride of the Pharisee was struggling against the honest desire of the seeker after truth.

5) Jesus replied:
John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of _____ and of the _____, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is _____; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

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6) What did Job say about the human condition?
Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an _____? not one.
7) What did Paul tell the church in Rome?
Romans:8:7-9 Because the carnal mind is _____ against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot _____ God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the _____, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
8) What did Jesus say comes out of the unchanged heart?
Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart _____ evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.

9) Nicodemus gave Jesus a perplexed look, how did Jesus reply?
John 3:7-8 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be _____ again. The _____ bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

The wind is heard among the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves and flowers; yet it is invisible, and no man knows whence it comes or whither it goes. So with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind.

10) What did Nicodemus say next?
John 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, _____ can these things be?

He was not so much impressed by the necessity of the new birth as by the manner of its accomplishment.

11) With love and patience what did Jesus ask him?
John 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a _____ of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Jesus explained that His mission on earth was to establish a spiritual instead of a temporal kingdom, His hearer was troubled. Seeing this, Jesus added***, "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"*** If Nicodemus could not receive Christ's teaching, illustrating the work of grace upon the heart, how could he comprehend the nature of His glorious heavenly kingdom? Not discerning the nature of Christ's work on earth, he could not understand His work in heaven.

12) What did Isaiah tell us about our condition?
Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an _____ thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
13) What did David pray?
Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean _____, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

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14) What did God promise God's people through Ezekiel?
Ezekiel 36:26-27 A new _____ also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my _____ within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

In the estimation of men, Nicodemus' life had been just and honorable; but in the presence of Christ he felt that his heart was unclean, and his life unholy.

15) What familiar reference did Jesus use to help Nicodemus?
John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the _____ in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

Here was ground with which Nicodemus was familiar. The symbol of the uplifted serpent made plain to him the Saviour's mission.

16) How did Paul compare this?
Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the _____ of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Not through controversy and discussion is the soul enlightened. We must look and live. Nicodemus received the lesson and carried it with him. He searched the Scriptures in a new way, not for the discussion of a theory, but in order to receive life for the soul. He began to see the kingdom of heaven as he submitted himself to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

17) What did Peter and John tell us in Acts?
Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any _____: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
18) Where does repentance come from?
Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a _____, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
19) What did John the Baptist declare to the watching crowd?
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the _____ of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness," so the Son of man has been lifted up, and everyone who has been deceived and bitten by the serpent may look and live.

20) When conversion begins, what will we say?
Psalm 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is _____ my heart.

In the interview with Nicodemus, Jesus unfolded the plan of salvation, and His mission to the world. In none of His subsequent discourses did He explain so fully, step by step, the work necessary to be done in the hearts of all who would inherit the kingdom of heaven.

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The words spoken at night to one listener in the lonely mountain were not lost. For a time, Nicodemus did not publicly acknowledge Christ, but he watched His life and pondered His teachings. In the Sanhedrin council he repeatedly thwarted the schemes of the priests to destroy Him. When at last Jesus was lifted up on the cross, Nicodemus remembered the teaching upon Olivet: ***"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."***

After the Lord's ascension, when the disciples were scattered by persecution, Nicodemus came boldly to the front. He employed his wealth in sustaining the infant church that the Jews had expected to be blotted out at the death of Christ. In the time of peril, he who had been so cautious and questioning was firm as a rock, encouraging the faith of the disciples, and furnishing means to carry forward the work of the gospel.

Can you see how a little time with Jesus can change a life?

Are you interested in receiving Heaven's richest reward?

When is the time to come boldly to His throne?

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Lesson 14 – At Jacob's Well

Based on John 4:1-42

1) Early in His ministry where did Jesus head off to?
John 4:3-5 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through _____. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

On the way to Galilee Jesus passed through Samaria. It was noon when He reached the beautiful Vale of Shechem. At the opening of this valley was Jacob's well. Wearied with His journey, He sat down here to rest while His disciples went to buy food.

The Jews and the Samaritans were bitter enemies, and as far as possible avoided all dealing with each other. To trade with the Samaritans in case of necessity was indeed counted lawful by the rabbis; but all social intercourse with them was condemned. A Jew would not borrow from a Samaritan, nor receive a kindness, not even a morsel of bread or a cup of water. The disciples, in buying food, were acting in harmony with the custom of their nation. But beyond this they did not go. To ask a favor of the Samaritans, or in any way seek to benefit them, did not enter into the thought of even Christ's disciples.

2) What happened next?
John 4:6-8 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the _____ hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to _____. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

In the East, water was called "the gift of God." To offer a drink to the thirsty traveler was held to be a duty so sacred that the Arabs of the desert would go out of their way in order to perform it. The hatred between Jews and Samaritans prevented the woman from offering a kindness to Jesus; but the Saviour was seeking to find the key to this heart, and with the tact born of divine love, He asked, not offered, a favor.

3) Stunned by His question, what did she ask?
John 4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a _____, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the _____.

The woman saw that Jesus was a Jew. In her surprise she forgot to grant His request, but tried to learn the reason for it. ***"How is it,"*** she said, ***"that Thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?"***

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4) Jesus replied:
John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the _____ of God, and _____ it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

The woman had not comprehended the words of Christ, but she felt their solemn import. Her light, bantering manner began to change.

5) **John 4:11-12** The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to _____ with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou _____ than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

She saw before her only a thirsty traveler, wayworn and dusty. In her mind she compared Him with the honored patriarch Jacob. She cherished the feeling, which is so natural, that no other well could be equal to that provided by the fathers. She was looking backward to the fathers, forward to the Messiah's coming, while the Hope of the fathers, the Messiah Himself, was beside her, and she knew Him not.

6) How did Jesus respond?
John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this _____ shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting _____.

He who seeks to quench his thirst at the fountains of this world will drink only to thirst again. Everywhere men are unsatisfied. They long for something to supply the need of the soul. Only One can meet that want. The need of the world, "***The Desire of all nations,***" is Christ. The divine grace which He alone can impart, is as living water, purifying, refreshing, and invigorating the soul.

Jesus did not convey the idea that merely one draft of the water of life would suffice the receiver. He who tastes of the love of Christ will continually long for more; but he seeks for nothing else. The riches, honors, and pleasures of the world do not attract him. The constant cry of his heart is, More of Thee. And He who reveals to the soul its necessity is waiting to satisfy its hunger and thirst. Every human resource and dependence will fail. The cisterns will be emptied, the pools become dry; but our Redeemer is an inexhaustible fountain.

7) Full of conviction, what did she ask for?
John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I _____ not, neither come hither to draw.

Jesus now abruptly turned the conversation. Before this soul could receive the gift He longed to bestow, she must be brought to recognize her sin and her Saviour.

8) What request did Jesus make?
John 4:16-18 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy _____, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had _____ husbands; and he whom thou now hast is _____ thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

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The listener trembled. A mysterious hand was turning the pages of her life history, bringing to view that which she had hoped to keep forever hidden. Who was He that could read the secrets of her life? There came to her thoughts of eternity, of the future Judgment, when all that is now hidden shall be revealed. In its light, conscience was awakened.

9) What diversion did she try in order to avoid the conversation?
John 4:19-20 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a _____. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to _____.

Patiently Jesus permitted her to lead the conversation whither she would. Meanwhile He watched for the opportunity of again bringing the truth home to her heart.

10) Jesus replied:
John 4:21-24 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the _____. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the _____ worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in _____ and in _____.
11) Seeing that she was in the presence of someone special, what did she say?
John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called _____: when he is come, he will tell us all things.
12) Jesus said something next that He almost never did, what was it?
John 4:26 Jesus saith unto her, _____ that speak unto thee _____ he.

The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. It is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God. Wherever a soul reaches out after God, there the Spirit's working is manifest, and God will reveal Himself to that soul. For such worshipers He is seeking. He waits to receive them, and to make them His sons and daughters.

13) What prophecy came to her mind by way of the Spirit?
Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a _____ from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

That which had been withheld from the Jews, and which the disciples were afterward enjoined to keep secret, was revealed to her. Jesus saw that she would make use of her knowledge in bringing others to share His grace.

When the disciples returned from their errand, they were surprised to find their Master speaking with the woman. He had not taken the refreshing draught that He desired, and He did not stop to eat the food His disciples had brought. When the woman had gone, the disciples entreated Him to eat. They saw Him silent, absorbed, as in rapt meditation. His face was beaming with light, and they feared to interrupt His communion with heaven. But they knew that He was faint and weary, and thought it their duty to remind Him of His physical necessities. Jesus recognized their loving interest, and He said, ***"I have meat to eat that ye know not of."***

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14) What happened next?
John 4:33-34 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man _____ him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the _____ of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

As His words to the woman had aroused her conscience, Jesus rejoiced. He saw her drinking of the water of life, and His own hunger and thirst were satisfied. The accomplishment of the mission which He had left heaven to perform strengthened the Saviour for His labor, and lifted Him above the necessities of humanity. To minister to a soul hungering and thirsting for the truth was more grateful to Him than eating or drinking. It was a comfort, a refreshment, to Him. Benevolence was the life of His soul.

15) What did the woman at the well do immediately?
John 4:28-29 The woman then left her _____, and went her way into the city, and _____ to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the _____?

Ever since the fall of Adam Christ had been committing the seed of the word to His chosen servants, to be sown in human hearts. And an unseen agency, even an omnipotent power, had worked silently but effectually to produce the harvest. The dew and rain and sunshine of God's grace had been given, to refresh and nourish the seed of truth. Christ was about to water the seed with His own blood. His disciples were privileged to be laborers together with God. They were coworkers with Christ and with the holy men of old.

16) What did the townspeople do when they heard the good news?
John 4:40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they _____ him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

In the words spoken to the woman at the well, good seed had been sown, and how quickly the harvest was received. The Samaritans came and heard Jesus, and believed on Him. Crowding about Him at the well, they plied Him with questions, and eagerly received His explanations of many things that had been obscure to them. As they listened, their perplexity began to clear away. They were like a people in great darkness tracing up a sudden ray of light till they had found the day. But they were not satisfied with this short conference. They were anxious to hear more, and to have their friends also listen to this wonderful teacher. They invited Him to their city, and begged Him to remain with them. For two days He tarried in Samaria, and many more believed on Him.

This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life.

Can you see how Jesus in your heart is a powerful thing?

Are you interested in drinking deeply from the well Jesus mentioned?

When is the time to begin?

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Lesson 15 – Bethesda and the Sanhedrin

Based on John 5

1) What information does our lesson start off with today?
   John 5:1-2 After this there was a _____ of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue _____, having five porches.
2) What was there?
   John 5:3-4 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the _____ of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made _____ of whatsoever disease he had.

At certain seasons the waters of this pool were agitated, and it was commonly believed that this was the result of supernatural power, and that whoever first after the troubling of the pool stepped into the waters, would be healed of whatever disease he had. Hundreds of sufferers visited the place; but so great was the crowd when the water was troubled that they rushed forward, trampling underfoot men, women, and children, weaker than themselves.

Jesus was again at Jerusalem. Walking alone, in apparent meditation and prayer, He came to the pool. He saw the wretched sufferers watching for that which they supposed to be their only chance of cure. He longed to exercise His healing power, and make every sufferer whole. But it was the Sabbath day. Multitudes were going to the temple for worship, and He knew that such an act of healing would so excite the prejudice of the Jews as to cut short His work.

3) What did Jesus do?
   John 5:5-6 And a certain man was there, which had an _____ thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, _____ thou be made whole?

Alone and friendless, feeling that he was shut out from God's mercy, the sufferer had passed long years of misery. At the time when it was expected that the waters would be troubled, those who pitied his helplessness would bear him to the porches. But at the favored moment he had no one to help him in. He had seen the rippling of the water, but had never been able to get farther than the edge of the pool.

4) What did the helpless man reply?
   John 5:7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the _____: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

Hope came to his heart. He felt that in some way he was to have help. But the glow of encouragement soon faded. He remembered how often he had tried to reach the pool, and now he had little prospect of living till it should again be troubled. He turned away wearily.

5) What did Jesus Reply?
   John 5:8 Jesus saith unto him, _____, take up thy bed, and walk.

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Jesus does not ask this sufferer to exercise faith in Him. He simply says***, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."*** But the man's faith takes hold upon that word. Every nerve and muscle thrills with new life, and healthful action comes to his crippled limbs. Without question he sets his will to obey the command of Christ, and all his muscles respond to his will. Springing to his feet, he finds himself an active man.

6) What did the Apostle Paul cry out to God?
Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall _____ me from the body of this death?

Of ourselves we are no more capable of living a holy life than was the impotent man capable of walking. There are many who realize their helplessness, and who long for that spiritual life which will bring them into harmony with God; they are vainly striving to obtain it.

Let these desponding, struggling ones look up. The Saviour is bending over the purchase of His blood, saying with inexpressible tenderness and pity, ***"Wilt thou be made whole?"*** He bids you arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe His word, and it will be fulfilled. Put your will on the side of Christ.

7) What did Paul remind the Ephesian believers?
Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he _____, who were dead in trespasses and sins.
8) What did the healed man do?
John 5:9 And immediately the man was made whole, and _____ _____ his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

As he hurried on his way with firm, free step, praising God and rejoicing in his new-found strength, he met several of the Pharisees, and immediately told them of his cure. He was surprised at the coldness with which they listened to his story.

9) Did the religious folks rejoice with the healed man?
John 5:10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not _____ for thee to carry thy bed.

These rulers knew well that only One had shown Himself able to perform this miracle; but they wished for direct proof that it was Jesus, that they might condemn Him as a Sabbath-breaker. In their judgment He had not only broken the law in healing the sick man on the Sabbath, but had committed sacrilege in bidding him bear away his bed.

10) Did the man healed, know who healed him?
John 5:13 And he that was healed _____ not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.
11) What commission did Jesus give to this man?
John 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: _____ no more, lest a _____ thing come unto thee.

The healed man was overjoyed at meeting his Deliverer. Ignorant of the enmity toward Jesus, he told the Pharisees who had questioned him, that this was He who had performed the cure.

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12) How did the Jews react to all this?
John 5:16-18 And therefore did the Jews _____ Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the _____, but said also that God was his Father, making himself _____ with God.

Notwithstanding the Jews efforts to counteract His work, Christ was gaining, even in Jerusalem, an influence over the people greater than their own. Multitudes who were not interested in the harangues of the rabbis were attracted by His teaching. They could understand His words, and their hearts were warmed and comforted. He spoke of God, not as an avenging judge, but as a tender father, and He revealed the image of God as mirrored in Himself.

13) What prophecy was given about Christ in Genesis?
Genesis 49:10 The _____ shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

The people were gathering to Christ. The sympathetic hearts of the multitude accepted lessons of love and benevolence in preference to the rigid ceremonies required by the priests.

14) What did Isaiah say about Messiah?
Isaiah 42:21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will _____ the law, and make it honourable.
Isaiah 42:4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his _____.

He had come to free the Sabbath from those burdensome requirements that had made it a curse instead of a blessing. For this reason He had chosen the Sabbath upon which to perform the act of healing at Bethesda. He could have healed the sick man as well on any other day of the week; or He might simply have cured him, without bidding him bear away his bed. But this would not have given Him the opportunity He desired. A wise purpose underlay every act of Christ's life on earth.

15) How did Jesus reply about healing on the Sabbath?
John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father _____ hitherto, and I work.

All days are God's, in which to carry out His plans for the human race. If the Jews' interpretation of the law was correct, then Jehovah was at fault, whose work has quickened and upheld every living thing since first He laid the foundations of the earth; then He who pronounced His work good, and instituted the Sabbath to commemorate its completion, must put a period to His labor, and stop the never-ending routine of the universe.

Should God forbid the sun to perform its office upon the Sabbath, cut off its genial rays from warming the earth and nourishing vegetation? Must the system of worlds stand still through that holy day? Should He command the brooks to stay from watering the fields and forests, and bid the waves of the sea still their ceaseless ebbing and flowing? Must the wheat and corn stop growing, and the ripening cluster defer its purple bloom? Must the trees and flowers put forth no bud nor blossom on the Sabbath?

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God could not for a moment stay His hand, or man would faint and die. And man also has a work to perform on this day. The necessities of life must be attended to, the sick must be cared for, the wants of the needy must be supplied. He will not be held guiltless who neglects to relieve suffering on the Sabbath. God's holy rest day was made for man, and acts of mercy are in perfect harmony with its intent. God does not desire His creatures to suffer an hour's pain that may be relieved upon the Sabbath or any other day.

16) What was the reaction of the Jews to Jesus?
John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself _____ with God.

17) Jesus replied:
John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son _____.

The priests and rabbis were taking the Son of God to task for the very work He had been sent into the world to do. By their sins they had separated themselves from God, and in their pride were moving independently of Him. They felt sufficient in themselves for all things, and realized no need of a higher wisdom to direct their acts. But the Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself.

18) What Psalm did Jesus take to heart?
Psalm 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy _____ is within my heart.

19) How can we do right things?
Ephesians 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an _____ of God through the Spirit.

20) What did Jesus do for us?
1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should _____ his steps:

The words of Christ teach that we should regard ourselves as inseparably bound to our Father in heaven. Whatever our position, we are dependent upon God, who holds all destinies in His hands. He has appointed us our work, and has endowed us with faculties and means for that work. So long as we surrender the will to God, and trust in His strength and wisdom, we shall be guided in safe paths, to fulfill our appointed part in His great plan.

21) What was Christ's purpose in coming in the flesh?
John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be _____.

Can you see that God is in control?

Are you interested in knowing His plan for you?

When is the time to step out in faith?

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Lesson 16 – Imprisonment and Death of John

Based on Matthew 11:1-11; Matthew 14:1-11; Mark 6:17-28; Luke 7:19-28

John the Baptist had been first in heralding Christ's kingdom, and he was first also in suffering. From the free air of the wilderness and the vast throngs that had hung upon his words, he was now shut in by the walls of a dungeon cell. He had become a prisoner in the fortress of Herod Antipas. In the territory east of Jordan, which was under the dominion of Antipas, much of John's ministry had been spent.

1) How did Herod truly feel about John the Baptist?
   Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a _____ man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and _____ him gladly.
2) Why was John in prison?
   Mark 6:17-19 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for _____ sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not _____ for thee to have thy brother's wife. Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have _____ him; but she could not:

John dealt with him faithfully, denouncing his iniquitous alliance with Herodias, his brother's wife. For a time Herod feebly sought to break the chain of lust that bound him; but Herodias fastened him the more firmly in her toils, and found revenge upon the Baptist by inducing Herod to cast him into prison.

3) What prophecy of Isaiah had John been preaching before his arrest?
   Isaiah 40:4-5 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made _____: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be _____, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.
4) What did John say Jesus would do?
   Luke 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly _____ his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

The life of John had been one of active labor, and the gloom and inaction of his prison life weighed heavily upon him. As week after week passed, bringing no change, despondency and doubt crept over him. His disciples did not forsake him. They were allowed access to the prison, and they brought him tidings of the works of Jesus, and told how the people were flocking to Him. But they questioned why, if this new teacher was the Messiah, He did nothing to effect John's release. How could He permit His faithful herald to be deprived of liberty and perhaps of life?

These questions were not without effect. Doubts which otherwise would never have arisen were suggested to John. Satan rejoiced to hear the words of these disciples, and to see how they bruised the soul of the Lord's messenger.

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5) What did the Father say from Heaven at Jesus' baptism?
Matthew 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the _____ of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my _____ Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Baptist did not surrender his faith in Christ. The memory of the voice from heaven and the descending dove, the spotless purity of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit that had rested upon John as he came into the Saviour's presence, and the testimony of the prophetic scriptures, all witnessed that Jesus of Nazareth was the Promised One.

John would not discuss his doubts and anxieties with his companions. He determined to send a message of inquiry to Jesus. This he entrusted to two of his disciples, hoping that an interview with the Saviour would confirm their faith, and bring assurance to their brethren. And he longed for some word from Christ spoken directly for himself.

6) John sent word to Jesus, what did he ask?
Matthew 11:2-3 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of _____, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for _____?

The Saviour did not at once answer the disciples' question. As they stood wondering at His silence, the sick and afflicted were coming to Him to be healed.

7) What did Jesus reply?
Matthew 11:4-6 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do _____ and _____: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be _____ in me.

The blind were groping their way through the crowd; diseased ones of all classes, some urging their own way, some borne by their friends, were eagerly pressing into the presence of Jesus. The voice of the mighty Healer penetrated the deaf ear. A word, a touch of His hand, opened the blind eyes to behold the light of day, the scenes of nature, the faces of friends, and the face of the Deliverer. Jesus rebuked disease and banished fever. His voice reached the ears of the dying, and they arose in health and vigor. Paralyzed demoniacs obeyed His word, their madness left them, and they worshiped Him. While He healed their diseases, He taught the people. The poor peasants and laborers, who were shunned by the rabbis as unclean, gathered close about Him, and He spoke to them the words of eternal life.

The evidence of His divinity was seen in its adaptation to the needs of suffering humanity. His glory was shown in His condescension to our low estate.

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8) As John's disciples returned with the Words and deeds of Jesus, what prophecy of Isaiah came to John's mind?
Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the _____, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
Isaiah 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that _____;
Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for _____, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

The works of Christ not only declared Him to be the Messiah, but showed in what manner His kingdom was to be established.

9) What message did Jesus have for John?
Matthew 11:6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be _____ in me.

The Saviour's words, ***"Blessed is he, whosoever shall find none occasion of stumbling in Me,"*** were a gentle reproof to John. It was not lost upon him. Understanding more clearly now the nature of Christ's mission, he yielded himself to God for life or for death, as should best serve the interests of the cause he loved.

10) What did Jesus say later about His cousin?
Matthew 11:7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A _____ shaken with the wind?

The tall reeds that grew beside the Jordan, bending before every breeze, were fitting representatives of the rabbis who had stood as critics and judges of the Baptist's mission. They were swayed this way and that by the winds of popular opinion. They would not humble themselves to receive the heart-searching message of the Baptist, yet for fear of the people they dared not openly oppose his work. But God's messenger was of no such craven spirit

11) What else did Jesus ask about John?
Matthew 11:8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft _____? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

The religious elite loved display, and hoped to dazzle the people, and thus command greater consideration. They were more anxious to gain the admiration of men than to obtain the purity of heart which would win the approval of God. Thus, they revealed that their allegiance was not given to God, but to the kingdom of this world.

12) How did John's ministry end?
Mark 6:21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his _____ made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

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Mark 6:22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and _____ and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.
Mark 6:23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my _____.

13) What did she ask for?
Mark 6:24-25 And she went forth, and said unto her _____, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the _____ of John the Baptist.

Herod was astonished and confounded. The riotous mirth ceased, and an ominous silence settled down upon the scene of revelry. The king was horror-stricken at the thought of taking the life of John. Yet his word was pledged, and he was unwilling to appear fickle or rash. The oath had been made in honor of his guests, and if one of them had offered a word against the fulfillment of his promise, he would gladly have spared the prophet. He gave them opportunity to speak in the prisoner's behalf. They had traveled long distances in order to hear the preaching of John, and they knew him to be a man without crime, and a servant of God. But though shocked at the girl's demand, they were too drunk to protest.

Never more would that voice be heard calling men to repentance. The revels of one night had cost the life of one of the greatest of the prophets.

14) What curse was laid upon Herod?
Deuteronomy 28:65 And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a _____ heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:
Deuteronomy 28:66 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt _____ day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:
Deuteronomy 28:67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine _____ wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

The sinner's own thoughts are his accusers; and there can be no torture keener than the stings of a guilty conscience, which give him no rest day nor night.

15) What promise is given to those that stay true to God?
Colossians 3:3-4 For ye are dead, and your life is _____ with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall _____, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
16) **Matthew 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you _____, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon***. "Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philippians 1:29.*** And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor.

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Lesson 17 – The Kingdom of God Is at Hand

1) Who did John the Baptist preach to?
Matthew 3:5-6 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all _____, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, _____ their sins.

The Messiah's coming had been first announced in Judea. In the temple at Jerusalem the birth of the forerunner had been foretold to Zacharias as he ministered before the altar. On the hills of Bethlehem, the angels had proclaimed the birth of Jesus. To Jerusalem the magi had come in search of Him. In the temple Simeon and Anna had testified to His divinity.

2) Who continued the message after John was imprisoned?
Mark 1:14-15 Now after that John was put in prison, _____ came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is _____, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

In Judea, Christ had received His first disciples. Here much of His early ministry had been spent. The flashing forth of His divinity in the cleansing of the temple, His miracles of healing, and the lessons of divine truth that fell from His lips, all proclaimed that which after the healing at Bethesda He had declared before the Sanhedrin, ***His Sonship to the Eternal.***

3) Jesus declared above the time is at hand, what was He talking about?
Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to _____ the most Holy.
4) How do we interpret time prophecies?
Numbers 14:34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a _____, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.
Ezekiel 4:6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each _____ for a year.

The seventy weeks, or four hundred and ninety days, represent four hundred and ninety years.

5) What was the starting point for the prophecy?
Daniel 9:25-26 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to _____ and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be **seven** weeks, and threescore and two weeks **(62):** the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks **(62+the original 7)** shall _____ be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

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The commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, as completed by the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus (see **Ezra 6:14; 7:1, 9**), went into effect in the autumn of B.C. 457. From this time four hundred and eighty-three years extend to the autumn of A.D. 27. According to the prophecy, this period was to reach to the Messiah, the Anointed One. In A. D. 27, Jesus at His baptism received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and soon afterward began His ministry. Then the message was proclaimed. ***"The time is fulfilled."***

6) What was the final week of the prophecy for?
Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the _____ and the _____ to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

In the spring of A.D. 31, Christ the true sacrifice was offered on Calvary. Then the veil of the temple was rent in twain, showing that the sacredness and significance of the sacrificial service had departed. The time had come for the earthly sacrifice and oblation to cease.

7) What happened in A.D. 34 that ended the 70 week prophecy?
Acts 7:59-60 And they _____ Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this _____ to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
8) What did he see that enraged the crowd?
Acts 7:55-56 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus _____ on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the _____ hand of God.
9) What happened next for God's church?
Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were _____ abroad went every where preaching the word.

The one week - seven years - ended in A.D. 34. Then by the stoning of Stephen the Jews finally sealed their rejection of the gospel; the disciples who were scattered abroad by persecution ***"went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4)***; and shortly after, Saul the persecutor was converted, and became Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

10) Was prophetic study important to Christ?
Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him _____:)
11) What did Jesus do with His disciples after His resurrection?
Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he _____ unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.
12) What did Peter say about prophetic study?
1 Peter 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them (prophetic writings) did signify, when it _____ beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.
13) What blessing was pronounced by Jesus?
Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and _____ those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

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14) Will God withhold any good thing from His church?
Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he _____ his secret unto his servants the prophets.

The Almighty has never withheld any good knowledge from us. We are not in the dark concerning what lies ahead.

15) What promise is given in Deuteronomy?
Deuteronomy 29:29 The _____ things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures.

16) What did Daniel predict?
Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be _____.
(note: Jesus pronounced a blessing to unseal the book when He walked this earth, we can know what is therein contained)

17) What promise did God make?
Daniel 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall _____.

As the message of Christ's first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end.

18) When we see the insanity of the world around, what admonition did Jesus give us?
Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is _____ at hand.
Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with _____, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.
Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to _____ all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, the visions of the prophets are unsealed, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord's coming in glory as near at hand

The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and they knew not the time of their visitation. The years of the ministry of Christ and His apostles, the precious last years of grace to the chosen people, they spent in plotting the destruction of the Lord's messengers. Earthly ambitions absorbed them, and the offer of the spiritual kingdom came to them in vain. So today the kingdom of this world absorbs men's thoughts, and they take no note of the rapidly fulfilling prophecies and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God.

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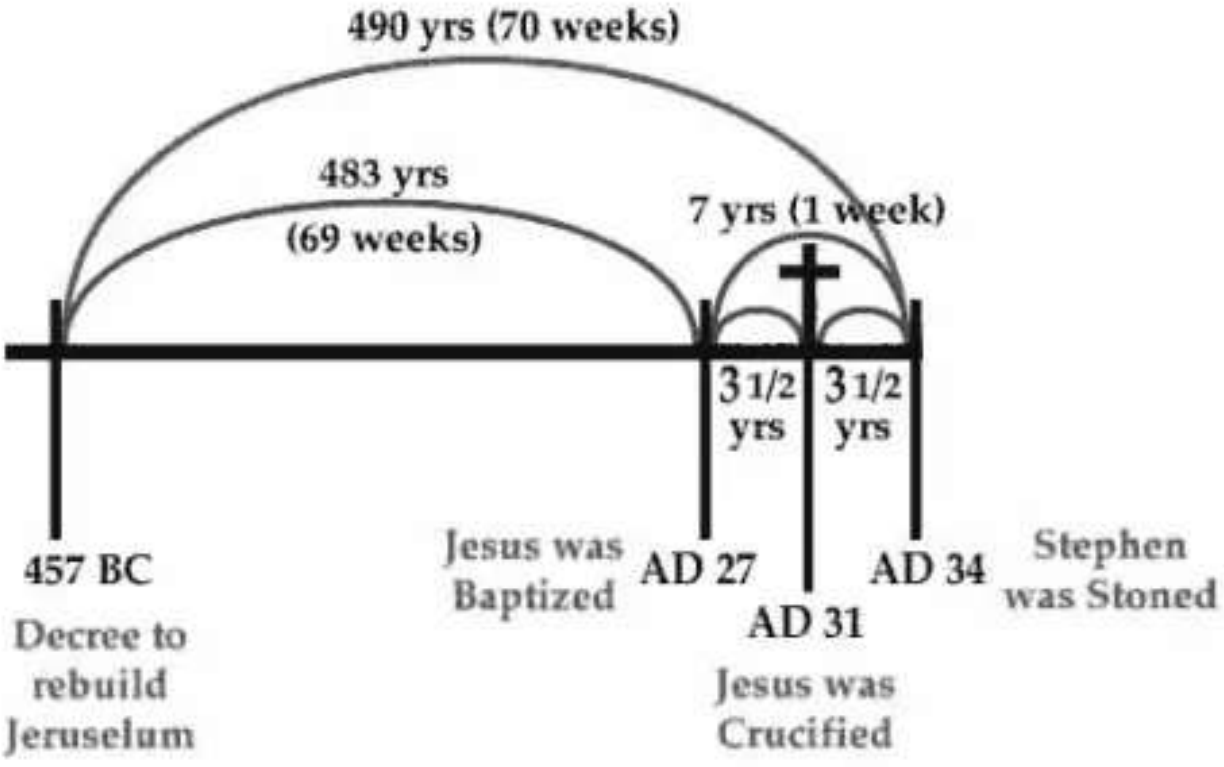
19) What words of wisdom from Paul should we dwell on?

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 But ye, brethren, are not in _____, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of _____, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us _____ and be sober.

Can you see that God has not left us in the dark?

Are you comforted to know He is watching out for you?

When is the time walk by faith?



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Lesson 18 – The Call by the Sea

Based on Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Luke 5:1-2 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the _____ of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the _____ were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

Day was breaking over the Sea of Galilee. The disciples, weary with a night of fruitless toil, were still in their fishing boats on the lake. Jesus had come to spend a quiet hour by the waterside. In the early morning, He hoped for a little season of rest from the multitude that followed Him day after day. But soon the people began to gather about Him. Their numbers rapidly increased, so that He was pressed upon all sides. Meanwhile the disciples had come to land.

2) What did Jesus do?
   Luke 5:3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and _____ the people out of the ship.

Every moment added to the multitude upon the shore. Aged men leaning upon their staffs, hardy peasants from the hills, fishermen from their toil on the lake, merchants and rabbis, the rich and learned, old and young, bringing their sick and suffering ones, pressed to hear the words of the divine Teacher.

3) What prophecy was fulfilled and was quoted by Jesus?
   Isaiah 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great _____: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Beside the throng on the shores of Gennesaret, Jesus in His sermon by the sea had other audiences before His mind. Looking down the ages, He saw His faithful ones in prison and judgment hall, in temptation and loneliness and affliction. Every scene of joy and conflict and perplexity was open before Him. In the words spoken to those gathered about Him, He was speaking also to these other souls the very words that would come to them as a message of hope in trial, of comfort in sorrow, and heavenly light in darkness. Through the Holy Spirit, that voice which was speaking from the fisherman's boat on the Sea of Galilee, would be heard speaking peace to human hearts to the close of time.

4) What crazy thing did Jesus ask His disciples to do?
   Luke 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your _____ for a draught.
5) How did Peter reply?
   Luke 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy _____ I will let down the net.

Peter was disheartened. All night he had taken nothing. During the lonely hours he had thought of the fate of John the Baptist, who was languishing alone in his dungeon. He had thought of the prospect before Jesus and His followers, of the ill success of the mission to Judea, and the malice of the priests and rabbis. Even his own occupation had failed him; and as he watched by the empty nets, the future had seemed dark with discouragement.

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6) What happened next?
Luke 5:6-7 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great _____ of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to _____.

Night was the only favorable time for fishing with nets in the clear waters of the lake. After toiling all night without success, it seemed hopeless to cast the net by day; but Jesus had given the command, and love for their Master moved the disciples to obey. Simon and his brother together let down the net. As they attempted to draw it in, so great was the quantity of fish enclosed that it began to break. They were obliged to summon James and John to their aid. When the catch was secured, both the boats were so heavily laden that they were in danger of sinking.

7) What does Scripture record next?
Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, _____ from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.
8) Why?
Luke 5:9 For he was _____, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

This miracle, above any other he had ever witnessed, was to him a manifestation of divine power. In Jesus he saw One who held all nature under His control. The presence of divinity revealed his own unholiness. Love for his Master, shame for his own unbelief, gratitude for the condescension of Christ, above all, the sense of his uncleanness in the presence of infinite purity, overwhelmed him.

9) How did Daniel feel after seeing Jesus in a vision?
Daniel 10:8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no _____ in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.
10) What did Isaiah exclaim as he saw the Lord of Hosts in vision?
Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am _____; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Thus, it has been with all who have been granted a view of God's greatness and majesty.

11) What did Jesus tell Peter as the others returned to shore?
Luke 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt _____ men.
12) How did Matthew record this?
Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you _____ of men.

Peter clung to the feet of Jesus, feeling that he could not be parted from Him. It was after Isaiah had beheld the holiness of God and his own unworthiness that he was entrusted with the divine message. It was after Peter had been led to self-renunciation and dependence upon divine power that he received the call to his work for Christ.

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13) What promise is given to those that follow the call?
Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is _____ unto all that call upon him.

14) What promise is given to those that give to the Lord?
Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and _____ over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Before asking them to leave their nets and fishing boats, Jesus had given them the assurance that God would supply their needs. The use of Peter's boat for the work of the gospel had been richly repaid.

15) How did Paul view God's watchcare?
Ephesians 3:20-21 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly _____ all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be _____ in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

During that sad night on the lake, when they were separated from Christ, the disciples were pressed hard by unbelief and weary with fruitless toil. But His presence kindled their faith and brought them joy and success. So, it is with us; apart from Christ, our work is fruitless, and it is easy to distrust and murmur. But when He is near, and we labor under His direction, we rejoice in the evidence of His power. It is Satan's work to discourage the soul; it is Christ's work to inspire with faith and hope.

16) How did John the Disciple describe Christ?
1 John 1:2-4 For the life was _____, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard _____ we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be _____.
John 1:16 And of his _____ have all we received, and grace for grace.

In the apostles of our Lord there was nothing to bring glory to themselves. It was evident that the success of their labors was due only to God. The lives of these men, the characters they developed, and the mighty work that God wrought through them, are a testimony to what He will do for all who are teachable and obedient.

17) What promise did God give us through Malachi?
Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with _____ in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

The Lord Jesus seeks the co-operation of those who will become unobstructed channels for the communication of His grace. The first thing to be learned by all who would become workers together with God is the lesson of self-distrust; then they are prepared to have imparted to them the character of Christ. This is not to be gained through education in the most scientific schools. It is the fruit of wisdom that is obtained from the divine Teacher alone.

18) What did even the officers to the Priests say about Jesus?
John 7:46 The officers answered, Never man _____ like this man.

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God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God develops harmoniously and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfill the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciple that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character.

Through a connection with Christ, you will have clearer and broader views. Your discernment will be more penetrative, Your judgment better balanced. You who long to be of service to Christ will be so quickened by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that you are enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God.

Can you see that you fall short of the mark?

Are you comforted to know that God wants to rejuvenate and repair all that was lost?

When is the time to let Him?

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Lesson 19 – "Thou Canst Make Me Clean"

Based on Matthew 8:24; Matthew 9:1-8; Matthew 9:32-34; Mark 1:40-45; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:12-28

1) How was a Leper to act and live?
Leviticus 13:45-46 And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, _____, _____. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; _____ the camp shall his habitation be.

Of all diseases known in the East the leprosy was most dreaded. Its incurable and contagious character, and its horrible effect upon its victims, filled the bravest with fear. Among the Jews it was regarded as a judgment on account of sin, and hence was called "the stroke," "the finger of God." Deep-rooted, ineradicable, deadly, it was looked upon as a symbol of sin.

The law was inflexible in its requirement. Even kings and rulers were not exempt. A monarch who was attacked by this terrible disease must yield up the scepter and flee from society.

2) What brave act did one man do?
Matthew 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me _____.

The lepers dared not expect Jesus to do for them what He had never done for any man. There was one, however, in whose heart faith began to spring up. Yet the man knew not how to reach Jesus. Debarred as he was from contact with his fellow men, how could he present himself to the Healer? And he questioned if Christ would heal him. Would He stoop to notice one believed to be suffering under the judgment of God? Would He not, like the Pharisees, and even the physicians, pronounce a curse upon him, and warn him to flee from the haunts of men? He thought of all that had been told him of Jesus. Not one who had sought His help had been turned away. The wretched man determined to find the Saviour. Though shut out from the cities, it might be that he could cross His path in some byway along the mountain roads or find Him as He was teaching outside the towns. The difficulties were great, but this was his only hope.

3) How did Jesus reply?
Matthew 8:3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And _____ his leprosy was cleansed.

Immediately a change passed over the leper. His flesh became healthy, the nerves sensitive, the muscles firm. The rough, scaly surface peculiar to leprosy disappeared, and a soft glow, like that upon the skin of a healthy child, took its place.

4) What did the former leper have to do next?
Matthew 8:4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a _____ unto them.

The words of Scripture show with what urgency Christ enjoined upon the man the necessity of silence and prompt action. Had the priests known the facts concerning the healing of the leper, their hatred of Christ might have led them to render a dishonest sentence.

5) Did the former leper stay silent after he came back from the Temple? _____

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When the man returned to his friends, there was great excitement. Notwithstanding the caution of Jesus, the man made no further effort to conceal the fact of his cure. It would indeed have been impossible to conceal it, but the leper published the matter abroad. Conceiving that it was only the modesty of Jesus which laid this restriction upon him, he went about proclaiming the power of this Great Healer.

Every act of Christ's ministry was far-reaching in its purpose. It comprehended more than appeared in the act itself. So, in the case of the leper. While Jesus ministered to all who came unto Him, He yearned to bless those who came not. While He drew the publicans, the heathen, and the Samaritans, He longed to reach the priests and teachers who were shut in by prejudice and tradition. He left untried no means by which they might be reached. In sending the healed leper to the priests, He gave them a testimony calculated to disarm their prejudices.

6) What did Jesus teach on the Mount of Blessing?
Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do _____ to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
7) What lesson did Peter learn from being with Jesus?
1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a _____.
8) What did Jesus say about the religious leaders?
Psalms 109:5 And they have _____ me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

The same priests who condemned the leper to banishment, certified his cure. This sentence, publicly pronounced and registered, was a standing testimony for Christ. And as the healed man was reinstated in the congregation of Israel, upon the priests' own assurance that there was not a taint of the disease upon him, he himself was a living witness for his Benefactor.

9) Did this miracle bear any fruit?
Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the _____ were obedient to the faith.
10) What did Isaiah prophesy about Israel?
Isaiah 1:5-6 Why should ye be _____ any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no _____ in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Jesus, coming to dwell in humanity, receives no pollution. His presence has healing virtue for the sinner. Whoever will fall at His feet, saying in faith, *"Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean,"* shall hear the answer, *"I will; be thou made clean."*

11) What did Jesus do for us?
Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the _____ of God and our Father:

In some instances of healing, Jesus did not at once grant the blessing sought. But in the case of leprosy, no sooner was the appeal made than it was granted. When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we ask for deliverance from sin.

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12) What did the disciple John have to say about it?
1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he _____ us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the _____ that we desired of him.
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to _____ us from all unrighteousness.

13) What does Scripture say about an event at Peter's house?
Luke 5:17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was _____ to heal them.

The Scribes and Pharisees had come as spies, seeking an accusation against Jesus. Outside of these officials thronged the promiscuous multitude, the eager, the reverent, the curious, and the unbelieving. Different nationalities and all grades of society were represented. *"And the power of the Lord was present to heal."* The Spirit of life brooded over the assembly, but Pharisees and doctors did not discern its presence.

14) Were the Scribes and Pharisees healed?
Luke 1:53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent _____ away.

15) What amazing thing happened at Peter's house?
Luke 5:18-19 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the _____, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

The palsied man was entirely helpless, and, seeing no prospect of aid from any quarter, he had sunk into despair. Then he heard of the wonderful works of Jesus. He was told that others as sinful and helpless as he had been healed; even lepers had been cleansed. And the friends who reported these things encouraged him to believe that he too might be cured if he could be carried to Jesus. But his hope fell when he remembered how the disease had been brought upon him. He feared that the pure Physician would not tolerate him in His presence.

16) What did Jesus say to the paralytic man?
Luke 5:20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are _____ thee.

The burden of despair rolls from the sick man's soul; the peace of forgiveness rests upon his spirit, and shines out upon his countenance. His physical pain is gone, and his whole being is transformed. The helpless paralytic is healed! the guilty sinner is pardoned!

In simple faith he accepted the words of Jesus as the boon of new life. He urged no further request, but lay in blissful silence, too happy for words. The light of heaven irradiated his countenance, and the people looked with awe upon the scene.

17) How did the Scribes and Pharisees react to this miracle?
Matthew 9:3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man _____.

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18) How did Jesus respond?

Matthew 9:4-6 And Jesus knowing their _____ said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath _____ on earth to _____ sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

Then he who had been borne on a litter to Jesus rises to his feet with the elasticity and strength of youth. The life-giving blood bounds through his veins. Every organ of his body springs into sudden activity. The glow of health succeeds the pallor of approaching death. *"And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion."*

19) Jesus came to Earth:

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might _____ the works of the devil.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the _____ of men.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more _____.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a _____ spirit.

The effect produced upon the people by the healing of the paralytic was as if heaven had opened, and revealed the glories of the better world. As the man who had been cured passed through the multitude, blessing God at every step, and bearing his burden as if it were a feather's weight, the people fell back to give him room, and with awe-stricken faces gazed upon him, whispering softly among themselves, *"We have seen strange things today."*

Of the healed paralytic: Glad thanksgiving went up from that home, and God was glorified through His Son, who had restored hope to the hopeless, and strength to the stricken one. This man and his family were ready to lay down their lives for Jesus. No doubt dimmed their faith, no unbelief marred their fealty to Him who had brought light into their darkened home.

20) Jesus came to Earth to:

Psalms 103:3-4 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who _____ thy life from destruction; who _____ thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Can you see that you need healing?

Isn't it a wonderful thing that God has left us an avenue to not only be forgiven, but renewed?

When is the time to seek the healing that you need?

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Lesson 20 – Levi-Matthew

Based on Matthew 9:9-17; Mark 2:14-22; Luke 5:27-39.

Of the Roman officials in Palestine, none were more hated than the publicans. The fact that the taxes were imposed by a foreign power was a continual irritation to the Jews, being a reminder that their independence had departed.

The tax gatherers were not merely the instruments of Roman oppression; they were extortioners on their own account, enriching themselves at the expense of the people. A Jew who accepted this office at the hands of the Romans was looked upon as betraying the honor of his nation. He was despised as an apostate and was classed with the vilest of society.

1) How did Matthew meet Jesus?
   Luke 5:27 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, _____ me.

The Pharisees had judged Matthew according to his employment, but Jesus saw in this man a heart open for the reception of truth. Matthew had listened to the Saviour's teaching. As the convicting Spirit of God revealed his sinfulness, he longed to seek help from Christ; but he was accustomed to the exclusiveness of the rabbis, and had no thought that this Great Teacher would notice him.

2) What did Matthew do?
   Luke 5:28 And he left _____, rose up, and followed him.

There was no hesitation, no questioning, no thought of the lucrative business to be exchanged for poverty and hardship. It was enough for him that he was to be with Jesus, that he might listen to His words, and unite with Him in His work.

3) Later in the Disciple's ministry, Jesus asked "When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything?", How did they reply?
   Luke 22:35 …And they said, _____.

To Matthew in his wealth, and to Andrew and Peter in their poverty, the same test was brought; the same consecration was made by each. At the moment of success, when the nets were filled with fish, and the impulses of the old life were strongest, Jesus asked the disciples at the sea to leave all for the work of the gospel. So, every soul is tested as to whether the desire for temporal good or for fellowship with Christ is strongest.

4) What did Matthew do to introduce Jesus to his friends?
   Luke 5:29 And Levi made him a great _____ in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

Among the publicans a widespread interest was created. Their hearts were drawn toward the divine Teacher. In the joy of his new discipleship, Matthew longed to bring his former associates to Jesus. Accordingly, he made a feast at his own house and called together his relatives and friends. Not only were publicans included, but many others who were of doubtful reputation.

5) Were the Scribes and Pharisees happy with the turn of events?
   Matthew 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why _____ your Master with publicans and sinners?

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It was their policy to accuse Christ to the disciples, and the disciples to Christ, aiming their arrows where they would be most likely to wound. This is the way in which Satan has worked ever since the disaffection in heaven; and all who try to cause discord and alienation are actuated by his spirit.

6) Did Jesus wait to see what His disciples would say?
Matthew 9:12-13 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a _____, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to _____.

The Pharisees thought so highly of themselves, they were really in a worse condition than the ones they despised. The publicans were less bigoted and self-sufficient and thus were more open to the influence of truth. Jesus showed that while they claimed to expound the word of God, they were wholly ignorant of its spirit.

7) Who was riled up to question the validity of Jesus' Work?
Matthew 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of _____, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

The Pharisees were silenced for the time but only became more determined in their enmity. They next sought out the disciples of John the Baptist and tried to set them against the Saviour.

8) How did Jesus react?
Matthew 9:15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber _____, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.
Verse 16 No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the _____ is made worse.
Verse 17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are _____.

The Pharisees would not consider that Jesus was eating with publicans and sinners in order to bring the light of heaven to those who sat in darkness. They would not see that every word dropped by the divine Teacher was a living seed that would germinate and bear fruit to the glory of God.

The disciples of John were at this time in great sorrow. It was before their visit to Jesus with John's message. Their beloved teacher was in prison, and they passed their days in mourning. And Jesus was making no effort to release John. If John had been sent by God, why did Jesus and His disciples pursue a course so widely different?

9) What had John the Baptist said previously that would alleviate their question?
John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, _____ greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

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The disciples of John could not fail to recall these words of their teacher. John the Baptist had rejoiced to behold the Saviour. What occasion for rejoicing had the disciples who were privileged to walk and talk with the Majesty of heaven! This was not a time for them to mourn and fast. They must open their hearts to receive the light of His glory, that they might shed light upon those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

10) What Prophetic Words did Jesus reiterate later in the disciples training?
John 16:19-20 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little _____, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into _____.

Days of temptation and trial would come, when they would be brought into conflict with the rulers of this world, and the leaders of the kingdom of darkness; when Christ was not personally with them, and they failed to discern the Comforter, then it would be more fitting for them to fast.

11) How did Isaiah describe the religious person who knew not God?
Isaiah 58:4-5 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have _____? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an _____ day to the LORD?
12) What is a true fast?
Isaiah 58:6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to _____ the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?
Verse 7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the _____, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou _____ him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?
13) What promise was given by God to Isaiah for all peoples?
Isaiah 58:9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall _____; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity**;**

Here is set forth the very spirit and character of the work of Christ. His whole life was a sacrifice of Himself for the saving of the world. Whether fasting in the wilderness of temptation or eating with the publicans at Matthew's feast, He was giving His life for the redemption of the lost. Not in idle mourning, in mere bodily humiliation and multitudinous sacrifices, is the true spirit of devotion manifested, but it is shown in the surrender of self in willing service to God and man.

14) What did Jesus say that shook the Pharisees and the disciples of John?
Luke 5:36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an _____; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

The message of John the Baptist was not to be interwoven with tradition and superstition. An attempt to blend the pretense of the Pharisees with the devotion of John would only make more evident the breach between them.

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15) What else did He say to shake those present?
Luke 5:37-38 And no man putteth new _____ into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are _____.

In this familiar illustration Jesus presented the condition of the Jewish leaders. Priests and scribes and rulers were fixed in a rut of ceremonies and traditions. Their hearts had become contracted, like the dried-up wine skins to which He had compared them. While they remained satisfied with a legal religion, it was impossible for them to become the depositaries of the living truth of heaven.

The teaching of Christ, though it was represented by the new wine, was not a new doctrine, but the revelation of that which had been taught from the beginning. But to the Pharisees the truth of God had lost its original significance and beauty. To them Christ's teaching was new in almost every respect, and it was unrecognized and unacknowledged.

16) How did Jesus finish His thought on the New Wine?
Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway _____ new: for he saith, The old is better.

All the truth that has been given to the world through patriarchs and prophets shone out in new beauty in the words of Christ. But the scribes and Pharisees had no desire for the precious new wine. Until emptied of the old traditions, customs, and practices, they had no place in mind or heart for the teachings of Christ. They clung to the dead forms, and turned away from the living truth and the power of God.

17) What is the message for our time?
Revelation 3:17-18 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of _____; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and _____ thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As it was in the days of Christ, so it is now

18) What sacrifice does God accept?
Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a _____ heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Man must be emptied of self before he can be, in the fullest sense, a believer in Jesus. When self is renounced, then the Lord can make man a new creature. New bottles can contain the new wine. The love of Christ will animate the believer with new life. In him who looks unto the Author and Finisher of our faith the character of Christ will be manifest.

Can you see that Earthly matters are less important than eternal?

Isn't it a wonderful thing that God has left us a path to walk?

Should we wait to partake of His blessings?

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Lesson 21 – The Sabbath

1) What did creation do when the Earth was created?
   Job 38:7-9 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God _____ for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I _____ the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,
2) What did God do after He created us and our world?
   Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very _____. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
   Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he _____ on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.
3) What did God do to make the Sabbath special?
   Genesis 2:3 And God _____ the seventh day, and _____ it: because that in it he had _____ from all his work which God created and made.

God set it apart to a holy use. He gave it to Adam as a day of rest. It was a memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of God's power and His love.

4) Of what is the Sabbath a reminder?
   Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and _____; so that they are without excuse:
   Psalms 111:4-6 He hath made his wonderful _____ to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his _____. He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.
5) Who made us?
   John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word _____ with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. _____ things were made by him; and without him was not any thing _____ that was made.

The Sabbath is a memorial of the work of creation, it is a token of the love and power of Christ.

The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word that created all things is that which speaks life to the soul.

6) What promise is given when we remember our Creator?
   2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the _____ of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the _____ of the power may be of God, and not of us.
7) What will we do when we remember Him?
   Psalm 92:4-5 For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will _____ in the works of thy hands. O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy _____ are very deep.

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8) What did man forget and is still forgetting?
Isaiah 40:21-22 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the _____ of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the _____ as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:
9) What should we do?
Isaiah 40:26 _____ up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.
10) What promise did God give to His people who seek Him?
Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will _____ thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
Isaiah 45:22 _____ unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

This is the message written in nature, which the Sabbath is appointed to keep in memory.

11) What is keeping the Sabbath a sign of?
Ezekiel 20:20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may _____ that I am the LORD your God.

The Sabbath was embodied in the law given from Sinai; but it was not then first made known as a day of rest. The people of Israel had a knowledge of it ***before*** they came to Sinai. On the way thither the Sabbath was kept.

12) What question did God ask when the Israelites broke the Sabbath?
Exodus 16:28 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long _____ ye to keep my commandments and my laws?
13) When will God's Law go away?
Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise _____ from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The Sabbath was not for Israel merely, but for the world. It had been made known to man in Eden, and, like the other precepts of the Decalogue, it is of imperishable obligation.

14) What will we do on the Earth made new?
Isaiah 66:23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one _____ to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power. And when Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun.

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15) What specifically does the Sabbath Commandment say?
Exodus 20:8-11 _____ the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy _____: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD _____ heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD _____ the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshipers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God. But in order to keep the Sabbath holy, men must themselves be holy. Through faith they must become partakers of the righteousness of Christ.

16) What are people called who keep the covenant of the Sabbath?
Exodus 22:31 And ye shall be _____ men unto me…

As the Jews departed from God and failed to make the righteousness of Christ their own by faith, the Sabbath lost its significance to them. Satan was seeking to exalt himself and to draw men away from Christ, and he worked to pervert the Sabbath, because it is the sign of the power of Christ. The Jewish leaders accomplished the will of Satan by surrounding God's rest day with burdensome requirements. In the days of Christ, the Sabbath had become so perverted that its observance reflected the character of selfish and arbitrary men rather than the character of the loving heavenly Father.

The rabbis virtually represented God as giving laws which it was impossible for men to obey. They led the people to look upon God as a tyrant, and to think that the observance of the Sabbath, as He required it, made men hard-hearted and cruel. It was the work of Christ to clear away these misconceptions.

17) What did Jesus do that got the Jews into a rage?
Matthew 12:1 At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to _____ the ears of corn, and to eat.
18) Was it lawful to do so?
Deuteronomy 23:25 When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine _____; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbour's standing corn.

To do this on the Sabbath was held to be an act of desecration. Not only was the gathering of the grain a kind of reaping, but the rubbing of it in the hands was a kind of threshing. Thus, in the opinion of the rabbis, there was a double offense.

19) What did the spies report back to the priests?
Matthew 12:2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not _____ to do upon the sabbath day.
20) How did Jesus reply?
Matthew 12:3-5 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he _____ into the house of God, and did eat the _____, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple _____ the sabbath, and are blameless?

The Jewish teachers prided themselves on their knowledge of the Scriptures, and in the Saviour's answer there was an implied rebuke for their ignorance of the Sacred Writings.

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21) What did Jesus finish the conversation with?
Matthew 12:6-8 But I say unto you, That in this place is one _____ than the temple. But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is _____ even of the sabbath day.

If it was right for David to satisfy his hunger by eating of the bread that had been set apart to a holy use, then it was right for the disciples to supply their need by plucking the grain upon the sacred hours of the Sabbath. Again, the priests in the temple performed greater labor on the Sabbath than upon other days. The same labor in secular business would be sinful; but the work of the priests was in the service of God. They were performing those rites that pointed to the redeeming power of Christ, and their labor was in harmony with the object of the Sabbath.

Christ would teach His disciples and His enemies that the service of God is first of all. The object of God's work in this world is the redemption of man; therefore, that which is necessary to be done on the Sabbath in the accomplishment of this work is in accord with the Sabbath law.

22) What did Jesus say just before for healing a man on the Sabbath?
Luke 6:9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it _____ on the sabbath days to do _____, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

It was a maxim among the Jews that a failure to do good, when one had opportunity, was to do evil; to neglect to save life was to kill. Thus Jesus met the rabbis on their own ground.

23) What did Jesus do next?
Mark 3:4-5 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their _____. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being _____ for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Every religion that wars against the sovereignty of God defrauds man of the glory which was his at the creation, and which is to be restored to him in Christ. Every false religion teaches its adherents to be careless of human needs, sufferings, and rights. The gospel places a high value upon humanity as the purchase of the blood of Christ, and it teaches a tender regard for the wants and woes of man.

24) What command did Jesus give shortly before going to Calvary?
John 15:10-11 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall _____ in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my _____ might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

The Saviour had not come to set aside what patriarchs and prophets had spoken; for He Himself had spoken through these representative men. All the truths of God's word came from Him. But these priceless gems had been placed in false settings. Their precious light had been made to minister to error. God desired them to be removed from their settings of error and replaced in the framework of truth. This work only a divine hand could accomplish. By its connection with error, the truth had been serving the cause of the enemy of God and man. Christ had come to place it where it would glorify God and work the salvation of humanity.

Isaiah 58:13-14 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

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Lesson 22 – The Sermon on the Mount
Part 1
Based on Matthew 5

1) How does our lesson begin today?
Luke 6:17-19 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his _____, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be _____ of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went _____ out of him, and healed them all.
2) At the Mount of Blessing, to whom was the first blessings pronounced?
Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his _____, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

The Sermon on the Mount, though given especially to the disciples, was spoken in the hearing of the multitude. After the ordination of the apostles, Jesus went with them to the seaside. Here in the early morning the people had begun to assemble.

3) How did Matthew record the first blessing?
Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Christ's first words to the people on the mount were words of blessing. Happy are they, He said, who recognize their spiritual poverty, and feel their need of redemption. The gospel is to be preached to the poor. Not to the spiritually proud, those who claim to be rich and in need of nothing, is it revealed, but to those who are humble and contrite.

4) Who may be able to dwell with the Almighty?
Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a _____ and _____ spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness, and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow.

5) What was the second blessing in Matthew's account?
Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted.

The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.

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6) How did Jeremiah describe God's mercy?
Jeremiah 3:12-13 Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine _____ to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only _____ thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.
7) How did Isaiah describe God's mercy?
Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the _____ of joy for mourning, the _____ of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

The tears of the penitent are only the raindrops that precede the sunshine of holiness.

8) What is God's Word for the sorrowing?
Isaiah 57:18 I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and _____ comforts unto him and to his mourners.
9) What blessing came next?
Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth.

The difficulties we have to encounter may be very much lessened by that meekness which hides itself in Christ. If we possess the humility of our Master, we shall rise above the slights, the rebuffs, the annoyances, to which we are daily exposed, and they will cease to cast a gloom over the spirit. The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control.

Never forget, Meekness is not Weakness

10) What was the next blessing?
Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be filled.

The sense of unworthiness will lead the heart to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and this desire will not be disappointed. Those who make room in their hearts for Jesus will realize His love. All who long to bear the likeness of the character of God shall be satisfied.

The Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted the soul who is looking unto Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto him. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image. The pure element of love will expand the soul, giving it a capacity for higher attainments, for increased knowledge of heavenly things, so that it will not rest short of the fullness.

11) Who will be called the Children of God?
Mathew 5:9 Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the children of God.
12) How did the Psalmist describe those who have peace?
Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy _____: and nothing shall offend them.

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Men cannot manufacture peace. Human plans for the purification and uplifting of individuals or of society will fail of producing peace, because they do not reach the heart. The only power that can create or perpetuate true peace is the grace of Christ. When this is implanted in the heart, it will cast out the evil passions that cause strife and dissension.

13) What blessing did Jesus give to the persecuted?
Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall _____ you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your _____ in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

The world loves sin, and hates righteousness, and this was the cause of its hostility to Jesus. All who refuse His infinite love will find Christianity a disturbing element. The light of Christ sweeps away the darkness that covers their sins, and the need of reform is made manifest. While those who yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit begin war with themselves, those who cling to sin war against the truth and its representatives.

14) What warning did Jesus give to the believers?
Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be _____ out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Hearts that respond to the influence of the Holy Spirit are the channels through which God's blessing flows. Were those who serve God removed from the earth, and His Spirit withdrawn from among men, this world would be left to desolation and destruction, the fruit of Satan's dominion. Though the wicked know it not, they owe even the blessings of this life to the presence, in the world, of God's people whom they despise and oppress.

If Christians are such in name only, they are like the salt that has lost its savor. They have no influence for good in the world. Through their misrepresentation of God, they are worse than unbelievers.

15) What encouragement did Jesus give to the persecuted?
Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the _____ of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto _____ that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and _____ your Father which is in heaven.

True character is not shaped from without, and put on; it radiates from within. If we wish to direct others in the path of righteousness, the principles of righteousness must be enshrined in our own hearts. Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds forth the word of truth. The consistent life, the holy conversation, the unswerving integrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example, these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world.

After explaining what constitutes true happiness, and how it may be obtained, Jesus more definitely pointed out the duty of His disciples, as teachers chosen of God to lead others into the path of righteousness and eternal life. He knew that they would often suffer from disappointment

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and discouragement, that they would meet with decided opposition, that they would be insulted, and their testimony rejected. Well He knew that in the fulfillment of their mission, the humble men who listened so attentively to His words were to bear calumny, torture, imprisonment, and death.

16) What promise was given as to the sharing of the Word of God?

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall _____ that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with _____, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an _____ sign that shall not be cut off.

Can you see the Power in Jesus' Word?

Would you like to know peace?

When is the time to step out in faith?

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Lesson 23 – The Sermon on the Mount
Part 2
Based on Matthew 5, 6, 7

1) How does our lesson begin today?
Luke 6:17-19 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his _____, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be _____ of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went _____ out of him, and healed them all.
2) At the Mount of Blessing, to whom was the first blessings pronounced?
Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his _____, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

The Sermon on the Mount, though given especially to the disciples, was spoken in the hearing of the multitude. After the ordination of the apostles, Jesus went with them to the seaside. Here in the early morning the people had begun to assemble.

3) After telling believers that they were the light to others, what did He say next?
Matthew 5:17-18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to _____, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise _____ from the law, till all be fulfilled.

If the law of God could have been changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have suffered the consequences of our transgression. He came to explain the relation of the law to man, and to illustrate its precepts by His own life of obedience.

4) What promise was given to those that do and teach them?
Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall _____ and _____ them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

God has given us His holy precepts, because He loves mankind. To shield us from the results of transgression, He reveals the principles of righteousness. The law is an expression of the thought of God; when received in Christ, it becomes our thought. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin. God desires us to be happy, and He gave us the precepts of the law that in obeying them we might have joy.

5) What did the Psalmist say about the Law of God?
Psalm 19:7-9 The law of the LORD is perfect, _____ the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, _____ the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and _____ altogether.

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The law was given to convict God's people of sin, and reveal their need of a Saviour. It would do this as its principles were applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit. This work, it is still to do. In the life of Christ the principles of the law are made plain; and as the Holy Spirit of God touches the heart, as the light of Christ reveals to men their need of His cleansing blood and His justifying righteousness, the law is still an agent in bringing us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.

6) What did Paul say about God's 10 Commandment Law?
Romans 7:12 Wherefore the _____ is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

All who break God's commandments are sustaining Satan's claim that the law is unjust and cannot be obeyed. Thus, they second the deceptions of the great adversary, and cast dishonor upon God.

7) What did Jesus say about the Scribes and Pharisees?
Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall _____ the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

External ceremonies and a theoretical knowledge of truth constituted Pharisaical righteousness. The rabbis claimed to be holy through their own efforts in keeping the law; but their works had divorced righteousness from religion. While they were punctilious in ritual observances, their lives were immoral and debased.

Punctilious: showing great attention to detail or correct behavior.

In all human experience, a theoretical knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in life. ***The darkest chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists.***

8) What familiar thing did Jesus quote to everyone?
Matthew 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not _____; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:
9) What thought did He add to that?
Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is _____ with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.
10) What did He encourage us to do?
Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; _____ there thy gift before the altar, and _____ thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Many are zealous in religious services, while between them and their brethren are unhappy differences which they might reconcile. God requires them to do all in their power to restore harmony.

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11) Who are you to love?
Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your _____, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

12) What promise goes with that commandment?
Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your _____ which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

13) What did Jesus say we should be?
Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore _____, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.

The tempter's agency is not to be accounted an excuse for one wrong act. Satan is jubilant when he hears the professed followers of Christ making excuses for their deformity of character. It is these excuses that lead to sin. There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God.

14) What encouragement did Paul give to the church in Corinth and to us?
2 Corinthians 6:16-18 And what agreement hath the _____ of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore _____ _____ from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will _____ you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

15) How did Jesus come to us?
Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, _____ sin in the flesh:

16) Why?
Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the _____.

Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature might overcome. He lived a sinless life. Now by His divinity He lays hold upon the throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us by faith in Him attain to the glory of the character of God.

17) How can we gain the strength to follow God completely?
Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall _____ thee openly.

By the life we live through the grace of Christ the character is formed. The original loveliness begins to be restored to the soul. The attributes of the character of Christ are imparted, and the image of the Divine begins to shine forth.

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18) Can you serve two masters?
Matthew 6:24 No man can _____ two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

We cannot serve God with a divided heart. Bible religion is not one influence among many others; its influence is to be supreme, pervading and controlling every other.

19) What lesson from nature did Jesus give us?
Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much _____ than they?

How much more does He care for man, who is the image and glory of God. He longs to see His children reveal a character after His similitude. As the sunbeam imparts to the flowers their varied and delicate tints, so does God impart to the soul the beauty of His own character.

20) What parable did Jesus give us to guide our thinking?
Matthew 7:24-25 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a _____: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it _____ not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Self is but shifting sand. If you build upon human theories and inventions, your house will fall. By the winds of temptation, the tempests of trial, it will be swept away. But these principles that Jesus gives will endure.

Can you see the Power in Jesus' Word?

Would you like to know peace?

When is the time to let God renew your heart?

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Lesson 24 – The Centurion

Based on Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-17

1) What was Jesus' second recorded miracle?
John 4:46-47 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the _____ wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and _____ his son: for he was at the point of death.
2) What did Jesus do?
John 4:48-53 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see _____ and _____, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son _____. Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

Jesus was grieved that His own nation should require these outward signs of His Messiahship. Again and again He had marveled at their unbelief.

3) While Jesus was still in Capernaum who reached out to Him for help?
Matthew 8:5-6 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a _____, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously _____.

Among the Romans the servants were slaves, bought and sold in the market places, and treated with abuse and cruelty; but the centurion was tenderly attached to his servant, and greatly desired his recovery. He believed that Jesus could heal him. He had not seen the Saviour, but the reports he heard had inspired him with faith.

4) How did Luke record the event?
Luke 7:3-5 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the _____ of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. And when _____ came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

The Centurion felt unworthy to come into the presence of Jesus, and he appealed to the Jewish elders to make request for the healing of his servant. They were acquainted with the Great Teacher, and would, ***he thought***, know how to approach Him so as to win His favor.

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5) What statement of faith did the Centurion make to Jesus?
Luke 7:6-8 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, _____ not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: Wherefore neither thought I myself _____ to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man set under _____, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

This Centurion ultimately said: "As I represent the power of Rome, and my soldiers recognize my authority as supreme, so do You represent the power of the Infinite God, and all created things obey Your word. You can command the disease to depart, and it shall obey You. You can summon Your heavenly messengers, and they shall impart healing virtue. Speak but the word, and my servant shall be healed."

6) How did Jesus reply?
Luke 7:9-10 When Jesus heard these things, he _____ at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great _____, no, not in Israel. And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

The Jewish elders who recommended the centurion to Christ had shown how far they were from possessing the spirit of the gospel. They did not recognize that our great need is our only claim on God's mercy. In their self-righteousness they commended the centurion because of the favor he had shown to "our nation." But the centurion said of himself, "I am not worthy." His heart had been touched by the grace of Christ. He saw his own unworthiness; yet he feared not to ask help. He trusted not to his own goodness; his argument was his great need. His faith took hold upon Christ in His true character. He did not believe in Him merely as a worker of miracles, but as the friend and Saviour of mankind.

7) How do we come to Christ?
Titus 3:5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his _____ he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being _____ by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

When Satan tells you that you are a sinner, and cannot hope to receive blessing from God, tell him that Christ came into the world to save sinners. We have nothing to recommend us to God; but the plea that we may urge now and ever is our utterly helpless condition that makes His redeeming power a necessity. Renouncing all self-dependence, we may look to the cross of Calvary.

8) How did John describe Jesus?
John 1:9 That was the true _____, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

The Centurion did not wait to see whether the Jews themselves would receive the One who claimed to be their Messiah.

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9) What words of warning did Jesus give to the Jews (and us)?
Matthew 8:11-12 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the _____ and _____, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be _____ and gnashing of teeth.

10) Why? _____

With joy Jesus looked forward to the gathering of souls from all nations to His kingdom. With deep sadness He pictured to the Jews the result of their rejection of His grace:

11) What did Jesus do the next day?
Luke 7:11-12 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called _____; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man _____ out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

More than twenty miles from Capernaum, on a tableland overlooking the wide, beautiful plain of Esdraelon, lay the village of Nain, and thither Jesus next bent His steps. Many of His disciples and others were with Him, and all along the way the people came, longing for His words of love and pity, bringing their sick for His healing, and ever with the hope that He who wielded such wondrous power would make Himself known as the King of Israel.

As they draw near, a funeral train is seen coming from the gates. With slow, sad steps it is proceeding to the place of burial. On an open bier carried in front is the body of the dead, and about it are the mourners, filling the air with their wailing cries. All the people of the town seem to have gathered to show their respect for the dead and their sympathy with the bereaved.

12) How did Jesus react to the grieving mother?
Luke 7:13-14 And when the Lord saw her, he had _____ on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, _____.

The young man opens his eyes. Jesus takes him by the hand and lifts him up. His gaze falls upon her who has been weeping beside him, and mother and son unite in a long, clinging, joyous embrace. The multitude look on in silence, as if spellbound.

13) How does the Bible record the villager's reaction?
Luke 7:16 And there came a _____ on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Hushed and reverent they stood for a little time, as if in the very presence of God.

14) What did Jesus remind His disciples just before His ascension off the Mount of Olives?
Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, _____ power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

That power is not diminished by the lapse of years, nor exhausted by the ceaseless activity of His overflowing grace. To all who believe on Him He is still a living Saviour.

15) Who holds the power over death?
Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for _____, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

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16) Why did Jesus have to die?
Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might _____ him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

17) What did Paul tell us to do?
Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that _____, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

18) What has Jesus done for those of faith?
Colossians 1:13-14 Who hath _____ us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have _____ through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Satan cannot hold the dead in his grasp when the Son of God bids them live. He cannot hold in spiritual death one soul who in faith receives Christ's word of power.

It is all offered us in His word. If we receive the word, we have the deliverance.

19) What promise did Paul convey in Romans?
Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead _____ in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

20) What promise did Paul convey in 1 Thessalonians?
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from _____ with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the _____, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Can you see the Love from Jesus?

Would you like to be a partaker?

When is the time to look beyond ourselves?

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Lesson 25 – Who Are My Brethren?

Based on Matthew 12:20-50; Mark 3:20-35

1) While Jesus was correcting the Pharisees one day after healing someone, what event happened?
   Matthew 12:46-47 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his _____ and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy _____ stand without, desiring to speak with thee.
2) How did Jesus reply?
   Matthew 12:48-50 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his _____, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my _____ which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.
3) What false charge did the Pharisees place against Jesus?
   Matthew 9:34 But the Pharisees said, He casteth out _____ through the prince of the devils.

Jesus' brothers heard of the charge brought by the Pharisees that He cast out devils through the power of Satan. They felt keenly the reproach that came upon them through their relation to Jesus. They knew what a tumult His words and works created, and were not only alarmed at His bold statements, but indignant at His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. They decided that He must be persuaded or constrained to cease this manner of labor, and they induced Mary to unite with them, thinking that through His love for her they might prevail upon Him to be more prudent.

4) How did Jesus feel about the faith of Israel?
   Matthew 9:35-36 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the _____ of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they _____, and were _____ abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

The Pharisees did not themselves believe the charges they brought against Him. There was not one of those dignitaries but had felt drawn toward the Saviour. They had heard the Spirit's voice in their own hearts declaring Him to be the Anointed of Israel, and urging them to confess themselves His disciples. In the light of His presence they had realized their unholiness, and had longed for a righteousness which they could not create. But after their rejection of Him it would be too humiliating to receive Him as the Messiah.

5) What is the unpardonable sin?
   Mark 3:28-29 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be _____ unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the _____ _____ hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

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It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors, and to lead them in safe paths; it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul.

6) Where do our words come from?
Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his _____ bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil _____ of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Words are more than an indication of character; they have power to react on the character.

7) Who will be judged by their words?
Matthew 12:36-37 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall _____, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy _____ thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.
8) What is the danger in the Christian walk?
Matthew 12:43-45 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will _____ into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is _____ than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one.

9) What was the last part of the previous verse?
Matthew 12:45 …and the last state of that man is _____ than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy.

10) Who are the family of God?
Matthew 12:48-50 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his _____, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my _____, and _____, and _____.

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All who would receive Christ by faith are united to Him by a tie closer than that of human kinship. They become one with Him, as He was one with the Father. As a believer and doer of His words, His mother was more nearly and savingly related to Him than through her natural relationship.

11) How are we to come to Christ?
Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the _____ of heaven.

Those who accept Christ as their personal Saviour are not left as orphans, to bear the trials of life alone. He receives them as members of the heavenly family; He bids them call His Father their Father. They are His "little ones," dear to the heart of God, bound to Him by the most tender and abiding ties.

12) What lesson from the Old Testament shows the ministry of Jesus?
Leviticus 25:25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to _____ it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.
Leviticus 25:47-49 And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.
13) What message did Isaiah convey to us?
Isaiah 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have _____ thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Christ loves the heavenly beings that surround His throne; but what shall account for the great love wherewith He has loved us? We cannot understand it, but we can know it true in our own experience. And if we do hold the relation of kinship to Him, with what tenderness should we regard those who are brethren and sisters of our Lord! Should we not be quick to recognize the claims of our divine relationship? Adopted into the family of God, should we not honor our Father and our kindred?

Can you see the Love from Jesus?

Would you like to be redeemed?

When is the time to love like Jesus did?

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Lesson 26 – The Invitation

Based on Matthew 11:28-30

1) What amazing invitation did Jesus make to the world?
Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you _____.

Jesus left none to feel themselves shut out from His care and love. All who labor and are heavy-laden may come unto Him.

2) What did Jesus say in conjunction with the last invitation?
Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and _____ of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your _____.

Whether you know it or not, all are weary and heavy-laden. All are weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin. If we were left to bear this burden, it would crush us.

3) Who was chosen to carry your guilt?
Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on _____ the iniquity of us all.

The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you.

4) How big is our God?
Psalms 147:3-5 He _____ the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the _____ of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is _____.

Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer.

5) What conditions does God put on us to receive the blessings?
Matthew 11:29 _____ my yoke upon you, and _____ of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall _____ rest unto your souls.

The yoke is an instrument of service. Cattle are yoked for labor, and the yoke is essential that they may labor effectually. By this illustration Christ teaches us that we are called to service as long as life shall last. We are to take upon us, His yoke, that we may be co-workers with Him.

6) What did the Psalmist say bring him joy?
Psalms 40:8 I _____ to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God.

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7) Who's will did Jesus do?
John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of _____ that sent me.
8) What was the will of the Father?
John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt.

9) According to Scripture, how easy is it to follow God's will?
Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is _____, and my burden is light.

There are many whose hearts are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world's standard. They have chosen its service, accepted its perplexities, adopted its customs. Thus their character is marred, and their life made a weariness. In order to gratify ambition and worldly desires, they wound the conscience, and bring upon themselves an additional burden of remorse.

10) What promise did Jesus give to everyone out in the world?
Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the _____ of _____, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.

11) What is Jesus asking of us?
Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find _____ unto your souls.

We are to enter the school of Christ, to learn from Him meekness and lowliness. Redemption is that process by which the soul is trained for heaven. This training means a knowledge of Christ. It means emancipation from ideas, habits, and practices that have been gained in the school of the prince of darkness. The soul must be delivered from all that is opposed to loyalty to God.

In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. Amid the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. But many who profess to be His followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God.

12) What did Moses pray after the Children of Israel danced around the golden calf?
Exodus 33:13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, _____ me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.
13) How did God respond?
Exodus 33:14 And he said, My presence shall go _____ thee, and I will give thee rest.

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14) Moses replied:
Exodus 33:15-16 And he said unto him, If thy _____ go not with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found _____ in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

15) What pleas did God make with Israel in their rebellion?
Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and _____ therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.
Isaiah 48:18 O that thou hadst _____ to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

When our will is swallowed up in the will of God, and we use His gifts to bless others, we shall find life's burden light. He who walks in the way of God's commandments is walking in company with Christ, and in His love the heart is at rest.

16) What did God promise through Isaiah?
Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt _____ him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest.

Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And that character which expresses the glory—character—of Christ will be received into the Paradise of God. A renovated race shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy.

17) How does the Bible describe those that are sealed and at the throne of God?
Revelation 7:15-17 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his _____: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall _____ no more, neither _____ any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall _____ them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins ***here***. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence. All that human nature can bear, we may receive here.

Can you see Jesus brings peace?

Would you like to worry less?

When is the time for Heaven to begin?

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Lesson 27 – "Peace Be Still"

Based on Matthew 8:23-34; Mark 4:23-41; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:22-39

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Mark 4:35-36 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us _____ over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the _____. And there were also with him other little ships.
2) What cryptic thing did Mark mention in his Gospel?
   Mark 4:36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even _____ _____ _____ in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

All day He had been teaching and healing; and as evening came on the crowds still pressed upon Him. Day after day He had ministered to them, scarcely pausing for food or rest. The malicious criticism and misrepresentation with which the Pharisees constantly pursued Him made His labors much more severe and harassing; and now the close of the day found Him so utterly wearied that He determined to seek retirement in some solitary place across the lake.

The eastern shore of Gennesaret was not uninhabited, for there were towns here and there beside the lake; yet it was a desolate region when compared with the western side. It contained a population more heathen than Jewish, and had little communication with Galilee. Thus it offered Jesus the seclusion He sought, and He now bade His disciples accompany Him thither.

3) What happened next?
   Mark 4:37-38 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the _____ beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they _____ him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

The sun had set, and the blackness of night settled down upon the stormy sea. The waves, lashed into fury by the howling winds, dashed fiercely over the disciples' boat, and threatened to engulf it. Those hardy fishermen had spent their lives upon the lake, and had guided their craft safely through many a storm; but now their strength and skill availed nothing. They were helpless in the grasp of the tempest, and hope failed them as they saw that their boat was filling.

4) How did Matthew record their cry for help?
   Matthew 8:25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, _____ us: we perish.

Their cry arouses Jesus. As the lightning's glare reveals Him, they see the peace of heaven in His face; they read in His glance self-forgetful, tender love, and, their hearts turning to Him, cry, "***Lord, save us: we perish***."

5) What did Jesus do?
   Mark 4:39 And he arose, and _____ the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind _____, and there was a great calm.

Never did a soul utter that cry unheeded. As the disciples grasp their oars to make a last effort, Jesus rises. He stands in the midst of His disciples, while the tempest rages, the waves break over them, and the lightning illuminates His countenance. He lifts His hand, so often employed in deeds of mercy, and says to the angry sea, "***Peace, be still***."

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6) After the tumult was over, what did He ask His Disciples?
Mark 4:40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?
7) How did Mark record the end of that event?
Mark 4:41 And they _____ exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

A hush fell upon the disciples. Even Peter did not attempt to express the awe that filled his heart. The boats that had set out to accompany Jesus had been in the same peril with that of the disciples. Terror and despair had seized their occupants; but the command of Jesus brought quiet to the scene of tumult. The fury of the storm had driven the boats into close proximity, and all on board beheld the miracle.

8) Who was Jesus?
Psalms 146:5-6 Happy is he that hath the _____ of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the _____, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:
9) Did Jesus use that power to stop the storm?
John 5:30 I can of mine own self do _____: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the _____ which hath sent me.

When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for no fear was in His heart. He trusted in the Father's might. It was in faith—faith in God's love and care—that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God.

10) What lesson can we learn from Isaiah?
Isaiah 57:20-21 But the wicked are like the troubled _____, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the _____.

Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued, we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to quiet the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee has spoken the word of peace for every soul.

11) What did the Psalmist have to say about it?
Psalms 107:29-30 He maketh the storm a _____, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be _____; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.
12) How did Paul describe it?
Romans 5:1 1 Therefore being justified by _____, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
13) What did Isaiah say to give us hope?
Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of _____ quietness and assurance for ever.

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14) What happened when the armada of boats reached the shore?
Matthew 8:28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two _____ with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

In the early morning the Saviour and His companions came to shore, and the light of the rising sun touched sea and land as with the benediction of peace. But no sooner had they stepped upon the beach than their eyes were greeted by a sight more terrible than the fury of the tempest. From some hiding place among the tombs, two madmen rushed upon them as if to tear them in pieces.

15) How did these men appear?
Mark 5:3-5 Who had his dwelling among the _____; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and _____ himself with stones.

Their flesh was torn and bleeding where they had cut themselves with sharp stones. Their eyes glared out from their long and matted hair, the very likeness of humanity seemed to have been blotted out by the demons that possessed them, and they looked more like wild beasts than like men.

16) What weird thing did the demoniacs do?
Mark 5:6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and _____ him,

They realized dimly that One was near who could save them from the tormenting demons. They fell at the Saviour's feet to worship Him; but when their lips were opened to entreat His mercy, the demons spoke through them.

17) What did Jesus command?
Mark 5:8 For he said unto him, Come _____ of the man, thou unclean spirit.
18) Before the demon left, what did Jesus ask it?
Mark 5:9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is _____: for we are many.
19) What did the demon(s) plead?
Mark 5:10 And he besought him _____ that he would not send them away out of the country.
20) What happened next?
Mark 5:11-13 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of _____ feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may _____ into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran _____ down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Meanwhile a marvelous change had come over the demoniacs. Light had shone into their minds. Their eyes beamed with intelligence. The countenances, so long deformed into the image of Satan, became suddenly mild, the bloodstained hands were quiet, and with glad voices the men praised God for their deliverance.

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It was in mercy to the owners of the swine that this loss had been permitted to come upon them. They were absorbed in earthly things, and cared not for the great interests of spiritual life. Jesus desired to break the spell of selfish indifference, that they might accept His grace. But regret and indignation for their temporal loss blinded their eyes to the Saviour's mercy.

21) What did the delivered men ask Jesus?
Mark 5:18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might _____ with him.
22) How did Jesus respond?
Mark 5:19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him _____, but saith unto him, Go _____ to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.
23) What did these men do?
Mark 5:20 And he departed, and began to _____ in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Here was a work for them to do,—to go to a heathen home, and tell of the blessing they had received from Jesus. It was hard for them to be separated from the Saviour. Great difficulties were sure to beset them in association with their heathen countrymen. And their long isolation from society seemed to have disqualified them for the work He had indicated. But as soon as Jesus pointed out their duty they were ready to obey.

Not only did they tell their own households and neighbors about Jesus, but they went throughout Decapolis, everywhere declaring His power to save, and describing how He had freed them from the demons. In doing this work they could receive a greater blessing than if, merely for benefit to themselves, they had remained in His presence. It is in working to spread the good news of salvation that we are brought near to the Saviour.

24) What testimiony did John the Disciple give?
1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have _____, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have _____ it, and bear witness, and _____ unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard _____ we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

The two restored demoniacs were the first missionaries whom Christ sent to preach the gospel in the region of Decapolis. For a few moments only these men had been privileged to hear the teachings of Christ. Not one sermon from His lips had ever fallen upon their ears. They could not instruct the people as the disciples who had been daily with Christ were able to do. But they bore in their own persons the evidence that Jesus was the Messiah. They could tell what they knew; what they themselves had seen, and heard, and felt of the power of Christ. This is what everyone can do whose heart has been touched by the grace of God.

Though the people of Gergesa had not received Jesus, He did not leave them to the darkness they had chosen. When they bade Him depart from them, they had not heard His words. They were ignorant of that which they were rejecting. Therefore He again sent the light to them, and by those to whom they would not refuse to listen.

25) What promise do we need to treasure?
2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of _____, and of _____, and of a _____ mind.

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Lesson 28 – The Touch of Faith

Based on Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Matthew 9:18-19 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall _____.

Returning from casting out the demons from two men at Gergesa on the western shore, Jesus found a multitude gathered to receive Him, and they greeted Him with joy. He remained by the seaside for a time, teaching and healing, and then repaired to the house of Levi-Matthew to meet the publicans at the feast. Here Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, found Him.

2) What did he ask of Jesus?
   Mark 5:23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of _____: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

Jesus set out at once with the ruler for his home. Though the disciples had seen so many of His works of mercy, they were surprised at His compliance with the entreaty of the haughty rabbi; yet they accompanied their Master, and the people followed, eager and expectant.

3) While on the way, what word came to the retinue?
   Mark 5:35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why _____ thou the Master any further?
4) Did Jesus agree with their assessment?
   Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: _____ only, and she shall be made whole.
5) What was the scene like when they arrived at Jairus' house?
   Mark 5:38-39 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but _____.
6) Did the crowd believe Him?
   Mark 5:40 And they _____ him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

They were indignant at the words of the Stranger. They had seen the child in the embrace of death, and they laughed Him to scorn. Requiring them all to leave the house, Jesus took with Him the father and mother of the maiden, and the three disciples, Peter, James, and John, and together they entered the chamber of death.

7) What did Jesus do?
   Mark 5:41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, _____.

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Instantly a tremor passed through the unconscious form. The pulses of life beat again. The lips unclosed with a smile. The eyes opened widely as if from sleep, and the maiden gazed with wonder on the group beside her. She arose, and her parents clasped her in their arms, and wept for joy.

8) What happened next?
Mark 5:42 And straightway the damsel arose, and _____; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.
9) What strange command did Jesus give to the parents?
Mark 5:43 And he charged them straitly that no man should _____ it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.
10) Why? _____

11) On the way to Jairus' house something happened, what was it?
Mark 5:25-28 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood _____ years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had _____ all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew _____, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may _____ but his clothes, I shall be whole.

In weakness and suffering she came to the seaside where He was teaching, and tried to press through the crowd, but in vain. Again, she followed Him from the house of Levi-Matthew but was still unable to reach Him. She had begun to despair, when, in making His way through the multitude, He came near where she was.

The golden opportunity had come. She was in the presence of the Great Physician! But amid the confusion she could not speak to Him, nor catch more than a passing glimpse of His figure. Fearful of losing her one chance of relief, she pressed forward, saying to herself, "***If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole."***

12) How does Mark record what happened next?
Mark 5:29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was _____ of that plague.
13) Did Jesus notice?
Mark 5:30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that _____ had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?
14) Was the Disciples question reasonable?
Mark 5:31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the _____ thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

With a grateful heart she then tried to withdraw from the crowd; but suddenly Jesus stopped, and the people halted with Him. He turned, and looking about asked in a voice distinctly heard above the confusion of the multitude, ***"Who touched Me?"*** The people answered this query with a look of amazement. Jostled upon all sides, and rudely pressed hither and thither, as He was, it seemed a strange inquiry.

15) Jesus specifically said something interesting:
Luke 8:46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that _____ is gone out of me.

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Strong's Exhaustive Concordance: dunamis – 1411; ability, power, strength

From dunamai; force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power (usually by implication, a miracle itself) -- ability, abundance, meaning, might(-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle(-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

The Saviour could distinguish the touch of faith from the casual contact of the careless throng. Such trust should not be passed without comment. He would speak to the humble woman words of comfort that would be to her a wellspring of joy, words that would be a blessing to His followers to the close of time.

16) What did she do?
Luke 8:47 And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came _____, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

17) How did Jesus reply?
Luke 8:48 And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy _____ hath made thee whole; go in peace.

He gave no opportunity for superstition to claim healing virtue for the mere act of touching His garments. It was not through the outward contact with Him, but through the faith which took hold on His divine power, that the cure was wrought.

18) What directions did Isaiah give to the redeemed?
Isaiah 43:12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my _____, saith the LORD, that I am God.

After healing the woman, Jesus desired her to acknowledge the blessing she had received. The gifts which the gospel offers are not to be secured by stealth or enjoyed in secret. So the Lord calls upon us for confession of His goodness.

19) How did the Psalmist ponder this?
Psalms 116:12-14 What shall I render unto the LORD for all his _____ toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and _____ upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the _____ of all his people.

It is for our own benefit to keep every gift of God fresh in our memory. Thus, faith is strengthened to claim and to receive more and more. There is greater encouragement for us in the least blessing we ourselves receive from God than in all the accounts we can read of the faith and experience of others.

We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality.

Can you see Jesus brings healing?

Would you like to be made whole?

When is the time to share what you have seen?

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Lesson 29 – The First Evangelists

Based on Matthew 10; Mark 6:7-11; Luke 9:1-6

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Luke 9:1-2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them _____ and _____ over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.
2) What instructions did He add to the task?
   Luke 9:3-4 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither _____; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very _____ from your feet for a testimony against them.

As Jesus ministered to the vast multitudes that gathered about Him, His disciples were in attendance, eager to do His bidding and to lighten His labor. They assisted in arranging the people, bringing the afflicted ones to the Saviour, and promoting the comfort of all. They watched for interested hearers, explained the Scriptures to them, and in various ways worked for their spiritual benefit. They taught what they had learned of Jesus and were every day obtaining a rich experience. But they needed also an experience in laboring alone.

3) Why? _____

When they were separated from Him, every look and tone and word of the doubting Pharisees came back to them. Often when in conflict with the enemies of the gospel, they repeated Jesus' words, and as they saw their effect upon the people, they rejoiced greatly.

4) What were their instructions?
   Matthew 10:7-8 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the _____, cleanse the _____, raise the _____, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
5) What promise is given to those who serve the Lord?
   Isaiah 58:8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy _____.

The love of Christ, manifested in unselfish ministry, will be more effective in reforming the evildoer than will the sword or the court of justice. These are necessary to strike terror to the lawbreaker, but the loving missionary can do more than this. Often the heart will harden under reproof; but it will melt under the love of Christ.

6) To whom were the disciples to go on their first mission?
   Matthew 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of _____.

Until they themselves could grasp this truth they were not prepared to labor for the Gentiles. If the Jews would receive the gospel, God purposed to make them His messengers to the Gentiles. Therefore, they were first to hear the message.

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7) How did Jesus say they should enter the houses of those they were visiting?
Luke 10:5-6 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, _____ be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

On this first tour the disciples were to go only where Jesus had been before them and had made friends. Their preparation for the journey was to be of the simplest kind. Nothing must be allowed to divert their minds from their great work, or in any way excite opposition and close the door for further labor.

8) What did Jesus tell His disciples about those that wouldn't receive the Word?
Matthew 10:14-15 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your _____, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of _____, than for that city.

They were not to enter into the synagogues and call the people together for public service; their efforts were to be put forth in house-to-house labor. They were not to waste time in needless salutations, or in going from house to house for entertainment. But in every place, they were to accept the hospitality of those who were worthy, those who would welcome them heartily as if entertaining Christ Himself.

9) Where is our real warfare?
Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against _____, against _____, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We are to contend with supernatural forces, but we are assured of supernatural help. All the intelligences of heaven are in this army. And more than angels are in the ranks. The Holy Spirit, the representative of the Captain of the Lord's host, comes down to direct the battle. Our infirmities may be many, our sins and mistakes grievous; but the grace of God is for all who seek it with contrition. The power of Omnipotence is enlisted on behalf of those who trust in God.

10) What warning did Jesus give us?
Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of _____: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as _____.

Every soul was precious in His eyes. While He always bore Himself with divine dignity, He bowed with tenderest regard to every member of the family of God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save.

The servants of Christ are not to act out the dictates of the natural heart. They need to have close communion with God, lest, under provocation, self rise up, and they pour forth a torrent of words that are unbefitting, that are not as dew or the still showers that refresh the withering plants.

11) What did Jesus tell us to beware of?
Matthew 10:17 But beware of _____: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

God is dishonored and the gospel is betrayed when His servants depend on the counsel of men who are not under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God. Those who rely upon it will surely err.

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12) What did Jesus follow up with His warning?
Matthew 10:18-19 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a _____ against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall _____: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Often their only means of learning its real character is the testimony of those who are brought to trial for their faith. Under examination these are required to answer, and their judges to listen to the testimony borne. God's grace will be dispensed to His servants to meet the emergency.

Under loss and suffering, even unto death, the Lord's children are to reveal the meekness of their divine Example. Thus, will be seen the contrast between Satan's agents and the representatives of Christ. The Saviour will be lifted up before the rulers and the people.

13) What was seen in Peter and John later in the book of Acts?
Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with _____.

14) What was seen in Stephen?
Acts 6:10 And they were not able to resist the _____ and the spirit by which he spake.
Acts 6:15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an _____.

15) What did Paul say about his trial in Rome?
2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the _____ stood with me and _____ me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

A daily, earnest striving to know God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, would bring power and efficiency to the soul. The knowledge obtained by diligent searching of the Scriptures would be flashed into the memory at the right time. But If any had neglected to acquaint themselves with the words of Christ, if they had never tested the power of His grace in trial, they could not expect that the Holy Spirit would bring His words to their remembrance. They were to serve God daily with undivided affection and then trust Him.

16) What effect does the truth tend to bring?
Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall _____ unto the end, the same shall be saved.

17) What admonition did Jesus give us?
Matthew 10:27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the _____.

Whatever the danger, Christ's followers must avow their principles. They should scorn concealment. They cannot remain uncommitted until they are assured of safety in confessing the truth. They are set as watchmen, to warn men of their peril. The truth received from Christ must be imparted to all, freely and openly.

18) Whom should we fear?
Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the _____, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

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Real peace can never be secured by compromising principles. And no man can be true to principle without exciting opposition. A Christianity that is spiritual will be opposed by the children of disobedience.

19) What lesson from nature did Jesus quote?
Matthew 10:29,31 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not _____ on the ground without your Father. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more _____ than many sparrows.

20) What promise did Jesus make to the faithful?
Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall _____ me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate what he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christlike meekness and love, they were not confessing Him.

21) When we rightly represent Christ, who do we bless?
Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth _____, and he that receiveth me receiveth _____ that sent me.

22) What was the mission of Christ, the Disciples, and us?
Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to _____ the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at _____ them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

The mission of Christ's servants is a high honor, and a sacred trust.

Can you see Jesus' depth of love for humanity?

Would you like to be a blessing?

When is the time to answer the call?

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Lesson 30 – "Give Ye Them to Eat"

Based on Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Luke 9:10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a _____ place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.
2) Did Jesus find the peace and quietude He was seeking?
   Mark 6:33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came _____ unto him.

Many went by land to meet them, while others followed in their boats across the water. The Passover was at hand, and, from far and near, bands of pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem gathered to see Jesus. Additions were made to their number, until there were assembled five thousand men besides women and children. Before Christ reached the shore, a multitude were waiting for Him.

3) How did Jesus react to the disturbance?
   Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no _____.

From the hillside He looked upon the moving multitude, and His heart was stirred with sympathy. Interrupted as He was, and robbed of His rest, He was not impatient. He saw a greater necessity demanding His attention as He watched the people coming and still coming.

4) What did the disciples of Jesus finally say to Jesus?
   Luke 9:12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, _____ the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

At length the day was far spent. The sun was sinking in the west, and yet the people lingered. Jesus had labored all day without food or rest. He was pale from weariness and hunger, and the disciples besought Him to cease from His toil. But He could not withdraw Himself from the multitude that pressed upon Him.

5) What was Jesus' better idea?
   Matthew 14:16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give _____ them to eat.
6) How did John record the question to the disciples?
   John 6:5-6 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to _____ him: for he himself knew what he would do.
7) How did Phillip react?
   John 6:7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not _____ for them, that every one of them may take a little.

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Two hundred pennyworth. The Greek word for "penny" is denarius. One denarius was a day's wage for an unskilled laborer (Matthew 20:2), so that two hundred denarii would represent about seven months' wages.

Philip looked over the sea of heads, and thought how impossible it would be to provide food to satisfy the wants of such a crowd.

8) What happened next?
John 6:8-9 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley _____, and two small _____: but what are they among so many?
9) What instructions did Jesus give His disciples?
John 6:10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five _____.

Jesus directed that these be brought to Him. Then He bade the disciples seat the people on the grass in parties of fifty or a hundred, to preserve order, and that all might witness what He was about to do.

10) **Matthew 14:19-20** And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to _____, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were _____: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

The simple food passed round by the hands of the disciples contained a whole treasure of lessons. It was humble fare that had been provided; the fishes and barley loaves were the daily food of the fisher folk about the Sea of Galilee.

11) When everyone was fed, what did Jesus have them do?
John 6:12-13 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be _____. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled _____ baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

The lesson was twofold. Nothing is to be wasted. We are to let slip no temporal advantage. We should neglect nothing that will tend to benefit a human being. Let everything be gathered up that will relieve the necessity of earth's hungry ones. And there should be the same carefulness in spiritual things.

When the baskets of fragments were collected, the people thought of their friends at home. They wanted them to share in the bread that Christ had blessed. The contents of the baskets were distributed among the eager throng and were carried away into all the region round about. So those who were at the feast were to give to others the bread that comes down from heaven, to satisfy the hunger of the soul.

12) What was the testimony of all who were witnesses?
John 6:14 Then those men, when they had _____ the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a _____ that prophet that should come into the world.

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13) What should we do if we want God's blessing?
Isaiah 58:7-10 Is it not to deal thy bread to the _____, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy _____ break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy _____ shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.

14) Have you ever felt like Andrew?
John 6:9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so _____?

Often, we hesitate, unwilling to give all that we have, fearing to spend and to be spent for others. But Jesus has bidden us, ***"Give ye them to eat."*** His command is a promise; and behind it is the same power that fed the multitude beside the sea.

15) When did Jesus and the disciples partake of the bounty?
John 6:12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the _____ that remain, that nothing be lost.

The food multiplied in His hands; and the hands of the disciples, reaching out to Christ Himself the Bread of Life, were never empty. The little store was sufficient for all. After the wants of the people had been supplied, the fragments were gathered up, and Christ and His disciples ate together of the precious, Heaven-supplied food.

16) What was Phillips question to Jesus?
John 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, _____ shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

17) What was Jesus' reply?
Mathew 14:16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not _____; give ye them to eat.

When the people are destitute of the bread of life, the Lord's children question, Shall we send for someone from afar, to come and feed them? But what said Christ? ***"Make the men sit down,"*** and He fed them there. So when you are surrounded by souls in need, know that Christ is there. Commune with Him. Bring your barley loaves to Jesus.

The means in our possession may not seem to be sufficient for the work; but if we will move forward in faith, believing in the all-sufficient power of God, abundant resources will open before us. If the work be of God, He Himself will provide the means for its accomplishment. He will reward honest, simple reliance upon Him.

18) What promise did Jesus make to us?
Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be _____ unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be _____ to you again.

19) What was Paul's experience in blessing others?
2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all _____ abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to _____ good work:

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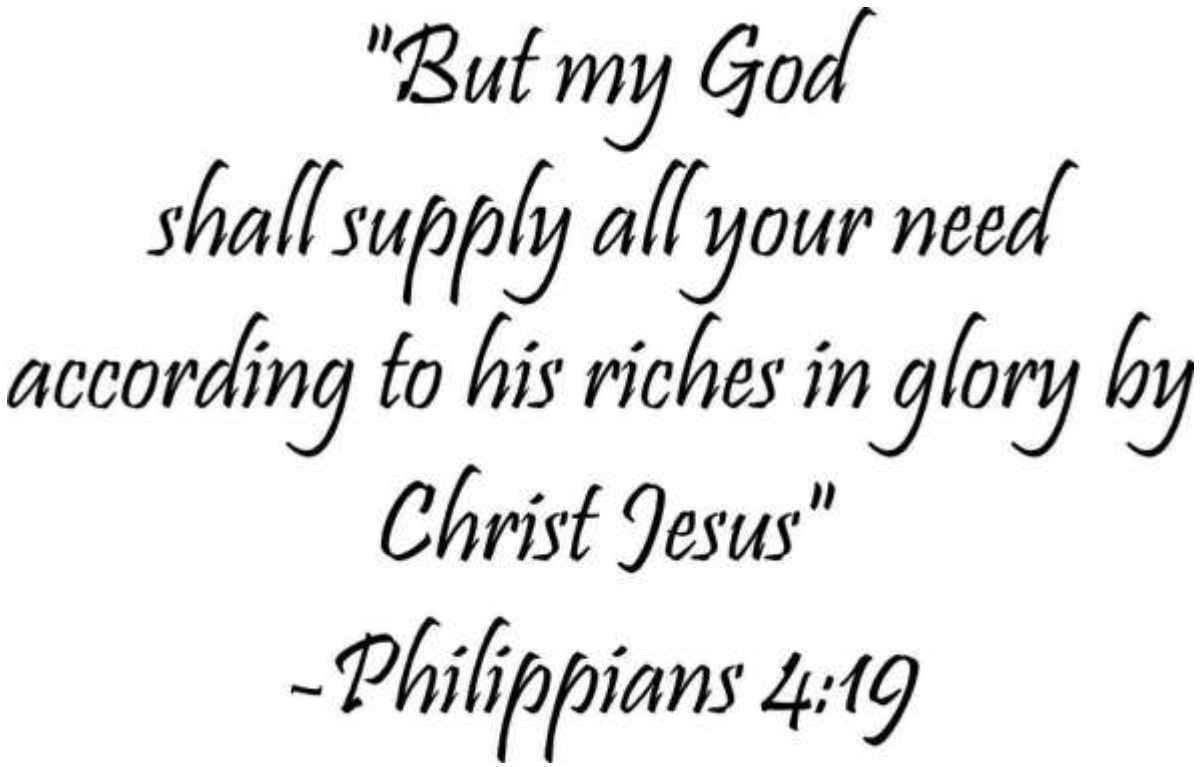
If we go to the Source of all strength, with our hands of faith outstretched to receive, we shall be sustained in our work, even under the most forbidding circumstances, and shall be enabled to give others the bread of life.

Can you see God supplies our need?

Would you like to be a blessing?

When is the time to answer the call?



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Lesson 31 – A Night on the Lake

Based on Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:14-21.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   John 6:10-11 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five _____. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the _____, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.
2) What reaction did this have upon the people?
   John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that _____ that should come into the world.
3) What sentiment did Jesus want to stop?
   John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a _____, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Seated upon the grassy plain, in the twilight of the spring evening, the people ate of the food that Christ had provided. The words they had heard that day had come to them as the voice of God. The works of healing they had witnessed were such as only divine power could perform. But the miracle of the loaves appealed to everyone in that vast multitude.

All day the conviction has strengthened. That crowning act is assurance that the long-looked-for Deliverer is among them. The hopes of the people rise higher and higher. This is He who will make Judea an earthly paradise, a land flowing with milk and honey. He can satisfy every desire. He can break the power of the hated Romans. He can deliver Judah and Jerusalem. He can heal the soldiers who are wounded in battle. He can supply whole armies with food. He can conquer the nations and give to Israel the long-sought dominion.

4) What did Jesus do?
   Matthew 14:22-23 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a _____, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a _____ apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Without the Holy Spirit to enlighten the mind and enlarge the comprehension, the faith of the disciples would fail. It was painful to Jesus that their conceptions of His kingdom were, to so great a degree, limited to worldly aggrandizement and honor. For them the burden was heavy upon His heart, and He poured out His supplications with bitter agony and tears.

5) How long did the disciples wait to follow Jesus' command?
   John 6:16-17 And when _____ was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now _____, and Jesus was not come to them.

The disciples had not put off immediately from the land, as Jesus directed them. They waited for a time, hoping that He would come to them. Unbelief was taking possession of their minds and hearts. Love of honor had blinded them. They knew that Jesus was hated by the Pharisees, and they were eager to see Him exalted as they thought He should be. To be united with a teacher who could work mighty miracles, and yet to be reviled as deceivers, was a trial they could ill endure.

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Would Christ never assert His authority as king?

6) What words of wisdom did Jesus give to the disciples earlier that day?
John 6:12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the _____ that remain, that nothing be lost.

The disciples had that day witnessed the wonderful works of Christ. It had seemed that heaven had come down to the earth. The memory of that precious, glorious day should have filled them with faith and hope. Had they, out of the abundance of their hearts, been conversing together in regard to these things, they would not have entered into temptation.

7) Did the disciples have an easy trip to Capernaum?
Matthew 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, _____ with waves: for the wind was contrary.

A violent tempest had been stealing upon them, and they were unprepared for it. It was a sudden contrast, for the day had been perfect; and when the gale struck them, they were afraid. They forgot their disaffection, their unbelief, their impatience. Everyone worked to keep the boat from sinking.

8) How long did they struggle to get to shore?
Mark 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the _____ watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Jesus had not forgotten them. The Watcher on the shore saw those fear-stricken men battling with the tempest. Not for a moment did He lose sight of His disciples. With deepest solicitude His eyes followed the storm-tossed boat with its precious burden; for these men were to be the light of the world. As a mother in tender love watches her child, so the compassionate Master watched His disciples. When their hearts were subdued, their unholy ambition quelled, and in humility they prayed for help, it was given them.

9) How did the disciples react?
Matthew 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a _____; and they cried out for fear.

At the moment when they believe themselves lost, a gleam of light reveals a mysterious figure approaching them upon the water. But they know not that it is Jesus. The One who has come for their help they count as an enemy. Terror overpowers them. The hands that have grasped the oars with muscles like iron let go their hold. The boat rocks at the will of the waves; all eyes are riveted on this vision of a man walking upon the white-capped billows of the foaming sea.

10) How did Jesus calm their fears?
Mark 6:50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he _____ with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.
11) What did Peter do?
Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the _____.
12) Jesus' reply:
Matthew 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he _____ on the water, to go to Jesus.

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Looking unto Jesus, Peter walks securely; but as in self-satisfaction he glances back toward his companions in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Saviour. The wind is boisterous. The waves roll high and come directly between him and the Master; and he is afraid. For a moment Christ is hidden from his view, and his faith gives way. He begins to sink.

13) What did Peter do?
Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to _____, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

14) Was Jesus angry with Peter?
Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou _____?

Walking side by side, Peter's hand in that of his Master, they stepped into the boat together. But Peter was now subdued and silent. He had no reason to boast over his fellows, for through unbelief and self-exaltation he had very nearly lost his life. When he turned his eyes from Jesus, his footing was lost, and he sank amid the waves.

15) What promise did the LORD promise to Israel?
Isaiah 43:1-2 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, _____ not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with _____; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

When trouble comes upon us, how often we are like Peter! We look upon the waves, instead of keeping our eyes fixed upon the Saviour. Our footsteps slide, and the proud waters go over our souls.

It was on the point where he thought himself strong that Peter was weak; and not until he discerned his weakness could he realize his need of dependence upon Christ. Had he learned the lesson that Jesus sought to teach him in that experience on the sea, he would not have failed when the great test came upon him.

16) How does this passage end?
Matthew 14:32-33 And when they were come into the ship, the wind _____. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a _____ thou art the Son of God.

The night of horror was succeeded by the light of dawn. So shall it be for us!

Can you see God never takes His eyes off of His children?

Would you like to see and do AWESOME things?

When is it safe to look away from Jesus?

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Lesson 32 – The Crisis in Galilee

Based on John 6:22-71.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   John 6:11-13 And Jesus took the _____; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, _____ up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled _____ baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.
2) What reaction did this have upon the people?
   John 6:14 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a _____, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

When Christ forbade the people to declare Him king, He knew that a turning point in His history was reached. Multitudes who desired to exalt Him to the throne today would turn from Him tomorrow. The disappointment of their selfish ambition would turn their love to hatred, and their praise to curses. Yet knowing this, He took no measures to avert the crisis.

3) What did Jesus tell someone who wished to be a disciple?
   Matthew 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have _____, and the birds of the air have _____; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

If men could have had the world ***with*** Christ, multitudes would have proffered Him their allegiance; but such service He could not accept. Of those now connected with Him there were many who had been attracted by the hope of a worldly kingdom. These must be undeceived.

The miracle of the loaves was reported far and near, and very early next morning the people flocked to Bethsaida to see Jesus. They came in great numbers, by land and sea. Those who had left Him the preceding night returned, expecting to find Him still there; for there had been no boat by which He could pass to the other side. But their search was fruitless, and many repaired to Capernaum, still seeking Him.

4) What were the people doing when they found Him?
   Mark 6:55 And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were _____, where they heard he was.
5) What question did they ask of Him?
   John 6:25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou _____?
6) Did Jesus answer them directly?
   John 6:26-27 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the _____, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were _____. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which _____ unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
7) What was the reply from those who heard His answer?
   John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might _____ the _____ of God?

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8) What were the requirements laid down by Jesus?
John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye _____ on him whom he hath sent.
9) What did John the Baptist say about it?
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the _____ of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The price of heaven is Jesus. The way to heaven is through faith.

10) What was their reply?
John 6:30-31 They said therefore unto him, What _____ shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat _____ in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

Their dissatisfied hearts queried why, if Jesus could perform so many wondrous works as they had witnessed, could He not give health, strength, and riches to all His people, free them from their oppressors, and exalt them to power and honor? The fact that He claimed to be the Sent of God, and yet refused to be Israel's king, was a mystery which they could not fathom.

11) Jesus' reply to their selfish hearts:
John 6:32-33 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from _____; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth _____ unto the world.

The Jews honored Moses as the giver of the manna, ascribing praise to the instrument, and losing sight of Him by whom the work had been accomplished. Their fathers had murmured against Moses, and had doubted and denied his divine mission. Now in the same spirit the children rejected the One who bore the message of God to themselves.

12) What did they say that showed that they didn't understand?
John 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this _____.
13) What idea was Jesus trying to convey to the masses?
Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread _____, but by every _____ that proceedeth out of the _____ of the LORD doth man live.
14) How did Jeremiah present the same idea?
Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy _____ was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Had they understood the Scriptures, they would have understood His words when He said, ***"I am the bread of life."***

15) What did Jesus say to help them understand?
John 6:35-37 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never _____; and he that believeth on me shall never _____. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise _____ _____.

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They had seen Christ by the witness of the Holy Spirit, by the revelation of God to their souls. The living evidences of His power had been before them day after day, yet they asked for still another sign. Had this been given, they would have remained as unbelieving as before. If they were not convinced by what they had seen and heard, it was useless to show them more marvelous works. Unbelief will ever find excuse for doubt and will reason away the most positive proof.

16) What did Jesus tell them next?
John 6:38-40 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of _____ that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should _____ it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last _____.

17) Was the crowd impressed with this?
John 6:41-42 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of _____, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from _____?

They contemptuously alluded to His life as a Galilean laborer, and to His family as being poor and lowly. The claims of this uneducated carpenter, they said, were unworthy of their attention. And on account of His mysterious birth, they insinuated that He was of doubtful parentage, thus representing the human circumstances of His birth as a blot upon His history.

18) Who was Jesus, Really?
John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only _____ of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

He did not call attention to the miracles that marked His life. Voluntarily He had made Himself of no reputation and taken upon Him the form of a servant. But His words and works revealed His character. All whose hearts were open to divine illumination would recognize in Him.

19) Did Jesus shy away from telling the Truth?
John 6:44-45 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me _____ him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, _____ unto me.

None will ever come to Christ, save those who respond to the drawing of the Father's love. But God is drawing all hearts unto Him, and only those who resist His drawing will refuse to come to Christ.

Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal.

20) What time of the year did all this happen?
John 6:4 And the _____, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

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21) With that in mind what did Jesus tell the people?
John 6:48-51 I am that bread of _____. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the _____ bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my _____, which I will give for the life of the world.

In the paschal lamb God desired them to behold the Lamb of God, and through the symbol receive Him who gave Himself for the life of the world. But the Jews had come to make the symbol all-important, while its significance was unnoticed

22) Were the Jews happy with all these Words?
John 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his _____ to eat?
23) Did Jesus shy away?
John 6:53-56 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye _____ the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his _____, ye have no _____ in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.
24) Were they thrilled with this?
John 6:60-61 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can _____ it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this _____ you?
25) How did Jesus reply?
John 6:62-64 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are _____, and they are _____. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.
26) What effect did it have?
John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went _____, and walked _____ _____ with him.
27) What cutting words did Jesus ask the Twelve?
John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go _____?
28) What did Peter reply?
John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to _____ shall we go? _____ hast the words of eternal life.

Are you a follower of Christ? Then all that is written concerning the spiritual life is written for you and may be attained through uniting yourself to Jesus. Is your zeal languishing? Has your first love grown cold? Accept again of the proffered love of Christ. Eat of His flesh, drink of His blood, and you will become one with the Father and with the Son.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

The people had welcomed His miracle-working power; they were eager to be freed from disease and suffering; but they would not come into sympathy with His self-sacrificing life.

With a yearning heart, Jesus saw those who had been His disciples departing from Him, the Life and the Light of men. The consciousness that His compassion was unappreciated, His love unrequited, His mercy slighted, His salvation rejected, filled Him with sorrow that was inexpressible. It was such developments as these that made Him a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

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Lesson 33 – Tradition

Based on Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
Matthew 15:1-2 Then came to _____ scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the _____ of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

The scribes and Pharisees, expecting to see Jesus at the Passover mentioned when Jesus fed the five thousand, had laid a trap for Him. But Jesus, knowing their purpose, had absented Himself from this gathering.

The spies they sent to Capernaum in the early part of His ministry, who had tried to fix on Him the charge of Sabbath breaking, had been put to confusion; but the rabbis were bent on carrying out their purpose. Now another deputation was sent to watch His movements and find some accusation against Him.

2) How did Jesus reply?
Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the _____ of God by your tradition?

Among the observances most strenuously enforced was that of ceremonial purification. A neglect of the forms to be observed before eating was accounted a heinous sin, to be punished both in this world and in the next; and it was regarded as a virtue to destroy the transgressor.

The rules in regard to purification were numberless. The period of a lifetime was scarcely sufficient for one to learn them all. The life of those who tried to observe the rabbinical requirements was one long struggle against ceremonial defilement, an endless round of washings and purifications. While the people were occupied with trifling distinctions, and observances which God had not required, their attention was turned away from the great principles of His law.

3) First things first, According to Jesus, what comes first?
John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see _____; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
1 John 2:3-5 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his _____, is a _____, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God _____: hereby know we that we are in him.

Whenever the message of truth comes home to souls with special power, Satan stirs up his agents to start a dispute over some minor question. Thus he seeks to attract attention from the real issue. Whenever a good work is begun, there are cavilers ready to enter into dispute over forms or technicalities, to draw minds away from the living realities. When it appears that God is about to work in a special manner for His people, let them not be enticed into a controversy that will work only ruin of souls.

4) What commandments were the Jews forgetting through their traditions?
Mark 7:9-10 And he said unto them, Full well ye _____ the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him _____ the death:

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5) What did they do that was wrong?
Mark 7:11-13 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is _____, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be _____. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of _____ effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

They taught the people that the devotion of their property to the temple was a duty more sacred than even the support of their parents; and that, however great the necessity, it was sacrilege to impart to father or mother any part of what had been thus consecrated. An undutiful child had only to pronounce the word "Corban" over his property, thus devoting it to God, and he could retain it for his own use during his lifetime, and after his death it was to be appropriated to the temple service.

6) How did Jesus address this?
Matthew 15:7-9 Ye _____, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their _____, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in _____ they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

The deputies from Jerusalem were filled with rage. They could not accuse Christ as a violator of the law given from Sinai, for He spoke as its defender against their traditions. The great precepts of the law, which He had presented, appeared in striking contrast to the petty rules that men had devised.

7) How did Jesus address defilement?
Matthew 15:10-11 And he called the multitude, and said unto them, _____, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth _____ a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.
8) Why did the disciples question Jesus?
Matthew 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were _____, after they heard this saying?
9) What was Jesus' reply to His disciples?
Matthew 15:13-14 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be _____ up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the _____.
10) Did Peter understand?
Matthew 15:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, _____ unto us this parable.
11) How did Jesus clear up what He meant?
Matthew 15:17-20 Do not ye yet _____, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which _____ out of the mouth come forth from the _____; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to _____ with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

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The substitution of the precepts of men for the commandments of God has not ceased. Even among Christians are found institutions and usages that have no better foundation than the traditions of the fathers. Such institutions, resting upon mere human authority, have supplanted those of divine appointment. Men cling to their traditions, and revere their customs, and cherish hatred against those who seek to show them their error.

12) What will happen to our traditions?
Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into _____, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

The customs and traditions so highly valued by the rabbis were of this world, not from heaven. However great their authority with the people, they could not endure the testing of God. Every human invention that has been substituted for the commandments of God will be found worthless in that day.

13) How will God's people be treated?
Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was _____ with the woman, and went to make _____ with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
14) What are the "first things first" for today's people?
Revelation 12:17 … which keep the _____ of God, and have the _____ of Jesus Christ
15) What was David's claim?
Psalm 119:99-100 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my _____. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy _____.
16) What Words of warning still apply to today's Christians?
Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for _____ the commandments of men.

Let all who accept human authority, the customs of the church, or the traditions of the fathers, take heed to the warning conveyed in the words of Christ.

The Main thing is to keep the Main Thing the Main thing…

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Lesson 34 – Barriers Broken Down

Based on Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

After an encounter with the Pharisees, Jesus withdrew from Capernaum, and crossing Galilee, repaired to the hill country on the borders of Phoenicia. Looking westward, He could see, spread out upon the plain below, the ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon, with their heathen temples, their magnificent palaces and marts of trade, and the harbors filled with shipping. Beyond was the blue expanse of the Mediterranean, over which the messengers of the gospel were to bear its glad tidings to the centers of the world's great empire. But the time was not yet.

The work before Him now was to prepare His disciples for their mission. In coming to this region He hoped to find the retirement He had failed to secure at Bethsaida. Yet this was not His only purpose in taking this journey.The spies they sent to Capernaum in the early part of His ministry, who had tried to fix on Him the charge of Sabbath breaking, had been put to confusion; but the rabbis were bent on carrying out their purpose. Now another deputation was sent to watch His movements and find some accusation against Him.

1) What happened while He was there?
   Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is _____ _____ with a devil.

These people were idolaters and were despised and hated by the Jews. To this class belonged the woman who now came to Jesus. She was a heathen and was therefore excluded from the advantages which the Jews daily enjoyed.

She had sought help from the heathen gods but had obtained no relief. And at times she was tempted to think, what can this Jewish teacher do for me? But the word had come, He heals all manner of diseases, whether those who come to Him for help are rich or poor. She determined not to lose her only hope.

2) How did Jesus Reply?
   Matthew 15:23-24 But he answered her not a _____. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her _____; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
3) Did the lady give up?
   Matther 15:25 Then came she and _____ him, saying, Lord, help me.
4) Did Jesus comply with her request?
   Matthew 15:26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to _____.
5) Did Jesus care? _____

This answer would have utterly discouraged a less earnest seeker. But the woman saw that her opportunity had come. Beneath the apparent refusal of Jesus, she saw a compassion that He could not hide.

Christ knew this woman's situation. He knew that she was longing to see Him, and He placed Himself in her path. By ministering to her sorrow, He could give a living representation of the lesson He designed to teach.

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For this He had brought His disciples into this region. He desired them to see the ignorance existing in cities and villages close to the land of Israel. The people who had been given every opportunity to understand the truth were without a knowledge of the needs of those around them.

6) How did lady reply to Jesus?
Matthew 15:27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the _____ which fall from their masters' table.
7) What did Jesus tell her?
Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy _____: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

The Saviour is satisfied. He has tested her faith in Him. By His dealings with her, He has shown that she who has been regarded as an outcast from Israel is no longer an alien, but a child in God's household. As a child it is her privilege to share in the Father's gifts. Christ now grants her request, and finishes the lesson to the disciples.

He wished to relieve the afflicted woman, and at the same time to leave an example in His work of mercy toward one of a despised people for the benefit of His disciples when He should no longer be with them. He wished to lead them from their Jewish exclusiveness to be interested in working for others besides their own people.

8) What did Paul later say in his letter to the Ephesians?
Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same _____, and partakers of his _____ in Christ by the gospel:
9) What did Jesus say when she asked for help?
Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of _____.

This woman was one of the lost sheep that Israel should have rescued. It was their appointed work, the work which they had neglected, that Christ was doing.

10) For who's benefit did He do this?
John 20:31 But these are written, that _____ might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have _____ through his name.

The spirit which built up the partition wall between Jew and Gentile is still active. Pride and prejudice have built strong walls of separation between different classes of men.

11) What did Paul tell the men of Athens?
Acts 17:28 For in him we _____, and _____, and have our _____; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Caste is hateful to God. He ignores everything of this character. In His sight the souls of all men are of equal value.

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12) Who then shall be saved?
Romans 10:11-13 For the scripture saith, Whosoever _____ on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the _____ and the _____: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be _____.

13) What is God's will for us?
Acts 17:26-27 And hath made of _____ blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should _____ the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not _____ from every one of us:

14) Who is more important?
Galatians 3:28-29 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all _____ in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and _____ according to the promise.

15) What did Solomon have to say about it?
Proverbs 22:2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the _____ of them all.

In faith the woman of Phoenicia flung herself against the barriers that had been piled up between Jew and Gentile. Against discouragement, regardless of appearances that might have led her to doubt, she trusted the Saviour's love. It is thus that Christ desires us to trust in Him. The blessings of salvation are for every soul.

Nothing but his own choice can prevent any man from becoming a partaker of the promise in Christ by the gospel.

Can you see that God is no respecter of persons?

Do you want to see people the way Jesus sees people?

When is the time to share what you have?

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Lesson 35 – The True Sign

Based on Matthew 15:29-39; Mark 7:31-37; Matthew 16:1-12; Mark 8:1-21

1) Where does our lesson start today?
   Mark 7:31 And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of _____, through the midst of the coasts of _____.

It was in the region of Decapolis that the demoniacs of Gergesa had been healed. Here the people, alarmed at the destruction of the swine, had constrained Jesus to depart from among them. But they had listened to the messengers He left behind, and a desire was aroused to see Him. As He came again into that region, a crowd gathered about Him.

2) What did Jesus do while He was there?
   Matthew 15:30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he _____ them:
3) What notable deed did Jesus do?
   Mark 7:32-34 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his _____; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be _____.
4) What happened?
   Mark 7:35-36 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was_____ and he spake plain. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they _____ it;
5) Were the people moved by Jesus' actions?
   Mark 7:37 And were beyond measure _____, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Jesus went up into a mountain, and there the multitude flocked to Him, bringing their sick and lame, and laying them at His feet. He healed them all; and the people, heathen as they were, glorified the God of Israel. For three days they continued to throng about the Saviour, sleeping at night in the open air, and through the day pressing eagerly to hear the words of Christ, and to see His works. At the end of three days their food was spent.

6) What cryptic words did Jesus tell His disciples?
   Mark 8:2-3 I have _____ on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will _____ by the way: for divers of them came from far.
7) What familiar words did the disciples respond with?
   Mark 8:4 And his disciples answered him, From _____ can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?
8) Remembering the feeding of the 5000, what did the disciples do next?
   Matthew 15:34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, _____, and a few little fishes.

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Obedient to His word they brought Him what they had, seven loaves and two fishes.

9) What happened next?
Matthew 15:36-38 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave _____, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the _____ to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven _____ full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

Four thousand men, besides women and children, were thus refreshed, and Jesus sent them away with glad and grateful hearts.

10) What did Jesus do right after feeding the 4000?
Matthew 15:39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of _____.
11) Where more specifically did Jesus take the disciples?
Mark 8:10 And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of _____.

Then taking a boat with His disciples, He crossed the lake to Magdala, at the southern end of the plain of Gennesaret. In the border of Tyre and Sidon His spirit had been refreshed by the confiding trust of the Syrophoenician woman. The heathen people of Decapolis had received Him with gladness. Now as He landed once more in Galilee, where His power had been most strikingly manifested, where most of His works of mercy had been performed, and His teaching given, He was met with contemptuous unbelief.

12) Jesus saw ahead of Him a collection of Sadducees and Pharisees waiting to speak with Him, what did do?
Matthew 16:1-4 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and _____ desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not _____ the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet _____. And he left them, and departed.
13) How did Mark describe the exchange?
Mark 8:12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall _____ sign be given unto this generation.

Christ's own words, spoken with the power of the Holy Spirit that convicted them of sin, were the sign that God had given for their salvation. And signs direct from heaven had been given to attest the mission of Christ. The song of the angels to the shepherds, the star that guided the wise men, the dove and the voice from heaven at His baptism, were witnesses for Him.

14) What did Jesus say to try to help the disciples understand what they witnessed?
Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the _____ of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

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15) Did the disciples understand?
Mark 8:16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no _____.

16) How did Jesus respond to them?
Mark 8:17-18 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither _____? have ye your heart yet _____? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?

Jesus was trying to help the disciples discern between the good bread of life and the bad. Unfortunately, they immediately thought of their own situation. Jesus didn't miss a step and helped them to remember who is able to supply their need.

17) What was the sign that was given to the Pharisees and Sadducees?
Matthew 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a _____; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

As the preaching of Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so Christ's preaching was a sign to His generation. But what a contrast in the reception of the word! The people of the great heathen city trembled as they heard the warning from God. Kings and nobles humbled themselves; the high and the lowly together cried to the God of heaven, and His mercy was granted unto them.

18) What did Jesus say at a different time about Ninevah?
Matthew 12:40-41 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be _____ days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they _____ at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

That which led the Jews to reject the Saviour's work was the highest evidence of His divine character. The greatest significance of His miracles is seen in the fact that they were for the blessing of humanity. The highest evidence that He came from God is that His life revealed the character of God. He did the works and spoke the words of God. Such a life is the greatest of all miracles.

19) What is one of the greatest miracles that God can do?
Ezekiel 36:26-27 A new _____ also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my _____ within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

When the message of truth is presented in our day, there are many who, like the Jews, cry, Show us a sign. Work us a miracle. Christ wrought no miracle at the demand of the Pharisees. He wrought no miracle in the wilderness in answer to Satan's insinuations. He does not impart to us power to vindicate ourselves or to satisfy the demands of unbelief and pride.

20) What was Jesus' general attitude about those who knew Scripture best?
Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not _____ and the _____, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

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Even the disciples, though outwardly they had left all for Jesus' sake, had not in heart ceased to seek great things for themselves. It was this spirit that prompted the strife as to who should be greatest. It was this that came between them and Christ, making them so little in sympathy with His mission of self-sacrifice, so slow to comprehend the mystery of redemption.

21) As in Jesus' day, what is the word of warning for His church?
Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the _____ of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

Among the followers of our Lord today, as of old, how widespread is this subtle, deceptive sin! How often our service to Christ, our communion with one another, is marred by the secret desire to exalt self! How ready the thought of self-gratulation, and the longing for human approval! It is the love of self, the desire for an easier way than God has appointed that leads to the substitution of human theories and traditions for the divine precepts.

22) What should be every person's desire?
John 12:28 Father, _____ thy name…

Zeal for God's glory is the motive implanted by the Holy Spirit; and only the effectual working of the Spirit can implant this motive. Only the power of God can banish self-seeking and hypocrisy. This change is the sign of His working. When the faith we accept destroys selfishness and pretense, when it leads us to seek God's glory and not our own, we may know that it is of the right order.

1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Can you see what God counts as important?

Do you want to be filled with the Spirit?

When is the time let go of our selfish ambitions?

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Lesson 36 – The Foreshadowing of the Cross

Based on Matthew 16:12-28; Mark 8:27-38; Luke 9:18-27

1) What Psalm did Jesus claim foretelling prophecy?
   Psalm 40:7-8 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of _____, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

The work of Christ on earth was hastening to a close. Before Him, in vivid outline, lay the scenes whither His feet were tending. Even before He took humanity upon Him, He saw the whole length of the path He must travel in order to save that which was lost. Every pang that rent His heart, every insult that was heaped upon His head, every privation that He was called to endure, was open to His view before He laid aside His crown and royal robe, and stepped down from the throne, to clothe His divinity with humanity. The path from the manger to Calvary was all before His eyes. He knew the anguish that would come upon Him. He knew it all.

From the chosen companions of His ministry the scenes that lay before Him were as yet hidden; but the time was near when they must behold His agony. They must see Him whom they had loved and trusted, delivered into the hands of His enemies, and hung upon the cross of Calvary. Soon He must leave them to face the world without the comfort of His visible presence. He knew how bitter hate and unbelief would persecute them, and He desired to prepare them for their trials.

2) What question did Jesus pose in order to achieve this?
   Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he _____ his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
3) What was their answer?
   Matthew 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, _____, or one of the prophets.

Sadly, the disciples were forced to acknowledge that Israel had failed to recognize their Messiah. Some indeed, when they saw His miracles, had declared Him to be the Son of David. The multitudes that had been fed at Bethsaida had desired to proclaim Him king of Israel. Many were ready to accept Him as a prophet; but they did not believe Him to be the Messiah.

4) How did Jesus press them personally?
   Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say _____ that I am?
5) What was Peter's response?
   Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the _____, the Son of the living God.

From the first, Peter had believed Jesus to be the Messiah. Many others who had been convicted by the preaching of John the Baptist, and had accepted Christ, began to doubt as to John's mission when he was imprisoned and put to death; and they now doubted that Jesus was the Messiah, for whom they had looked so long. Many of the disciples who had ardently expected Jesus to take His place on David's throne left Him when they perceived that He had no such intention. But Peter and his companions turned not from their allegiance.

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6) Was Jesus pleased with Peter's answer?
Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my _____ which is in heaven.

Peter had expressed the faith of the twelve. Yet the disciples were still far from understanding Christ's mission. The opposition and misrepresentation of the priests and rulers, while it could not turn them away from Christ, still caused them great perplexity.

7) What blessing was poured out on the disciples that day?
2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are _____; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

On this day, before they were brought face to face with the great trial of their faith, the Holy Spirit rested upon them in power. For a little time, their eyes were turned away from ***"the things which are seen,"*** to behold ***"the things which are not seen."***

8) How easy are the things of God to understand?
Job 11:8 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than _____; what canst thou know?
9) How did Paul describe it?
1 Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath _____ for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the _____ searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
10) How did the Psalmist describe it?
Psalms 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his _____.

The truth which Peter had confessed is the foundation of the believer's faith. It is that which Christ Himself has declared to be eternal life. But the possession of this knowledge was no ground for self-glorification. Through no wisdom or goodness of his own had it been revealed to Peter. Never can humanity, of itself, attain to a knowledge of the divine.

11) What amazing thing did Jesus say to Peter?
Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this _____ I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
12) How did Peter interpret what Jesus said later in his life?
1 Peter 2:3-5 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is _____. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively _____, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, _____ to God by Jesus Christ.

The word Peter signifies a stone, a rolling stone. Peter was not the rock upon which the church was founded. The gates of hell did prevail against him when he denied his Lord with cursing and swearing. The church was built upon One against whom the gates of hell could not prevail.

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13) How did Paul describe the foundation of God's kingdom?
1 Corinthians 3:11 For other _____ can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

14) How will our work be tested?
1 Corinthians 3:12-13 Now if any man build upon this _____ gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's _____ of what sort it is.

15) Who was Jesus referring to when He said, "I will build My church"?
_____

In the presence of God, and all the heavenly intelligences, in the presence of the unseen army of hell, Christ founded His church upon the living Rock. That Rock is Himself, His own body, for us broken and bruised. Against the church built upon this foundation, the gates of hell shall not prevail.

For six thousand years, faith has builded upon Christ. For six thousand years the floods and tempests of satanic wrath have beaten upon the Rock of our salvation; but it stands unmoved.

16) What other promise did Jesus make to Peter and the Disciples?
Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the _____ of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt _____ on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

These words have power to open and to shut heaven. They declare the conditions upon which men are received or rejected. Thus, the work of those who preach God's word is a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. Theirs is a mission weighted with eternal results.

17) Who is the Head of the Church?
Matthew 23:8-10 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are _____. And call no man your _____ upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called _____: for one is your Master, even Christ.

If Jesus had delegated any special authority to one of the disciples above the others, we should not find them so often contending as to who should be the greatest. They would have submitted to the wish of their Master and honored the one whom He had chosen.

18) What did Jesus tell His Disciples next?
Matthew 16:20 Then charged he his disciples that they should _____ no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

This charge was given because of the determined opposition of the scribes and Pharisees. More than this, the people, and even the disciples, had so false a conception of the Messiah that a public announcement of Him would give them no true idea of His character or His work. But day by day He was revealing Himself to them as the Saviour, and thus He desired to give them a true conception of Him as the Messiah.

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19) What did Jesus do next?
Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be _____ again the third day.

The time had come for the veil that hid the future to be withdrawn.

20) Was Peter OK with what Jesus was telling them?
Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to _____ him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.
21) How did Jesus respond to Peter's well-meaning words?
Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee _____ me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Speechless with grief and amazement, the disciples listened. Christ had accepted Peter's acknowledgment of Him as the Son of God; and now His words pointing to His suffering and death seemed incomprehensible. Peter could not keep silent. He laid hold upon his Master, as if to draw Him back from His impending doom.

Peter loved his Lord; but Jesus did not commend him for thus manifesting the desire to shield Him from suffering. Peter's words were not such as would be a help and solace to Jesus in the great trial before Him. They were not in harmony with God's purpose of grace toward a lost world, nor with the lesson of self-sacrifice that Jesus had come to teach by His own example. Peter did not desire to see the cross in the work of Christ.

In the wilderness, Satan had offered Christ the dominion of the world on condition of forsaking the path of humiliation and sacrifice. Now he was presenting the same temptation to the disciple of Christ. He was seeking to fix Peter's gaze upon the earthly glory, that he might not behold the cross to which Jesus desired to turn his eyes. And through Peter, Satan was again pressing the temptation upon Jesus.

22) Did Peter learn his lesson?
1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some _____ thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be _____, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

In the region of Caesarea Philippi, Christ was out of the reach of Herod and Caiaphas, the disciples reasoned. He had nothing to fear from the hatred of the Jews or from the power of the Romans. Why not work there, at a distance from the Pharisees? Why need He give Himself up to death? If He was to die, how was it that His kingdom was to be established so firmly that the gates of hell should not prevail against it? To the disciples this was indeed a mystery.

Matthew 16:24-28 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Can you see that God's plans are bigger than ours?

Do you want to see Jesus come into His Kingdom? **When is the time to put Our Father first in everything?**

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Lesson 37 – He Was Transfigured

Based on Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high _____ apart,
2) "***After six days*"**, what was that a reference to?
   Matthew 16:17-19 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my _____ which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my _____; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in _____: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Evening is drawing on as Jesus calls to His side three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, and leads them across the fields, and far up a rugged path, to a lonely mountainside. The Saviour and His disciples spent the day in traveling and teaching, and the mountain climb adds to their weariness. Christ has lifted burdens from mind and body of many sufferers; He has sent the thrill of life through their enfeebled frames; but He also is compassed with humanity, and with His disciples He is wearied with the ascent.

Presently Christ tells them that they are now to go no farther. Stepping a little aside from them, the Man of Sorrows pours out His supplications with strong crying and tears. He prays for strength to endure the test on behalf of humanity.

At first the disciples unite their prayers with His in sincere devotion; but after a time, they are overcome with weariness, and, even while trying to retain their interest in the scene, they fall asleep.

3) What happens next?
   Luke 9:29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was _____ and glistering.
4) Other than the three Disciples, was Jesus alone?
   Luke 9:30-31 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were _____ and _____: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.
5) Did the Disciples wake up in time?
   Luke 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were _____, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Only the three who are to witness His anguish in Gethsemane have been chosen to be with Him on the mount. Now the burden of His prayer is that they may be given a manifestation of the glory He had with the Father before the world was, that His kingdom may be revealed to human eyes, and that His disciples may be strengthened to behold it.

6) How did Jesus appear?
   Mark 9:3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as _____; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

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Matthew 17:2 And was _____ before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
Luke 9:29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his _____ was white and glistering.

Jesus' prayer is heard. While He is bowed in lowliness upon the stony ground, suddenly the heavens open, the golden gates of the city of God are thrown wide, and holy radiance descends upon the mount, enshrouding the Saviour's form. Divinity from within flashes through humanity, and meets the glory coming from above. Arising from His prostrate position, Christ stands in godlike majesty. The soul agony He had previously is gone.

7) Who was talking with Jesus on the Mount?
Matthew 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias _____ with him.

The disciples, awaking, behold the flood of glory that illuminates the mount. In fear and amazement, they gaze upon the radiant form of their Master. As they become able to endure the wondrous light, they see that Jesus is not alone. Beside Him are two heavenly beings, in close converse with Him. They are Moses, who upon Sinai had talked with God; and Elijah, to whom the high privilege was given, never to come under the power of death.

8) What had Moses asked of God when he was on Mount Pisgah?
Deuteronomy 3:25 I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond _____, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.
9) Did God relent?
Deuteronomy 3:26-27 But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; _____ no more unto me of this matter. Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine _____: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

A wilderness grave was the goal of those years of toil and heart-burdening care. God had something better in mind.

10) What is God able to do?
Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly _____ all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
11) What happened to Moses after he died?
Jude 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the _____ of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Moses passed under the dominion of death, but he was not to remain in the tomb. Christ Himself called him forth to life. Satan the tempter had claimed the body of Moses because of his sin; but Christ the Saviour brought him forth from the grave.

Moses upon the mount of transfiguration was a witness to Christ's victory over sin and death. He represented those who shall come forth from the grave at the resurrection of the just.

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12) What will happen when Jesus returns next?
1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all _____, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be _____ incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on _____.

13) How will Christ appear the second time?
Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without _____ unto salvation.
Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the _____ of his Father with the holy angels.

The Saviour's promise to the disciples was now fulfilled. Upon the mount the future kingdom of glory was represented in miniature, Christ the King, Moses a representative of the risen saints, and Elijah of the translated ones.

14) How did the Disciples respond to the wonderment they were partaking?
Luke 9:33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three _____; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

15) What detail did Mark add to that?
Mark 9:6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore _____.

The disciples do not yet comprehend the scene; but they rejoice that the patient Teacher, the meek and lowly One, who has wandered to and fro a helpless stranger, is honored by the favored ones of heaven. They believe that Elijah has come to announce the Messiah's reign, and that the kingdom of Christ is about to be set up on the earth. The memory of their fear and disappointment they would banish forever. Here, where the glory of God is revealed, they long to tarry.

16) What Happened next?
Mark 9:7 And there was a _____ that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

17) How did Matthew phrase it?
Matthew 17:5-6 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a _____ out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; _____ ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

As they beheld the cloud of glory, brighter than that which went before the tribes of Israel in the wilderness; as they heard the voice of God speak in awful majesty that caused the mountain to tremble, the disciples fell smitten to the earth. They remained prostrate, their faces were hidden.

18) What did Jesus do next?
Matthew 17:7-8 And Jesus came and _____ them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no _____ save Jesus only.

19) What else did Jesus say to them?
Matthew 17:9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus _____ them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

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Before the crown must come the cross. Not the inauguration of Christ as king, but the decease to be accomplished at Jerusalem, is the subject of their conference with Jesus. Bearing the weakness of humanity, and burdened with its sorrow and sin, Jesus walked alone in the midst of men. As the darkness of the coming trial pressed upon Him, He was in loneliness of spirit, in a world that knew Him not. Even His loved disciples, absorbed in their own doubt and sorrow and ambitious hopes, had not comprehended the mystery of His mission.

Through being overcome with sleep, the disciples heard little of what passed between Christ and the heavenly messengers. Failing to watch and pray, they had not received that which God desired to give them, a knowledge of the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. They lost the blessing that might have been theirs through sharing His self-sacrifice. Slow of heart to believe were these disciples, little appreciative of the treasure with which Heaven sought to enrich them.

20) <u>Despite the lost blessing, what were the Disciples able to say later in their experience?</u>
2 Peter 1:16-18 For we have not followed cunningly devised _____, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were _____ of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we _____, when we were with him in the holy mount.

They were assured that all heaven knew of the sin of the Jewish nation in rejecting Christ. They were given a clearer insight into the work of the Redeemer. They saw with their eyes and heard with their ears things that were beyond the comprehension of man. They were ***"eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16),*** and they realized that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, to whom patriarchs and prophets had witnessed, and that He was recognized as such by the heavenly universe.

Are you sleepy?

Are you spiritually strong enough to receive God's future blessings?

What does God want to reveal to you?

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Lesson 38 - Ministry

Based on Matthew 17:9-21; Mark 9:9-29; Luke 9:37-45.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Luke 9:29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and _____.
2) Other than the three Disciples, was Jesus alone?
   Luke 9:30-31 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were _____ and _____: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.
3) Did the Disciples wake up in time?
   Luke 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his _____, and the two men that stood with him.

The entire night had been passed in the mountain; and as the sun arose, Jesus and His disciples descended to the plain. Absorbed in thought, the disciples were awed and silent. Even Peter had not a word to say. Gladly would they have lingered in that holy place which had been touched with the light of heaven, and where the Son of God had manifested His glory; but there was work to be done for the people, who were already searching far and near for Jesus.

4) What did Jesus tell His Disciples that night after what they had seen?
   Matthew 17:9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to _____ _____, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.
5) How did the three feel about what they had witnessed?
   Mark 9:10 And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the _____ should mean.

The revelation made to the disciples was to be pondered in their own hearts, not to be published abroad. To relate it to the multitudes would excite only ridicule or idle wonder. And even the nine apostles would not understand the scene until after Christ had risen from the dead. How slow of comprehension even the three favored disciples were, is seen in the fact that notwithstanding all that Christ had said of what was before Him, they queried among themselves what the rising from the dead should mean. Yet they asked no explanation from Jesus.

6) What scene greeted Jesus, James, John, and Peter?
   Luke 9:37-38 And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much _____ met him. And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, _____ upon my son: for he is mine only child.

As the people on the plain caught sight of Jesus, they ran to meet Him, greeting Him with expressions of reverence and joy. Yet His quick eye discerned that they were in great perplexity. The disciples appeared troubled. A circumstance had just occurred that had caused them bitter disappointment and humiliation.

The night of communion with the heavenly glory had left its trace upon the Saviour and His companions. Upon their countenances there was a light that awed the beholders. The scribes drew back in fear, while the people welcomed Jesus.

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7) What was wrong?
Luke 9:39-40 And, lo, a _____ taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him. And I besought thy disciples to _____ him out; and they could not.

A hush had fallen upon the entire company. Now the afflicted father made his way through the crowd, and falling at the feet of Jesus, poured out the story of his trouble and disappointment.

8) How did Jesus respond to the crowd?
Luke 9:41 And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be _____ _____, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

The disciples, unable to account for their defeat, felt that they were bringing dishonor upon themselves and their Master. And in the crowd, there were scribes who made the most of this opportunity to humiliate them. Pressing around the disciples, they plied them with questions, seeking to prove that they and their Master were deceivers. Here, the rabbis triumphantly declared, was an evil spirit that neither the disciples nor Christ Himself could conquer.

9) What did Jesus ask of the father?
Mark 9:21 And he asked his father, How _____ is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.
10) How did the father reply?
Mark 9:22 And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to _____ him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.
11) How does Jesus reply to "if" statements?
Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that _____.
12) What was the father's statement of faith?
Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine _____.
13) How did the demon-possessed child act in the presence of Jesus?
Luke 9:42 And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and _____ the child, and delivered him again to his father.
14) How did Mark describe the scene?
Mark 9:25-27 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he _____ the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter _____ _____ into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he _____.

The multitude are ***"amazed at the mighty power of God,"*** while the scribes, defeated and crestfallen, turn sullenly away.

15) What are the Words God has for us in this day?
Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are _____ to him that believeth.

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It is faith that connects us with heaven and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour. Look not to self, but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men is the same mighty Redeemer today.

16) What promise should we grasp?
John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise _____ out.
17) What should we do when we cast ourselves at the feet of Jesus?
Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; _____ thou mine unbelief.

You can never perish while you do this—never.

In a brief space of time the favored disciples have beheld the extreme of glory and of humiliation. They have seen humanity as transfigured into the image of God, and as debased into the likeness of Satan. From the mountain where He has talked with the heavenly messengers and has been proclaimed the Son of God by the voice from the radiant glory, they have seen Jesus descend to meet that most distressing and revolting spectacle, the maniac boy, with distorted countenance, gnashing his teeth in spasms of agony that no human power could relieve. And this mighty Redeemer, who but a few hours before stood glorified before His wondering disciples, stoops to lift the victim of Satan from the earth where he is wallowing, and in health of mind and body restores him to his father and his home.

Not alone upon the mountaintop with Jesus, in hours of spiritual illumination, is the life of Christ's servants to be spent. There is work for them down in the plain. Souls whom Satan has enslaved are waiting for the word of faith and prayer to set them free.

18) What were the nine Disciple wondering amongst themselves?
Matthew 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not _____ cast him out?
19) How did Jesus reply to them?
Matthew 17:20-21 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your _____: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and _____.

Their unbelief, that shut them out from deeper sympathy with Christ, and the carelessness with which they regarded the sacred work committed to them, had caused their failure in the conflict with the powers of darkness.

20) What are we up against?
Ephesians 6:12 For we _____ not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual _____ in high places.

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In order to succeed in such a conflict, they must come to the work in a different spirit. Their faith must be strengthened by fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart. They must be emptied of self and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith, faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work, can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit's aid.

21) What Words of Jesus are equally important for us today?
Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a _____ of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be _____ unto you.

If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon God's word, and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus, your faith will strengthen and will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith***. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you."***

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Are you doubting?

Are you spiritually strong enough to receive God's future blessings?

When is the time to let God do great things through you?

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Lesson 39 – Who is the Greatest?

Based on Matthew 17:22-27; Matthew 18:1-20; Mark 9:30-50; Luke 9:46-48.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   Mark 9:30 And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should _____ it.
   Mark 9:33 And he came to _____: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

On returning to Capernaum, Jesus did not repair to the well-known resorts where He had taught the people, but with His disciples quietly sought the house that was to be His temporary home. During the remainder of His stay in Galilee it was His object to instruct the disciples rather than to labor for the multitudes.

The events just before this were Jesus' transfiguration, an ugly run in with that Scribes and Pharisees, and a demon possessed child that the Disciples couldn't heal.

2) What did Jesus tell His Disciples on their journey?
   Matthew 17:22-23 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall _____ him, and the third day he shall be _____ again. And they were exceeding sorry.
3) Did they understand?
   Mark 9:31-32 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is _____ into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall _____ the third day. But they _____ _____ that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

On the journey through Galilee, Christ had again tried to prepare the minds of His disciples for the scenes before Him. He told them that He was to go up to Jerusalem to be put to death and to rise again. And He added the strange and solemn announcement that He was to be betrayed into the hands of His enemies.

4) What question did Jesus ask of them later?
   Mark 9:33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye _____ among yourselves by the way?
5) How did they react?
   Mark 9:34 But they held their _____: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

Although the shadow of a great sorrow fell upon them, a spirit of rivalry found a place in their hearts. They disputed among themselves which should be accounted greatest in the kingdom. This strife they thought to conceal from Jesus, and they did not, as usual, press close to His side, but loitered behind, so that He was in advance of them as they entered Capernaum. Jesus read their thoughts, and He longed to counsel and instruct them. But for this He awaited a quiet hour, when their hearts should be open to receive His words.

6) Before Jesus could address this what happened?
   Matthew 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay _____?

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7) What happened next?
Matthew 17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own _____, or of strangers?
8) Did Jesus owe the tax?
Matthew 17:26-27 Peter saith unto him, Of _____. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his _____, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Jesus made it plain that He was under no obligation to pay the tribute, He entered into no controversy with the Jews in regard to the matter; for they would have misinterpreted His words and turned them against Him. Lest He should give offense by withholding the tribute, He did that which He could not justly be required to do. This lesson would be of great value to His disciples. Marked changes were soon to take place in their relation to the temple service, and Christ taught them not to place themselves needlessly in antagonism to established order.

9) What did Jesus ask the Disciples later when they were alone?
Mark 9:33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye _____ among yourselves by the way?
10) Did they answer him?
Mark 9:34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the _____.
11) What did Jesus do for them?
Mark 9:35-37 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be _____ of all, and servant of all. And he took a _____, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall _____ one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.
12) How did Matthew record it?
Matthew 18:3-4 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be _____, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall _____ himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
13) What did He add to that?
Matthew 18:5-6 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name _____ me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a _____ were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.
14) What had Jesus tried to tell the Disciples earlier that day?
Mark 9:31-32 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall _____ him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. But they _____ not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Shame and self-condemnation kept them silent. Jesus had told them that He was to die for their sake, and their selfish ambition was in painful contrast to His unselfish love.

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15) When they were ready to listen, what did Jesus teach?
Mark 9:35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and _____ of all.

That which Christ discerned they could not see. They did not understand the nature of Christ's kingdom, and this ignorance was the apparent cause of their contention. But the real cause lay deeper. By explaining the nature of the kingdom, Christ might for the time have quelled their strife; but this would not have touched the underlying cause. Even after they had received the fullest knowledge, any question of precedence might have renewed the trouble.

16) What did their arguing resemble?
Isaiah 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O _____, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will _____ my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will _____ above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Lucifer desired God's power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place, and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same.

17) How does that contrast with the life of Jesus?
Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a _____, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became _____ unto death, even the death of the cross.

Now the cross was just before Him; and His own disciples were so filled with self-seeking—the very principle of Satan's kingdom—that they could not enter into sympathy with their Lord or even understand Him as He spoke of His humiliation for them.

18) What did He tell His Disciples?
Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be _____, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the _____ of heaven.

It was not enough for the disciples of Jesus to be instructed as to the nature of His kingdom. What they needed was a change of heart that would bring them into harmony with its principles.

19) What did David say of the Lord?
Psalm 18:35-36 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath _____ me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my _____ did not slip.

20) What did Isaiah tell us?
Isaiah 66:1-2 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a _____ spirit, and _____ at my word.

The sincere, contrite soul is precious in the sight of God. He places His own signet upon men, not by their rank, not by their wealth, not by their intellectual greatness, but by their oneness with Christ. The Lord of glory is satisfied with those who are meek and lowly in heart.

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21) What example did Jesus use?
Mark 9:36-37 And he took a child, and set him in the _____ of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall _____ one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

The Saviour's words awakened in the disciples a feeling of self-distrust. No one had been specially pointed out in the reply; but John was led to question whether in one case his action had been right. With the spirit of a child, he laid the matter before Jesus…

22) What did John ask?
Mark 9:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in _____ _____, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us.

23) How did Jesus reply?
Mark 9:39-40 But Jesus said, _____ him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not _____ us is on our part.

None who showed themselves in any way friendly to Christ were to be repulsed. There were many who had been deeply moved by the character and the work of Christ, and whose hearts were opening to Him in faith; and the disciples, who could not read motives, must be careful not to discourage these souls.

The fact that one does not in all things conform to our personal ideas or opinions will not justify us in forbidding him to labor for God. Christ is the Great Teacher; we are not to judge or to command, but in humility each is to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him. Every soul whom God has made willing is a channel through which Christ will reveal His pardoning love. How careful we should be lest we discourage one of God's light bearers and thus intercept the rays that He would have shine to the world!

24) How did Paul instruct us?
Romans 15:1 We then that are strong ought to _____ the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

No soul who believes in Christ, though his faith may be weak, and his steps wavering as those of a little child, is to be lightly esteemed.

25) What did Paul tell the Galatians?
Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering _____, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's _____, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

We are not to bear this great responsibility alone. Wherever His word is obeyed with a sincere heart, there Christ abides. Not only is He present in the assemblies of the church, but wherever disciples, however few, meet in His name, there also He will be. And He says, "***If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.***"

Can you see your need of something better? **Are there things in your life that need laid at the foot of the Cross?**

When is the time to become as a child?

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Lesson 40 – At The Feast of Tabernacles

Based on John 7:1-15, 37-39.

1) What event immediately preceded what we are about to study today?
   John 6:52-54 The Jews therefore _____ among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the _____ of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my _____, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
2) What was the effect of those words?
   John 6:66-68 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked _____ _____ with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the _____ of eternal life.
3) What effect did all this have on Jesus and the Disciples?
   John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in _____: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.
4) What time of year was it?
   John 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of _____ was at hand.

Three times a year the Jews were required to assemble at Jerusalem for religious purposes. Enshrouded in the pillar of cloud, Israel's invisible Leader had given the directions in regard to these gatherings. During the captivity of the Jews, they could not be observed; but when the people were restored to their own land, the observance of these memorials was once more begun. It was God's design that these anniversaries should call Him to the minds of the people.

This feast was not only the harvest thanksgiving, but the memorial of God's protecting care over Israel in the wilderness. In commemoration of their tent life, the Israelites during the feast dwelt in booths or tabernacles of green boughs. These were erected in the streets, in the courts of the temple, or on the housetops. The hills and valleys surrounding Jerusalem were also dotted with these leafy dwellings and seemed to be alive with people.

5) What Psalm was sung during this time?
   Psalm 106:1-2 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy _____ for ever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his _____?

With sacred song and thanksgiving, the worshipers celebrated this occasion. A little before the feast was the Day of Atonement, when, after confession of their sins, the people were declared to be at peace with Heaven. Thus the way was prepared for the rejoicing of the feast.

The temple was the center of the universal joy. Here was the pomp of the sacrificial ceremonies. Here, ranged on either side of the white marble steps of the sacred building, the choir of Levites led the song service. The multitude of worshipers, waving their branches of palm and myrtle, took up the strain, and echoed the chorus; and again, the melody was caught up by voices near and afar off, till the encircling hills were vocal with praise.

6) What was sung zealously on the final day of the Feast?
   Psalm 122:2 Our feet shall stand within thy _____, O Jerusalem.

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At the first dawn of day on that day, the priests sounded a long, shrill blast upon their silver trumpets, and the answering trumpets, and the glad shouts of the people from their booths, echoing over hill and valley, welcomed the festal day. Then the priest dipped from the flowing waters of the Kedron a flagon of water, and, lifting it on high, while the trumpets were sounding, he ascended the broad steps of the temple, keeping time with the music with slow and measured tread.

He bore the flagon to the altar, which occupied a central position in the court of the priests. Here were two silver basins, with a priest standing at each one. The flagon of water was poured into one, and a flagon of wine into the other; and the contents of both flowed into a pipe which communicated with the Kedron and was conducted to the Dead Sea. This display of the consecrated water represented the fountain that at the command of God had gushed from the rock to quench the thirst of the children of Israel.

7) What did the people declare as this was happening?
Isaiah 12:2-3 Behold, God is my _____; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the _____ of salvation.
8) Was Jesus eager to join with the crowd in Jerusalem?
John 7:3-5 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into _____, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. _____ thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him.

The “if” expressed doubt and unbelief. They attributed cowardice and weakness to Him.

9) What did he tell His brothers?
John 7:6-9 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. The world cannot _____ you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are _____. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my _____ is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.

Since the healing at Bethesda He had not attended the national gatherings. To avoid useless conflict with the leaders at Jerusalem, He had restricted His labors to Galilee. His apparent neglect of the great religious assemblies, and the enmity manifested toward Him by the priests and rabbis, were a cause of perplexity to the people about Him, and even to His own disciples and His kindred.

He was not to be presumptuous, not to rush into danger, not to hasten a crisis. Each event in His work had its appointed hour. He must wait patiently. He knew that He was to receive the world's hatred; He knew that His work would result in His death; but to prematurely expose Himself would not be the will of His Father.

10) How well know was Jesus at this point?
John 7:11 Then the Jews _____ him at the feast, and said, Where is he?
11) Did Jesus go to Jerusalem?
John 7:10 But when his brethren were gone up, then _____ he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in _____.

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He had chosen an unfrequented route by which to go, in order to avoid the travelers who were making their way to the city from all quarters. Had He joined any of the caravans that went up to the feast, public attention would have been attracted to Him on His entrance into the city, and a popular demonstration in His favor would have aroused the authorities against Him. It was to avoid this that He chose to make the journey alone.

12) What did Jesus do when He got there?
John 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the _____, and taught.

In the midst of the feast, when the excitement concerning Him was at its height, He entered the court of the temple in the presence of the multitude. Because of His absence from the feast, it had been urged that He dared not place Himself in the power of the priests and rulers. All were surprised at His presence. Every voice was hushed. All wondered at the dignity and courage of His bearing in the midst of powerful enemies who were thirsting for His life.

13) What was the general consensus about Jesus' preaching?
Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with _____.
14) What did the religious folks question?
John 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never _____?
15) How did Jesus respond?
John 7:16-17 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is _____ _____, but his that sent me. If any man will do _____ _____, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

No one was regarded as qualified to be a religious teacher unless he had studied in the rabbinical schools, and both Jesus and John the Baptist had been represented as ignorant because they had not received this training.

16) What was stirring in the crowd?
John 7:25-26 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to _____? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very _____?

As Jesus spoke in the temple court, the people were held spellbound. The very men who were the most violent against Him felt themselves powerless to do Him harm. For the time, all other interests were forgotten.

17) What did Jesus boldly declare in the Temple?
John 7:28-29 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both _____ me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know _____: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.
18) What did Jesus declare at the time the priests were pouring the flagons of water and the wine on the last day of the Temple services?
John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man _____, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow _____ of living water.

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The condition of the people made this appeal very forcible. They had been engaged in a continued scene of pomp and festivity, their eyes had been dazzled with light and color, and their ears regaled with the richest music; but there had been nothing in all this round of ceremonies to meet the wants of the spirit, nothing to satisfy the thirst of the soul for that which perishes not. Jesus invited them to come and drink of the fountain of life, of that which would be in them a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life.

19) How did the Chief priests and the Pharisees react?
John 7:44-46 And some of them would have taken him; but no man _____ _____ on him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man _____ like this man.

20) What was promised to our generation through John?
Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of _____ freely.

The cry of Christ to the thirsty soul is still going forth, and it appeals to us with even greater power than to those who heard it in the temple on that last day of the feast. The fountain is open for all. The weary and exhausted ones are offered the refreshing draught of eternal life.

Can you see how God's timing is perfect?

Are you interested in having true wisdom?

When is the time to follow Him patiently?

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Lesson 41 – Among Snares

Based on John 7:16-36, 40-53; John 8:1-11.

1) What time of year was it when our lesson begins today?
   John 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of _____ was at hand.
2) What did Jesus do when He got there?
   John 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the _____, and taught.
3) What was stirring in the crowd?
   John 7:25-26 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to _____? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very _____?

All the while Jesus was at Jerusalem during the feast He was shadowed by spies. Day after day new schemes to silence Him were tried. The priests and rulers were watching to entrap Him. They were planning to stop Him by violence. But this was not all. They wanted to humble this Galilean rabbi before the people.

4) What was everyone saying about Him?
   John 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How _____ this man letters, having never learned?
5) What did Jesus reply?
   John 7:16-17 Jesus answered them, and said, My _____ is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of _____.

The question of these cavilers Jesus met, not by answering the cavil, but by opening up truth vital to the salvation of the soul. The perception and appreciation of truth, He said, depends less upon the mind than upon the heart. Truth must be received into the soul; it claims the homage of the will. If truth could be submitted to the reason alone, pride would be no hindrance in the way of its reception. But it is to be received through the work of grace in the heart; and its reception depends upon the renunciation of every sin that the Spirit of God reveals.

6) What test did Jesus give to see where what you believe comes from?
   John 7:18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his _____ glory: but he that seeketh _____ glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

Christ was seeking the glory of God. He spoke the words of God. This was the evidence of His authority as a teacher of the truth.

7) What did Jesus ask when He looked into their hearts?
   John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you _____ the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

   Jesus gave the rabbis an evidence of His divinity by showing that He read their hearts. Ever since the healing at Bethesda they had been plotting His death. Thus, they were themselves breaking the law which they professed to be defending.

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8) How did Jesus explain that He in fact did nothing wrong?
John 7:23-24 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit _____ on the sabbath day? Judge not according to the _____, but judge righteous judgment.

He went on to show that His work of healing at Bethesda was in harmony with the Sabbath law, and that it was justified by the interpretation which the Jews themselves put upon the law.

Jesus was in a mixed crowd, some wanted Him dead, others had no clue of the Pharisees and Sadducees plans.

9) What did some in the crowd question?
John 7:25-27 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But, lo, he speaketh _____, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very _____? Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

It was generally believed that Christ would be born at Bethlehem, but that after a time He would disappear, and at His second appearance none would know whence He came. There were not a few who held that the Messiah would have no natural relationship to humanity.

10) Jesus responded:
John 7:28-29 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both _____ me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye _____ not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.
11) What did they do when they heard that?
John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid _____ on him, because his hour was not yet come.

The hearers could not but understand Christ's words. Clearly, they were a repetition of the claim He had made in the presence of the Sanhedrin many months before, when He declared Himself the Son of God. As the rulers then tried to compass His death, so now they sought to take Him; but they were prevented by an unseen power, which put a limit to their rage.

12) Did Jesus' detractors give up?
John 7:31-32 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done? The Pharisees _____ that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to _____ him.
13) What did Jesus add to this?
John 7:33-34 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I _____ you, and then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye _____ come.
14) What did the rabbis sneer back?
John 7:35-36 Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the _____, and teach the Gentiles? What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, _____ ye cannot come?

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15) Paul reminded us that a prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled here, what was it?
Romans 10:20-21 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made _____ unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have _____ forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

Little did these cavilers dream that in their mocking words they were picturing the mission of the Christ!

God does not compel men to give up their unbelief. Before them are light and darkness, truth and error. It is for them to decide which they will accept. The human mind is endowed with power to discriminate between right and wrong. God designs that men shall not decide from impulse, but from weight of evidence, carefully comparing scripture with scripture.

16) On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles that year, they tried again to arrest Him, what happened?
John 7:44:46 And some of them would have taken him; but _____ _____ laid hands on him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man _____ like this man.

Hardened as were their hearts, they were melted by His words. While He was speaking in the temple court, they had lingered near, to catch something that might be turned against Him. But as they listened, the purpose for which they had been sent was forgotten. They stood as men entranced. Christ revealed Himself to their souls. They saw that which priests and rulers would not see, humanity flooded with the glory of divinity.

17) Were The priests happy with that?
John 7:47-49 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also _____? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

Again, the priests and rulers proceeded to lay plans for arresting Jesus. It was urged that if He were longer left at liberty, He would draw the people away from the established leaders, and the only safe course was to silence Him without delay.

18) In the full tide of their discussion, they were suddenly checked. Who popped in a question?
John 7:50-51 _____ saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge any man, before it _____ him, and know what he doeth?

The words of Nicodemus came home to their consciences. They could not condemn a man unheard. But it was not for this reason alone that the haughty rulers remained silent, gazing at him who had dared to speak in favor of justice. They were startled and chagrined that one of their own number had been so far impressed by the character of Jesus as to speak a word in His defense.

19) Recovering from their astonishment, how did they address Nicodemus?
John 7:52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of _____? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

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20) What was the result of that?
John 7:53 And every man went unto his _____ _____.
21) What happened the next day at the Temple?
John 8:2-3 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and _____ them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in _____; and when they had set her in the midst,

He was soon interrupted. A group of Pharisees and scribes approached Him, dragging with them a terror-stricken woman, whom with hard, eager voices they accused of having violated the seventh commandment.

22) What did they ask Him?
John 8:4-5 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very _____. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest _____?

Should He acquit the woman, He might be charged with despising the law of Moses. Should He declare her worthy of death, He could be accused to the Romans as one who was assuming authority that belonged only to them.

Jesus looked for a moment upon the scene, the trembling victim in her shame, the hard-faced dignitaries, devoid of even human pity. His spirit of stainless purity shrank from the spectacle. Well, He knew for what purpose this case had been brought to Him. He read the heart and knew the character and life history of everyone in His presence.

23) What did Jesus do?
John 8:6-7 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to _____ him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without _____ among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

Impatient at His delay and apparent indifference, the accusers drew nearer, urging the matter upon His attention. But as their eyes, following those of Jesus, fell upon the pavement at His feet, their countenances changed. There, traced before them, were the guilty secrets of their own lives.

24) What did they do?
John 8:9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own _____, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
25) What did Jesus say to the fearful woman?
John 8:10-11 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine _____? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I _____ thee: go, and sin no more.

This was to her the beginning of a new life, a life of purity and peace, devoted to the service of God. In the uplifting of this fallen soul, Jesus performed a greater miracle than in healing the most grievous physical disease; He cured the spiritual malady which is unto death everlasting. This penitent woman became one of His most steadfast followers. With self-sacrificing love and devotion she repaid His forgiving mercy.

This will be the spirit of all who follow Him. Christian love is slow to censure, quick to discern penitence, ready to forgive, to encourage, to set the wanderer in the path of holiness, and to stay his feet therein.

Can you see how God can look into your soul? **Are you interested in having a clean slate?**

When is the time let God forgive you?

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Lesson 42 – "The Light of Life"

Based on John 8:12-59; John 9.

1) What had just happened previous to the opening of our lesson today?
   John 8:3-4 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in _____; and when they had set her in the _____, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.
2) What did Jesus do?
   John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to _____ him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he _____ them not.
3) What was the outcome?
   John 8:9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their _____ _____, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
4) What did Jesus say to the onlooking crowd?
   John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in _____, but shall have the light of life.

When He spoke these words, Jesus was in the court of the temple specially connected with the services of the Feast of Tabernacles. In the center of this court rose two lofty standards, supporting lampstands of great size. After the evening sacrifice, all the lamps were kindled, shedding their light over Jerusalem. This ceremony was in commemoration of the pillar of light that guided Israel in the desert and was also regarded as pointing to the coming of the Messiah.

5) What did John say about Jesus?
   John 1:4-5 In him was _____; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness _____ it not.
6) What did Peter say about Jesus later?
   2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of _____; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that _____ in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

In the manifestation of God to His people, light had ever been a symbol of His presence. At the creative word in the beginning, light had shone out of darkness. Light had been enshrouded in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, leading the vast armies of Israel. Light blazed with awful grandeur about the Lord on Mount Sinai. Light rested over the mercy seat in the tabernacle. Light filled the temple of Solomon at its dedication. Light shone on the hills of Bethlehem when the angels brought the message of redemption to the watching shepherds.

7) How did Paul describe Jesus?
   2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of _____, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in _____ vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

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8) Why should we go to Jesus?
Colossians 2:2-3 That their hearts might be _____, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the _____ of wisdom and knowledge.
9) What question did they ply Jesus with?
John 8:25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the _____.

Seeming to ignore His words, they demanded, "***Who art Thou?"*** They were bent upon forcing Him to declare Himself the Christ. His appearance and His work were so at variance with the expectations of the people, that, as His wily enemies believed, a direct announcement of Himself as the Messiah would cause Him to be rejected as an impostor.

10) What did Jesus tell the crowd?
John 8:28-30 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have _____ _____ the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words, many _____ on him.
11) What did Jesus say next?
John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which _____ on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the _____ shall make you free.
12) How did the Pharisees respond?
John 8:33 They answered him, We be _____ seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Jesus looked upon these men, the slaves of malice, whose thoughts were bent upon revenge.

13) How did Jesus respond to that?
John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the _____ of sin.

Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he is following the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to break the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul.

14) What was Jesus' Mission?
John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be _____ indeed.

Sin can triumph only by enfeebling the mind and destroying the liberty of the soul. Subjection to God is restoration to one's self, to the true glory and dignity of man.

15) What was Jesus' response to their claim to being sons of Abraham?
John 8:39-40 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the _____ of Abraham. But now ye seek to _____ me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

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The true children of Abraham would live, as he did, a life of obedience to God. They would not try to kill One who was speaking the truth that was given Him from God. In plotting against Christ, the rabbis were not doing the works of Abraham.

16) To whom did Jesus say was their father?
John 8:44 Ye are of your father the _____, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the _____ of it.

They would rather close their eyes to the truth than humble themselves to confess that they had been in error. They did not love the truth. They did not desire it, even though it was truth.

17) What did Jesus add to that?
John 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore _____ them not, because ye are not of God.
18) What did Jesus say later that really set them off?
John 8:56 Your father Abraham _____ to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

Abraham had greatly desired to see the promised Saviour. He offered up the most earnest prayer that before his death he might behold the Messiah. And he saw Christ. A supernatural light was given him, and he acknowledged Christ's divine character. He saw His day and was glad. He was given a view of the divine sacrifice for sin.

19) What showed Abraham a striking similarity to what God would do?
Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy _____, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt _____ upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.
Genesis 22:12-13 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not _____ thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the _____ of his son.

By making an entire surrender, he was able to understand the vision of Christ, which had been given him. He was shown that in giving His only begotten Son to save sinners from eternal ruin, God was making a greater and more wonderful sacrifice than ever man could make.

20) The Jews asked Jesus a question about what He said, what was it?
John 8:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet _____ years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

21) Jesus replied:
John 8:58-59 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, _____ _____. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so _____ by.

Silence fell upon the vast assembly. The name of God, given to Moses to express the idea of the eternal presence, had been claimed as His own by this Galilean Rabbi. He had announced Himself to be the self-existent One, He who had been promised to Israel, ***"whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity."(Micah 5:2)***

22) What would they tell Jesus later?
John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a _____ _____ we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

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23) What happened shortly after Jesus declared Himself to be the I AM?
John 9:1-2 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was _____ from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his _____, that he was born blind?

24) How did Jesus reply?
John 9:3-5 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man _____, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the _____ of the world.

25) What did He do?
John 9:6-7 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the _____, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, _____ in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

26) When questioned about his sight, what did he say?
John 9:11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I _____ sight.

Then they questioned again, ***"What did He to thee? how opened He thine eyes?"*** With many words they tried to confuse him, so that he might think himself deluded. Satan and his evil angels were on the side of the Pharisees and united their energies and subtlety with man's reasoning in order to counteract the influence of Christ. They blunted the convictions that were deepening in many minds.

27) What was his response?
John 9:27 He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will _____ _____ be his disciples?

The man had met his inquisitors on their own ground. His reasoning was unanswerable. The Pharisees were astonished, and they held their peace, spellbound before his pointed, determined words. For a few moments there was silence. Then the frowning priests and rabbis gathered about them their robes, as though they feared contamination from contact with him; they shook off the dust from their feet, and hurled denunciations against him, ***"Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?"*** And they excommunicated him.

28) What did Jesus ask him when He saw him again?
John 9:35-37 Jesus heard that they had _____ _____ _____; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both _____ him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

29) What did the former blind man profess?
John 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he _____ him.

To all who realized their need, Christ came with infinite help. But the Pharisees would confess no need; they refused to come to Christ, and hence they were left in blindness, a blindness for which they were themselves guilty. Jesus said, ***"Your sin remaineth."***

Can you see Jesus was and is Divine? **Are you interested in having eyes to see?**

When is the time to stop worrying about what others think?

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Lesson 43 – The Divine Shepherd

Based on John 10:1-30

1) What had just happened previous to the opening of our lesson today?
   John 9:6-7 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he _____ the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, _____ in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

The Pharisees and Sadducees had excommunicated the blind man and reviled Jesus for His good work. The Blind man made whole worshipped Jesus, and the religious people were left with something to think about.

2) What did Jesus tell his detractors?
   John 9:39-41 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made _____. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your _____ remaineth.
3) What parable did Jesus give to those who came to hear Him?
   John 10:1-5 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the _____ into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a _____ and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by _____, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his _____. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of _____.
4) Did they understand?
   John 10:6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood _____ what things they were which he spake unto them.
5) What did He come out and directly tell them?
   John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his _____ for the sheep.

Again, Jesus found access to the minds of His hearers by the pathway of their familiar associations. He had likened the Spirit's influence to the cool, refreshing water. He had represented Himself as the light, the source of life and gladness to nature and to man. Now in a beautiful pastoral picture He represents His relation to those that believe on Him. No picture was more familiar to His hearers than this, and Christ's words linked it forever with Himself. Never could the disciples look on the shepherds tending their flocks without recalling the Saviour's lesson.

6) What did Isaiah say about Christ's ministry?
   Isaiah 40:10-11 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his _____ is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a _____: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

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7) How did David describe Him?
Psalm 23:1-2 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not _____. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still _____.
8) What wonderful words did Ezekiel give us?
Ezekiel 34:23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall _____ them, and he shall be their shepherd.
Ezekiel 34:16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was _____ _____, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was _____: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

Christ applied these prophecies to Himself, and He showed the contrast between His own character and that of the leaders in Israel. The Pharisees had just driven one from the fold, because he dared to bear witness to the power of Christ. They had cut off a soul whom the True Shepherd was drawing to Himself.

Jesus now set before them the contrast between them and the Good Shepherd, and He pointed to Himself as the real keeper of the Lord's flock. Before doing this, however, He speaks of Himself under another figure.

9) What was it?
John 10:1-2 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that _____ not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the _____.
10) What did Jesus say to the hard hearted hearers so they could understand?
John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, _____ _____ the door of the sheep.
11) How did He reinforce that?
John 10:9-10 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be _____, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have _____, and that they might have it more abundantly.
12) What did He say about the Priests and Pharisees?
John 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not _____ them.

Christ is the door to the fold of God. Through this door all His children, from the earliest times, have found entrance. In Jesus, as shown in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelation of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples, and in the miracles wrought for the sons of men, they have beheld ***"the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)***, and through Him they are brought within the fold of His grace.

13) What did Ezekiel's prophecy foretell about the times Jesus was walking the Earth?
Ezekiel 34:4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye _____ up that which was _____, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

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The Pharisees had not entered by the door. They had climbed into the fold by another way than Christ, and they were not fulfilling the work of the true shepherd. The priests and rulers, the scribes and Pharisees, destroyed the living pastures, and defiled the wellsprings of the water of life.

In all ages, philosophers and teachers have been presenting to the world theories by which to satisfy the soul's need. Every heathen nation has had its great teachers and religious systems offering some other means of redemption than Christ, turning the eyes of men away from the Father's face, and filling their hearts with fear of Him who has given them only blessing. The trend of their work is to rob God of that which is His own, both by creation and by redemption.

Christ came that He might re-create the image of God in man; and whoever turns men away from Christ is turning them away from the source of true development; he is defrauding them of the hope and purpose and glory of life. He is a thief and a robber.

14) What did Christ say of Himself?
John 10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the _____ of the sheep.

15) What does Christ do?
John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by _____, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep _____ him: for they know his voice.

Of all creatures the sheep is one of the most timid and helpless, and in the East the shepherd's care for his flock is untiring and incessant. Anciently as now, there was little security outside of the walled towns. Marauders from the roving border tribes, or beasts of prey from their hiding places in the rocks, lay in wait to plunder the flocks. The shepherd watched his charge, knowing that it was at the peril of his own life.

16) How did Jacob describe the job?
Genesis 31:40 Thus I was; in the day the drought _____ me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes.

It was while guarding his father's sheep that the boy David, single-handed, encountered the lion and the bear, and rescued from their teeth the stolen lamb.

17) Who's are you?
Ezekiel 34:31 And ye my flock, the _____ of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.
Isaiah 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have _____ thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

As the shepherd leads his flock over the rocky hills, through forest and wild ravines, to grassy nooks by the riverside; as he watches them on the mountains through the lonely night, shielding from robbers, caring tenderly for the sickly and feeble, his life comes to be one with theirs. A strong and tender attachment unites him to the objects of his care. However large the flock, the shepherd knows every sheep. Everyone has its name and responds to the name at the shepherd's call.

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18) What wonderful illustration did God give us through Isaiah?
Isaiah 49:15-16 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may _____, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my _____; thy walls are continually before me.

Jesus knows us individually and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant.

19) What did Jeremiah reveal about the Father?
Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an _____ love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Saviour's matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary's cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice, and they follow Him.

20) What does Jesus do for us?
John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his _____.

As the shepherd goes before his sheep, himself first encountering the perils of the way, so does Jesus with His people. The way to heaven is consecrated by the Saviour's footprints. The path may be steep and rugged, but Jesus has traveled that way; His feet have pressed down the cruel thorns, to make the pathway easier for us. Every burden that we are called to bear He Himself has borne.

21) How safe are you with God?
John 10:28-29 And I give unto them _____ _____; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's _____.

Though now He has ascended to the presence of God, and shares the throne of the universe, Jesus has lost none of His compassionate nature. Today the same tender, sympathizing heart is open to all the woes of humanity. Today the hand that was pierced is reached forth to bless more abundantly His people that are in the world.

The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world. The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His followers choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast.

Can you see Jesus is Our Shepherd?

Do you know His voice?

When is the time to follow when He calls?

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Lesson 44 – The Last Journey from Galilee

Based on Luke 9:51-56; Luke 10:1-24.

1) What did Jesus tell His brothers when they were goading Him to come to Jerusalem previously?
   John 7:6 Then Jesus said unto them, My _____ is not yet come: but your time is alway ready.

At the time of the Feast of Tabernacles His journey to Jerusalem was made swiftly and secretly. He made His way to Jerusalem unobserved, and entered the city unannounced, and unhonored by the multitude. But not so with His last journey. He had left Jerusalem for a season because of the malice of the priests and rabbis. But He now set out to return, traveling in the most public manner, by a circuitous route, and preceded by such an announcement of His coming as He had never made before. He was going forward to the scene of His great sacrifice, and to this the attention of the people must be directed.

2) What was the theme of this journey?
   John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the _____ in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

As the eyes of all Israel had been directed to the uplifted serpent, the symbol appointed for their healing, so all eyes must be drawn to Christ, the sacrifice that brought salvation to the lost world.

3) What did Luke say about Jesus in this trip?
   Luke 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his _____ to go to Jerusalem,
4) What did Jesus tell His parents when He was a child?
   Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my _____ business?
5) What did He tell Mary when He turned water into wine?
   John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is _____ _____ come.

In God's great plan the hour had been appointed for the offering of Himself for the sins of men, and that hour was soon to strike. He would not fail nor falter. His steps are turned toward Jerusalem, where His foes have long plotted to take His life; now He will lay it down. He set His face steadfastly to go to persecution, denial, rejection, condemnation, and death.

6) What did Jesus do?
   Luke 9:52-53 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the _____, to make ready for him. And they did not _____ him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

The people refused to receive Him because He was on His way to Jerusalem. This they interpreted as meaning that Christ showed a preference for the Jews, whom they hated with intense bitterness. Had He come to restore the temple and worship upon Mount Gerizim, they would gladly have received Him; but He was going to Jerusalem, and they would show Him no hospitality. Little did they realize that they were turning from their doors the best gift of heaven. All was lost to the Samaritans because of their prejudice and bigotry.

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7) How did the Disciples react to this?
Luke 9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command _____ to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

James and John, Christ's messengers, were filled with indignation because He had been so rudely treated by the Samaritans whom He was honoring by His presence. They had recently been with Him on the mount of transfiguration, and had seen Him glorified by God, and honored by Moses and Elijah. This manifest dishonor on the part of the Samaritans should not, they thought, be passed over without marked punishment.

Coming to Christ, they reported to Him the words of the people, telling Him that they had even refused to give Him a night's lodging. They thought that a grievous wrong had been done Him and were standing with Mount Carmel in the distance.

8) Was Jesus happy with their fealty?
Luke 9:55-56 But he turned, and _____ them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to _____ them. And they went to another village.

God desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.

Every human being, in body, soul, and spirit, is the property of God. Christ died to redeem all. Nothing can be more offensive to God than for men, through religious bigotry, to bring suffering upon those who are the purchase of the Saviour's blood.

9) Where did Jesus and the Disciples end up?
Mark 10:1 And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of _____: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.
10) What did He do while He was there?
Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other _____ also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

These disciples had been with Him for some time, in training for their work. When the twelve were sent out on their first separate mission, other disciples accompanied Jesus in His journey through Galilee. Thus, they had the privilege of intimate association with Him, and direct personal instruction. Now this larger number also were to go forth on a separate mission.

11) What were their instructions?
Luke 10:3-6 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among _____. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor _____: and salute no man by the way. And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, _____ be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

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The directions to the seventy were similar to those that had been given to the twelve; but the command to the twelve, not to enter into any city of the Gentiles or of the Samaritans, was not given to the seventy. Though Christ had just been repulsed by the Samaritans, His love toward them was unchanged. When the seventy went forth in His name, they visited, first of all, the cities of Samaria.

12) What would be their future in spite of their inborn hatred?
Matthew 12:20-21 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the _____ trust.

13) What did Jesus tell you to do when you are rejected?
Luke 10:10-11 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you _____, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do _____ _____ against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

They were not to do this from motives of resentment or through wounded dignity, but to show how grievous a thing it is to refuse the Lord's message or His messengers. To reject the Lord's servants is to reject Christ Himself.

14) What is the fate of those that reject Jesus and the Written Word?
Luke 10:12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for _____, than for that city.

To those busy towns about the Sea of Galilee, heaven's richest blessings had been freely offered. Day after day the Prince of life had gone in and out among them. The glory of God, which prophets and kings had longed to see, had shone upon the multitudes that thronged the Saviour's steps. Yet they had refused the heavenly Gift.

With a great show of prudence, the rabbis had warned the people against receiving the new doctrines taught by this new teacher; for His theories and practices were contrary to the teachings of the fathers. The people gave credence to what the priests and Pharisees taught, in place of seeking to understand the word of God for themselves. They honored the priests and rulers instead of honoring God and rejected the truth that they might keep their own traditions.

15) What does Jesus tell God's people today?
Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and _____: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the word of God or through His messengers is a knock at the door of the heart. It is the voice of Jesus asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, the disposition to open becomes weaker. The impressions of the Holy Spirit, if disregarded today, will not be as strong tomorrow.

16) What did the Seventy say when they returned?
Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the _____ are subject unto us through thy name.

17) Was Jesus pleased?
Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as _____ fall from heaven.

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Luke 10:19-20 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the _____: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are _____ in _____.

Henceforward Christ's followers were to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own.

18) What did God promise us?
John 3:16 For God so _____ the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting _____.

He testifies to the universe that God will never forsake His people in their struggle with evil. It is an assurance to us of strength and protection as long as the throne itself shall endure.

Be careful lest self-sufficiency come in, and you work in your own strength, rather than in the spirit and strength of your Master. Self is ever ready to take the credit if any measure of success attends the work. Self is flattered and exalted, and the impression is not made upon other minds that God is all and in all.

19) How did the apostle Paul explain it?
2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in _____, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am _____, then am I strong.

When we have a realization of our weakness, we learn to depend upon a power not inherent. Nothing can take so strong a hold on the heart as the abiding sense of our responsibility to God. Nothing reaches so fully down to the deepest motives of conduct as a sense of the pardoning love of Christ. We are to come in touch with God, then we shall be imbued with His Holy Spirit, that enables us to come in touch with our fellow men.

The more closely you connect yourself with the source of light and power, the greater light will be shed upon you, and the greater power will be yours to work for God.

20) What did Jesus proclaim with joy?
Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus _____ in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed _____ in thy sight.

The honored men of the world, the so-called great and wise men, with all their boasted wisdom, could not comprehend the character of Christ. They judged Him from outward appearance, from the humiliation that came upon Him as a human being. But to fishermen and publicans it had been given to see the Invisible.

21) What is promised to those that believe?
John 14:17 Even the _____ of _____; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he _____ with you, and shall be in you.

The only way in which we can gain a more perfect apprehension of truth is by keeping the heart tender and subdued by the Spirit of Christ. The soul must be cleansed from vanity and pride and vacated of all that has held it in possession, and Christ must be enthroned within.

Can you see did everything He could to teach the people?

Would you like to know more?

When is the time to learn the lessons you need?

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Lesson 45 – The Good Samaritan

Based on Luke 10:25-37

1) What happened in our last lesson?
   Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the _____ are subject unto us through thy name.
2) Was Jesus pleased?
   Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as _____ fall from heaven.

Jesus at this time had left his home area of Galilee for the very last time and was making his way to Jerusalem to fulfill His destiny and ours. He was passing through Samaria and had a little trouble there but left His Disciples with a lesson on forgiveness and to whom the Gospel should go. Jesus was talking with the seventy about all that had happened.

3) What happened next?
   Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and _____ him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

With breathless attention the large congregation awaited the answer. The priests and rabbis had thought to entangle Christ by having the lawyer ask this question. But the Saviour entered into no controversy. He required the answer from the questioner himself.

4) Looking into his heart, what did Jesus ask?
   Luke 10:26 He said unto him, What is written in the _____? how readest thou?
5) What did the lawyer respond with?
   Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

In his answer as to the requirements of the law, he passed by all the mass of ceremonial and ritualistic precepts. For these he claimed no value, but presented the two great principles on "*which hang all the law and the prophets"*.

6) Jesus replied**:**
   Luke 10:28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt _____.

Supreme love to God and impartial love to man are the principles to be wrought out in the life.

7) What was the response of the lawyer?
   Luke 10:29 But he, willing to justify _____, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

The lawyer found himself a lawbreaker. He was convicted under Christ's searching words. The righteousness of the law, which he claimed to understand, he had not practiced. He had not manifested love toward his fellow man. Repentance was demanded; but instead of repenting, he tried to justify himself. Rather than acknowledge the truth, he sought to show how difficult of fulfillment the commandment is. Thus, he hoped both to parry conviction and to vindicate himself in the eyes of the people.

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They had no doubt as to the heathen and the Samaritans; these were strangers and enemies. But where should the distinction be made among the people of their own nation, and among the different classes of society? Whom should the priest, the rabbi, the elder, regard as neighbor? They spent their lives in a round of ceremonies to make themselves pure. Contact with the ignorant and careless multitude, they taught, would cause defilement that would require wearisome effort to remove.

8) Did Jesus enter into their controversy?
Luke 10:30-32 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among _____, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain _____ that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a _____, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

Jesus refused to be drawn into controversy. He did not denounce the bigotry of those who were watching to condemn Him. But by a simple story He held up before His hearers such a picture of the outflowing of heaven-born love as touched all hearts and drew from the lawyer a confession of the truth.

This was no imaginary scene, but an ***actual occurrence***, which was known to be exactly as represented. ***The priest and the Levite who had passed by on the other side*** were in the company that listened to Christ's words.

9) What did Paul tell us in Hebrews?
Hebrews 5:2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is _____ with infirmity.
10) The Priest and the Levite were called to the same ministry as Jesus, what was it?
Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the _____, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at _____ them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

The angels of heaven look upon the distress of God's family upon the earth, and they are prepared to co-operate with men in relieving oppression and suffering. God in His providence had brought the priest and the Levite along the road where the wounded sufferer lay, that they might see his need of mercy and help. All heaven watched to see if the hearts of these men would be touched with pity for human woe.

11) What did God tell the Children of Israel through Moses?
Deuteronomy 10:17-18 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh _____: He doth execute the _____ of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.
Leviticus 19:34 But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt _____ him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

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12) What did Christ show in contrast to what He was seeing in the lawyer's heart?
Luke 10:33-35 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and _____ up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took _____ of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I _____ _____, I will repay thee.

He did not question whether the stranger was a Jew or a Gentile. If a Jew, the Samaritan well knew that, were their condition reversed, the man would spit in his face and pass him by with contempt. But he did not hesitate on account of this. He did not consider that he himself might be in danger of violence by tarrying in the place. It was enough that there was before him a human being in need and suffering.

13) Jesus looked into that Lawyer's eyes and what did He ask?
Luke 10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was _____ unto him that fell among the thieves?
14) How did the Lawyer reply?
Luke 10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou _____.
15) What command did Jesus give us?
John 13:34 A new _____ I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

In the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus gave a picture of Himself and His mission. Man had been deceived, bruised, robbed, and ruined by Satan, and left to perish; but the Saviour had compassion on our helpless condition. He left His glory, to come to our rescue. He found us ready to die, and He undertook our case. He healed our wounds. He covered us with His robe of righteousness. He opened to us a refuge of safety and made complete provision for us at His own charges. He died to redeem us.

16) What did Jesus tell the Lawyer?
Luke 10:37 … Go, and do thou _____.
17) What lesson did John learn and teach later?
1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to _____, even as he walked.

Many who profess His name have lost sight of the fact that Christians are to represent Christ. Unless there is practical self-sacrifice for the good of others, in the family circle, in the neighborhood, in the church, and wherever we may be, then whatever our profession, we are not Christians.

18) What was one of the directions given to His Disciples?
Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have _____, freely give.

Sin is the greatest of all evils, and it is ours to pity and help the sinner. There are many who err, and who feel their shame and their folly. They are hungry for words of encouragement. They look upon their mistakes and errors, until they are driven almost to desperation. These souls we are not to neglect.

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19) What did Paul have to say about it?
Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, _____ such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. _____ ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

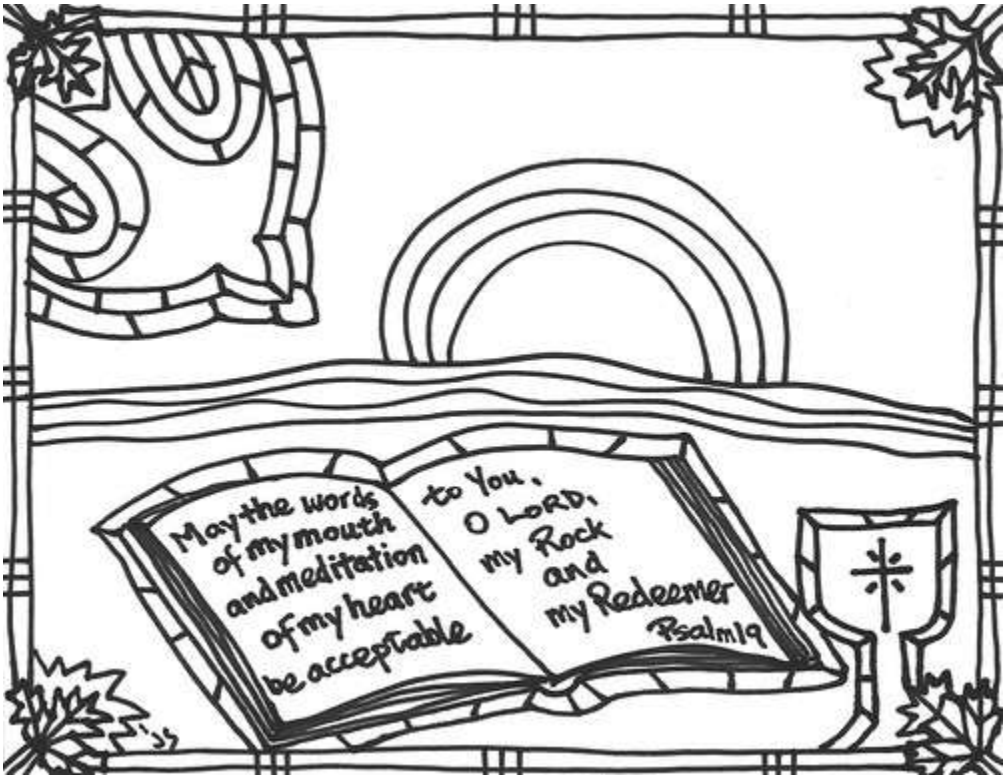
Speak words of faith and courage that will be as a healing balsam to the bruised and wounded one. Many, many, have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.

20) What reminder did the Apostle John give us later in his life?
1 John 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a _____: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his _____ also.

Can you see Jesus has the ability to peer into your soul?

Would you like to be more like Him?

When is the time to follow through with God's Plan?



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Lesson 46 – "One Thing Thou Lackest"

Based on Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23.

1) How does our lesson begin today?
   Matthew 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I _____, that I may have eternal life?
2) What had just happened previously?
   Matthew 19:13-14 Then were there brought unto him little _____, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of _____.

The young man who asked this question was a ruler. He had great possessions and occupied a position of responsibility. He saw the love that Christ manifested toward the children brought to Him; he saw how tenderly He received them, and took them up in His arms, and his heart kindled with love for the Saviour. He felt a desire to be His disciple.

3) What was Jesus' reply to the young man?
   Matthew 19:17-19 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me _____? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the _____. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as _____.

This ruler had a high estimate of his own righteousness. He did not really suppose that he was defective in anything, yet he was not altogether satisfied. He felt the want of something that he did not possess. Could not Jesus bless him as He blessed the little children, and satisfy his soul want?

4) How did the young man reply?
   Matthew 19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what _____ I yet?

Christ looked into the face of the young man, as if reading his life and searching his character. He loved him, and He hungered to give him that peace and grace and joy which would materially change his character.

Jesus saw in this ruler just the help He needed if the young man would become a co-laborer with Him in the work of salvation. If he would place himself under Christ's guidance, he would be a power for good. In a marked degree the ruler could have represented Christ; for he possessed qualifications, which, if he were united with the Saviour, would enable him to become a divine force among men.

5) What was Jesus' Reply?
   Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have _____ in heaven: and come and follow me.

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Christ read the ruler's heart. Only one thing he lacked, but that was a vital principle. He needed the love of God in the soul. This lack, unless supplied, would prove fatal to him; his whole nature would become corrupted. By indulgence, selfishness would strengthen. That he might receive the love of God; his supreme love of self must be surrendered.

The very holiness of God was offered to the young ruler. He had the privilege of becoming a son of God, and a coheir with Christ to the heavenly treasure. But he must take up the cross and follow the Saviour in the path of self-denial.

6) What challenge did Joshua give to the Children of Israel at the end of his life?
Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my _____, we will serve the LORD.

The choice was left with the Young Ruler. Jesus was yearning for his conversion. He had shown him the plague spot in his character, and with what deep interest He watched the issue as the young man weighed the question! If he decided to follow Christ, he must obey His words in everything. He must turn from his ambitious projects.

7) What choice did the young man make?
Matthew 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away _____: for he had great possessions.

He wanted the heavenly treasure, but he wanted also the temporal advantages his riches would bring him. He was sorry that such conditions existed; he desired eternal life, but he was not willing to make the sacrifice. The cost of eternal life seemed too great, and he went away sorrowfully.

His claim that he had kept the law of God was a deception. He showed that riches were his idol. He could not keep the commandments of God while the world was first in his affections. He loved the gifts of God more than he loved the Giver.

Thousands are passing through this ordeal, weighing Christ against the world; and many choose the world. Like the young ruler, they turn from the Saviour, saying in their hearts, I will not have this Man as my leader.

8) What did Jesus do next?
Matthew 19:23-24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the _____ of _____. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the _____ of a _____, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

There are different interpretations on what Jesus meant. Some attribute the Camel being a mistranslation that should read "rope". Others have said that there was a needle gate at Jerusalem that was small and when the traders came to the city with their camels laden down with wares, they had to unload their camel, squeeze them through, then bring in the supplies one at a time and reload the camel. The bigger point shouldn't be lost though, the only thing that we'll take to Heaven with us is our character and the blessings he gives us are meant to be shared.

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9) How did the Disciples respond?
Matthew 19:25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be _____?
10) What was Jesus' response to their question?
Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are _____.
11) What promise did Jesus make to the Disciples and us?
Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit _____ _____.
12) In a parable, Jesus gave us Words of hope, what are they?
Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, _____ and _____ servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

The joy of seeing souls redeemed, souls eternally saved, is the reward of all that put their feet in the footprints of Jesus.

The ruler's possessions were entrusted to him that he might prove himself a faithful steward; he was to dispense these goods for the blessing of those in need. So, God now entrusts men with means, with talents and opportunities, that they may be His agents in helping the poor and the suffering. He who uses his entrusted gifts as God designs becomes a co-worker with the Saviour. He wins souls to Christ, because he is a representative of His character.

13) What call did he make to His Disciples and to us now?
Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, _____ me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Can you see Jesus has the ability to peer into your soul?

Is there anything that is blocking your progress toward Him?

When is the time to lay that aside?

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Lesson 47 – "Lazarus, Come Forth!"

Based on Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44.

1) How does our lesson begin today?
Luke 10:38-39 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named _____ received him into her house. And she had a sister called _____, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

At the home of Lazarus, Jesus had often found rest. The Saviour had no home of His own; He was dependent on the hospitality of His friends and disciples, and often, when weary, thirsting for human fellowship, He had been glad to escape to this peaceful household, away from the suspicion and jealousy of the angry Pharisees. Here He found a sincere welcome, and pure, holy friendship. Here He could speak with simplicity and perfect freedom, knowing that His words would be understood and treasured.

In the home at Bethany Christ found rest from the weary conflict of public life. Here He opened to an appreciative audience the volume of Providence. In these private interviews He unfolded to His hearers that which He did not attempt to tell to the mixed multitude. He needed not to speak to His friends in parables.

2) Martha was getting perturbed during Jesus' visit, why?
Luke 10:40 But Martha was cumbered about much _____, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

This was the time of Christ's first visit to Bethany. The Saviour and His disciples had just made the toilsome journey on foot from Jericho. Martha was anxious to provide for their comfort, and in her anxiety, she forgot the courtesy due to her Guest.

3) How did Jesus reply to her request?
Luke 10:41-42 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and _____ about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that _____ part, which shall not be taken away from her.

The ***"one thing"*** that Martha needed was a calm, devotional spirit, a deeper anxiety for knowledge concerning the future, immortal life, and the graces necessary for spiritual advancement. She needed less anxiety for the things which pass away, and more for those things which endure forever. Jesus would teach His children to seize every opportunity of gaining that knowledge which will make them wise unto salvation.

There is a wide field for the Marthas, with their zeal in active religious work. But let them first sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus. Let diligence, promptness, and energy be sanctified by the grace of Christ; then the life will be an unconquerable power for good.

4) What happened some time later, that they would reach out to Jesus and seek Him?
John 11:1-3 Now a certain man was sick, named _____, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her _____, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is _____.

Anxiously they waited for a word from Jesus. As long as the spark of life was yet alive in their brother, they prayed and watched for Jesus to come. But the messenger returned without Him.

5) What did He tell everyone when He heard this news?
John 11:4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto _____, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

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When Christ heard the message, the disciples thought He received it coldly. He did not manifest the sorrow they expected Him to show.

6) What does the Bible say about how Jesus felt about these believers?
John 11:5 Now Jesus _____ Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.
7) After two days of waiting, what did Jesus tell His Disciples?
John 11:7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into _____ again.
8) The Disciples laid another question on Jesus, what was it?
John 11:8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to _____ thee; and goest thou thither again?

The disciples questioned why, if Jesus were going to Judea, He had waited two days. But anxiety for Christ and for themselves was now uppermost in their minds. They could see nothing but danger in the course He was about to pursue.

9) What did Jesus reply with?
John 11:9-10 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve _____ in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man _____ in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

He who does the will of God, who walks in the path that God has marked out, cannot stumble and fall. The light of God's guiding Spirit gives him a clear perception of his duty and leads him aright till the close of his work. He who walks in a path of his own choosing, where God has not called him, will stumble. For him day is turned into night, and wherever he may be, he is not secure.

10) What did John record Jesus saying next?
John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus _____; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.
11) Did the Disciples understand?
John 11:12-13 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do _____. Howbeit Jesus spake of his _____: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.
12) What cryptic thing did Jesus tell them?
John 11:14-15 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is _____. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may _____; nevertheless let us go unto him.

How touching the words! How full of sympathy! In the thought of the peril their Master was about to incur by going to Jerusalem, the disciples had almost forgotten the bereaved family at Bethany. But not so Christ. The disciples felt rebuked. They had been disappointed because Christ did not respond more promptly to the message. They had been tempted to think that He had not the tender love for Lazarus and his sisters that they had thought He had, or He would have hastened back with the messenger.

13) What did Thomas have to say about it?
John 11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may _____ with him.

Thomas could see nothing but death in store for his Master if he went to Judea; but he girded up his spirit, and said to the other disciples***, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."*** He knew the hatred of the Jews toward Christ. It was their purpose to compass His death, but this purpose had not succeeded, because some of His allotted time still remained. During this time Jesus had the guardianship of heavenly angels; and even in the regions of Judea, where the rabbis were plotting how they might take Him and put Him to death, no harm could come to Him.

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14) Why did Jesus wait for so long?
John 11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may _____; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Had Christ been in the sickroom, Lazarus would not have died; for Satan would have had no power over him. Death could not have aimed his dart at Lazarus in the presence of the Life-giver. Therefore, Christ remained away. He suffered the enemy to exercise his power, that He might drive him back, a conquered foe. He permitted Lazarus to pass under the dominion of death; and the suffering sisters saw their brother laid in the grave. Christ knew that as they looked on the dead face of their brother their faith in their Redeemer would be severely tried. But He knew that because of the struggle through which they were now passing their faith would shine forth with far greater power. He suffered every pang of sorrow that they endured. He loved them no less because He tarried; but He knew that for them, for Lazarus, for Himself, and for His disciples, a victory was to be gained.

This crowning miracle, the raising of Lazarus, was to set the seal of God on His work and on His claim to divinity.

15) What scene did Jesus meet in Bethany?
John 11:17-19 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the _____ four days already. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to _____ them concerning their brother.
16) How does Scripture say how the Sisters found out Jesus was there?
John 11:20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but _____ sat still in the house.

The great outward display observed by the Jews at the death of friends or relatives was not in harmony with the spirit of Christ. He heard the sound of wailing from the hired mourners, and He did not wish to meet the sisters in the scene of confusion. Among the mourning friends were relatives of the family, some of whom held high positions of responsibility in Jerusalem. Among these were some of Christ's bitterest enemies. Christ knew their purposes, and therefore He did not at once make Himself known.

The message was given to Martha so quietly that others in the room did not hear. Absorbed in her grief, Mary did not hear the words. Rising at once, Martha went out to meet her Lord, but thinking that she had gone to the place where Lazarus was buried, Mary sat still in her sorrow, making no outcry.

17) What did Martha tell Jesus?
John 11:21-22 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not _____. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt _____ of God, God will give it thee.
18) How did Jesus encourage her?
John 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall _____ again.
19) Did she understand what He was about to do?
John 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the _____ day.
20) Still seeking to give direction to her faith, what did Jesus say?
John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the _____, and the _____: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never _____. Believest thou this?

Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death. The miracle which Christ was about to perform, in raising Lazarus from the dead, would represent the resurrection of all the righteous dead. By His Word and His works, He declared Himself the Author of the resurrection

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21) What did Martha do?
John 11:27-28 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I _____ that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. And when she had so said, she went her way, and _____ Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

On hearing the message, Mary rose hastily, and with an eager look on her face left the room. Thinking that she had gone to the grave to weep, the mourners followed her. When she reached the place where Jesus was waiting, she knelt at His feet, and said with quivering lips, ***"Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."***

22) How did Jesus react to the cacophony of noise around the tomb?
John 11:38 Jesus therefore again _____ in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.
23) What happened next?
John 11:39-40 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he _____: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest _____ the glory of God?

This statement, made before the raising of Lazarus, left no room for Christ's enemies to say that a deception had been practiced. In the past the Pharisees had circulated false statements regarding the most wonderful manifestations of the power of God.

24) What did Jesus do?
John 11:41-42 Then they took away the _____ from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast _____ _____.

Christ could have commanded the stone to remove, and it would have obeyed His voice. He could have bidden the angels who were close by His side to do this. At His bidding, invisible hands would have removed the stone. But it was to be taken away by human hands. Thus, Christ would show that humanity is to co-operate with divinity. What human power can do divine power is not summoned to do. God does not dispense with man's aid. He strengthens him, co-operating with him as he uses the powers and capabilities given him.

25) What did Christ do next?
John 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, _____, _____ _____.

His voice, clear and penetrating, pierces the ear of the dead. As He speaks, divinity flashes through humanity. In His face, which is lighted up by the glory of God, the people see the assurance of His power. Every eye is fastened on the entrance to the cave. Every ear is bent to catch the slightest sound. With intense and painful interest all wait for the test of Christ's divinity, the evidence that is to substantiate His claim to be the Son of God, or to extinguish the hope forever.

26) What happened?
John 11:44 And he that was _____ came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Lazarus is set free, and stands before the company, not as one emaciated from disease, and with feeble, tottering limbs, but as a man in the prime of life, and in the vigor of a noble manhood. His eyes beam with intelligence and with love for his Saviour. He casts himself in adoration at the feet of Jesus.

The beholders are at first speechless with amazement. Then there follows an inexpressible scene of rejoicing and thanksgiving. The sisters receive their brother back to life as the gift of God, and with joyful tears they brokenly express their thanks to the Saviour. But while brother, sisters, and friends are rejoicing in this reunion, Jesus withdraws from the scene. When they look for the Life-giver, He is not to be found.

Can you see Jesus has the power over death? Is there anything that is blocking your faith in Him?

When is the time to lay that aside?

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Lesson 48 – The Law of the New Kingdom

Based on Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:32-45; Luke 18:31-34.

1) Immediately after Lazarus was raised from the dead, what happened?
   John 11:47-48 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many _____. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the _____ shall come and take away both our place and nation.
2) What did Caiphas the High Priest have to say about it?
   John 11:49-50 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the _____ _____ that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation _____ not.
3) What conclusion did the Sanhedrin come to?
   John 11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to _____.
4) What did Jesus do knowing their plottings?
   John 11:54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the _____; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

The time of the Passover was drawing near, and again Jesus turned toward Jerusalem.

5) How did the Disciples feel about it?
   Mark 10:32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were _____. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

In His heart was the peace of perfect oneness with the Father's will, and with eager steps He pressed on toward the place of sacrifice. But a sense of mystery, of doubt and fear, fell upon the disciples.

6) What did Jesus tell the Twelve?
   Luke 18:31-33 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to _____, and all things that are written by the _____ concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall _____ again.
7) How much of what He said was understood?
   Luke 18:34 And they understood _____ of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

Had they not just before proclaimed everywhere, ***"The kingdom of heaven is at hand"***? Had not Christ Himself promised that many should sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God? Had He not promised to all who had left aught for His sake a hundredfold in this life, and a part in His kingdom? And had He not given to the twelve the special promise of positions of high honor in His kingdom, to sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel? Even now He had said that all things written in the prophets concerning Him should be fulfilled. And had not the prophets foretold the glory of the Messiah's reign?

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In the light of these thoughts, His words about betrayal, persecution, and death seemed vague and shadowy. Whatever difficulties might intervene, they believed that the kingdom was soon to be established.

8) Along the way, what request did James' and John's mother make?
Matthew 20:20-21 Then came to him the _____ of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy _____ hand, and the other on the _____, in thy kingdom.

John and his brother James had been among the first group who had left all for His service. Gladly they had forsaken home and friends that they might be with Him; they had walked and talked with Him; they had been with Him in the privacy of the home, and in the public assemblies. Jesus had quieted their fears, delivered them from danger, relieved their sufferings, comforted their grief, and with patience and tenderness had taught them, till their hearts seemed linked with His, and in the ardor of their love they longed to be nearest to Him in His kingdom.

Their mother was a follower of Christ and had ministered to Him freely of her substance. With a mother's love and ambition for her sons, she coveted for them the most honored place in the new kingdom. For this she encouraged them to make request.

9) How did Jesus reply to the request?
Mark 10:38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye _____ of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

Jesus bears tenderly with them, not rebuking their selfishness in seeking preference above their brethren. He reads their hearts; He knows the depth of their attachment to Him. Their love is not a mere human affection; though defiled by the earthliness of its human channel, it is an outflowing from the fountain of His own redeeming love. He will not rebuke but deepen and purify.

10) What was their reply to Him?
Mark 10:39 And they said unto him, _____ _____. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

before Jesus was a cross instead of a throne, two malefactors His companions at His right hand and His left. John and James were to share with their Master in suffering; the one, first of the brethren to perish with the sword; the other, longest of all to endure toil, and reproach, and persecution.

11) What did Jesus add to His reply?
Matthew 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my _____, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not _____ to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

In the kingdom of God, position is not gained through favoritism. It is not earned, nor is it received through an arbitrary bestowal. It is the result of character. The crown and the throne are the tokens of a condition attained; they are the tokens of self-conquest through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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12) What promise did Jesus make to the church?
Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his _____.
Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the _____ of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.
13) What did Paul tell Timothy in his final letter to him?
2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my _____ is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my _____, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that _____ his appearing.

The one who stands nearest to Christ will be he who on earth has drunk most deeply of the spirit of His self-sacrificing love.

14) What else did Paul have to say about it?
1 Corinthians 13:4-5 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not _____ up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no _____;
15) Were the other ten Disciples happy with John and James?
Matthew 20:24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with _____ against the two brethren.
16) What did Jesus say to stop the jealousy among the Disciples?
Matthew 20:25-26 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise _____ over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall _____ _____ _____ among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;
17) What did He add to that?
Matthew 20:27-28 And whosoever will be _____ among you, let him be your _____: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
18) Why does God give us blessings?
2 Corinthians 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the _____ of _____.

Redound: To Contribute greatly

In the kingdoms of the world, position meant self-aggrandizement. The people were supposed to exist for the benefit of the ruling classes. Influence, wealth, education, were so many means of gaining control of the masses for the use of the leaders. The higher classes were to think, decide, enjoy, and rule; the lower were to obey and serve. Religion, like all things else, was a matter of authority. The people were expected to believe and practice as their superiors directed. The right of man as man, to think and act for himself, was wholly unrecognized.

Christ was establishing a kingdom on different principles. He called men, not to authority, but to service, the strong to bear the infirmities of the weak. Power, position, talent, education, placed their possessor under the greater obligation to serve his fellows.

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19) What did Jesus have to say about that?
Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to give his life a _____ for many.

Among His disciples Christ was in every sense a caretaker, a burden bearer. He shared their poverty, He practiced self-denial on their account, He went before them to smooth the more difficult places, and soon He would consummate His work on earth by laying down His life. The principle on which Christ acted is to actuate the members of the church which is His body. The plan and ground of salvation is love. In the kingdom of Christ those are greatest who follow the example He has given, and act as shepherds of His flock.

20) What did Paul tell the believers in Corinth?
1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might _____ the _____.
21) What did John say?
1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to _____ _____ our lives for the brethren.

This was the spirit that pervaded the early church. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, ***"the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own." "Neither was there any among them that lacked." "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."***

Can you see Jesus' plans are bigger than ours?

Would you rather have the place of God's own choosing?

When is the time to put Him first?

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Lesson 49 – Zacchaeus

Based on Luke 19:1-10.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
Luke 19:1 And Jesus entered and passed through _____.

A few miles from the Jordan, on the western edge of the valley that here spread out into a plain, the city lay in the midst of tropic verdure and luxuriance of beauty. With its palm trees and rich gardens watered by living springs, it gleamed like an emerald in the setting of limestone hills and desolate ravines that interposed between Jerusalem and the city of the plain.

Many caravans on their way to the feast passed through Jericho. Their arrival was always a festive season, but now a deeper interest stirred the people. It was known that the Galilean Rabbi who had so lately brought Lazarus to life was in the throng; and though whispers were rife as to the plottings of the priests, the multitudes were eager to do Him homage.

2) Who came out to see the Galilean Rabbi?
Luke 19:2 And, behold, there was a man named _____, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

Zacchaeus was a Jew and detested by his countrymen. His rank and wealth were the reward of a calling they abhorred, and which was regarded as another name for injustice and extortion. Yet the wealthy customs officer was not altogether the hardened man of the world that he seemed. Beneath the appearance of worldliness and pride was a heart susceptible to divine influences.

3) What had Zacchaeus heard previously from John the Baptist?
Luke 3:13 And he said unto them, _____ no more than that which is appointed you.

Only a few miles from Jericho, John the Baptist had preached at the Jordan, and Zacchaeus had heard of the call to repentance. The instruction to the publicans, though outwardly disregarded, had impressed his mind. He knew the Scriptures and was convicted that his practice was wrong. Now, hearing the words reported to have come from the Great Teacher, he felt that he was a sinner in the sight of God. Yet what he had heard of Jesus kindled hope in his heart. Repentance, reformation of life, was possible, even to him; was not one of the new Teacher's most trusted disciples a publican? Zacchaeus began at once to follow the conviction that had taken hold upon him, and to make restitution to those whom he had wronged.

4) What did he do when Jesus was nearby?
Luke 19:3-4 And he sought to see _____ who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a _____ tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

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The streets were crowded, and Zacchaeus, who was small of stature, could see nothing over the heads of the people. None would give way for him; so, running a little in advance of the multitude, to where a wide-branching fig tree hung over the way, the rich tax collector climbed to a seat among the boughs, whence he could survey the procession as it passed below. The crowd comes near, it is going by, and Zacchaeus scans with eager eyes to discern the one figure he longs to see.

5) Did Jesus notice him?
   Luke 19:5 And when Jesus came to the place, he _____ _____, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

Above the clamor of priests and rabbis and the shouts of welcome from the multitude, that unuttered desire of the chief publican spoke to the heart of Jesus. Suddenly, just beneath the fig tree, a group halts, the company before and behind come to a standstill, and One looks upward whose glance seems to read the soul. Almost doubting his senses, the man in the tree hears the words of Christ.

6) Did he take Him to his house?
   Luke 19:6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him _____.
7) What did the wondering crowd think about what they saw and heard?
   Luke 19:7 And when they saw it, they all _____, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

The multitude give way, and Zacchaeus, walking as in a dream, leads the way toward his own home. But the rabbis look on with scowling faces, and murmur in discontent and scorn.

8) What did Zacchaeus tell Jesus with a heart filled with joy?
   Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him _____.

Zacchaeus had been overwhelmed, amazed, and silenced at the love and condescension of Christ in stooping to him, so unworthy. Now love and loyalty to his new-found Master unseal his lips. He will make public his confession and his repentance.

9) Was Jesus pleased with him?
   Luke 19:9-10 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to _____ and to _____ that which was lost.
10) For who's benefit did Jesus say this?
    _____
11) What previous lesson flashed through the minds of the Disciples?
    a) **Mark 10:24-26** (Speaking of the Rich Young Ruler) And the disciples were _____ at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a _____ to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among _____, Who then can be saved?

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b) Luke 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are _____ with God.

Before Zacchaeus had looked upon the face of Christ, he had begun the work that made him manifest as a true penitent. Before being accused by man, he had confessed his sin. He had yielded to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and had begun to carry out the teaching of the words written for ancient Israel as well as for ourselves.

12) How were the Children of Israel to treat one another?
Leviticus 25:35-37 And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt _____ him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no _____ of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy _____ for increase.
Leviticus 25:17 Ye _____ _____ therefore _____ one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God.

Among the publicans there was a confederacy, so that they could oppress the people, and sustain one another in their fraudulent practices. In their extortion they were but carrying out what had become an almost universal custom. Even the priests and rabbis who despised them were guilty of enriching themselves by dishonest practices under cover of their sacred calling. But no sooner did Zacchaeus yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit than he cast aside every practice contrary to integrity.

No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.

13) What odd thing did Zechariah say about the end times?
Zechariah 14:20-21 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, _____ UNTO THE _____; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every _____ in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

The Christian in his business life is to represent to the world the manner in which our Lord would conduct business enterprises. In every transaction he is to make it manifest that God is his teacher.

14) What promise did God give to humanity through Ezekiel?
Ezekiel 33:15-16 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the _____ of _____, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. _____ of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely _____.

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Those who profess to be followers of Christ, and who deal in an unrighteous manner, are bearing false witness against the character of a holy, just, and merciful God. Every converted soul will, like Zacchaeus, signalize the entrance of Christ into his heart by an abandonment of the unrighteous practices that have marked his life.

15) What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus?
Luke 19:9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is _____ come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

Not only was Zacchaeus himself blessed, but all his household with him. Christ went to his home to give him lessons of truth, and to instruct his household in the things of the kingdom. They had been shut out from the synagogues by the contempt of rabbis and worshipers; but now, the most favored household in all Jericho, they gathered in their own home about the divine Teacher, and heard for themselves the words of life.

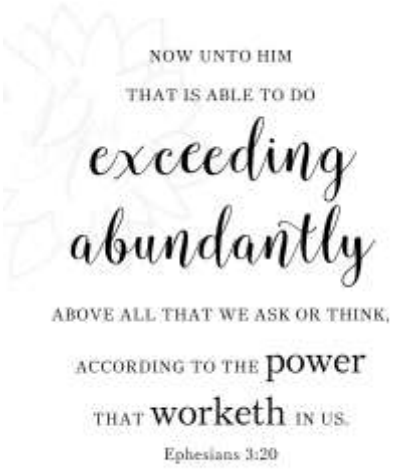
16) What did Paul tell the believers in Galatia (and us)?
Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of _____, the same are the children of Abraham.

It is when Christ is received as a personal Saviour that salvation comes to the soul. Zacchaeus had received Jesus, not merely as a passing guest in his home, but as One to abide in the soul temple. The scribes and Pharisees accused him as a sinner, they murmured against Christ for becoming his guest, but the Lord recognized him as a son of Abraham.

Can you see Jesus longs to come into your heart?

Would you like peace from this wicked world?

When is the time to reach out in faith?



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Lesson 50 – The Feast at Simon's House

Based on Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-11; Luke 7:36-50; John 11:55-57; John 12:1-11.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
John 12:1 Then Jesus six days before the _____ came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

Jesus had made his final push to go to Jerusalem and to the Passover where He would make Himself the Sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. He stopped in Bethany at the house of Lazarus to stay as was His custom when He was in the area.

The crowds of travelers who passed on to the city spread the tidings that He was on His way to Jerusalem, and that He would rest over the Sabbath at Bethany. Among the people there was great enthusiasm. Many flocked to Bethany, some out of sympathy with Jesus, and others from curiosity to see one who had been raised from the dead.

2) What did Lazarus have to say about the time he was dead?
Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know _____ _____ thing…

Many expected to hear from Lazarus a wonderful account of scenes witnessed after death. They were surprised that he told them nothing. He had nothing of this kind to tell.

Lazarus did have a wonderful testimony to bear in regard to the work of Christ. He had been raised from the dead for this purpose. With assurance and power, he declared that Jesus was the Son of God.

3) What were the religious leaders doing in Jerusalem at the time?
Matthew 26:3-5 Then assembled together the chief _____, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called _____, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an _____ among the people.
4) What was the word on the street about Jesus?
John 11:56-57 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the _____, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should _____ it, that they might take him.

Since the raising of Lazarus, the sympathies of the people were so fully with Christ that it would be dangerous to seize upon Him openly. So, the authorities determined to take Him secretly and carry on the trial as quietly as possible. They hoped that when His condemnation became known, the fickle tide of public opinion would set in their favor.

Thus, they proposed to destroy Jesus. But so long as Lazarus lived, the priests and rabbis knew that they were not secure. The very existence of a man who had been four days in the grave, and who had been restored by a word from Jesus, would sooner or later cause a reaction. The people would be avenged on their leaders for taking the life of One who could perform such a miracle. The Sanhedrin therefore decided that Lazarus also must die.

5) Where was Jesus just a few days before Palm Sunday?
Mathew 26:6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of _____ the leper,

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6) What was Simon's affiliation?
Luke 7:36 And one of the _____ desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

7) Who else was there?
John 12:2 There they made him a supper; and _____ served: but _____ was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Jesus and His friends were invited to Simon's feast. At the table, the Saviour sat with Simon, whom He had cured of a loathsome disease, on one side, and Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, on the other. Martha served at the table, but Mary was earnestly listening to every word from the lips of Jesus. In His mercy, Jesus had pardoned her sins, He had called forth her beloved brother from the grave, and Mary's heart was filled with gratitude.

8) What did Mary do?
Luke 7:37-38 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's _____, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his _____ with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

She had heard Jesus speak of His approaching death, and in her deep love and sorrow she had longed to show Him honor. At great personal sacrifice she had purchased an alabaster box of ***"ointment of spikenard, very costly,"*** with which to anoint His body. But now many were declaring that He was about to be crowned king. Her grief was turned to joy, and she was eager to be first in honoring her Lord. Breaking her box of ointment, she poured its contents upon the head and feet of Jesus; then, as she knelt weeping, moistening them with her tears, she wiped His feet with her long, flowing hair.

9) What did Judas and the Disciples have to say about it?
John 12:4-6 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should _____ him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a _____, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

10) What did Simon the Leper have to say about it?
Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what _____ of _____ this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Mary heard the words of criticism. Her heart trembled within her. She feared that her sister would reproach her for extravagance. The Master, too, might think her improvident. Without apology or excuse she was about to shrink away, when the voice of her Lord was heard…

Improvident: not having or showing foresight; spendthrift or thoughtless

11) What did Jesus say?
Matthew 26:10-13 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why _____ ye the woman? for she hath wrought a _____ work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my _____. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a _____ of her.

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The fragrant gift which Mary had thought to lavish upon the dead body of the Saviour she poured upon His living form. At the burial its sweetness could only have pervaded the tomb; now it gladdened His heart with the assurance of her faith and love. Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus offered not their gift of love to Jesus in His life. With bitter tears they brought their costly spices for His cold, unconscious form.

As Jesus went down into the darkness of His great trial, He carried with Him the memory of that deed, an earnest of the love that would be His from His redeemed ones forever.

12) How was Christ's love symbolized in the alabaster box?
Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an _____ and a _____ to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

As the alabaster box was broken, and filled the whole house with its fragrance, so Christ was to die, His body was to be broken; but He was to rise from the tomb, and the fragrance of His life was to fill the earth.

Kingdoms would rise and fall; the names of monarchs and conquerors would be forgotten; but this woman's deed would be immortalized upon the pages of sacred history. Until time should be no more, that broken alabaster box would tell the story of the abundant love of God for a fallen race.

13) What did Judas do just as soon as he had opportunity?
Mark 14:10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to _____ him unto them.

The look which Jesus cast upon Judas convinced him that the Saviour penetrated his hypocrisy, and read his base, contemptible character. And in commending Mary's action, which had been so severely condemned, Christ had rebuked Judas. Prior to this, the Saviour had never given him a direct rebuke. Now the reproof rankled in his heart. He determined to be revenged.

14) What was running through Simon the Pharisee's heart?
Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a _____, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a _____.

By curing Simon of leprosy, Christ had saved him from a living death. But now Simon questioned whether the Saviour were a prophet. Because Christ allowed this woman to approach Him, because He did not indignantly spurn her as one whose sins were too great to be forgiven.

15) How did Jesus reply to Simon's ***UNSPOKEN*** question?
Luke 7:40-42 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to _____ unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly _____ them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?
16) How did Simon reply?
Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave _____. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

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He threw upon His host the burden of pronouncing sentence upon himself. Simon had led into sin the woman he now despised. She had been deeply wronged by him. By the two debtors of the parable, Simon and the woman were represented. Jesus did not design to teach that different degrees of obligation should be felt by the two persons, for each owed a debt of gratitude that never could be repaid.

17) What did Jesus follow up with?
Luke 7:44-46 And he turned to the _____, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no _____ for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no _____: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with _____ thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Simon now began to see himself in a new light. He saw how Mary was regarded by One who was more than a prophet. He saw that with keen prophetic eye Christ read her heart of love and devotion. Shame seized upon him, and he realized that he was in the presence of One superior to himself.

18) What were Jesus' final words about all this?
Luke 7:47-48 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are _____; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same _____ little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Simon was touched by the kindness of Jesus in not openly rebuking him before the guests. He had not been treated as he desired Mary to be treated. He saw that Jesus did not wish to expose his guilt to others but sought by a true statement of the case to convince his mind, and by pitying kindness to subdue his heart.

He saw the magnitude of the debt which he owed his Lord. His pride was humbled, he repented, and the proud Pharisee became a lowly, self-sacrificing disciple.

When to human eyes Mary's case appeared hopeless, Christ saw in her capabilities for good. He saw the better traits of her character. The plan of redemption has invested humanity with great possibilities, and in Mary these possibilities were to be realized. Through His grace she became a partaker of the divine nature. The one who had fallen, and whose mind had been a habitation of demons, was brought very near to the Saviour in fellowship and ministry. It was Mary who sat at His feet and learned of Him. It was Mary who poured upon His head the precious anointing oil and bathed His feet with her tears. Mary stood beside the cross and followed Him to the sepulcher. Mary was first at the tomb after His resurrection. It was Mary who first proclaimed a risen Saviour.

19) What will your judgement look like if you give all to the Saviour?
Romans 8:33-34 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that _____. Who is he that _____? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh _____ for us.

Can you see Jesus cares? **Would you like to be among the redeemed?**

When is the time for eternity to start?

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Lesson 51 – "Thy King Cometh"

Based on Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   John 12:12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to _____,

The Passover was at hand. Jesus had just finished a long circuitous journey from Galilee revisiting the places He had formerly preached to Good News. This would be the Passover where he would render His life for the sins of the world. He would be the Lamb.

2) What had the prophet Zechariah prophesied previously?
   Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy _____ cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a _____ the foal of an ass.

Five hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Zechariah thus foretold the coming of the King to Israel. This prophecy is now to be fulfilled. He who has so long refused royal honors now comes to Jerusalem as the promised heir to David's throne.

It was on the first day of the week that Christ made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Multitudes who had flocked to see Him at Bethany now accompanied Him, eager to witness His reception. Many people were on their way to the city to keep the Passover, and these joined the multitude attending Jesus. All nature seemed to rejoice. The trees were clothed with verdure, and their blossoms shed a delicate fragrance on the air. A new life and joy animated the people. The hope of the new kingdom was again springing up.

3) What belongs to God?
   Psalms 50:10-12 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand _____. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the _____ is _____, and the fulness thereof.
4) What did Jesus ask two of His Disciples?
   Matthew 21:1-3 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to _____, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: _____ _____, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The _____ hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

Purposing to ride into Jerusalem, Jesus had sent two of His disciples to bring to Him an ass and its colt. At His birth the Saviour was dependent upon the hospitality of strangers. The manger in which He lay was a borrowed resting place. Now, although the cattle on a thousand hills are His, He is dependent on a stranger's kindness for an animal on which to enter Jerusalem as its King. But again His divinity is revealed, even in the minute directions given His disciples for this errand.

5) What did the Disciples do when they brought back the animals to Jesus?
   Luke 19:35 And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their _____ upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

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The disciples, with glad enthusiasm, spread their garments on the beast, and seated their Master upon it. Heretofore Jesus had always traveled on foot, and the disciples had at first wondered that He should now choose to ride. But hope brightened in their hearts with the joyous thought that He was about to enter the capital, proclaim Himself King, and assert His royal power.

No sooner was He seated upon the colt than a loud shout of triumph rent the air. The multitude hailed Him as Messiah, their King. Jesus now accepted the homage which He had never before permitted, and the disciples received this as proof that their glad hopes were to be realized by seeing Him established on the throne.

6) What did the happy throng do?
Mark 11:8-10 And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down _____ off the trees, and strawed them in the way. And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, _____; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the _____ of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

They could not display outward pomp and splendor, but they gave Him the worship of happy hearts. They were unable to present Him with costly gifts, but they spread their outer garments as a carpet in His path, and they also strewed the leafy branches of the olive and the palm in the way. They could lead the triumphal procession with no royal standards, but they cut down the spreading palm boughs, Nature's emblem of victory, and waved them aloft with loud acclamations and hosannas.

7) What did the people in Jerusalem have to say about it?
Matthew 21:10-11 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was _____, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the _____ of Nazareth of Galilee.

They had all heard of Jesus and expected Him to go to Jerusalem; but they knew that He had heretofore discouraged all effort to place Him on the throne, and they were greatly astonished to learn that this was He. They wondered what could have wrought this change in Him who had declared that His kingdom was not of this world.

And now the procession is joined by crowds from Jerusalem. From the multitudes gathered to attend the Passover, thousands go forth to welcome Jesus. They greet Him with the waving of palm branches and a burst of sacred song.

8) How did the rulers in Jerusalem feel about all the commotion?
John 12:19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is _____ _____ him.

The events connected with this triumphal ride would be the talk of every tongue and would bring Jesus before every mind. After His crucifixion, many would recall these events in their connection with His trial and death. They would be led to search the prophecies and would be convinced that Jesus was the Messiah; and in all lands converts to the faith would be multiplied.

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It would be needful for His church in all succeeding ages to make His death for the sins of the world a subject of deep thought and study. Every fact connected with it should be verified beyond a doubt. It was necessary, then, that the eyes of all people should now be directed to Him; the events which preceded His great sacrifice must be such as to call attention to the sacrifice itself.

9) What were the people proclaiming loudly?
Luke 19:37-38 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to _____ and _____ God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the _____ that cometh in the name of the Lord: _____ in heaven, and glory in the highest.
Matthew 21:9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the _____ of _____: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna: (especially in biblical, Judaic, and Christian use) used to express adoration, praise, or joy.

Never before had the world seen such a triumphal procession. It was not like that of the earth's famous conquerors. No train of mourning captives, as trophies of kingly valor, made a feature of that scene. But about the Saviour were the glorious trophies of His labors of love for sinful man. There were the captives whom He had rescued from Satan's power, praising God for their deliverance.

The blind whom He had restored to sight were leading the way. The dumb whose tongues He had loosed shouted the loudest hosannas. The cripples whom He had healed bounded with joy and were the most active in breaking the palm branches and waving them before the Saviour. Widows and orphans were exalting the name of Jesus for His works of mercy to them. The lepers whom He had cleansed spread their untainted garments in His path and hailed Him as the King of glory. Those whom His voice had awakened from the sleep of death were in that throng. **Lazarus, whose body had seen corruption in the grave, but who now rejoiced in the strength of glorious manhood, led the beast on which the Saviour rode.**

10) What did the Pharisees try to do to stop all of this?
Luke 19:39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, _____ thy disciples.

Many Pharisees witnessed the scene, and, burning with envy and malice, sought to turn the current of popular feeling. With all their authority they tried to silence the people; but their appeals and threats only increased the enthusiasm. They feared that this multitude, in the strength of their numbers, would make Jesus king.

11) What did Jesus tell them?
Luke 19:40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the _____ would immediately cry out.

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That scene of triumph was of God's own appointing. It had been foretold by the prophet, and man was powerless to turn aside God's purpose. Had men failed to carry out His plan, He would have given a voice to the inanimate stones, and they would have hailed His Son with acclamations of praise.

12) What were the multitudes proclaiming as the Pharisees slinked away?
Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O _____ of _____; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having _____; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

When the procession reached the brow of the hill, and was about to descend into the city, Jesus halted, and all the multitude with Him. Before them lay Jerusalem in its glory, now bathed in the light of the declining sun. The temple attracted all eyes. In stately grandeur it towered above all else, seeming to point toward heaven as if directing the people to the only true and living God.

13) What did Jesus do when He came to the edge of Jerusalem?
Luke 19:41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and _____ over it,

Jesus gazes upon the scene, and the vast multitude hush their shouts, spellbound by the sudden vision of beauty. All eyes turn upon the Saviour, expecting to see in His countenance the admiration they themselves feel. But instead of this they behold a cloud of sorrow. They are surprised and disappointed to see His eyes fill with tears, and His body rock to and fro like a tree before the tempest, while a wail of anguish bursts from His quivering lips, as if from the depths of a broken heart.

In the midst of a scene of rejoicing, where all were paying Him homage, Israel's King was in tears, not silent tears of gladness, but tears and groans of insuppressible agony. The multitude was struck with a sudden gloom. Their acclamations were silenced. Many wept in sympathy with a grief they could not comprehend.

14) Why was Jesus upset?
Luke 19:42-44 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are _____ from thine _____. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall _____ thee even with the _____, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one _____ upon _____; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

In that temple the prophets had uttered their solemn warnings. There had the burning censers waved, while incense, mingled with the prayers of the worshipers, had ascended to God. There the blood of beasts had flowed, typical of the blood of Christ. There Jehovah had manifested His glory above the mercy seat. There the priests had officiated, and the pomp of symbol and ceremony had gone on for ages. But all this must have an end.

Jesus knew the terrible retribution which would be visited upon the doomed city. He saw Jerusalem encompassed with armies, the besieged inhabitants driven to starvation and death, mothers feeding upon the dead bodies of their own children, and both parents and children snatching the last morsel of food from one another, natural affection being destroyed by the gnawing pangs of hunger. He saw that the stubbornness of the Jews, as evinced in their rejection of His salvation.

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15) What question did the Disciples and everyone ask about Jesus?
Matthew 8:27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the _____ and the _____ obey him!

16) What did God promise Adam?
Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt _____ his heel.

17) How was Christ typified with Abraham?
Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the _____ of the most high God.

18) What did Moses say about Jesus?
Genesis 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the _____ of the _____ be.

19) What did Isaiah say about Jesus?
Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name _____.
Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The _____ of _____.

Jeremiah will tell you, The Branch of David***, "the Lord our Righteousness." Jeremiah 23:6***. Daniel will tell you; He is the Messiah. Hosea will tell you, He is ***"the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is His memorial." Hosea 12:5***. John the Baptist will tell you, He ***is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.***

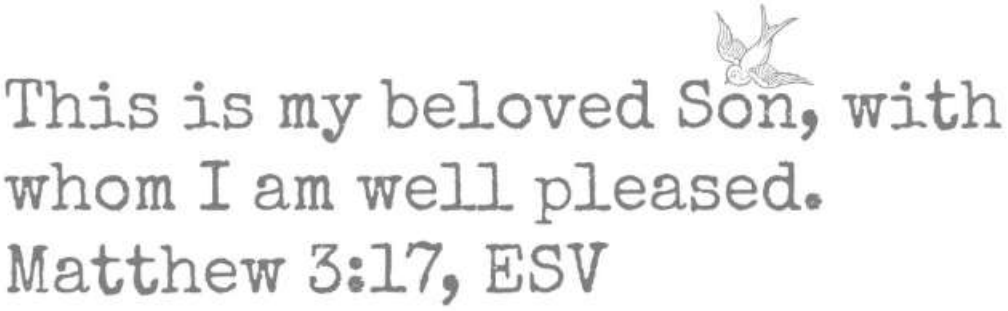
20) What does even Satan say about Jesus?
Mark 1:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the _____ _____ of _____.

The great Jehovah has proclaimed from His throne, "This is My beloved Son." Matthew 3:17.

Can you see Jesus saw you in His plans?

Would you like to be among the redeemed?

When is the time to proclaim Him King?



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Lesson 52 – A Doomed People

Based on Mark 11:11-14, 20, 21; Matthew 21:17-19.

It was the final week of Jesus' ministry here on Earth before the crucifixion. Jesus had just ridden into Jerusalem on the foal of an ass. A large scene that included the surrounding hillsides was growing strong.

1) What Messianic prophecies were being fulfilled?
   Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy _____ _____ unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.
   Psalms 118:26 _____ be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.
2) What prophecy did Jesus give the leaders in Jerusalem previously?
   Matthew 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not _____ me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
3) Zechariah saw Christ's victory in vision, what did he say about it?
   Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall _____ upon _____ whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

In prophetic vision Zechariah was shown that day of final triumph; and he beheld also the doom of those who at the first advent had rejected Christ.

This scene Christ foresaw when He beheld the city and wept over it. In the temporal ruin of Jerusalem, He saw the final destruction of that people who were guilty of the blood of the Son of God.

4) What did the Pharisees instruct Jesus?
   Luke 19:39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, _____ thy disciples.

There were Roman officers in the throng, and to them His enemies denounced Jesus as the leader of a rebellion. They represented that He was about to take possession of the temple, and reign as king in Jerusalem. But the calm voice of Jesus hushed for a moment the clamorous throng as He again declared that He had not come to establish a temporal rule; He should soon ascend to His Father, and His accusers would see Him no more until He should come again in glory. Then, too late for their salvation, they would acknowledge Him. These words Jesus spoke with sadness and with singular power. The Roman officers were silenced and subdued. Their hearts, though strangers to divine influence, were moved as they had never been moved before. In the calm, solemn face of Jesus they read love, benevolence, and quiet dignity. They were stirred by a sympathy they could not understand. Instead of arresting Jesus, they were more inclined to pay Him homage. Turning upon the priests and rulers, they charged them with creating the disturbance.

5) What happened from there?
   Mark 11:11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the _____: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto _____ with the twelve.

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That entire night Jesus spent in prayer, and in the morning, He came again to the temple.

6) What does Scripture record as happening the next day?
Mark 11:12-13 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was _____: And seeing a _____ tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

In the orchard to which Jesus came, one tree appeared to be in advance of all the others. It was already covered with leaves. It is the nature of the fig tree that before the leaves open, the growing fruit appears. Therefore, this tree in full leaf gave promise of well-developed fruit. But its appearance was deceptive. Upon searching its branches, from the lowest bough to the topmost twig, Jesus found "***nothing but leaves***." It was a mass of pretentious foliage, nothing more.

7) What did Jesus say to the tree?
Matthew 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found _____ thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree _____ away.

The next morning, as the Saviour and His disciples were again on their way to the city, the blasted branches and drooping leaves attracted their attention.

8) What did the Disciples say when they saw the withered tree?
Matthew 21:20 And when the disciples saw it, they _____, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!
9) What lessons about Messiah confused the Disciples?
Luke 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to _____ them…
Micah 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his _____ for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.
Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the _____; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?
Isaiah 28:11 For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

The cursing of the fig tree was an acted parable. That barren tree, flaunting its pretentious foliage in the very face of Christ, was a symbol of the Jewish nation. The Saviour desired to make plain to His disciples the cause and the certainty of Israel's doom. For this purpose, He invested the tree with moral qualities and made it the expositor of divine truth.

10) What was the condition of God's Church at that time?
Mark 11:13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but _____; for the time of figs was not yet.

The Jews stood forth distinct from all other nations, professing allegiance to God. They had been specially favored by Him, and they laid claim to righteousness above every other people. But they were corrupted by the love of the world and the greed of gain. They boasted of their knowledge, but they were

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ignorant of the requirements of God and were full of hypocrisy. Like the barren tree, they spread their pretentious branches aloft, luxuriant in appearance, and beautiful to the eye, but humility, love, and benevolence were lacking.

11) What prophetic words did Hosea say about Israel?
Hosea 13:9 O Israel, thou hast _____ thyself; but in me is thine help.

The warning is for all time. Christ's act in cursing the tree which His own power had created stands as a warning to all churches and to all Christians. No one can live the law of God without ministering to others.

12) What parable had Jesus taught previously about a fig tree?
Luke 13:6-9 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought _____ thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the _____ of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: _____ it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear _____, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

People observe the forms of worship, but without repentance or faith. In profession they honor the law of God, but obedience is lacking. They say, but do not. In the sentence pronounced on the fig tree Christ demonstrates how hateful in His eyes is this vain pretense. He declares that the open sinner is less guilty than is he who professes to serve God, but who bears no fruit to His glory.

Bible truth, the religion of Christ, struggles against a strong current of moral impurity. Prejudice is even stronger in the hearts of men now than in Christ's day. Christ did not fulfill men's expectations; His life was a rebuke to their sins, and they rejected Him. So now the truth of God's word does not harmonize with men's practices and their natural inclination, and thousands reject its light.

13) What was Jesus' lament as He beheld the city and wept?
Luke 19:42-44 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are _____ from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and _____ thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy _____.

Christ overlooked the world and all ages from the height of Olivet; and His words are applicable to every soul who slights the pleadings of divine mercy. Scorner of His love, He addresses you today. It is ***"thou, even thou,"*** who shouldest know the things that belong to thy peace. Christ is shedding bitter tears for you, who have no tears to shed for yourself. Already that fatal hardness of heart which destroyed the Pharisees is manifest in you. And every evidence of the grace of God, every ray of divine light, is either melting and subduing the soul, or confirming it in hopeless impenitence.

14) What words of warning did Jesus give Israel (and us)?
Jeremiah 6:19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the _____ of their _____, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.
15) What is Jesus saying to all who will listen?
Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy _____, and I will give you _____. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find _____ unto your _____. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is _____.

Can you see it isn't safe to ignore the Spirit's leading ? **Would you like to enter The Holy City?**

When is the time to listen to God's pleadings?

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Lesson 53 – The Temple Cleansed Again

Based on Matthew 21:12-16, 23-46; Mark 11:15-19, 27-33; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 19:45-48; Luke 20:1-19.

1) What had Jesus done at the 1st Passover after He was anointed?
John 2:14-16 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a _____ of small cords, he _____ them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of _____.

At the beginning of His ministry, Christ had driven from the temple those who defiled it by their unholy traffic; and His stern and godlike demeanor had struck terror to the hearts of the scheming traders.

2) What Samuel say under the direction of the Holy Spirit?
1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great _____ in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to _____ is better than _____, and to hearken than the fat of rams.
3) What did Isaiah have to say about it?
Isaiah 1:11,16-7 To what purpose is the multitude of your _____ unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats…Wash you, make you clean; put away the _____ of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do _____; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Jesus looked upon the innocent victims of sacrifice and saw how the Jews had made these great convocations scenes of bloodshed and cruelty. In place of humble repentance of sin, they had multiplied the sacrifice of beasts, as if God could be honored by a heartless service. The priests and rulers had hardened their hearts through selfishness and avarice. The very symbols pointing to the Lamb of God they had made a means of getting gain.

4) What did Jesus do in the last week before Calvary before the Passover?
Mark 11:15-16 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and _____ the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the _____.

Again, the piercing look of Jesus swept over the desecrated court of the temple. All eyes were turned toward Him. Priest and ruler, Pharisee and Gentile, looked with astonishment and awe upon Him who stood before them with the majesty of heaven's King. Divinity flashed through humanity, investing Christ with a dignity and glory He had never manifested before. Those standing nearest Him drew as far away as the crowd would permit. Except for a few of His disciples, the Saviour stood alone. Every sound was hushed. The deep silence seemed unbearable.

5) What did Jesus say to the onlooking crowd?
Luke 19:46 Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of _____: but ye have made it a den of _____.

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Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest. His voice sounded like a trumpet through the temple. The displeasure of His countenance seemed like consuming fire.

Three years before, the rulers of the temple had been ashamed of their flight before the command of Jesus. They had since wondered at their own fears, and their unquestioning obedience to a single humble Man. They had felt that it was impossible for their undignified surrender to be repeated. Yet they were now more terrified than before, and in greater haste to obey His command. There were none who dared question His authority.

6) What was the scene at the Temple like for a short time after?
Luke 19:47-48 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to _____ him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very _____ to hear him.

On the way from the temple, they were met by a throng who came with their sick inquiring for the Great Healer. The report given by the fleeing people caused some of these to turn back. They feared to meet One so powerful, whose very look had driven the priests and rulers from His presence. But a large number pressed through the hurrying crowd, eager to reach Him who was their only hope. When the multitude fled from the temple, many had remained behind. These were now joined by the newcomers. Again, the temple court was filled by the sick and the dying, and once more Jesus ministered to them.

7) What Scriptures were repeated as Jesus did His work?
Psalm 118:26 _____ be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.
Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy _____ cometh unto thee: he is just, and having _____; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

After a season the priests and rulers ventured back to the temple. When the panic had abated, they were seized with anxiety to know what would be the next movement of Jesus. They expected Him to take the throne of David. Quietly returning to the temple, they heard the voices of men, women, and children praising God. Upon entering, they stood transfixed before the wonderful scene. They saw the sick healed, the blind restored to sight, and deaf receive their hearing, and the crippled leap for joy. The children were foremost in the rejoicing.

8) What did the Priests and Rulers ask Jesus?
Matthew 21:15-16 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore _____, And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected _____?

Prophecy had foretold that Christ should be proclaimed as king, and that Word must be fulfilled. The priests and rulers of Israel refused to herald His glory, and God moved upon the children to be His witnesses. Had the voices of the children been silent, the very pillars of the temple would have sounded the Saviour's praise.

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9) What did the Chief Priest and the Scribes ask Jesus?
Luke 20:1-2 And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the _____, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders, And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what _____ doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

Three years before, they had demanded a sign of His Messiahship. Since that time, He had wrought mighty works throughout the land. He had healed the sick, miraculously fed thousands of people, walked upon the waves, and spoken peace to the troubled sea. He had repeatedly read the hearts of men as an open book; He had cast out demons and raised the dead. The rulers had before them the evidences of His Messiahship. They now decided to demand no sign of His authority, but to draw out some admission or declaration by which He might be condemned.

10) Did Jesus answer their question?
Luke 20:3-4 And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from _____, or of _____?

With intense interest the multitude awaited the decision. They knew that the priests had professed to accept the ministry of John, and they expected them to acknowledge without a question that he was sent from God.

11) What did they tell Jesus before the waiting crowd?
Luke 20:7 And they answered, that they _____ _____ tell whence it was.
12) How did Jesus reply to their cowardice?
Luke 20:8 And Jesus said unto them, Neither _____ _____ you by what authority I do these things.

Scribes, priests, and rulers were all silenced. Baffled and disappointed, they stood with lowering brows, not daring to press further questions upon Christ. By their cowardice and indecision, they had in a great measure forfeited the respect of the people, who now stood by, amused to see these proud, self-righteous men defeated.

The scene in the temple court was never to fade from their minds. The contrast between Jesus and the high priest as they talked together was marked. The proud dignitary of the temple was clothed in rich and costly garments. Upon his head was a glittering tiara. His bearing was majestic; his hair and his long flowing beard were silvered by age. His appearance awed the beholders. Before this august personage stood the Majesty of heaven, without adornment or display. His garments were travel stained; His face was pale and expressed a patient sadness; yet written there were dignity and benevolence that contrasted strangely with the proud, self-confident, and angry air of the high priest.

13) How did Jesus follow up with this confrontation?
Matthew 21:28-30 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I _____ _____: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and _____ _____.

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14) What question followed?
Mathew 21:31-32 Whether of them twain did the _____ of his _____? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots _____ him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

The priests and rulers were unwilling to bear these searching truths; they remained silent, however, hoping that Jesus would say something which they could turn against Him; but they had still more to bear.

Jesus laid out another parable, the parable of the householder with a vineyard. How the husbandman misused and beat the servants. Even to the killing of the householder's son.

15) What question did Jesus lay on the Priests about that?
Matthew 21:40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he _____ unto those husbandmen?

16) What was their reply?
Matthew 21:41 They say unto him, He will miserably _____ those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto _____ husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

17) Jesus replied:
Matthew 21:42-44 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The _____ which the builders _____, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this _____ shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to _____.

18) What does Scripture tell us how they reacted?
Matthew 21:45-46 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of _____. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the _____, because they took him for a prophet.

The speakers had not at first perceived the application of the parable, but they now saw that they had pronounced their own condemnation. In the parable the householder represented God, the vineyard the Jewish nation, and the hedge the divine law which was their protection. The tower was a symbol of the temple. The lord of the vineyard had done everything needful for its prosperity.

19) What promise was about to be fulfilled in their presence?
Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a _____, a tried stone, a precious _____ stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

The entire world may lay upon it their burdens and griefs; it can endure them all. With perfect safety they may build upon it. Christ is a ***"tried stone."*** Those who trust in Him, He never disappoints. He has borne every test. He has endured the pressure of Adam's guilt, and the guilt of his posterity, and has come off more than conqueror of the powers of evil. He has borne the burdens cast upon Him by every repenting sinner.

Can you see God won't suffer sin forever? **Would you like to be free from it's grip?**

When is the time to listen to God's pleadings?

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Lesson 54 - Controversy

Based on Matthew 22:15-46; Mark 12:13-40; Luke 20:20-47

1) What did Jesus do in the last week before Calvary?
Mark 11:15-16 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and _____ the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the _____.

Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest. His voice sounded like a trumpet through the temple. The displeasure of His countenance seemed like consuming fire.

2) How did the Pharisees feel about Jesus after His parable of the Lord of the Vinyard?
Luke 20:19-20 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to _____ _____ on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them. And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might _____ him unto the power and authority of the governor.

They did not send the old Pharisees whom Jesus had often met, but young men, who were ardent and zealous, and whom, they thought, Christ did not know. These were accompanied by certain of the Herodians, who were to hear Christ's words, that they might testify against Him at His trial. The Pharisees and Herodians had been bitter enemies, but they were now one in enmity to Christ.

3) What insincere statement did they make in order to trip up Jesus?
Luke 20:21 And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest _____, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God _____:

Had they been sincere, it would have been a wonderful admission. But they were spoken to deceive; nevertheless, their testimony was true. The Pharisees did know that Christ said and taught rightly, and by their own testimony will they be judged.

4) What question did they pose to Jesus?
Matthew 22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto _____, or not?
5) Was Jesus taken in by their flattery?
Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their _____, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

He said this; thus, giving them a sign they had not asked, by showing that He read their hidden purpose.

6) What was His answer to the tribute question?
Matthew 22:19-21 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this _____ and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto _____ the things that are God's.

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The spies had expected Jesus to answer their question directly, in one way or the other. If He should say, it is unlawful to give tribute to Caesar, He would be reported to the Roman authorities and arrested for inciting rebellion. But in case He should pronounce it lawful to pay the tribute, they designed to accuse Him to the people as opposing the law of God. Now they felt themselves baffled and defeated. Their plans were disarranged. The summary manner in which their question had been settled left them nothing further to say.

7) What Words of Wisdom defeated them?
Mark 12:17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to _____ the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they _____ at him.

Had they faithfully fulfilled their obligations to God, they would not have become a broken nation, subject to a foreign power. No Roman ensign would have waved over Jerusalem, no Roman sentinel would have stood at her gates, no Roman governor would have ruled within her walls. The Jewish nation was then paying the penalty of its apostasy from God.

8) How did they respond?
Matthew 22:22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and _____ him, and went their way.
9) Who came later that day to catch Jesus in their trap?
Matthew 22:23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no _____, and asked him,…

The Sadducees and the Pharisees stood in bitter opposition to each other. The Pharisees were rigid adherents to tradition. They were exact in outward ceremonies, diligent in washings, fastings, and long prayers, and ostentatious in almsgiving. But Christ declared that they made void the law of God by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. As a class they were bigoted and hypocritical; yet among them were persons of genuine piety, who accepted Christ's teachings and became His disciples. The Sadducees rejected the traditions of the Pharisees. They professed to believe the greater portion of the Scriptures, and to regard them as the rule of action; but practically they were skeptics and materialists.

The Sadducees denied the existence of angels, the resurrection of the dead, and the doctrine of a future life, with its rewards and punishments. On all these points they differed with the Pharisees. Between the two parties the resurrection was especially a subject of controversy. The Pharisees had been firm believers in the resurrection, but in these discussions their views in regard to the future state became confused. Death became to them an inexplicable mystery.

In the Sadducees ranks were included most of the priests, and from among them the high priest was usually chosen. This was, however, with the express stipulation that their skeptical opinions should not be made prominent. On account of the numbers and popularity of the Pharisees, it was necessary for the Sadducees to concede outwardly to their doctrines when holding any priestly office; but the very fact that they were eligible to such office gave influence to their errors.

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10) What question did they pose to Jesus?
Matthew 22:24-28 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man _____, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his _____: Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

11) What cutting remark did Jesus say before answering them?
Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the _____, nor the _____ of God.

12) What was the true answer to their question?
Matthew 22:30-32 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the _____ of _____ in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the _____, but of the _____.

By His words and His works, Christ testified to a divine power that produces supernatural results, to a future life beyond the present, to God as a Father of the children of men, ever watchful of their true interests.

The Sadducees had flattered themselves that they of all men adhered most strictly to the Scriptures. But Jesus showed that they had not known their true meaning. That knowledge must be brought home to the heart by the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

13) What did one of the Scribes ask Jesus later?
Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first _____ of all?

14) What was Jesus' reply?
Mark 12:29-31 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the _____ thy _____ with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as _____. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Both these commandments are an expression of the principle of love. The first cannot be kept and the second broken, nor can the second be kept while the first is broken. When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.

15) Did Jesus bring conviction to the questioner?
Mark 12:32-33 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to _____ him with all the _____, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and _____.

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16) What did Jesus see in this man?
Mark 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art _____ _____ from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

The scribe was near to the kingdom of God, in that he recognized deeds of righteousness as more acceptable to God than burnt offerings and sacrifices. But he needed to recognize the divine character of Christ, and through faith in Him receive power to do the works of righteousness. The ritual service was of no value, unless connected with Christ by living faith. Even the moral law fails of its purpose, unless it is understood in its relation to the Saviour. Christ had repeatedly shown that His Father's law contained something deeper than mere authoritative commands. In the law is embodied the same principle that is revealed in the gospel. The law points out man's duty and shows him his guilt. To Christ he must look for pardon and for power to do what the law enjoins.

17) The Pharisees pressed close as Jesus answered the scribe, what did Jesus ask them?
Matthew 22:41-42 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The _____ of _____.
18) What did the crowds call Jesus in Matthew's Gospel?
Matthew 12:22-23 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he _____ him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were _____, and said, Is not this the son of David?
19) What did the Canaanite woman call Jesus?
Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have _____ on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.
20) How did Jesus reply to the Pharisees' "Son of David" reply?
Matthew 22:43-45 He saith unto them, How then doth David in _____ call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy _____? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?
21) How did their interaction with Jesus end that day?
Matthew 22:46 And no man was able to answer him a _____, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.
22) What did Jesus tell his Disciples (and us)?
Luke 20:45-47 Then in the audience of all the people he said unto his disciples, Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love _____ in the markets, and the _____ seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make _____ _____: the same shall receive greater damnation.
23) What Words of encouragement should we never forget?
Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do _____, and to love mercy, and to walk _____ with thy God?

Can you see that you can't fool God? **Would you like to be a citizen of the New Kingdom?**

When is the time to listen to God?

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Lesson 55 – Woes on the Pharisees

Based on Matthew 23; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 20:45-47; Luke 21:1-4

It was the last day of Christ's teaching in the temple. There stood the young Galilean, bearing no earthly honor or royal badge. Surrounding Him were priests in their rich apparel, rulers with robes and badges significant of their exalted station, and scribes with scrolls in their hands, to which they made frequent reference. Jesus stood calmly before them, with the dignity of a king. As one invested with the authority of heaven, He looked unflinchingly upon His adversaries, who had rejected and despised His teachings, and who thirsted for His life.

Challenge after challenge He had met, presenting the pure, bright truth in contrast to the darkness and errors of the priests and Pharisees. He had set before these leaders their real condition, and the retribution sure to follow persistence in their evil deeds. The warning had been faithfully given. Yet another work remained for Christ to do. Another purpose was still to be accomplished.

1) What types of things was Jesus teaching in the Temple on that day?
   Luke 20:46-47 Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest _____ in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at _____; Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater _____.

The people looked upon the lowering countenances of the priests and elders, and there saw discomfiture and confusion. They marveled that the rulers would not believe on Jesus, when His teachings were so plain and simple. They themselves knew not what course to take. With eager anxiety they watched the movements of those whose counsel they had always followed.

In the parables which Christ had spoken, it was His purpose both to warn the rulers and to instruct the people who were willing to be taught. But there was need to speak yet more plainly. Through their reverence for tradition and their blind faith in a corrupt priesthood, the people were enslaved. These chains Christ must break. The character of the priests, rulers, and Pharisees must be more fully exposed.

2) What very plain words did use to warn His Disciples and the people?
   Matthew 23:1-3 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you _____, that observe and do; but do not ye after their _____: for they say, and do not.
3) What did do they do that was wrong?
   Matthew 23:4-7 For they bind heavy _____ and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their _____. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, _____, _____.

To make a show of their piety was their constant aim.

4) Where did the Pharisees get the idea of a phylactery?
   Deuteronomy 6:8 And thou shalt bind them (God's Words) for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine _____.

They were accordingly written upon strips of parchment and bound in a conspicuous manner about the head and wrists. But this did not cause the law of God to take a firmer hold of the mind and heart. These parchments were worn merely as badges, to attract attention.

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5) What did Jesus say about men receiving titles?
Matthew 23:8-11 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your _____, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your _____ upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your _____.

In such plain words the Saviour revealed the selfish ambition that was ever reaching for place and power, displaying a mock humility, while the heart was filled with avarice and envy.

6) Who alone is worthy to be given a title?
Psalms 111:9 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and _____ is his name.
7) What did Jesus pointedly bring up?
Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye _____ _____ the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

By perverting the Scriptures, the priests and lawyers blinded the minds of those who would otherwise have received a knowledge of Christ's kingdom, and that inward, divine life which is essential to true holiness.

8) What did Jesus follow that with?
Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' _____, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater _____.

The Pharisees had great influence with the people, and of this they took advantage to serve their own interests. They gained the confidence of pious widows and then represented it as a duty for them to devote their property to religious purposes. Having secured control of their money, the wily schemers used it for their own benefit. To cover their dishonesty, they offered long prayers in public and made a great show of piety.

9) While Jesus was teaching the people what did Jesus observe?
Mark 12:41-42 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast _____ into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two _____, which make a farthing.

His countenance lighted as He saw a poor widow approach hesitatingly, as though fearful of being observed. As the rich and haughty swept by, to deposit their offerings, she shrank back as if hardly daring to venture farther. And yet she longed to do something, little though it might be, for the cause she loved. She looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it was her all.

10) What did He tell the Disciples about it?
Mark 12:43-44 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than _____ they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her _____.

Tears of joy filled her eyes as she felt that her act was understood and appreciated. Jesus understood her motive. She believed the service of the temple to be of God's appointment, and she was anxious to do her utmost to sustain it. She did what she could, and her act was to be a monument to her memory through all time, and her joy in eternity. Her heart went with her gift; its value was estimated, not by the worth of the coin, but by the love to God and the interest in His work that had prompted the deed.

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The ***"two mites which make a farthing"*** have brought to God's treasury an amount of money far greater than the contributions of those rich Jews. The influence of that little gift has been like a stream, small in its beginning, but widening and deepening as it flowed down through the ages. In a thousand ways it has contributed to the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel. Her example of self-sacrifice has acted and reacted upon thousands of hearts in every land and in every age.

11) After the woman left with joy in her heart, what did Jesus follow with?
Matthew 23:16-17 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall _____ by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the _____, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?
Matthew 23:18-19 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is _____; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye fools and _____: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

The priests interpreted God's requirements according to their own false and narrow standard. They presumed to make nice distinctions as to the comparative guilt of various sins, passing over some lightly, and treating others of perhaps less consequence as unpardonable. For a money, consideration they excused persons from their vows. And for large sums of money, they sometimes passed over aggravated crimes. At the same time these priests and rulers would in other cases pronounce severe judgment for trivial offenses.

12) What did Jesus find important?
Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have _____ the weightier matters of the law, judgment, _____, and _____: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

They occupied men's minds with trifling distinctions and turned their attention from essential truths. The weightier matters of the law, justice, mercy, and truth, were neglected.

13) How did Jesus feel about their brand of religion?
Matthew 23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a _____.
14) What did Jesus say about the religion of the day?
Matthew 23:27-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful _____, but are within full of dead men's _____, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.
15) What did Jesus have to say about those who say "It wasn't me"?
Matthew 23:30-31 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been _____ with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which _____ the prophets.

People wonder at the blindness of the Jews in rejecting Christ. Had we lived in His day, they declare, we would gladly have received His teaching; we would never have been partakers in the guilt of those who rejected the Saviour. But when obedience to God requires self-denial and humiliation, these very persons stifle their convictions and refuse obedience. Thus, they manifest the same spirit as did the Pharisees whom Christ condemned.

16) How did Jesus reveal that they plotted to kill Him?
Matthew 23:32 Fill ye up then the _____ of your fathers.

The sin of the priests and rulers was greater than that of any preceding generation. By their rejection of the Saviour, they were making themselves responsible for the blood of all the righteous men slain from Abel to Christ. They were about to fill to overflowing their cup of iniquity. And soon it was to be poured upon their heads in retributive justice.

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17) How did Jesus describe it?
Matthew 23:35-36 That upon _____ may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, _____ these things shall come upon this generation.

The scribes and Pharisees who listened to Jesus knew that His words were true. They knew how the prophet Zacharias had been slain. While the words of warning from God were upon his lips, a satanic fury seized the apostate king, and at his command the prophet was put to death. His blood had imprinted itself upon the very stones of the temple court and could not be erased.

18) What prophetic Words did Jesus give about the New Testament Church?
Matthew 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and _____ them from city to city:

Prophets and wise men, full of faith and the Holy Ghost, - Stephen, James, and many others, - would be condemned and slain. With hand uplifted to heaven, and a divine light enshrouding His person, Christ spoke as a judge to those before Him. His voice, that had so often been heard in gentleness and entreaty, was now heard in rebuke and condemnation. The listeners shuddered. Never was the impression made by His words and His look to be effaced.

Christ's indignation was directed against the hypocrisy, the gross sins, by which men were destroying their own souls, deceiving the people and dishonoring God. In the specious deceptive reasoning of the priests and rulers He discerned the working of satanic agencies. Keen and searching had been His denunciation of sin; but He spoke no words of retaliation. He had a holy wrath against the prince of darkness; but He manifested no irritated temper. So, the Christian who lives in harmony with God, possessing the sweet attributes of love and mercy, will feel a righteous indignation against sin; but he will not be roused by passion to revile those who revile him.

19) What lament did Jesus cry out as Jerusalem heard her last warning?
Matthew 23:37-38 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a _____ gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you _____.

The gems of truth that fell from Christ's lips on that eventful day were treasured in many hearts. For them new thoughts started into life, new aspirations were awakened, and a new history began. After the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, these persons came to the front and fulfilled their divine commission with a wisdom and zeal corresponding to the greatness of the work. They bore a message that appealed to the hearts of men, weakening the old superstitions that had long dwarfed the lives of thousands. Before their testimony human theories and philosophies became as idle fables. Mighty were the results flowing from the words of the Saviour to that wondering, awestruck crowd in the temple at Jerusalem.

Hitherto He had called the temple His Father's house; but now, as the Son of God should pass out from those walls, God's presence would be withdrawn forever from the temple built to His glory. Henceforth its ceremonies would be meaningless, its services a mockery.

20) What Prophetic Word did Jesus leave about earthly Jerusalem?
Matthew 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not _____ me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
21) What was He referring to?
Revelation 21:2-3 And I John saw the holy city, new _____, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will _____ with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

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Lesson 56 – In the Outer Court

Based on John 12:20-42.

1) What was one of the last things for Jesus to do before the Last Supper and Passover?
John 12:20-22 And there were certain _____ among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see _____. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

Christ was approaching the consummation of His work. The great event which concerned not only the Jewish nation, but the whole world, was about to take place. When Christ heard the eager request***, "We would see Jesus,"*** echoing the hungering cry of the world, His countenance lighted up.

2) What did Jesus tell them?
John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be _____.

In the request of the Greeks, He saw an earnest of the results of His great sacrifice. These men came from the West to find the Saviour at the close of His life, as the wise men had come from the East at the beginning. At the time of Christ's birth, the Jewish people were so engrossed with their own ambitious plans that they knew not of His advent. The magi from a heathen land came to the manger with their gifts, to worship the Saviour. So, these Greeks, representing the nations, tribes, and peoples of the world, came to see Jesus. So, the people of all lands and all ages would be drawn by the Saviour's cross.

3) What prophecy was fulfilled with their visit?
Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the _____ of _____.

Jesus was in that part of the temple from which all except Jews were excluded, but He went out to the Greeks in the outer court and had a personal interview with them.

The Greeks had heard of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Some supposed, and had circulated the report, that He had driven the priests and rulers from the temple, and that He was to take possession of David's throne, and reign as king of Israel. The Greeks longed to know the truth in regard to His mission.

4) What words of John the Baptist resounded in their hearts?
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the _____ of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

In these strangers He saw the pledge of a great harvest, when the partition wall between Jew and Gentile should be broken down, and all nations, tongues, and peoples should hear the message of salvation.

5) Jesus said *"The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified."* What did He mean?
John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much _____.

The hour of Christ's glorification had come. He was standing in the shadow of the cross, and the inquiry of the Greeks showed Him that the sacrifice He was about to make would bring many sons and daughters to God. He knew that the Greeks would soon see Him in a position they did not then dream of. They would see Him placed beside Barabbas, a robber and murderer, who would be chosen for release before the Son of God. They would hear the people, inspired by the priests and rulers, making their choice. And to the question, ***"What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?"***

6) What would they hear Pilate say?
Matthew 27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be _____.

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By making this propitiation for the sins of men, Christ knew that His kingdom would be perfected and would extend throughout the world. He would work as the Restorer, and His Spirit would prevail.

The way in which this glorification must take place was never absent from Christ's mind. The gathering in of the Gentiles was to follow His approaching death. Only by His death could the world be saved. Like a grain of wheat, the Son of man must be cast into the ground and die and be buried out of sight; but He was to live again.

7) What did He follow that with?
John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto _____ _____.

The life must be cast into the furrow of the world's need. Self-love, self-interest, must perish. And the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation. The husbandman preserves his grain by casting it away. So, in human life. To give is to live. The life that will be preserved is the life that is freely given in service to God and man. Those who for Christ's sake sacrifice their life in this world will keep it unto life eternal.

8) What did Jesus tell them next?
John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve _____, him will my _____ honour.

It was the joy of Christ in His humiliation and pain that His disciples should be glorified with Him. They are the fruit of His self-sacrifice. The outworking in them of His own character and spirit is His reward and will be His joy throughout eternity. This joy they share with Him as the fruit of their labor and sacrifice is seen in other hearts and lives. They are workers together with Christ, and the Father will honor them as He honors His Son.

9) A cloud of gloom seemed to enshroud Jesus, What did He say?
John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this _____: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

The message of the Greeks, foreshadowing as it did the gathering in of the Gentiles, brought to the mind of Jesus His entire mission. The work of redemption passed before Him, from the time when in heaven the plan was laid, to the death that was now so near at hand. A mysterious cloud seemed to enshroud the Son of God. Its gloom was felt by those near Him.

In anticipation Christ was already drinking the cup of bitterness. His humanity shrank from the hour of abandonment, when to all appearance He would be deserted even by God, when all would see Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. He shrank from public exposure, from being treated as the worst of criminals, from a shameful and dishonored death. A foreboding of His conflict with the powers of darkness, a sense of the awful burden of human transgression, and the Father's wrath because of sin caused the spirit of Jesus to faint, and the pallor of death to overspread His countenance.

10) What did Jesus ask of His Father?
12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a _____ from _____, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Only thus could man be redeemed, and God be glorified. Jesus consented to the agony; He accepted the sacrifice. The Majesty of heaven consented to suffer as the Sin Bearer.

Christ's whole life, from the manger to the time when these words were spoken, had glorified God; and in the coming trial His divine-human sufferings would indeed glorify His Father's name.

11) What were the bystanders saying?
John 12:29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it _____: others said, An angel spake to him.

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As the voice was heard, a light darted from the cloud, and encircled Christ, as if the arms of Infinite Power were thrown about Him like a wall of fire. The people beheld this scene with terror and amazement. No one dared to speak. With silent lips and bated breath all stood with eyes fixed upon Jesus. The testimony of the Father having been given, the cloud lifted and scattered in the heavens.

The inquiring Greeks saw the cloud, heard the voice, comprehended its meaning, and discerned Christ; indeed, to them He was revealed as the Sent of God.

12) What did Jesus tell the onlookers about what they had beheld?
John 12:30-31 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for _____ sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the _____ of this world be cast out.

The voice of God had been heard at the baptism of Jesus at the beginning of His ministry, and again at His transfiguration on the mount. Now at the close of His ministry it was heard for the third time, by a larger number of people, and under peculiar circumstances. Jesus had just spoken the most solemn truth regarding the condition of the Jews. He had made His last appeal and pronounced their doom. Now God again set His seal to the mission of His Son.

13) What did Jesus finish with?
John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will _____ all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

This is the crisis of the world. If I become the propitiation for the sins of men, the world will be lighted up. Satan's hold upon the souls of men will be broken. The defaced image of God will be restored in humanity, and a family of believing saints will finally inherit the heavenly home.

14) What did the onlooking crowd say to Jesus?
John 12:34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this _____ of _____?
15) How did Jesus reply?
John 12:35-36 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. _____ while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, _____ in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.
16) What did John tell us about this?
John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed _____ on him:
17) What question had they asked Him previously?
John 6:30 They said therefore unto him, What _____ shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

Innumerable signs had been given; but they had closed their eyes and hardened their hearts. Now that the Father Himself had spoken, and they could ask for no further sign, they still refused to believe.

18) What did John say about it?
John 12:42-43 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many _____ on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the _____ of men more than the praise of God.

To save themselves from reproach and shame, they denied Christ, and rejected the offer of eternal life. And how many through all the centuries since have been doing the same thing.

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19) What are the Words of Life that Jesus declared?
John 12:47-48 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that _____ me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall _____ him in the last day.

20) What was the relationship between Jesus and the Father?
John 12:49-50 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his _____ is life _____: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

Can you see Jesus saw you in His plans?

Would you like to be among the redeemed?

When is the time to proclaim Him King?

JOHN 12:32

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me."

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Lesson 57 – On the Mount of Olives

Based on Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38.

21) What did Jesus say to the Priests and Pharisees when He left the Temple for the last time?
Matthew 23:38-39 Behold, your house is left unto you _____. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, _____ is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

These Words had struck terror to their hearts. They affected indifference, but the question kept rising in their minds as to the import of these words. An unseen danger seemed to threaten them. Could it be that the magnificent temple, which was the nation's glory, was soon to be a heap of ruins?

22) How did the Disciples react to Jesus' statement?
Matthew 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the _____ of the temple.

The foreboding of evil was shared by the disciples, and they anxiously waited for some more definite statement from Jesus. As they passed with Him out of the temple, they called His attention to its strength and beauty. The stones of the temple were of the purest marble, of perfect whiteness, and some of them of almost fabulous size. A portion of the wall had withstood the siege by Nebuchadnezzar's army. In its perfect masonry it appeared like one solid stone dug entire from the quarry. How those mighty walls could be overthrown the disciples could not comprehend.

23) What did Jesus tell them?
Matthew 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one _____ upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Christ's words had been spoken in the hearing of a large number of people; but when He was alone, Peter, John, James, and Andrew came to Him as He sat upon the Mount of Olives.

24) What did they ask?
Mark 13:3-4 And as he sat upon the _____ of _____ over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be _____?
25) How did Matthew put it?
Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the _____ of the _____?

Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His Disciples future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for themselves. When He referred to the destruction of Jerusalem, His prophetic words reached beyond that event to the final conflagration in that day when the Lord shall rise out of His place to punish the world for their iniquity, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. ***This entire discourse was given, not for the disciples only, but for those who should live in the last scenes of this earth's history.***

26) How did Jesus begin his message?
Matthew 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man _____ you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am _____; and shall deceive many.

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Between His death and the siege of Jerusalem many false messiahs appeared. But this warning was given also to those who live in this age of the world. The same deceptions practiced prior to the destruction of Jerusalem have been practiced through the ages and will be practiced again.

27) What followed?
Matthew 24:6 And ye shall hear of _____ and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Prior to the destruction of Jerusalem, men wrestled for the supremacy. Emperors were murdered. Those supposed to be standing next the throne were slain. There were wars and rumors of wars.

28) What would be the state of the world?
Matthew 24:7-8 For nation shall rise _____ nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and _____, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Christ said, As the rabbis see these signs, they will declare them to be God's judgments upon the nations for holding in bondage His chosen people. They will declare that these signs are the token of the advent of the Messiah. Be not deceived; they are the beginning of His judgments. The people have looked to themselves. They have not repented and been converted that I should heal them. The signs that they represent as tokens of their release from bondage are signs of their destruction.

29) What would happen to God's people at that time?
Matthew 24:9-10 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall _____ you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall _____ one another, and shall hate one another.

All this the Christians suffered. Fathers and mothers betrayed their children. Children betrayed their parents. Friends delivered their friends up to the Sanhedrin. The persecutors wrought out their purpose by killing Stephen, James, and other Christians.

They were men of whom the world was not worthy, and by killing them the Jews crucified afresh the Son of God. So, it will be again. The authorities will make laws to restrict religious liberty. They will assume the right that is God's alone. They will think they can force the conscience, which God alone should control. Even now they are making a beginning; this work they will continue to carry forward till they reach a boundary over which they cannot step. God will interpose in behalf of His loyal, commandment-keeping people.

30) What sign did Jesus give the believers of a time to flee Jerusalem?
Luke 21:20-21 And when ye shall see Jerusalem _____ with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it _____ out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

This warning was given to be heeded forty years after, at the destruction of Jerusalem. The Christians obeyed the warning, and not a Christian perished in the fall of the city.

31) What did Jesus say we should pray prior to Rome's destruction?
Matthew 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the _____, neither on the _____ day:

Christ said. He who made the Sabbath did not abolish it, nailing it to His cross. The Sabbath was not rendered null and void by His death. Forty years after His crucifixion it was still to be held sacred. For forty years the disciples were to pray that their flight might not be on the Sabbath day.

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32) What did Christ say the world would look like?
Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great _____, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, the last link in the chain of this earth's history, the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory. Between these two events, there lay open to Christ's view long centuries of darkness, centuries for His church marked with blood and tears and agony. Upon these scenes His disciples could not then endure to look, and Jesus passed them by with a brief mention.

33) What promise did He make?
Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be _____, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

For more than a thousand years such persecution as the world had never before known was to come upon Christ's followers. Millions upon millions of His faithful witnesses were to be slain. Had not God's hand been stretched out to preserve His people, all would have perished.

34) What warnings of danger precede the Second Coming?
Matthew 24:23-24 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; _____ it _____. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall _____ the very elect.
Matthew 24:26-27 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret _____; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the _____ of the Son of man be.

The Saviour gives signs of His coming, and more than this, He fixes the time when the first of these signs shall appear:

35) What was that sign?
Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the _____ be darkened, and the _____ shall not give her light, and the _____ shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
36) Then what happens?
Matthew 24:30-31 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the _____ of _____ coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall _____ together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

At the close of the great papal persecution, Christ declared, the sun should be darkened, and the moon should not give her light. Next, the stars should fall from heaven.

37) Jesus gave a parable about that time, what was it?
Matthew 24:32-33 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth _____, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the _____.
38) How sure is Jesus' Word?
Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my _____ shall not pass away.
39) What did Luke say about it?
Luke 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a _____ with power and great glory.

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Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a relinking of the family chain.

40) What did Paul say about it?
1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be _____ incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
41) When is Jesus coming back?
Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour _____ no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Had He been at liberty to reveal this, why need He have exhorted them to maintain an attitude of constant expectancy? There are those who claim to know the very day and hour of our Lord's appearing. Very earnest are they in mapping out the future. But the Lord has warned them off the ground they occupy. The exact time of the second coming of the Son of man is God's mystery.

42) What did Jesus say the condition of the world would be like?
Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of _____ were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe _____ into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the _____ of _____ be.
43) What was it like in Noah's day?
Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the _____ of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil _____.

The inhabitants of the antediluvian world turned from Jehovah, refusing to do His holy will. They followed their own unholy imagination and perverted ideas. It was because of their wickedness that they were destroyed; and today the world is following the same way. It presents no flattering signs of millennial glory. The transgressors of God's law are filling the earth with wickedness.

44) What are we warned to do?
Luke 21:34-35 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and _____ of this _____, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a _____ shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.

45) What shall we do?
Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and _____ always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to _____ before the Son of man.

Solemnly there come to us down through the centuries the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives.

Can you see Jesus could show us the future? **Would you like to be among the redeemed?**

When is the time to watch and pray?

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Lesson 58 – "The Least of These My Brethren"

Based on Matthew 25.

In our last lesson Jesus left the Temple for the last time in His Earthly ministry. The Disciples were in awe of the great building that was the center of Worship to the Divine God. Jesus had left the sacred walls and with Him the sacredness of all the rites and services that they pointed to.

1) What did He tell the Disciples?
   Matthew 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one _____ upon another, that shall not be thrown down.
2) What were His parting Words as he departed the Sacred Walls?
   Matthew 23:38-39 Behold, your house is left unto you _____. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, _____ is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Jesus told them of the destruction of the Temple and the destruction of Jerusalem and made no mystery that it was a type for what the world would look like before the end of days.

3) Jesus gave a parable immediately after. What was it?
   Matthew 25:1-5 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their _____, and went forth to meet the _____. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no _____ with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all _____ and slept.
4) In the parable, what happened at midnight?
   Matthew 25:6-7 And at midnight there was a _____ made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

When you are using an oil lamp, you trim the wick so that when you light it, the flame will be clear and bright. An untrimmed wick is dim and sometimes smoky. If you want a nice bright flame, you trim the wick.

The trimming consisted in removing the charred portion of the wick, and raising the wick itself by means of a pointed wire which was fastened by a chain to each lamp. These operations would be followed by the replenishment of the vase with oil from the vessel carried for that purpose.

5) Was everyone ready?
   Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your _____; for our lamps are gone out.
6) What did the ready brides say to the others?
   Matthew 25:9-10 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for _____ and _____: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was _____.
7) Did they get a second chance?
   Matthew 25:11-12 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I _____ you _____.

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In symbolic words Jesus showed us the necessity of being ready. He is the Bridegroom and we are invited the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

8) What Words of wisdom did He give us?
Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the _____ nor the _____ wherein the Son of man cometh.
9) How did Jesus describe Judgement Day for all humanity?
Matthew 25:31-32 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the _____ of his glory: And before him shall be _____ all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.

10) What glorious Words will He speak to the redeemed?
Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye _____ of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
11) Why are they there?
Matthew 25:35-36 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was _____, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye _____ me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
12) Who are you serving when you help others?
Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the _____ of these my _____, ye have done it unto me.

Jesus had told His disciples that they were to be hated of all men, to be persecuted and afflicted. Many would be driven from their homes and brought to poverty. Many would be in distress through disease and privation. Many would be cast into prison. To all who forsook friends or home for His sake He had promised in this life a hundredfold. Now He assured a special blessing to all who should minister to their brethren. In all who suffer for My name, said Jesus, you are to recognize Me. As you would minister to Me, so you are to minister to them. This is the evidence that you are My disciples.

13) What is the sign that all is right between you and God?
1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for _____ is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and _____ God.

Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them.

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Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.

14) Who assists us as we assist others?
Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to _____ for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

The angels of heaven are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. We know not now who they are; it is not yet made manifest who shall overcome and share the inheritance of the saints in light; but angels of heaven are passing throughout the length and breadth of the earth, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the imperiled, to win the hearts of men to Christ. Not one is neglected or passed by. God is no respecter of persons, and He has an equal care for all the souls He has created.

As you open your door to Christ's needy and suffering ones, you are welcoming unseen angels. You invite the companionship of heavenly beings. They bring a sacred atmosphere of joy and peace. They come with praises upon their lips, and an answering strain is heard in heaven. Every deed of mercy makes music there. The Father from His throne numbers the unselfish workers among His most precious treasures.

15) Who are the "goats" in Jesus' parable?
Mattew 25:41-43 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, _____ from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no _____: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in _____, and ye visited me not.
16) When asked "When did we see you", what did Jesus say?
Matthew 25:44-45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it _____ to one of the least of these, ye did it not to _____.
17) Where do the sheep and goats go?
Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting _____: but the righteous into life _____.

Many feel that it would be a great privilege to visit the scenes of Christ's life on earth, to walk where He trod, to look upon the lake beside which He loved to teach, and the hills and valleys on which His eyes so often rested. But we need not go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, or to Bethany, in order to walk in the steps of Jesus. We shall find His footprints beside the sickbed, in the hovels of poverty, in the crowded alleys of the great city, and in every place where there are human hearts in need of consolation. In doing as Jesus did when on earth, we shall walk in His steps.

18) What attitude should we have?
Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should _____ to _____, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

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The Saviour has given His precious life in order to establish a church capable of caring for sorrowful, tempted souls. A company of believers may be poor, uneducated, and unknown; yet in Christ they may do a work in the home, the neighborhood, the church, and even in “the regions beyond,” whose results shall be as far-reaching as eternity.

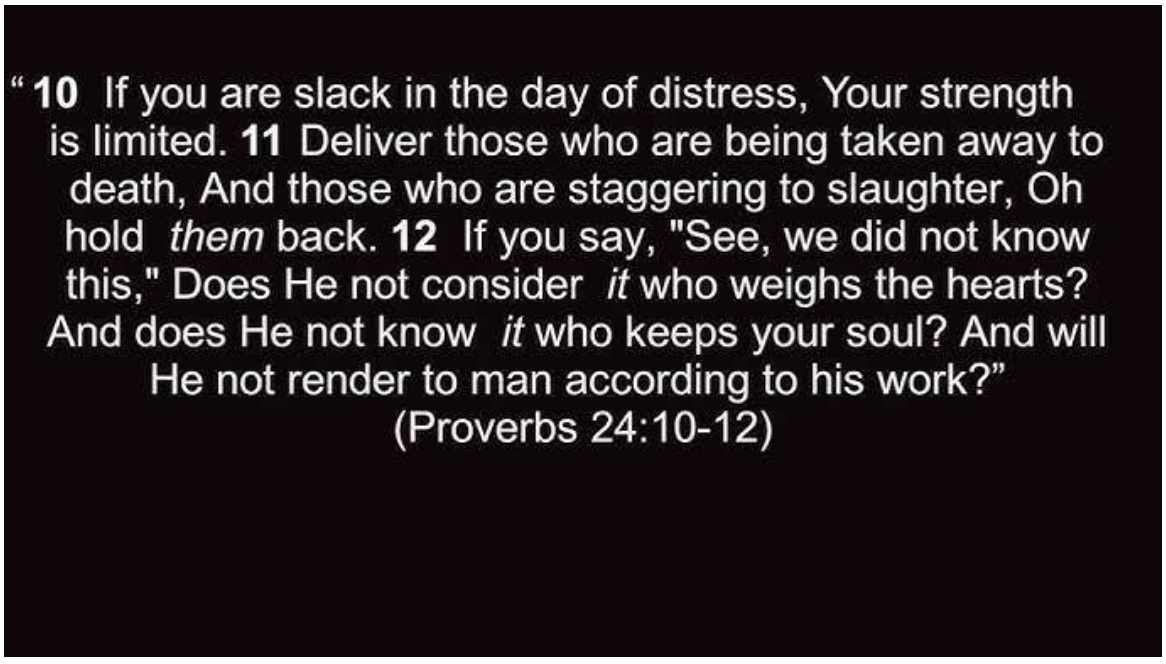
19) What promise did God give to Moses and to all who labor in God’s stead?
Exodus 33:14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee _____.

When we realize that we are workers together with God, His promises will not be spoken with indifference. They will burn in our hearts, and kindle upon our lips.

Can you see Jesus is coming back in an hour we may not be ready for?

Would you like to be among the redeemed?

When is the time to help others?



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Lesson 59 – A Servant of Servants

Based on Luke 22:7-18, 24; John 13:1-17.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
John 13:1 Now before the feast of the _____, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he _____ them unto the end.

In the upper chamber of a dwelling at Jerusalem, Christ was sitting at table with His disciples. They had gathered to celebrate the Passover. The Saviour desired to keep this feast alone with the twelve. He knew that His hour was come; He Himself was the true paschal lamb, and on the day the Passover was eaten He was to be sacrificed. He was about to drink the cup of wrath; He must soon receive the final baptism of suffering. But a few quiet hours yet remained to Him, and these were to be spent for the benefit of His beloved disciples.

2) What defined Jesus' ministry?
Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to give his life a ransom for many.
3) What did Jesus say to the Disciples?
Luke 22:15-18 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I _____: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave _____, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of _____ shall come.

He was now in the shadow of the cross, and the pain was torturing His heart. He knew that He would be deserted in the hour of His betrayal. He knew that by the most humiliating process to which criminals were subjected He would be put to death. He knew the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. He knew how great the sacrifice that He must make, and for how many it would be in vain.

He looked upon the twelve, who had been with Him as His own, and who, after His shame and sorrow and painful usage were over, would be left to struggle in the world. His thoughts of what He Himself must suffer were ever connected with His disciples. He did not think of Himself. His care for them was uppermost in His mind.

4) Jesus had so much to tell them but couldn't, why?
Luke 22:24 And there was also a _____ among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

This contention, carried on in the presence of Christ, grieved and wounded Him. The disciples clung to their favorite idea that Christ would assert His power and take His position on the throne of David. And in heart each still longed for the highest place in the kingdom. They had placed their own estimate upon themselves and upon one another, and, instead of regarding their brethren as more worthy, they had placed themselves first.

5) Where was John at the table?
John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' _____ one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

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When the disciples entered the supper room, their hearts were full of resentful feelings. Judas pressed next to Christ on the left side; John was on the right. If there was a highest place, Judas was determined to have it, and that place was thought to be next to Christ.

6) There was another problem at the supper, what did Jesus do?
John 13:4-5 He _____ from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to _____ the disciples' feet, and to _____ them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

At a feast it was customary for a servant to wash the feet of the guests, and on this occasion, preparation had been made for the service. The pitcher, the basin, and the towel were there, in readiness for the feet washing; but no servant was present, and it was the disciples' part to perform it. But each of the disciples, yielding to wounded pride, determined not to act the part of a servant.

Christ expressed His love for His disciples. Their selfish spirit filled Him with sorrow, but He entered into no controversy with them regarding their difficulty. Instead, He gave them an example they would never forget. His love for them was not easily disturbed or quenched. He knew that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He came from God, and went to God. He had a full consciousness of His divinity; but He had laid aside His royal crown and kingly robes and had taken the form of a servant.

7) What had Judas done earlier?
Luke 22:3-6 Then entered _____ into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might _____ him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him _____. And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

Jesus alone could read his secret. Yet He did not expose him. Jesus hungered for his soul. He felt for him such a burden as for Jerusalem when He wept over the doomed city. His heart was crying, How can I give thee up? The constraining power of that love was felt by Judas. When the Saviour's hands were bathing those soiled feet, and wiping them with the towel, the heart of Judas thrilled through and through with the impulse then and there to confess his sin. But he would not humble himself.

If Jesus could so humble Himself, he thought, He could not be Israel's king. All hope of worldly honor in a temporal kingdom was destroyed. Judas was satisfied that there was nothing to be gained by following Christ. After seeing Him degrade Himself, as he thought, he was confirmed in his purpose to disown Him and confess himself deceived. He was possessed by a demon, and he resolved to complete the work he had agreed to do in betraying his Lord.

8) What did Peter say when it was his turn?
John 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash _____ feet?

Christ's condescension broke his heart. He was filled with shame to think that one of the disciples was not performing this service.

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9) What was Jesus' reply to him?
John 13:7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know _____.

Peter could not bear to see his Lord, whom he believed to be the Son of God, acting the part of a servant. His whole soul rose up against this humiliation.

10) What was the interchange between Jesus and Peter?
John 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt _____ wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast _____ _____ with me.

It is not humiliating to the Master to allow Him to work for our purification. The truest humility is to receive with thankful heart any provision made in our behalf, and with earnestness do service for Christ.

11) How did the conversation progress?
John 13:9-10 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my _____ and my _____. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but _____ _____.

Peter surrendered his pride and self-will. He could not endure the thought of separation from Christ; that would have been death to him.

This was of far more consequence than the washing of their dusty feet. With the spirit they then had, not one of them was prepared for communion with Christ. Until brought into a state of humility and love, they were not prepared to partake of the paschal supper, or to share in the memorial service which Christ was about to institute. Their hearts must be cleansed.

12) Where was the heart of Judas?
John 13:11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all _____.

13) What did he tell the Eleven?
John 13:13-16 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to _____ one _____ feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is _____ greater than he that sent him.

14) In what way can we see that God does not live for Himself?
Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the _____ and on the _____, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

This ideal of ministry God has committed to His Son. Jesus was given to stand at the head of humanity, that by His example He might teach what it means to minister. His whole life was under a law of service. He served all, ministered to all. Thus, He lived the law of God, and by His example showed how we are to obey it.

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15) Who are the greatest people among us?
Matthew 20:26-27 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your _____:

16) What did He tell the Disciples about what He did for them?
John 13:14-15 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an _____, that ye should do as I have _____ to you.

This ordinance is Christ's appointed preparation for the sacramental service. While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ. We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore, it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed.

17) What does the Communion Service help us to remember?
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the _____ of the world.

18) What shall we do with our liberty?
Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the _____, but by love serve one another.

In washing the feet of His disciples, Christ gave evidence that He would do any service, however humble, that would make them heirs with Him of the eternal wealth of heaven's treasure. His disciples, in performing the same rite, pledge themselves in like manner to serve their brethren. Whenever this ordinance is rightly celebrated, the children of God are brought into a holy relationship, to help and bless each other. They covenant that the life shall be given to unselfish ministry.

19) What comes with following Jesus' example?
John 13:17 If ye know these things, _____ are ye if ye do them.

Can you see that we need to look out for each other?

Would you like to be more caring and kinder?

When is the time to help others?

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Lesson 60 – "In Remembrance of Me"

Based on Matthew 26:20-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:14-23; John 13:18-30

Christ was standing at the point of transition between two economies and their two great festivals. He, the spotless Lamb of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering, that He would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies that for four thousand years had pointed to His death. As He ate the Passover with His disciples, He instituted in its place the service that was to be the memorial of His great sacrifice. The national festival of the Jews was to pass away forever. The service which Christ established was to be observed by His followers in all lands and through all ages.

1) How did Jesus begin the Passover Service?
Luke 22:15-16 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I _____: For I say unto you, I will not any more _____ thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

2) How does Paul describe the Communion service?
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my _____, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my _____: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this _____, and drink this _____, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

The Passover was ordained as a commemoration of the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. God had directed that, year by year, as the children should ask the meaning of this ordinance, the history should be repeated. Thus, the wonderful deliverance was to be kept fresh in the minds of all. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was given to commemorate the great deliverance wrought out as the result of the death of Christ.

3) How was Christ a fulfilment of the Passover ceremony?
1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without _____ and without _____:

Christ is still at the table on which the paschal supper has been spread. The unleavened cakes used at the Passover season are before Him. The Passover wine, untouched by fermentation, is on the table. These emblems Christ employs to represent His own unblemished sacrifice.

4) What did Christ do?
Matthew 26:26-29 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and _____ it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave _____, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the _____ of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my _____ kingdom.

5) What did Luke say about the unleavened bread?
Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in _____ of me.

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Judas the betrayer was present at the sacramental service. He received from Jesus the emblems of His broken body and His spilled blood. He heard the words, ***"This do in remembrance of Me."*** And sitting there in the very presence of the Lamb of God, the betrayer brooded upon his own dark purposes, and cherished his sullen, revengeful thoughts.

6) What warning did Jesus give them all?
John 13:11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all _____.

These words convinced the false disciple that Christ read his secret purpose.

7) What prophecy was fulfilled here?
Psalms 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I _____, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.
8) What did Jesus tell all present?
Matthew 26:21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall _____ me.

At these words amazement and consternation seized them. They could not comprehend how any one of them could deal treacherously with their divine Teacher. For what cause could they betray Him? and to whom? Whose heart could give birth to such a design?

9) How did the Disciples react?
John 13:22-25 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he _____. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should _____ who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?
10) What did Jesus answer them?
John 13:26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to _____ _____, the son of Simon.
11) What did Jesus say about His betrayer?
Matthew 26:24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been _____.
12) What did Judas say?
Matthew 26:25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, _____ hast said.
13) What awful thing happened next?
John 13:27 And after the sop _____ entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

Judas rose hastily to leave the room. Night it was to the traitor as he turned away from Christ into the outer darkness. Until this step was taken, Judas had not passed beyond the possibility of repentance. But when he left the presence of his Lord and his fellow disciples, the final decision had been made. He had passed the boundary line.

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Nothing that could be done to save Judas had been left undone. After he had twice covenanted to betray his Lord, Jesus still gave him opportunity for repentance. By reading the secret purpose of the traitor's heart, Christ gave to Judas the final, convincing evidence of His divinity. This was to the false disciple the last call to repentance. No appeal that the divine-human heart of Christ could make had been spared. The waves of mercy, beaten back by stubborn pride, returned in a stronger tide of subduing love. But although surprised and alarmed at the discovery of his guilt, Judas became only the more determined. From the sacramental supper he went out to complete the work of betrayal.

14) What did Jesus tell the eleven Disciples that were left?
John 13:19 that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that _____ _____.

A year before, Jesus had told the disciples that He had chosen twelve, and that one was a devil. Now His words to Judas, showing that his treachery was fully known to his Master, would strengthen the faith of Christ's true followers during His humiliation. And when Judas should have come to his dreadful end, they would remember the woe that Jesus had pronounced upon the betrayer.

15) What had Jesus said right after the foot washing?
John 13:11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all _____.

Though Jesus knew Judas from the beginning, He washed his feet. And the betrayer was privileged to unite with Christ in partaking of the sacrament. A long-suffering Saviour held out every inducement for the sinner to receive Him, to repent, and to be cleansed from the defilement of sin. This example is for us. When we suppose one to be in error and sin, we are not to divorce ourselves from him. By no careless separation are we to leave him a prey to temptation or drive him upon Satan's battleground.

16) What should we do before we partake of the Lord's Supper?
1 Corinthians 11:28 But let a man _____ himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.
17) Why should we take it seriously?
1 Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be _____ of the body and blood of the Lord.

By participating in and partaking of the Communion Service, you are making a covenant with God. It is more than a ritual or a tradition.

Christ by the Holy Spirit is there to set the seal to His own ordinance. He is there to convict and soften the heart. Not a look, not a thought of contrition, escapes His notice. For the repentant, brokenhearted one He is waiting. All things are ready for that soul's reception. He who washed the feet of Judas longs to wash every heart from the stain of sin.

18) What does communion with Jesus give us?
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my _____ I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

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In partaking with His disciples of the bread and wine, Christ pledged Himself to them as their Redeemer. He committed to them the new covenant, by which all who receive Him become children of God, and joint heirs with Christ. By this covenant every blessing that heaven could bestow for this life and the life to come was theirs. This covenant deed was to be ratified with the blood of Christ. And the administration of the Sacrament was to keep before the disciples the infinite sacrifice made for each of them individually as a part of the great whole of fallen humanity.

19) What promises were given earlier in His ministry

- **a) John 3:14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be _____ up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- **b) John 6:53-55** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye _____ the flesh of the Son of man, and _____ his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will _____ him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

And this life we receive by receiving His word, by doing those things which He has commanded. Thus, we become one with Him

20) What did Paul tell us about beholding the Sacrifice of Our Lord?
Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should _____, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Looking upon the crucified Redeemer, we more fully comprehend the magnitude and meaning of the sacrifice made by the Majesty of heaven. The plan of salvation is glorified before us, and the thought of Calvary awakens living and sacred emotions in our hearts. Praise to God and the Lamb will be in our hearts and on our lips; for pride and self-worship cannot flourish in the soul that keeps fresh in memory the scenes of Calvary.

Can you see what Jesus tried to convey at the Communion?

Would you like to commit yourself to Him?

When is the time to remember?

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Lesson 61 – "Let not your heart be troubled" (Part I)

Based on John 13:31-38; John 14.

1) Judas left the upper room right after Jesus gave him communion. What did Jesus say to the Eleven?
John 13:31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is _____ in him.

He was about to speak of His approaching separation from them; but before doing this He pointed to the great object of His mission. It was this that He kept ever before Him. It was His joy that all His humiliation and suffering would glorify the Father's name.

2) What did Jesus tell them?
John 13:33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall _____ me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

Fear fell upon them. They pressed close about the Saviour. Their Master and Lord, their beloved Teacher and Friend, He was dearer to them than life. To Him they had looked for help in all their difficulties, for comfort in their sorrows and disappointments. Now He was to leave them, a lonely, dependent company. Dark were the forebodings that filled their hearts.

3) What idea was and is Jesus trying to convey to the world?
2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are _____.
4) What did Jesus say in order to help the Disciples?
John 14:1-4 Let not your heart be _____: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many _____: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to _____ a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto _____; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

The object of Christ's departure was the opposite of what the disciples feared. It did not mean a final separation. He was going to prepare a place for them, that He might come again, and receive them unto Himself. While He was building mansions for them, they were to build characters after the divine similitude.

5) How did Thomas react?
John 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we _____ _____ whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
6) What was Jesus' reply?
John 14:6-7 Jesus saith unto him, _____ _____ the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the _____, but by me.

There are not many ways to heaven. Each one may not choose his own way. Since the first gospel sermon was preached, when in Eden it was declared that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, Christ had been uplifted as the way, the truth, and the life. He was the way when Adam lived, when Abel presented to God the blood of the slain lamb, representing the blood of the Redeemer. Christ was the way by which patriarchs and prophets were saved. He is the way by which alone we can have access to God.

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7) What did Christ add to that?
John 14:7 If ye had known _____, ye should have known my _____ also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8) How did the Disciples respond to that?
John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, _____ us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9) And Jesus replied:
John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so _____ _____ with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Amazed at his dullness of comprehension, Christ was pained with surprise. Is it possible that you do not see the Father in the works He does through Me? Do you not believe that I came to testify of the Father? Christ had not ceased to be God when He became man. Though He had humbled Himself to humanity, the Godhead was still His own. Christ alone could represent the Father to humanity, and this representation the disciples had been privileged to behold for over three years.

10) What proof did Jesus offer the Disciples?
John 14:10-11 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of _____: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very _____ sake.

Their faith might safely rest on the evidence given in Christ's works, works that no man, of himself, ever had done, or ever could do. Christ's work testified to His divinity. Through Him the Father had been revealed.

If the disciples believed this vital connection between the Father and the Son, their faith would not forsake them when they saw Christ's suffering and death to save a perishing world. Christ was seeking to lead them from their low condition of faith to the experience they might receive if they truly realized what He was, God in human flesh. He desired them to see that their faith must lead up to God and be anchored there.

11) For what purpose was Jesus' divinity knit to humanity?
John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall _____ do also; and _____ works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Jesus came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.

The Saviour's promise to His disciples is a promise to His church to the end of time. God did not design that His wonderful plan to redeem men should achieve only insignificant results. All who will go to work, trusting not in what they themselves can do, but in what God can do for and through them, will certainly realize the fulfillment of His promise.

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12) How do we ask anything of the Father in Heaven?
John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked _____ in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for strength and grace in His name. He would be present before the Father to make request for them. The prayer of the humble suppliant He presents as His own desire in that soul's behalf. Every sincere prayer is heard in heaven. It may not be fluently expressed; but if the heart is in it, it will ascend to the sanctuary where Jesus ministers, and He will present it to the Father without one awkward, stammering word, beautiful and fragrant with the incense of His own perfection.

13) What did Jesus repeat for them?
John 14:14 If ye shall ask _____ _____ in my name, I will do it.

In Christ's name His followers are to stand before God. Through the value of the sacrifice made for them, they are of value in the Lord's sight. Because of the imputed righteousness of Christ, they are accounted precious. For Christ's sake the Lord pardons those that fear Him. He does not see in them the vileness of the sinner. He recognizes in them the likeness of His Son, in whom they believe.

14) What important thing did Jesus say next?
John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my _____.

He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience. All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses.

15) What promise did John remind us of in his letter?
1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we _____ of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength.

16) What did Jesus say He would do for us?
John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another _____, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither _____ him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you _____: I will come to you.

Before this, the Spirit had been in the world; from the very beginning of the work of redemption He had been moving upon men's hearts. But while Christ was on earth, the disciples had desired no other helper. Not until they were deprived of His presence would they feel their need of the Spirit, and then He would come.

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17) To whom would Jesus be revealed?
John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and _____ them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Jesus read the future of His disciples. He saw one brought to the scaffold, one to the cross, one to exile among the lonely rocks of the sea, others to persecution and death. He encouraged them with the promise that in every trial He would be with them. That promise has lost none of its force.

18) What did Jesus tell to the faithful?
Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for _____, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.

More to come in Part II

Can you see Jesus tried to give His Disciples everything they could handle?

Would you like a deeper walk with Him?

When is the time to pray in His name?

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Lesson 62 – "Let not your heart be troubled" (Part II)

Based on John 14, 15, 16, 17.

1) Judas left the upper room right after Jesus gave him communion. What did Jesus say to the Eleven?
John 13:31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is _____ in him.

He was about to speak of His approaching separation from them; but before doing this He pointed to the great object of His mission. It was this that He kept ever before Him. It was His joy that all His humiliation and suffering would glorify the Father's name.

2) What did Jesus say He would do for us?
John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another _____, that he may abide with you for ever;

Before this, the Spirit had been in the world; from the very beginning of the work of redemption He had been moving upon men's hearts. But while Christ was on earth, the disciples had desired no other helper. Not until they were deprived of His presence would they feel their need of the Spirit, and then He would come.

3) What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit?
John 14:17-18 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither _____ him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you _____: I will come to you.

His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind.

The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.

4) What else did Jesus say about the Spirit?
John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will _____ you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall _____ of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

5) What else will the Spirit do in the world?
John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the _____ of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

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One might be able to present the letter of the word of God, he might be familiar with all its commands and promises; but unless the Holy Spirit sets home the truth, no souls will fall on the Rock and be broken. No amount of education, no advantages, however great, can make one a channel of light without the co-operation of the Spirit of God. The sowing of the gospel seed will not be a success unless the seed is quickened into life by the dew of heaven.

6) What had the Spirit done for the Disciples after Jesus returned to Heaven?
Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have _____ _____ with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

7) What is the promise for today?
Philippians 2:13 For it is God which _____ in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive.

8) How did Jesus end the Passover (Communion) time?
Mark 14:26 And when they had sung an _____, they went out into the mount of Olives.

9) What song did they sing?
Psalms 117 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his _____ _____ is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

After the hymn, they went out. Through the crowded streets they made their way, passing out of the city gate toward the Mount of Olives. Slowly they proceeded, each busy with his own thoughts. As they began to descend toward the mount.

10) What did Jesus tell His disciples while on the way?
Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be _____ abroad.

The disciples listened in sorrow and amazement. They remembered how in the synagogue at Capernaum, when Christ spoke of Himself as the bread of life, many had been offended, and had turned away from Him. But the twelve had not shown themselves unfaithful.

11) How did Peter respond?
Mark 14:29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not _____.

12) Christ replied:
Mark 14:30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this _____, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

13) Peter rebutted:
Mark 14:31 But he spake the more _____, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

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In their self-confidence they denied the repeated statement of Him who knew. They were unprepared for the test; when temptation should overtake them, they would understand their own weakness.

When Peter said he would follow his Lord to prison and to death, he meant it, every word of it; but he did not know himself. Hidden in his heart were elements of evil that circumstances would fan into life. Unless he was made conscious of his danger, these would prove his eternal ruin. The Saviour saw in him a self-love and assurance that would overbear even his love for Christ.

14) Undaunted, what did Jesus tell them?
Matthew 26:32 But after I am _____ again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Before the denial, they have the assurance of forgiveness. After His death and resurrection, they knew that they were forgiven and were dear to the heart of Christ.

15) Jesus continued with the lessons, what did He say?
John 15:1 I am the _____ _____, and my Father is the husbandman.

The Jews had always regarded the vine as the most noble of plants, and a type of all that was powerful, excellent, and fruitful. Israel had been represented as a vine which God had planted in the Promised Land. The Jews based their hope of salvation on the fact of their connection with Israel. But Jesus says, I am the real Vine.

16) What did Jesus follow that with?
John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the _____: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So, the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might.

17) Where are we to abide?
John 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall _____ what ye will, and it shall be _____ unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character.

18) What will God do for you?
John 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he _____ (prunes) it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

The pruning will cause pain, but it is the Father who applies the knife. He works with no wanton hand or indifferent heart. There are branches trailing upon the ground; these must be cut loose from the earthly supports to which their tendrils are fastening. They are to reach heavenward and find their support in God. The excessive foliage that draws away the life current from the fruit must be pruned off. The overgrowth must be cut out, to give room for the healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness.

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19) Why would God do this?
John 15:8 Herein is my Father _____, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

The Saviour does not bid the disciples labor to bear fruit. He tells them to abide in Him

20) How are we to live?
Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every _____ that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ.

21) What was one of the things Jesus told the Disciples after Judas left the Communion?
John 13:34 A new _____ I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another

To the disciples this commandment was new; for they had not loved one another as Christ had loved them. He saw that new ideas and impulses must control them; that new principles must be practiced by them; through His life and death they were to receive a new conception of love. The command to love one another had a new meaning in the light of His self-sacrifice.

22) What did Jesus follow the new commandment with?
John 13:35 . By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have _____ one to another.

Where this oneness exists, it is evidence that the image of God is being restored in humanity, that a new principle of life has been implanted. It shows that there is power in the divine nature to withstand the supernatural agencies of evil, and that the grace of God subdues the selfishness inherent in the natural heart.

23) How did Jesus end this last precious time with the Disciples?
John 16:32-33 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be _____, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have _____ the world.

We are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything. With the golden chain of His matchless love Christ has bound us to the throne of God. It is His purpose that the highest influence in the universe, emanating from the source of all power, shall be ours. We are to have power to resist evil, power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master, power that will enable us to overcome as Christ overcame.

24) What did Jesus pray for the Disciples (and us)?
John 17:15-20 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the _____. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. _____ them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the _____. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Can you see Jesus did everything He could for the Disciples?

Would you like to have the Holy Spirit? **When is the time to pray in His name?**

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Lesson 63 - Gethsemane

Based on Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-12.

In company with His disciples, the Saviour slowly made His way to the garden of Gethsemane. The Passover moon, broad and full, shone from a cloudless sky. The city of pilgrims' tents was hushed into silence.

1) What was the normal situation for Jesus?
John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me _____; for I do always those things that please him.

Now He seemed to be shut out from the light of God's sustaining presence. Now He was numbered with the transgressors. The guilt of fallen humanity He must bear. Upon Him who knew no sin must be laid the iniquity of us all. So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father's love.

2) How was he feeling at that point?
Matthew 26:38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding _____, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth.

3) What did Mark have to say about it?
Mark 14:32-33 And they came to a place which was named _____: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall _____. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

With Peter, James, and John, He entered its secluded recesses. These three disciples were Christ's closest companions. They had beheld His glory on the mount of transfiguration; they had seen Moses and Elijah talking with Him; they had heard the voice from heaven; now in His great struggle, Christ desired their presence near Him.

4) How did Zechariah describe the Saviour's misery?
Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be _____: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

In the wilderness of temptation, the destiny of the human race had been at stake. Christ was then conqueror. Now the tempter had come for the last fearful struggle. For this he had been preparing during the three years of Christ's ministry. Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here, his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the world would finally become Christ's; he himself would be overthrown and cast out. But if Christ could be overcome, the earth would become Satan's kingdom, and the human race would be forever in his power.

Satan told Jesus that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan's kingdom and would nevermore be one with God.

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In its hardest features Satan pressed the situation upon the Redeemer: The people who claim to be above all others in temporal and spiritual advantages have rejected You. They are seeking to destroy You, the foundation, the center and seal of the promises made to them as a peculiar people. One of Your own disciples, who has listened to Your instruction, and has been among the foremost in church activities, will betray You. One of Your most zealous followers will deny You. All will forsake You. Christ's whole being abhorred the thought. That those whom He had undertaken to save, those whom He loved so much, should unite in the plots of Satan, this pierced His soul.

5) In Christ's agony, what did He do?
Mark 14:35-36 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might _____ from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what _____ _____.

The One who had always had words of sympathy for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and He longed to know that they were praying for Him and for themselves. How dark seemed the malignity of sin! Terrible was the temptation to let the human race bear the consequences of its own guilt, while He stood innocent before God. If He could only know that His disciples understood and appreciated this, He would be strengthened.

6) What condition were they in?
Mark 14:37-38 And he cometh, and findeth them _____, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is _____.

Had He found them praying, He would have been relieved. Had they been seeking refuge in God, that satanic agencies might not prevail over them, He would have been comforted by their steadfast faith. But they had not heeded the repeated warning.

They did not intend to forsake their Lord, but they seemed paralyzed by a stupor which they might have shaken off if they had continued pleading with God.

7) What had Jesus told them earlier that night?
Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be _____ because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

8) How did Peter reply?
Mark 14:29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will _____ _____.

The disciples trusted to themselves. They did not look to the mighty Helper as Christ had counseled them to do. Thus, when the Saviour was most in need of their sympathy and prayers, they were found asleep. Even Peter was sleeping.

9) What had James and John previously said they could do?
Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to _____ of the _____ that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

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Should Jesus now put to James and John the question He had once asked them, ***"Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"*** they would not have ventured to answer,

10) When they awoke, what did Jesus counsel them?
Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is _____.

The weakness of His disciples awakened the sympathy of Jesus. He feared that they would not be able to endure the test which would come upon them in His betrayal and death.

11) How was Jesus' body responding to the stress?
Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of _____ falling down to the ground.

The cypress and palm trees were the silent witnesses of His anguish. From their leafy branches dropped heavy dew upon His stricken form, as if nature wept over its Author wrestling alone with the powers of darkness.

12) What resignation did Christ come to?
Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy _____ be done.

He had approached the consummation of His work a conqueror, having at each step gained the victory over the powers of darkness. As one already glorified, He had claimed oneness with God. In unfaltering accents He had poured out His songs of praise. He had spoken to His disciples in words of courage and tenderness. Now had come the hour of the power of darkness. Now His voice was heard on the still evening air, not in tones of triumph, but full of human anguish.

13) What did the Disciples have to say about it?
Mark 14:40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to _____ him.

His presence aroused them. They saw His face marked with the bloody sweat of agony, and they were filled with fear. His anguish of mind they could not understand.

14) What prophecy of Isaiah came true that night?
Isaiah 52:14 As many were astonied at thee; his visage was so _____ more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:
15) What did Jesus do a third time?
Mark 14:39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the _____ _____.

The awful moment had come that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save the guilty?

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The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, ***"O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."***

Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself.

16) What did Jesus say to the sleeping Disciples?
Matthew 26:45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your _____: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Christ's agony did not cease, but His depression and discouragement left Him. The storm had in nowise abated, but He who was its object was strengthened to meet its fury. He came forth calm and serene. A heavenly peace rested upon His bloodstained face. He had borne that which no human being could ever bear; for He had tasted the sufferings of death for every man.

17) Who ministered to Messiah while the Disciples slept?
Luke 22:43 And there appeared an _____ unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

The sleeping disciples had been suddenly awakened by the light surrounding the Saviour. They saw the angel bending over their prostrate Master. They saw him lift the Saviour's head upon his bosom and point toward heaven. They heard his voice, like sweetest music, speaking words of comfort and hope. The disciples recalled the scene upon the mount of transfiguration. They remembered the glory that in the temple had encircled Jesus, and the voice of God that spoke from the cloud. Now that same glory was again revealed, and they had no further fear for their Master.

18) What did Jesus tell them next?
Matthew 26:46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth _____ me.

19) What did Jesus say to the mob that was amassing around Him?
John 18:4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom _____ ye?

20) What happened while they answered Him?
John 18:5-6 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. _____ saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went _____, and fell to the ground.

The angel who had lately ministered to Jesus moved between Him and the mob. A divine light illuminated the Saviour's face, and a dovelike form overshadowed Him. In the presence of this divine glory, the murderous throng could not stand for a moment. They staggered back. Priests, elders, soldiers, and even Judas, fell as dead men to the ground.

21) Did Jesus run? _____

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The angel withdrew, and the light faded away. Jesus had opportunity to escape, but He remained, calm and self-possessed. As one glorified He stood in the midst of that hardened band, now prostrate and helpless at His feet. The disciples looked on, silent with wonder and awe.

22) What happened next?
John 18:7-8 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus _____, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these _____ their way:

23) What was the sign was given to the mob on whom to arrest?
Matthew 26:48-49 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall _____, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, _____; and kissed him.

This appeal should have aroused the conscience of the betrayer and touched his stubborn heart; but honor, fidelity, and human tenderness had forsaken him. He stood bold and defiant, showing no disposition to relent. He had given himself up to Satan, and he had no power to resist him. Jesus did not refuse the traitor's kiss.

24) How did Peter react?
John 18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right _____. The servant's name was Malchus.

25) Jesus replied:
Luke 22:51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and _____ him.

26) Jesus continued:
Luke 22:52-53 Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a _____, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no _____ against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

The disciples were terrified as they saw Jesus permit Himself to be taken and bound. They were offended that He should suffer this humiliation to Himself and them. They could not understand His conduct, and they blamed Him for submitting to the mob. In their indignation and fear, Peter proposed that they save themselves. Following this suggestion, ***"they all forsook Him, and fled."*** But Christ had foretold this desertion, ***"Behold,"*** He had said***, "the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me."***

Can you see we are not as strong as we think?

Would you like to have courage in the storm?

When is the time to watch and pray?

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Lesson 64 – Before Annas and Caiaphas

Based on Matthew 26:57-27:1; Mark 14:53-15:1; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:13-27.

After a long night and a frightful time in Gethsemane, Jesus had just been arrested and was being led into Jerusalem.

1) What does the Bible record for us?
Matthew 26:57 And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the _____ and the _____ were assembled.

Over the brook Kedron, past gardens and olive groves, and through the hushed streets of the sleeping city, they hurried Jesus. It was past midnight, and the cries of the hooting mob that followed Him broke sharply upon the still air.

2) Where did they stop off first?
John 18:12-13 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and _____ him, And led him away to _____ first; for he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

Annas was the head of the officiating priestly family, and in deference to his age he was recognized by the people as high priest. His counsel was sought and carried out as the voice of God. He must first see Jesus a captive to priestly power. He must be present at the examination of the prisoner, for fear that the less experienced Caiaphas might fail of securing the object for which they were working. His artifice, cunning, and subtlety must be used on this occasion; for, at all events, Christ's condemnation must be secured.

3) What was an important rule at the Sanhedrin?
John 7:51 Doth our law judge any man, before it _____ him, and _____ what he doeth?

Under the Roman rule the Sanhedrin could not execute the sentence of death. They could only examine a prisoner, and pass judgment, to be ratified by the Roman authorities. It was therefore necessary to bring against Christ charges that would be regarded as criminal by the Romans. An accusation must also be found which would condemn Him in the eyes of the Jews. Not a few among the priests and rulers had been convicted by Christ's teaching, and only fear of excommunication prevented them from confessing Him.

4) What was brought forward against Jesus at this meeting?
Mark 14:56-58 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness _____ not together. And there arose certain, and bare _____ witness against him, saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will _____ another made without hands.

5) What else did they try to corner Jesus with?
John 18:19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his _____, and of his _____.

6) How did Jesus reply?
John 18:20-21 Jesus answered him, I _____ openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why askest thou me? ask them which _____ me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.

Annas was silenced by the decision of the answer. Fearing that Christ would say something regarding his course of action that he would prefer to keep covered up, he said nothing more to Him at this time.

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7) What did one of the court officers do?
John 18:22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by _____ Jesus with the _____ of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

8) How did Jesus respond?
John 18:23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken _____, bear _____ of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?

Christ suffered keenly under abuse and insult. At the hands of the beings whom He had created, and for whom He was making an infinite sacrifice, He received every indignity. And He suffered in proportion to the perfection of His holiness and His hatred of sin. His trial by men who acted as fiends was to Him a perpetual sacrifice. To be surrounded by human beings under the control of Satan was revolting to Him. And He knew that in a moment, by the flashing forth of His divine power, He could lay His cruel tormentors in the dust. This made the trial the harder to bear.

Jesus was then taken to the judgement hall where Caiaphas took his seat as presiding officer. On either side were the judges, and those specially interested in the trial. The Roman soldiers were stationed on the platform below the throne. At the foot of the throne stood Jesus. Upon Him the gaze of the whole multitude was fixed. The excitement was intense. Of all the throng He alone was calm and serene. The very atmosphere surrounding Him seemed pervaded by a holy influence.

9) What did Caiaphas ask Jesus?
Matthew 26:59-63 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought _____ _____ against Jesus, to put him to death; But found _____: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest arose, and said unto him, _____ thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the _____ _____, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

10) How did Jesus respond to Caiaphas?
Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the _____ _____ of _____, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

The enemies of Jesus were in great perplexity. They were bent on securing His condemnation, but how to accomplish this they knew not. There was abundant evidence that Jesus had disregarded the traditions of the Jews and had spoken irreverently of many of their ordinances; but in regard to tradition the Pharisees and Sadducees were at swords' points; and this evidence also would have no weight with the Romans.

11) What had Christ said early in His ministry?
John 2:19-21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this _____, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his _____.

12) What did the false witness SAY He said?
Matthew 26:61 And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the _____ of God, and to build it in three days.

Christ's words were misstated. If they had been reported exactly as He spoke them, they would not have secured His condemnation even by the Sanhedrin. Had Jesus been a mere man, as the Jews claimed, His declaration would only have indicated an unreasonable, boastful spirit, but could not have been construed into blasphemy. Even as misrepresented by the false witnesses, His words contained nothing which would be regarded by the Romans as a crime worthy of death.

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13) What had Isaiah prophesied about Messiah?
Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is _____, so he openeth not his mouth.

14) Finally, what did Caiaphas ask Jesus?
Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I _____ thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

To this appeal Christ could not remain silent. There was a time to be silent, and a time to speak. He had not spoken until directly questioned. He knew that to answer now would make His death certain. But the appeal was made by the highest acknowledged authority of the nation, and in the name of the Most High. Christ would not fail to show proper respect for the law. More than this, His own relation to the Father was called in question. He must plainly declare His character and mission.

15) What had Jesus taught His Disciples?
Matthew 10:32-33 Whosoever therefore shall _____ me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall _____ me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

16) What was Jesus' response to Caiaphas?
Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the _____ of _____.

For a moment the divinity of Christ flashed through His guise of humanity. The high priest quailed before the penetrating eyes of the Saviour. That look seemed to read his hidden thoughts and burn into his heart. Never in afterlife did he forget that searching glance of the persecuted Son of God.

The words of Christ startled the high priest. The thought that there was to be a resurrection of the dead, when all would stand at the bar of God, to be rewarded according to their works, was a thought of terror to Caiaphas. He did not wish to believe that in future he would receive sentence according to his works. There rushed before his mind as a panorama the scenes of the final judgment. For a moment he saw the fearful spectacle of the graves giving up their dead, with the secrets he had hoped were forever hidden. For a moment he felt as if standing before the eternal Judge, whose eye, which sees all things, was reading his soul, bringing to light mysteries supposed to be hidden with the dead.

17) What did the High Priest do at the answer of Jesus?
Matthew 26:65-66 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his _____. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of _____.

Now he was maddened by satanic fury. Was this man, a prisoner before him, to assail his most cherished theories? Rending his robe, that the people might see his pretended horror, he demanded that without further preliminaries the prisoner be condemned for blasphemy.

18) What was one of the laws referring to the High Priest?
Leviticus 10:6 And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither _____ your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

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This act was deeply significant. Little did Caiaphas realize its meaning. In this act, done to influence the judges and secure Christ's condemnation, the high priest had condemned himself. By the law of God he was disqualified for the priesthood. He had pronounced upon himself the death sentence.

By those beautiful official garments was represented the character of the great antitype, Jesus Christ. Nothing but perfection, in dress and attitude, in word and spirit, could be acceptable to God. He is holy, and His glory and perfection must be represented by the earthly service. Nothing but perfection could properly represent the sacredness of the heavenly service. Finite man might rend his own heart by showing a contrite and humble spirit. This God would discern. But no rent must be made in the priestly robes, for this would mar the representation of heavenly things.

19) What warning was given about Christ in the days of Moses?
Exodus 23:20-22 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. _____ of him, and _____ his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an _____ unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

Each action of the high priest was watched with interest by the people; and Caiaphas thought for effect to display his piety. But in this act, designed as an accusation against Christ, he was reviling the One of whom God had said, ***"My name is in Him."*** Well might Caiaphas then rend his official robes, which signified that he claimed to be a representative of the great High Priest; for no longer had they any meaning for him or for the people. Well might the high priest rend his robes in horror for himself and for the nation.

20) While this was happening, where was Peter?
Matthew 26:58 But Peter _____ him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

In the court a fire had been kindled; for it was the coldest hour of the night, being just before the dawn. A company drew about the fire, and Peter presumptuously took his place with them. He did not wish to be recognized as a disciple of Jesus. By mingling carelessly with the crowd, he hoped to be taken for one of those who had brought Jesus to the hall.

21) Did they recognize him?
Luke 22:56-57 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also _____ _____. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

In assuming an air of indifference he had placed himself on the enemy's ground, and he became an easy prey to temptation. If he had been called to fight for his Master, he would have been a courageous soldier; but when the finger of scorn was pointed at him, he proved himself a coward. Many who do not shrink from active warfare for their Lord are driven by ridicule to deny their faith.

In order to conceal his true feelings, he endeavored to join with the persecutors of Jesus in their untimely jests. But his appearance was unnatural. He was acting a lie, and while seeking to talk unconcernedly he could not restrain expressions of indignation at the abuse heaped upon his Master.

22) What happened the third time he was asked if he was one of the Disciples?
Luke 22:60-62 And Peter said, Man, I _____ _____ what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and _____ upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and _____ bitterly.

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While the degrading oaths were fresh upon Peter's lips, and the shrill crowing of the cock was still ringing in his ears, the Saviour turned from the frowning judges and looked full upon His poor disciple. At the same time Peter's eyes were drawn to his Master. In that gentle countenance he read deep pity and sorrow, but there was no anger there.

23) What had Jesus told him earlier?
Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may _____ you as _____: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

The sight of that pale, suffering face, those quivering lips, that look of compassion and forgiveness, pierced his heart like an arrow. Conscience was aroused. Memory was active. Peter called to mind his promise of a few short hours before that he would go with his Lord to prison and to death.

24) Peter went back to Gethsemane, What Words came to him?
Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

The scene of a few hours before came vividly to his mind. The suffering face of his Lord, stained with bloody sweat and convulsed with anguish, rose before him. He remembered with bitter remorse that Jesus had wept and agonized in prayer alone, while those who should have united with Him in that trying hour were sleeping. He remembered His solemn charge.

On the very spot where Jesus had poured out His soul in agony to His Father, Peter fell upon his face, and wished that he might die.

25) What happened at daybreak?
Luke 22:66-69 And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their _____, saying, Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe: And if I also ask you, ye will _____ answer me, nor let me go. Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

As soon as it was day, the Sanhedrin again assembled, and again Jesus was brought into the council room. He had declared Himself the Son of God, and they had construed His words into a charge against Him. But they could not condemn Him on this, for many of them had not been present at the night session, and they had not heard His words. And they knew that the Roman tribunal would find in them nothing worthy of death. But if from His own lips they could all hear those words repeated, their object might be gained. His claim to the Messiahship they might construe into a seditious political claim.

When the condemnation of Jesus was pronounced by the judges, a satanic fury took possession of the people. The roar of voices was like that of wild beasts. The crowd made a rush toward Jesus, crying, He is guilty, put Him to death! Had it not been for the Roman soldiers, Jesus would not have lived to be nailed to the cross of Calvary. He would have been torn in pieces before His judges, had not Roman authority interfered, and by force of arms restrained the violence of the mob.

26) How was Christ treated at this point?
Matthew 26:67-68 Then did they spit in his face, and _____ him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, Saying, _____ unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

The angels of God faithfully recorded every insulting look, word, and act against their beloved Commander. One day the base men who scorned and spat upon the calm, pale face of Christ will look upon it in its glory, shining brighter than the sun.

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Lesson 65 – In Pilate's Judgment Hall

Based on Matthew 27:2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-40; John 19:1-16

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
John 18:28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of _____: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

In the judgment hall of Pilate, the Roman governor, Christ stands bound as a prisoner. About Him are the guard of soldiers, and the hall is fast filling with spectators. Just outside the entrance are the judges of the Sanhedrin, priests, rulers, elders, and the mob.

According to their ceremonial law they would be defiled thereby and thus prevented from taking part in the feast of the Passover. In their blindness they did not see that murderous hatred had defiled their hearts. They did not see that Christ was the real Passover lamb, and that, since they had rejected Him, the great feast had for them lost its significance.

2) What question did Pilate as Jesus?
Matthew 27:11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the _____ of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

3) Did the mob remain quiet?
Matthew 27:12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered _____.

Pilate looked upon Him with no friendly eyes. The Roman governor had been called from his bedchamber in haste, and he determined to do his work as quickly as possible. He was prepared to deal with the prisoner with magisterial severity.

Pilate looked at the men who had Jesus in charge, and then his gaze rested searchingly on Jesus. He had had to deal with all kinds of criminals; but never before had a man bearing marks of such goodness and nobility been brought before him. On His face he saw no sign of guilt, no expression of fear, no boldness or defiance. He saw a man of calm and dignified bearing, whose countenance bore not the marks of a criminal, but the signature of heaven.

4) Confused, what did he ask Jesus?
Matthew 27:13-14 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness _____ thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor _____ greatly.

Christ's appearance made a favorable impression upon Pilate. His better nature was roused. He had heard of Jesus and His works. His wife had told him something of the wonderful deeds performed by the Galilean prophet, who cured the sick and raised the dead. Now this revived as a dream in Pilate's mind. He recalled rumors that he had heard from several sources. He resolved to demand of the Jews their charges against the prisoner.

5) What did Pilate ask them again?
John 18:29-30 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What _____ bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a _____, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

They hoped to impress Pilate with a sense of their importance and thus lead him to accede to their request without going through many preliminaries. They were eager to have their sentence ratified; for they knew that the people who had witnessed Christ's marvelous works could tell a story very different from the fabrication they themselves were now rehearsing.

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6) Did Pilate want to go along with their plans?
John 18:31-32 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to _____ law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to _____: That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.

The priests were in a dilemma. They saw that they must cloak their hypocrisy under the thickest concealment. They must not allow it to appear that Christ had been arrested on religious grounds. Were this put forward as a reason, their proceedings would have no weight with Pilate. They must make it appear that Jesus was working against the common law; then He could be punished as a political offender.

7) What accusation did they ultimately come up with to condemn Christ?
Luke 23:2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the _____, and forbidding to give tribute to _____, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

Pilate saw through their purpose. He did not believe that the prisoner had plotted against the government. His meek and humble appearance was altogether out of harmony with the charge. Pilate was convinced that a deep plot had been laid to destroy an innocent man who stood in the way of the Jewish dignitaries.

8) What did He ask Jesus?
Luke 23:3-4 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the _____? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find _____ _____ in this man.

Standing behind Pilate, in view of all in the court, Christ heard the abuse; but to all the false charges against Him He answered not a word. His whole bearing gave evidence of conscious innocence. He stood unmoved by the fury of the waves that beat about Him. It was as if the heavy surges of wrath, rising higher and higher, like the waves of the boisterous ocean, broke about Him, but did not touch Him. He stood silent, but His silence was eloquence. It was as a light shining from the inner to the outer man.

9) How did John record this?
John 18:33-35 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the _____ of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of _____, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what _____ _____ done?

10) Jesus replied:
John 18:36-37 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants _____, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the _____. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

11) What did Pilate say?
John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is _____? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

These words from a heathen judge were a scathing rebuke to the perfidy and falsehood of the rulers of Israel who were accusing the Saviour. As the priests and elders heard this from Pilate, their disappointment and rage knew no bounds. They had long plotted and waited for this opportunity. As they saw the prospect of the release of Jesus, they seemed ready to tear Him in pieces.

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12) What did Luke say followed that?
Luke 23:5 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from _____ to this place.

13) What plan did Pilate make?
Luke 23:6-7 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto _____ jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

Pilate dreaded the ill will of the people. Should he refuse to give Jesus into their hands, a tumult would be raised, and this he feared to meet. When he heard that Christ was from Galilee, he decided to send Him to Herod, the ruler of that province, who was then in Jerusalem. By this course, Pilate thought to shift the responsibility of the trial from himself to Herod.

14) How did Herod greet Jesus?
Luke 23:8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding _____: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

15) Did Jesus cooperate?
Luke 23:9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him _____.

16) What question did he seek an answer to?
Mark 6:16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is _____ from the dead.

This Herod was he whose hands were stained with the blood of John the Baptist. When Herod first heard of Jesus, he was terror-stricken.

The king hoped to banish forever from his mind the memory of that bloody head brought to him in a charger. He also desired to have his curiosity gratified and thought that if Christ were given any prospect of release, He would do anything that was asked of Him.

17) What was the outcome of His time with Herod?
Luke 23:11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and _____ him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

The mission of Christ in this world was not to gratify idle curiosity. He came to heal the brokenhearted. Could He have spoken any word to heal the bruises of sin-sick souls, He would not have kept silent. But He had no words for those who would but trample the truth under their unholy feet.

The last rays of merciful light were shining upon Herod's sin-hardened heart. He felt that this was no common man; for divinity had flashed through humanity. At the very time when Christ was encompassed by mockers, adulterers, and murderers, He felt that he was beholding a God upon His throne.

18) What happened next?
Luke 23:13-16 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the _____: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found _____ _____ in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. I will therefore chastise him, and _____ him.

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Here Pilate showed his weakness. He had declared that Jesus was innocent, yet he was willing for Him to be scourged to pacify His accusers. He would sacrifice justice and principle in order to compromise with the mob.

If at the first Pilate had stood firm, refusing to condemn a man whom he found guiltless, he would have broken the fatal chain that was to bind him in remorse and guilt as long as he lived. Had he carried out his convictions of right, the Jews would not have presumed to dictate to him. Christ would have been put to death, but the guilt would not have rested upon Pilate.

19) What warning did God give Pilate?
Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his _____ sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

A message from God warned him from the deed he was about to commit. In answer to Christ's prayer, the wife of Pilate had been visited by an angel from heaven, and in a dream, she had beheld the Saviour and conversed with Him. Pilate's wife was not a Jew, but as she looked upon Jesus in her dream, she had no doubt of His character or mission… … She saw Christ seated upon the great white cloud, while the earth reeled in space, and His murderers fled from the presence of His glory. With a cry of horror, she awoke, and at once wrote to Pilate words of warning.

20) What did Pilate try next?
Matthew 27:15-17 Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a _____, whom they would. And they had then a notable prisoner, called _____. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

It was customary at this feast to release one prisoner whom the people might choose. This custom was of pagan invention; there was not a shadow of justice in it, but it was greatly prized by the Jews. The Roman authorities at this time held a prisoner named Barabbas, who was under sentence of death. This man had claimed to be the Messiah. He claimed authority to establish a different order of things, to set the world right. Under satanic delusion he claimed that whatever he could obtain by theft and robbery was his own.

21) Who did the Jews choose?
Matthew 27:21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I _____ unto you? They said, Barabbas.

22) Frustrated, what did Pilate ask the mob?
Matthew 27:22-23 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called _____? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what _____ hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

23) What did the mob cry out?
Matthew 27:25-26 Then answered all the people, and said, His _____ be on us, and on our _____. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

24) What happened next?
Matthew 27:27-31 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they _____ him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a _____ of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they _____ upon him, and took the reed, and _____ him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

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Satan led the cruel mob in its abuse of the Saviour. It was his purpose to provoke Him to retaliation if possible, or to drive Him to perform a miracle to release Himself and thus break up the plan of salvation. One stain upon His human life, one failure of His humanity to endure the terrible test, and the Lamb of God would have been an imperfect offering, and the redemption of man a failure. But He who by a command could bring the heavenly host to His aid—He who could have driven that mob in terror from His sight by the flashing forth of His divine majesty—submitted with perfect calmness to the coarsest insult and outrage.

25) How will they see Jesus again?
Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, _____ OF KINGS, AND _____ OF LORDS.

Can you see the determination in the Son of God to fulfil prophecy and redeem the world?

Would you like to have His conviction and presence in your life?

When is the time to seek His face?

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Lesson 66 – Calvary

Based on Matthew 27:31-53; Mark 15:20-38; Luke 23:26-46; John 19:16-30.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
Luke 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called _____, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

2) Where and why did Jesus suffer?
Hebrews13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might _____ the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

For transgression of the law of God, Adam and Eve were banished from Eden. Christ, our substitute, was to suffer without the boundaries of Jerusalem. He died outside the gate, where felons and murderers were executed.

3) What did Paul have to say about it?
Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the _____ of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

As Jesus passed the gate of Pilate's court, the cross which had been prepared for Barabbas was laid upon His bruised and bleeding shoulders. Two companions of Barabbas were to suffer death at the same time with Jesus, and upon them also crosses were placed. The Saviour's burden was too heavy for Him in His weak and suffering condition.

4) Who was ordered to carry His cross?
Luke 23:26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one _____, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

Simon had heard of Jesus. His sons were believers in the Saviour, but he himself was not a disciple. The bearing of the cross to Calvary was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence. It led him to take upon himself the cross of Christ from choice, and ever cheerfully stand beneath its burden.

5) Who were following Jesus?
Luke 23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of _____, which also bewailed and lamented him.

Some of them have seen Him before. Some have carried to Him their sick and suffering ones. Some have themselves been healed. The story of the scenes that have taken place is related. They wonder at the hatred of the crowd toward Him for whom their own hearts are melting and ready to break. And notwithstanding the action of the maddened throng, and the angry words of the priests and rulers, these women give expression to their sympathy. As Jesus falls fainting beneath the cross, they break forth into mournful wailing.

6) How did Jesus respond to their grief?
Luke 23:28-31 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, _____ not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the _____, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the _____, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a _____ tree, what shall be done in the dry?

This was the only thing that attracted Christ's attention. Although full of suffering, while bearing the sins of the world, He was not indifferent to the expression of grief. He looked upon these women with tender compassion. They were not believers in Him; He knew that they were not lamenting Him as one sent from God but were moved by feelings of human pity.

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Christ looked forward to the time of Jerusalem's destruction. In that terrible scene, many of those who were now weeping for Him were to perish with their children.

7) Where were the Disciples while all this was happening?
Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be _____ abroad.

8) What happened next?
Mark 15:24-25 And when they had crucified him, they parted his _____, casting _____ upon them, what every man should take. And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

For the Jews of that time, the first hour of the day was at the sunrise. The sun came up around 6 AM, therefore, Jesus was place on the cross about 9 AM (the third hour)

Arriving at the place of execution, the prisoners were bound to the instruments of torture. The two thieves wrestled in the hands of those who placed them on the cross; but Jesus made no resistance. The mother of Jesus, supported by John the beloved disciple, had followed the steps of her Son to Calvary. She had seen Him fainting under the burden of the cross and had longed to place a supporting hand beneath His wounded head, and to bathe that brow which had once been pillowed upon her bosom. But she was not permitted this mournful privilege.

9) Instead of cursing, how did Jesus react to the nails going into His hands and feet?
Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

The Saviour made no murmur of complaint. His face remained calm and serene, but great drops of sweat stood upon His brow. There was no pitying hand to wipe the death dew from His face, nor words of sympathy and unchanging fidelity to stay His human heart. While the soldiers were doing their fearful work, Jesus prayed for His enemies.

10) What was Jesus accomplishing?
Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the _____ of _____ freely.

That prayer of Christ for His enemies embraced the world. It took in every sinner that had lived or should live, from the beginning of the world to the end of time. Upon all rests the guilt of crucifying the Son of God. To all, forgiveness is freely offered.

11) What was placed on the cross that Jesus was crucified on?
Luke 23:38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE _____ OF THE _____.

As soon as Jesus was nailed to the cross, it was lifted by strong men, and with great violence thrust into the place prepared for it. This caused the most intense agony to the Son of God. Pilate then wrote an inscription in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, and placed it upon the cross, above the head of Jesus.

12) What had Jesus' accusers said before Pilate?
John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but _____.

This was an acknowledgment of the allegiance of the Jews to the Roman power. It declared that whoever might claim to be the King of Israel would be judged by them worthy of death. The priests had overreached themselves. When they were plotting the death of Christ, Caiaphas had declared it

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expedient that one man should die to save the nation. Now their hypocrisy was revealed. In order to destroy Christ, they had been ready to sacrifice even their national existence.

13) Were the Jews happy with the Sign Pilate had put up?
John 19:21-22 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he _____, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have _____.

A higher power than Pilate or the Jews had directed the placing of that inscription above the head of Jesus. In the providence of God, it was to awaken thought, and investigation of the Scriptures. The place where Christ was crucified was near to the city. Thousands of people from all lands were then at Jerusalem, and the inscription declaring Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah would come to their notice. It was a living truth, transcribed by a hand that God had guided.

14) What prophecy was fulfilled?
Psalm 22:16-18 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the _____ have inclosed me: they pierced my _____ and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my _____ among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

15) What did Jesus hear the soldiers say?
John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not _____ it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my _____ among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

16) What did the Psalmist say would happen?
Psalm 69:20-21 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take _____, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me _____ to drink.

To those who suffered death by the cross, it was permitted to give a stupefying potion, to deaden the sense of pain. This was offered to Jesus; but when He had tasted it, He refused it. He would receive nothing that could becloud His mind. His faith must keep fast hold upon God. This was His only strength. To becloud His senses would give Satan an advantage.

17) What jeer did they revile Jesus with?
Luke 23:37 And saying, _____ thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

The enemies of Jesus vented their rage upon Him as He hung upon the cross. Priests, rulers, and scribes joined with the mob in mocking the dying Saviour. At the baptism and at the transfiguration the voice of God had been heard proclaiming Christ as His Son. Again, just before Christ's betrayal, the Father had spoken, witnessing to His divinity. But now the voice from heaven was silent. No testimony in Christ's favor was heard. Alone He suffered abuse and mockery from wicked men.

18) What similar words came from Satan?
Matthew 4:3,6 And when the tempter came to him, he said, _____ thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread… …And saith unto him, _____ thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

The archfiend and his hosts were co-operating with the priests and rulers. The teachers of the people had stimulated the ignorant mob to pronounce judgment against One upon whom many of them had never looked, until urged to bear testimony against Him. Priests, rulers, Pharisees, and the hardened rabble were confederated together in a satanic frenzy. Religious rulers united with Satan and his angels. They were doing his bidding.

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19) What else did they say?
Matthew 27:41-43 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; _____ he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will _____ him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

In their mockery of the Saviour, the men who professed to be the expounders of prophecy were repeating the very words which Inspiration had foretold they would utter upon this occasion. Yet in their blindness they did not see that they were fulfilling the prophecy.

20) What lone ray of light did Jesus have on Calvary?
Luke 23:40-43 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due _____ of our deeds: but this man hath done _____ amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, _____ me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Both the men who were crucified with Jesus had at first railed upon Him; and one under his suffering only became more desperate and defiant. But not so with his companion. This man was not a hardened criminal; he had been led astray by evil associations, but he was less guilty than many of those who stood beside the cross reviling the Saviour. He had seen and heard Jesus and had been convicted by His teaching.

Men may exercise power over Jesus' human body. They may pierce the holy temples with the crown of thorns. They may strip from Him His raiment, and quarrel over its division. But they cannot rob Him of His power to forgive sins. In dying He bears testimony to His own divinity and to the glory of the Father. His ear is not heavy that it cannot hear, neither His arm shortened that it cannot save. It is His royal right to save unto the uttermost all who come unto God by Him.

21) What prophecy did Isaiah tell us about Christ?
Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was _____ with the _____; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

22) What did Jesus tell His His mother and John?
John 19:26-27 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy _____! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy _____! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

John understood Christ's words and accepted the trust. He at once took Mary to his home, and from that hour cared for her tenderly. O pitiful, loving Saviour; amid all His physical pain and mental anguish, He had a thoughtful care for His mother! He had no money with which to provide for her comfort; but He was enshrined in the heart of John, and He gave His mother to him as a precious legacy. Thus, He provided for her that which she most needed, the tender sympathy of one who loved her because she loved Jesus.

23) What amazing thing was happening in nature while this was all happening?
Luke 23:44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a _____ over all the earth until the ninth hour.

In that thick darkness God's presence was hidden. He makes darkness His pavilion and conceals His glory from human eyes. God and His holy angels were beside the cross. The Father was with His Son. Yet His presence was not revealed. Had His glory flashed forth from the cloud, every human beholder would have been destroyed. And in that dreadful hour Christ was not to be comforted with the Father's presence. He trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him.

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The silence of the grave seemed to have fallen upon Calvary. A nameless terror held the throng that was gathered about the cross. The cursing and reviling ceased in the midst of half-uttered sentences. Men, women, and children fell prostrate upon the earth. Vivid lightnings occasionally flashed forth from the cloud and revealed the cross and the crucified Redeemer. Priests, rulers, scribes, executioners, and the mob, all thought that their time of retribution had come.

24) What did Jesus cry out at the ninth hour?
Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou _____ me?

At the ninth hour the darkness lifted from the people but still enveloped the Saviour. It was a symbol of the agony and horror that weighed upon His heart. No eye could pierce the gloom that surrounded the cross, and none could penetrate the deeper gloom that enshrouded the suffering soul of Christ. The angry lightnings seemed to be hurled at Him as He hung upon the cross.

25) How did the people react?
Mark 15:35-36 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth _____. And one ran and filled a spunge full of vinegar, and put it on a _____, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooden bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree; that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe. And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise.

26) What happened next?
Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I _____ my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe. In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him. He was acquainted with the character of His Father; He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love. By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favor was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor.

27) What happened in the Temple while this was happening?
Mark 15:38 And the veil of the temple was _____ in _____ from the top to the bottom.

It was the hour of the evening sacrifice. The lamb representing Christ had been brought to be slain. Clothed in his significant and beautiful dress, the priest stood with lifted knife, as did Abraham when he was about to slay his son. With intense interest the people were looking on. But the earth trembles and quakes; for the Lord Himself draws near. With a rending noise the inner veil of the temple is torn from top to bottom by an unseen hand, throwing open to the gaze of the multitude a place once filled with the presence of God.

All is terror and confusion. The priest is about to slay the victim; but the knife drops from his nerveless hand, and the lamb escapes. Type has met antitype in the death of God's Son. The great sacrifice has been made. The way into the holiest is laid open. A new and living way is prepared for all.

28) What different ministry would Jesus go on to do?
Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he _____ in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal _____ for us.

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Lesson 67 – "It Is Finished"

1) What did Jesus declare just before He died on the cross?
John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is _____: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour's victory. Satan was defeated and knew that his kingdom was lost.

Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The arch-apostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion.

2) How did Lucifer appear before the fall?
Ezekiel 28:12-14 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of _____, and perfect in _____. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast _____. Thou art the _____ _____ that _____; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God's presence. He had been the highest of all created beings and had been foremost in revealing God's purposes to the universe. After he had sinned, his power to deceive was the more deceptive, and the unveiling of his character was the more difficult, because of the exalted position he had held with the Father.

It was God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God's principles. Time was given for the working of Satan's principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe.

From the desert to Calvary, the storm of Satan's wrath beat upon Jesus, but the more mercilessly it fell, the more firmly did the Son of God cling to the hand of His Father and press on in the bloodstained path. All the efforts of Satan to oppress and overcome Him only brought out in a purer light His spotless character.

3) How hard was it for Jesus?
Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and _____ on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as _____ wilt.

The bloody sweat was forced from His pores and fell in drops upon the ground. Thrice the prayer for deliverance was wrung from His lips. Heaven could no longer endure the sight, and a messenger of comfort was sent to the Son of God.

Heaven beheld the Victim betrayed into the hands of the murderous mob, and with mockery and violence hurried from one tribunal to another. It heard the sneers of His persecutors because of His lowly birth. It heard the denial with cursing and swearing by one of His best-loved disciples. It saw the frenzied work of Satan, and his power over the hearts of men.

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4) What did Jesus say while on the cross?
Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Heaven viewed with grief and amazement Christ hanging upon the cross, blood flowing from His wounded temples, and sweat tinged with blood standing upon His brow. From His hands and feet, the blood fell, drop by drop, upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross. The wounds made by the nails gaped as the weight of His body dragged upon His hands. His labored breath grew quick and deep, as His soul panted under the burden of the sins of the world. All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering***, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."***

The principalities and powers of darkness were assembled around the cross, casting the hellish shadow of unbelief into the hearts of men. When the Lord created these beings to stand before His throne, they were beautiful and glorious. Their loveliness and holiness were in accordance with their exalted station. They were enriched with the wisdom of God and girded with the panoply of heaven. They were Jehovah's ministers. But who could recognize in the fallen angels the glorious seraphim that once ministered in the heavenly courts?

5) What victory was won at Calvary?
Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is _____ _____, which accused them before our God day and night.

Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God.

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.

Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.

6) What amazing gift have you been offered?
2 Corinthians 5:18-19 And all things are of God, who hath _____ us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their _____ unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character, he might be drawn back to God.

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7) How does Paul explain how this reconciliation can happen?
Romans 3:24-26 Being justified freely by his _____ through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the _____ of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the _____ of him which believeth in Jesus.

The law requires righteousness, a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus, they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty.

8) How did the Psalmist sum up the Saviour's Great Atonement?
Psalm 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; _____ and _____ have kissed each other.

God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan's purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice. He sought to prove that the righteousness of God's law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God's plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other.

Another deception was now to be brought forward. Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, that the death of Christ did away with the Father's law. Had it been possible for the law to be changed, then Christ need not have died. But to repeal the law would be to immortalize transgression and place the world under Satan's control. It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

9) What did the brother of Jesus have to say about it?
James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in _____ point, he is guilty of _____.

By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan's power. By substituting human law for God's law, Satan will seek to control the world. This work is foretold in prophecy.

10) Is the above statement true?
Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change _____ and _____: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion.

11) How will the kingdom of Satan end?
   a) **Malachi 4:1** For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an _____; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither _____ nor branch.
   b) **Ezekiel 28:19** All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a _____, and never shalt thou be any more.

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c) **Psalm 37:10** For yet a little while, and the wicked _____ _____ _____: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God and thus cuts himself off from life.

12) How did Paul describe it?
Ephesians 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being _____ from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
13) How does Proverbs describe it?
Proverbs 8:36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love _____.

God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire.

But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.

Well, then, might the angels rejoice as they looked upon the Saviour's cross; for though they did not then understand all, they knew that the destruction of sin and Satan was forever made certain, that the redemption of man was assured, and that the universe was made eternally secure. Christ Himself fully comprehended the results of the sacrifice made upon Calvary. To all these He looked forward when upon the cross He cried out,

"It is finished."

Can you see what Christ finished?

Do you wish to be re-made into His likeness?

When is the time to ask Him?

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Lesson 68 – In Joseph's Tomb

1) What did Jesus declare just before He died on the cross?
John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is _____: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

At last Jesus was at rest. The long day of shame and torture was ended. As the last rays of the setting sun ushered in the Sabbath, the Son of God lay in quietude in Joseph's tomb. His work completed, His hands folded in peace, He rested through the sacred hours of the Sabbath day.

2) What did God the Father and the Son do after they created the world?
Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the _____ day God ended his work which he had made; and he _____ on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God _____ the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.
3) How did the heavenly host react to God's creation?
Job 38:7 When the morning stars _____ together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Now Jesus rested from the work of redemption; and though there was grief among those who loved Him on earth, yet there was joy in heaven. Glorious to the eyes of heavenly beings was the promise of the future. A restored creation, a redeemed race, that having conquered sin could never fall, this, the result to flow from Christ's completed work, God and angels saw. With this scene the day upon which Jesus rested is forever linked.

4) What is the quality of God's work?
Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is _____: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.
5) How long will His workmanship last?
Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be _____ _____: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.
6) What is the mission of Jesus?
Acts 3:20-21 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of _____ of all things, which God hath _____ by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

The creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph's tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing.

7) Why would I think the above statement is true?
Isaiah 66:23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one _____ to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.
8) What did the Roman Centurion say as the ground shook as Jesus died?
Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the _____, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of _____.

These words were said in no whispered tones. All eyes were turned to see whence they came. Who had spoken? It was the centurion, the Roman soldier. The divine patience of the Saviour, and His sudden death, with the cry of victory upon His lips, had impressed this heathen. In the bruised, broken body hanging upon the cross, the centurion recognized the form of the Son of God.

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He could not refrain from confessing his faith. Thus, again evidence was given that our Redeemer was to see of the travail of His soul. Upon the very day of His death, three men, differing widely from one another, had declared their faith, he who commanded the Roman guard, he who bore the cross of the Saviour, and he who died upon the cross at His side.

When the earth was wrapped in blackness, many who jeered and mocked stood accused by their own consciences, they felt guilty of a great wrong. No jest or mocking laughter was heard in the midst of that fearful gloom; and when it was lifted, they made their way to their homes in solemn silence. They were convinced that the charges of the priests were false, that Jesus was no pretender; and a few weeks later, when Peter preached upon the day of Pentecost, they were among the thousands who became converts to Christ.

The Jewish leaders were unchanged by the events they had witnessed. Their hatred of Jesus had not abated. The darkness that had mantled the earth at the crucifixion was not more dense than that which still enveloped the minds of the priests and rulers.

9) What happened inside the Temple?
Matthew 27:51-53 And, behold, the _____ of the temple was _____ in _____ from the _____ to the _____; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

The Priests and Pharisees had been jealous of Christ's influence with the people when living; they were jealous of Him even in death. They dreaded the dead Christ more, far more, than they had ever feared the living Christ. They dreaded to have the attention of the people directed any further to the events attending His crucifixion. They feared the results of that day's work. Not on any account would they have had His body remain on the cross during the Sabbath. The Sabbath was now drawing on, and it would be a violation of its sanctity for the bodies to hang upon the cross. So, using this as a pretext, the leading Jews requested Pilate that the death of the victims might be hastened, and their bodies be removed before the setting of the sun.

10) What rule was given about the Passover Lamb?
Numbers 9:12 They shall leave none of it unto the _____, nor break any _____ of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.

Pilate was as unwilling as they for the body of Jesus to remain upon the cross. His consent having been obtained, the legs of the two thieves were broken to hasten their death; but Jesus was found to be already dead. The rude soldiers had been softened by what they had heard and seen of Christ, and they were restrained from breaking His limbs.

The priests and rulers were amazed to find that Christ was dead. Death by the cross was a lingering process; it was difficult to determine when life had ceased. It was an unheard of thing for one to die within six hours of crucifixion.

11) What did the soldiers do to prove He was dead?
John 19:34-37 But one of the soldiers with a spear _____ his side, and forthwith came there out blood and _____. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the _____ should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

12) What did Jesus die from?
Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I _____ my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

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At the moment of death, the stream of blood and water that flowed from His side, declared that He died of a broken heart. His heart was broken by mental anguish. He was slain by the sin of the world.

With the death of Christ, the hopes of His disciples perished. They looked upon His closed eyelids and drooping head, His hair matted with blood, His pierced hands and feet, and their anguish was indescribable. Until the last they had not believed that He would die; they could hardly believe that He was really dead. Overwhelmed with sorrow, they did not recall His words foretelling this very scene.

13) Who came in to help the Disciples bury Jesus?
Matthew 27:57-60 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named _____, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be _____. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own _____ _____, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

In this emergency, Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus came to the help of the disciples. Both these men were members of the Sanhedrin, and were acquainted with Pilate. Both were men of wealth and influence. They were determined that the body of Jesus should have an honorable burial.

14) What did Nicodemus bring?
John 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of _____ and _____, about an hundred pound weight.

Neither Joseph nor Nicodemus had openly accepted the Saviour while He was living. They knew that such a step would exclude them from the Sanhedrin, and they hoped to protect Him by their influence in its councils. For a time, they had seemed to succeed; but the wily priests, seeing their favor to Christ, had thwarted their plans. In their absence Jesus had been condemned and delivered to be crucified. Now that He was dead, they no longer concealed their attachment to Him. While the disciples feared to show themselves openly as His followers, Joseph and Nicodemus came boldly to their aid.

15) What did John, Joseph, and Nicodemus do?
Luke 23:56 And they returned, and _____ spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the _____.

Gently and reverently, they removed with their own hands the body of Jesus from the cross. Their tears of sympathy fell fast as they looked upon His bruised and lacerated form. Joseph owned a new tomb, hewn in a rock. This he was reserving for himself; but it was near Calvary, and he now prepared it for Jesus. The body, together with the spices brought by Nicodemus, was carefully wrapped in a linen sheet, and the Redeemer was borne to the tomb. There the three disciples straightened the mangled limbs and folded the bruised hands upon the pulseless breast. Then they saw the heavy stone rolled against the entrance of the tomb, and the Saviour was left at rest.

A sense of strangeness pervaded everything. One after another inquired about a strange event that had taken place. Hitherto, the most holy place had been sacredly guarded from intrusion. But now it was open to all eyes. The heavy veil of tapestry, made of pure linen, and beautifully wrought with gold, scarlet, and purple, was rent from top to bottom. With gloomy presentiments the priests ministered before the altar. The uncovering of the sacred mystery of the most holy place filled them with dread of coming calamity.

16) What Words did Nicodemus remember at this time?
John 3:14-15 And as Moses _____ _____ the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever _____ in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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Nicodemus had opportunity for reflection. A clearer light now illuminated his mind, and the words which Jesus had spoken to him were no longer mysterious. He felt that he had lost much by not connecting himself with the Saviour during His life. Now he recalled the events of Calvary.

The very event that destroyed the hopes of the disciples convinced Joseph and Nicodemus of the divinity of Jesus. Their fears were overcome by the courage of a firm and unwavering faith.

17) What had Jesus told the rulers in Jerusalem?
John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will _____ it up.

18) What had Jesus said to the Disciples?
Matthew 20:18-19 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be _____ unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to _____ him: and the third day he shall rise again.

The revenge which the priests had thought would be so sweet was already bitterness to them. They knew that they were meeting the severe censure of the people; they knew that the very ones whom they had influenced against Jesus were now horrified by their own shameful work. But now they remembered that Christ's predictions had so far been fulfilled. He had said that He would rise again the third day, and who could say that this also would not come to pass? They longed to shut out these thoughts, but they could not. Like their father, the devil, they believed and trembled.

19) What did they ask Pilate for?
Matthew 27:62-65 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto _____, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After _____ days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

The priests gave directions for securing the sepulcher. A great stone had been placed before the opening. Across this stone they placed cords, securing the ends to the solid rock, and sealing them with the Roman seal. The stone could not be moved without breaking the seal. A guard of one hundred soldiers was then stationed around the sepulcher to prevent it from being tampered with. The priests did all they could to keep Christ's body where it had been laid. He was sealed as securely in His tomb as if He were to remain there through all time.

20) How effective are the efforts of those who go against God?
Psalm 2:1-4 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a _____ _____? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Weak men counseled and planned. Little did these murderers realize the uselessness of their efforts. But by their action God was glorified. The very efforts made to prevent Christ's resurrection are the most convincing arguments in its proof. The greater the number of soldiers placed around the tomb, the stronger would be the testimony that He had risen. Roman guards and Roman arms were powerless to confine the Lord of life within the tomb. The hour of His release was near.

Can you see God's plans can't be thwarted?

Do you want to be on the right side of His plans?

When is the time to listen?

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Lesson 69 – "The Lord is Risen"

Based on Matthew 28:1-4; 11-15

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
Matthew 28:1-2 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the _____ _____ of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the _____ from the door, and sat upon it.

The night of the first day of the week had worn slowly away. The darkest hour, just before daybreak, had come. Christ was still a prisoner in His narrow tomb. The great stone was in its place; the Roman seal was unbroken; the Roman guards were keeping their watch. And there were unseen watchers. Hosts of evil angels were gathered about the place. Had it been possible, the prince of darkness with his apostate army would have kept forever sealed the tomb that held the Son of God. But a heavenly host surrounded the sepulcher. Angels that excel in strength were guarding the tomb and waiting to welcome the Prince of life.

2) What did the angel look like?
Matthew 28:3-4 His countenance was like _____, and his raiment white as snow: And for _____ of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Clothed with the panoply of God, this angel left the heavenly courts. The bright beams of God's glory went before him and illuminated his pathway.

Brave soldiers that have never been afraid of human power are now as captives taken without sword or spear. The face they look upon is not the face of mortal warrior; it is the face of the mightiest of the Lord's host. This messenger is he who fills the position from which Satan fell. It is he who on the hills of Bethlehem proclaimed Christ's birth. The earth trembles at his approach, the hosts of darkness flee, and as he rolls away the stone, heaven seems to come down to the earth. The soldiers see him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and hear him cry, Son of God, come forth; Thy Father calls Thee. They see Jesus come forth from the grave, and hear Him proclaim over the rent sepulcher, ***"I am the resurrection, and the life."*** As He comes forth in majesty and glory, the angel host bow low in adoration before the Redeemer and welcome Him with songs of praise.

3) What did Paul say in Hebrews about the resurrection?
Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the _____ only, but also _____.

4) There was an earthquake when Jesus died and another when He rose again, what did Isaiah say about it?
Isaiah 24:20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a _____, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

5) What did Joel say about it?
Joel 3:16 The LORD also shall _____ out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall _____: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

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An earthquake marked the hour when Christ laid down His life, and another earthquake witnessed the moment when He took it up in triumph. He who had vanquished death and the grave came forth from the tomb with the tread of a conqueror, amid the reeling of the earth, the flashing of lightning, and the roaring of thunder.

6) What were Christ's mockers saying earlier?
Matthew 27:42-43 He saved others; himself he cannot save. _____ he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, _____ he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

Christ came forth from the tomb glorified, and the Roman guard beheld Him. Their eyes were riveted upon the face of Him whom they had so recently mocked and derided. In this glorified Being they beheld the prisoner whom they had seen in the judgment hall, the one for whom they had plaited a crown of thorns. This was the One who had stood unresisting before Pilate and Herod, His form lacerated by the cruel scourge. This was He who had been laid in Joseph's new tomb. The decree of heaven had loosed the captive. Mountains piled upon mountains over His sepulcher could not have prevented Him from coming forth.

7) After reviving from the encounter with the angel, what did the soldiers do next?
Matthew 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the _____, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were _____.

They were making their way to Pilate, but their report had been carried to the Jewish authorities, and the chief priests and rulers sent for them to be brought first into their presence. A strange appearance those soldiers presented. Trembling with fear, their faces colorless, they bore testimony to the resurrection of Christ. The soldiers told all, just as they had seen it; they had not had time to think or speak anything but the truth. With painful utterance they said, It was the Son of God who was crucified; we have heard an angel proclaiming Him as the Majesty of heaven, the King of glory.

8) Did the Priests and rulers become believers?
Matthew 28:12-13 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large _____ unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and _____ him away while we slept.

The faces of the priests were as those of the dead. Caiaphas tried to speak. His lips moved, but they uttered no sound. The soldiers were about to leave the council room, when a voice stayed them. Caiaphas had at last found speech. Wait, wait, he said. Tell no one the things you have seen.

The soldiers were horrified at the thought of bringing upon themselves the charge of sleeping at their post. This was an offense punishable with death. Should they bear false witness, deceiving the people, and placing their own lives in peril? Had they not kept their weary watch with sleepless vigilance? How could they stand the trial, even for the sake of money, if they perjured themselves?

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9) What was Caiaphas' plan?
Matthew 28:14-15 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will _____ him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were _____: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

The Soldiers came in before the priests burdened with a most startling message of truth; they went out with a burden of money, and on their tongues a lying report which had been framed for them by the priests.

Pilate had condemned the Saviour unwillingly, and with a feeling of pity, he had felt no real compunction until now. In terror he now shut himself within his house, determined to see no one. But the priests made their way into his presence, told the story which they had invented, and urged him to overlook the sentinels' neglect of duty. Before consenting to this, he himself privately questioned the guard. They, fearing for their own safety, dared not conceal anything, and Pilate drew from them an account of all that had taken place. He did not prosecute the matter further, but from that time there was no peace for him.

10) What haunting words came to the priests and rulers' minds?
Matthew 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His _____ be on us, and on our children.

When they heard the report of His resurrection, they feared the wrath of the people. They felt that their own lives were in danger. The only hope for them was to prove Christ an impostor by denying that He had risen. They bribed the soldiers, and secured Pilate's silence. They spread their lying reports far and near. But there were witnesses whom they could not silence. Many had heard of the soldiers' testimony to Christ's resurrection. ***And certain of the dead who came forth with Christ appeared to many and declared that He had risen. Reports were brought to the priests of persons who had seen these risen ones and heard their testimony.*** The priests and rulers were in continual dread, lest in walking the streets, or within the privacy of their own homes, they should come face to face with Christ.

11) What Had Jesus told everyone earlier in His ministry?
John 10:17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I _____ _____ my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have _____ to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.
John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, _____ this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
12) What did Jesus promise?
John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the _____, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

These words could be spoken only by the Deity. All created beings live by the will and power of God. They are dependent recipients of the life of God. From the highest seraph to the humblest animate being, all are replenished from the Source of life. Only He who is one with God could say, I have power to lay down My life, and I have power to take it again. In His divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death.

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13) Because Jesus rose from the dead, what will we be able to do?
1 Thessalonians 4:14-16 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God _____ with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are _____. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall _____ first:

14) What happened in the Temple 2 days after the Passover?
Leviticus 23:11-12 And he shall _____ the sheaf before the _____, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

Christ arose from the dead as the first fruits of those that slept. He was the antitype of the wave sheaf, and His resurrection took place on the very day when the wave sheaf was to be presented before the Lord. The sheaf dedicated to God represented the harvest. So, Christ the first fruits represented the great spiritual harvest to be gathered for the kingdom of God. His resurrection is the type and pledge of the resurrection of all the righteous.

15) What has Scripture recorded for us?
Matthew 27:52-53 And the graves were _____; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and _____ unto many.

16) What prophecy was fulfilled?
Isaiah 26:19 Thy dead men shall _____, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

To the believer, Christ is the resurrection and the life. In our Saviour the life that was lost through sin is restored; for He has life in Himself to quicken whom He will. He is invested with the right to give immortality. The life that He laid down in humanity, He takes up again and gives to humanity.

17) How do I know the above statement is true?
John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more _____.
John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into _____ _____.
John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will _____ him up at the last day.
John 8:51-52 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see _____. Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man _____ my saying, he shall never taste of death.

18) What is Christ's plan for you?
Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in _____.

Can you see Jesus has won the victory? **Do you want to receive the blessing?**

When is the time to prepare for eternity?

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Lesson 70 – "Why Weepest Thou?"

Based on Matthew 28:1, 5-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
Mark 16:1-2 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet _____, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the _____.

The women who had stood by the cross of Christ waited and watched for the hours of the Sabbath to pass. On the first day of the week, very early, they made their way to the tomb, taking with them precious spices to anoint the Saviour's body. They did not think about His rising from the dead. The sun of their hope had set, and night had settled down on their hearts.

2) What Words had everyone forgotten about?
John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will _____ you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.
3) What question did they ask themselves as they went?
Mark 16:3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the _____ from the door of the sepulchre?
4) What had already happened?
Matthew 28:2-6 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from _____, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and _____ upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as _____ men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is _____, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

They knew that they could not remove the stone, yet they kept on their way. And lo, the heavens were suddenly alight with glory that came not from the rising sun. The earth trembled. They saw that the great stone was rolled away. The grave was empty.

5) What did they see inside?
Mark 16:5-6 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were _____. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they _____ him.
6) What command followed?
Matthew 28:7-8 And go quickly, and tell his _____ that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into _____; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

The women had not all come to the tomb from the same direction. Mary Magdalene was the first to reach the place; and upon seeing that the stone was removed, she hurried away to tell the disciples.

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He is risen, He is risen! The women repeat the words again and again. No need now for the anointing spices. The Saviour is living, and not dead. They remember now that when speaking of His death He said that He would rise again

7) How did John record it?
John 20:1-2 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet _____, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other _____, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

8) Who was next to come to the tomb?
John 20:3-5 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did _____ Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and _____ in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.
John 20:6-8 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the _____, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but _____ together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

It was Christ Himself who had placed those graveclothes with such care. When the mighty angel came down to the tomb, he was joined by another, who with his company had been keeping guard over the Lord's body. As the angel from heaven rolled away the stone, the other entered the tomb, and unbound the wrappings from the body of Jesus. But it was the Saviour's hand that folded each and laid it in its place. In His sight who guides alike the star and the atom, there is nothing unimportant. Order and perfection are seen in all His work.

9) Who followed Peter and John to the tomb?
John 20:11-13 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre _____: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two _____ in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have _____ away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

Then she turned away, even from the angels, thinking that she must find someone who could tell her what had been done with the body of Jesus.

10) Who addressed her?
John 20:14-15 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why _____ thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the _____, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

11) Did she figure it out?
John 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, _____.

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12) She tried to embrace His feet, what happened?
John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, _____ me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I _____ unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life. The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son.

13) How did Isaiah describe Jesus' mission?
Isaiah 13:12 I will make a man more precious than fine _____; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

All power in heaven and on earth was given to the Prince of Life, and He returned to His followers in a world of sin, that He might impart to them of His power and glory.

14) What message was told to the women to give to the Disciples?
Mark 16:7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into _____: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

These angels had been with Christ as guardian angels throughout His life on earth. They had witnessed His trial and crucifixion. They had heard His words to His disciples. This was shown by their message to the disciples and should have convinced them of its truth. Such words could have come only from the messengers of their risen Lord.

Since the death of Christ, Peter had been bowed down with remorse. His shameful denial of the Lord, and the Saviour's look of love and anguish, were ever before him. Of all the disciples he had suffered most bitterly. To him the assurance is given that his repentance is accepted and his sin forgiven. He is mentioned by name.

15) Who appeared to the ladies as they went to tell the Disciples the message?
Matthew 28:9-10 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, _____ met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not _____: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

A third time the message was sent to the Disciples. After He had ascended to the Father, Jesus appeared to the other women, saying, ***"All hail. And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshiped Him."***

Christ's first work on earth after His resurrection was to convince His disciples of His undiminished love and tender regard for them. To give them proof that He was their living Saviour, that He had broken the fetters of the tomb, and could no longer be held by the enemy death; to reveal that He had the same heart of love as when He was with them as their beloved Teacher, He appeared to them again and again. He would draw the bonds of love still closer around them. Go tell My brethren, He said, that they meet Me in Galilee.

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16) What had the Disciples been accused of?
Matthew 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and _____ him away while we slept.

As they heard this appointment, so definitely given, the disciples began to think of Christ's words to them foretelling His resurrection. But even now they did not rejoice. They could not cast off their doubt and perplexity. Even when the women declared that they had seen the Lord, the disciples would not believe. They thought them under an illusion.

17) What question did they ask and ask?
Luke 24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have _____ Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Trouble seemed crowding upon trouble. On the sixth day of the week, they had seen their Master die; on the first day of the next week, they found themselves deprived of His body, and they were accused of having stolen it away for the sake of deceiving the people. They despaired of ever correcting the false impressions that were gaining ground against them. They feared the enmity of the priests and the wrath of the people. They longed for the presence of Jesus, who had helped them in every perplexity.

They met together in the upper chamber, and closed and fastened the doors, knowing that the fate of their beloved Teacher might at any time be theirs.

How many are still doing what these disciples did! How many echo Mary's despairing cry, "They have taken away the Lord, ... and we know not where they have laid Him"! To how many might the Saviour's words be spoken, ***"Why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?"*** He is close beside them, but their tear-blinded eyes do not discern Him. He speaks to them, but they do not understand.

From grateful hearts, from lips touched with holy fire, let the glad song ring out, Christ is risen! He lives to make intercession for us. Grasp this hope, and it will hold the soul like a sure, tried anchor. Believe, and thou shalt see the glory of God.

Can you see Jesus has won the victory?

Do you want to see past the gloom?

When is the time to prepare for eternity?

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Lesson 71 – The Walk to Emmaus

Based on Luke 24:13-33.

1) What happened later in the day that Jesus rose from the tomb?
Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called _____, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

These disciples had had no prominent place in Christ's work, but they were earnest believers in Him. They had come to the city to keep the Passover and were greatly perplexed by the events that had recently taken place. They had heard the news of the morning in regard to the removal of Christ's body from the tomb, and also the report of the women who had seen the angels and had met Jesus. They were now returning to their homes to meditate and pray.

2) What were they discussing?
Luke 24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had _____.

Sadly, they pursued their evening walk, talking over the scenes of the trial and the crucifixion. Never before had they been so utterly disheartened. Hopeless and faithless, they were walking in the shadow of the cross.

3) Who talked with them?
Luke 24:15-16 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, _____ himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not _____ him.

They continued their conversation, expressing the thoughts of their hearts. They were reasoning in regard to the lessons that Christ had given, which they seemed unable to comprehend. As they talked of the events that had taken place, Jesus longed to comfort them. He had seen their grief; He understood the conflicting, perplexing ideas that brought to their minds the thought, can this Man, who suffered Himself to be so humiliated, be the Christ? Their grief could not be restrained, and they wept. Jesus knew that their hearts were bound up with Him in love, and He longed to wipe away their tears, and fill them with joy and gladness.

4) What did Jesus ask them?
Luke 24:17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are _____?

5) What was their reply?
Luke 24:18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not _____ the things which are come to _____ there in these days?

6) What was their hope?
Luke 24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have _____ Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

7) What complicated their distress?
Luke 24:22-24 **Yea,** and certain women also of our company made us _____, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his _____, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was _____. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

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8) What warning had been given about Jesus?
Matthew 27:63-64 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will _____ _____. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and _____ him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Strange that the disciples did not remember Christ's words and realize that He had foretold the events which had come to pass! They did not realize that the last part of His disclosure would be just as verily fulfilled as the first part, that the third day He would rise again. This was the part they should have remembered. The priests and rulers did not forget this.

9) What did Jesus say to these believers?
Luke 24:25-26 Then he said unto them, O fools, and _____ of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have _____ these things, and to enter into his glory?

10) Jesus then went into a Bible Study, what did He cover?
Luke 24:27 And beginning at _____ and all the _____, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

The disciples wondered who this stranger could be, that He should penetrate to their very souls, and speak with such earnestness, tenderness, and sympathy, and with such hopefulness. For the first time since Christ's betrayal, they began to feel hopeful. Often, they looked earnestly at their companion and thought that His words were just the words that Christ would have spoken. They were filled with amazement, and their hearts began to throb with joyful expectation.

Christ performed no miracle to convince them, but it was His first work to explain the Scriptures. They had looked upon His death as the destruction of all their hopes. Now He showed from the prophets that this was the very strongest evidence for their faith.

11) How important is it to believe ALL Scripture?
Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one _____ from the dead.

It is the voice of Christ that speaks through patriarchs and prophets, from the days of Adam even to the closing scenes of time. The Saviour is revealed in the Old Testament as clearly as in the New. It is the light from the prophetic past that brings out the life of Christ and the teachings of the New Testament with clearness and beauty. The miracles of Christ are a proof of His divinity; but a stronger proof that He is the world's Redeemer is found in comparing the prophecies of the Old Testament with the history of the New.

Christ must die, as every transgressor of the law must die if he continues in sin. All this was to be, but it was not to end in defeat, but in glorious, eternal victory. Jesus told them that every effort must be made to save the world from sin. His followers must live as He lived, and work as He worked, with intense, persevering effort.

12) What Words could only Jesus say?
Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, _____ power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

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Little did they yet suspect who their traveling companion was. They did not think that the subject of their conversation was walking by their side; for Christ referred to Himself as though He were another person. They thought that He was one of those who had been in attendance at the great feast, and who was now returning to his home. He walked as carefully as they over the rough stones, now and then halting with them for a little rest. Thus, they proceeded along the mountainous road, while the One who was soon to take His position at God's right hand walked beside them.

13) What happened next?

Luke 24:28-29 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone _____. But they constrained him, saying, _____ with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

During the journey the sun had gone down, and before the travelers reached their place of rest, the laborers in the fields had left their work. As the disciples were about to enter their home, the stranger appeared as though He would continue His journey. But the disciples felt drawn to Him. Their souls hungered to hear more from Him and Jesus stayed with them.

14) What did Jesus do inside?

Luke 24:30-31 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and _____ it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were _____, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

The simple evening meal of bread is soon prepared. It is placed before the guest, who has taken His seat at the head of the table. Now He puts forth His hands to bless the food. The disciples start back in astonishment. Their companion spreads forth His hands in exactly the same way as their Master used to do. They look again, and lo, they see in His hands the print of nails. Both exclaim at once; It is the Lord Jesus! He has risen from the dead!

15) What did they say to one another?

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart _____ within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Had the disciples failed to press their invitation, they would not have known that their traveling companion was the risen Lord. Christ never forces His company upon anyone. He interests Himself in those who need Him. Gladly will He enter the humblest home and cheer the lowliest heart. But if men are too indifferent to think of the heavenly Guest, or ask Him to abide with them, He passes on. Thus, many meet with great loss.

16) What did they do?

Luke 24:33-34 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to _____, and found the _____ gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

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But with this great news to communicate they cannot sit and talk. Their weariness and hunger are gone. They leave their meal untasted, and full of joy immediately set out again on the same path by which they came, hurrying to tell the tidings to the disciples in the city. In some parts the road is not safe, but they climb over the steep places, slipping on the smooth rocks. They do not see, they do not know, that they have the protection of Him who has traveled the road with them. With their pilgrim staff in hand, they press on, desiring to go faster than they dare. They lose their track but find it again. Sometimes running, sometimes stumbling, they press forward, their unseen Companion close beside them all the way.

The night is dark, but the Sun of Righteousness is shining upon them. Their hearts leap for joy. They seem to be in a new world. Christ is a living Saviour. They no longer mourn over Him as dead. Christ is risen, over and over again they repeat it. This is the message they are carrying to the sorrowing ones. They must tell them the wonderful story of the walk to Emmaus. They must tell who joined them by the way. They carry the greatest message ever given to the world, a message of glad tidings upon which the hopes of the human family for time and for eternity depend.

Can you see the need of Scripture?

Do you want to see past the gloom?

When is the time to share Your glad tidings?

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Lesson 72 – "Peace Be unto You"

Based on Luke 24:33-48; John 20:19-29.

1) What happened later in the day that Jesus rose from the tomb?
Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called _____, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

2) Who met up with them?
Luke 24:15-16 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, _____ himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not _____ him.

3) What did Jesus do inside after the trip there?
Luke 24:30-31 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and _____ it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were _____, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

4) What did they do?
Luke 24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to _____, and found the _____ gathered together, and them that were with them

On reaching Jerusalem the two disciples enter at the eastern gate, which is open at night on festal occasions. The houses are dark and silent, but the travelers make their way through the narrow streets by the light of the rising moon. They go to the upper chamber where Jesus spent the hours of the last evening before His death. Here they know that their brethren are to be found. Late as it is, they know that the disciples will not sleep till they learn for a certainty what has become of the body of their Lord. They find the door of the chamber securely barred. They knock for admission, but no answer comes. All is still. Then they give their names. The door is carefully unbarred, they enter, and Another, unseen, enters with them. Then the door is again fastened, to keep out spies.

5) What glad tidings did they declare?
Luke 24:34 Saying, The Lord is _____ indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

the two travelers, panting with the haste with which they have made their journey, tell the wondrous story of how Jesus has appeared to them. They have just ended, and some are saying that they cannot believe it, for it is too good to be true, when behold, another Person stands before them. Every eye is fastened upon the Stranger. No one has knocked for entrance. No footstep has been heard. The disciples are startled and wonder what it means.

6) Who was it?
Luke 24:36-39 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, _____ be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a _____. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my _____ and my _____, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

7) Were their fears allayed?
John 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples _____, when they saw the Lord.

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8) What did Jesus do to show them he wasn't a ghost?
Luke 24:41-43 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled _____, and of an _____. And he took it, and did eat before them.

Faith and joy took the place of unbelief, and with feelings which no words could express they acknowledged their risen Saviour.

9) What were His first words to them?
Luke 24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, _____ be unto you.

Jesus is ever ready to speak peace to souls that are burdened with doubts and fears. He waits for us to open the door of the heart to Him, and say, Abide with us.

10) What promise did He give us through John?
Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and _____: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

The resurrection of Jesus was a type of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him. The countenance of the risen Saviour, His manner, His speech, were all familiar to His disciples. As Jesus arose from the dead, so those who sleep in Him are to rise again.

11) Why should we continue on in faith?
1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am _____.

As Jesus arose from the dead, so those who sleep in Him are to rise again. We shall know our friends, even as the disciples knew Jesus. They may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured, in this mortal life, and they rise in perfect health and symmetry; yet in the glorified body their identity will be perfectly preserved. Then shall we know even as also we are known.

12) Now that He had their attention, what did He teach?
Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the _____ of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the _____, concerning me.

13) What followed that?
Luke 24:46-49 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to _____, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be _____ in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are _____ of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be _____ with power from on high.

The disciples began to realize the nature and extent of their work. They were to proclaim to the world the wonderful truths which Christ had entrusted to them. The events of His life, His death and resurrection, the prophecies that pointed to these events, the sacredness of the law of God, the mysteries of the plan of salvation, the power of Jesus for the remission of sins, to all these things they were witnesses, and they were to make them known to the world.

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14) How does John's Gospel put it?
John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so _____ I you.

15) What did Jesus do next?
John 20:22 And when he had said this, he _____ on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

The Holy Spirit was not yet fully manifested; for Christ had not yet been glorified. The more abundant impartation of the Spirit did not take place till after Christ's ascension. Not until this was received could the disciples fulfill the commission to preach the gospel to the world. But the Spirit was now given for a special purpose. Before the disciples could fulfill their official duties in connection with the church, Christ breathed His Spirit upon them. He was committing to them a most sacred trust, and He desired to impress them with the fact that without the Holy Spirit this work could not be accomplished.

The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ. Only those who are thus taught of God, those who possess the inward working of the Spirit, and in whose life the Christ-life is manifested, are to stand as representative men, to minister in behalf of the church.

16) After they received the blessing, what did Christ charge them with?
John 20:23 Whosoever sins ye remit, they are _____ unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Christ here gives no liberty for any man to pass judgment upon others. In the Sermon on the Mount He forbade this. It is the prerogative of God. But on the church in its organized capacity, He places a responsibility for the individual members. Toward those who fall into sin, the church has a duty to warn, to instruct, and if possible, to restore.

17) What did Paul tell Timothy?
2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all _____ and doctrine.

If people persist in sin, the judgment you have declared from God's word is pronounced upon them in heaven. In choosing to sin, they disown Christ; the church must show that she does not sanction their deeds, or she herself dishonors her Lord. She must say about sin what God says about it. She must deal with it as God directs, and her action is ratified in heaven.

18) Is the Church's message all doom and gloom?
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to _____ us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

19) What did Micah have to say about forgiven sins?
Micah 7:19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt _____ all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Let the repentance of the sinner be accepted by the church with grateful hearts. Let the repenting one be led out from the darkness of unbelief into the light of faith and righteousness. Let his trembling hand be placed in the loving hand of Jesus. Such a remission is ratified in heaven.

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20) Who alone can forgive sins?
Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be _____.

21) Who wasn't present when Jesus appeared to the Disciples that night?
John 20:24-25 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall _____ in his hands the print of the nails, and put my _____ into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

He would not see through the eyes of his brethren, or exercise faith which was dependent upon their testimony. He ardently loved his Lord, but he had allowed jealousy and unbelief to take possession of his mind and heart.

22) What did Jesus do eight days later?
John 20:26-27 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being _____, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my _____; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

The doubting disciple knew that none of his companions had seen Jesus for a week. They could not have told the Master of his unbelief. He recognized the One before him as his Lord. He had no desire for further proof. His heart leaped for joy, and he cast himself at the feet of Jesus.

23) How did Jesus respond to Thomas?
John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have _____ _____, and yet have believed.

The faith of Thomas would have been more pleasing to Christ if he had been willing to believe upon the testimony of his brethren. Should the world now follow the example of Thomas, no one would believe unto salvation; for all who receive Christ must do so through the testimony of others.

Thomas had been most unreasonable in dictating the conditions of his faith, but Jesus, by His generous love and consideration, broke down all the barriers. Unbelief is seldom overcome by controversy. It is rather put upon self-defense and finds new support and excuses. But let Jesus, in His love and mercy, be revealed as the crucified Saviour.

24) What did Thomas declare?
John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My _____ and my _____.

Can you see the need of trusting God's Word?

Do you want to see past your doubts?

When is the time to heed the call?

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Lesson 73 – By the Sea Once More

Based on John 21:1-22.

1) What instruction did Jesus give at His resurrection?
Matthew 28:10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into _____, and there shall they see me.

Jesus had appointed to meet His disciples in Galilee; and soon after the Passover week was ended, they bent their steps thither. Their absence from Jerusalem during the feast would have been interpreted as disaffection and heresy, therefore they remained till its close; but this over, they gladly turned homeward to meet the Saviour as He had directed.

2) To whom did Jesus reveal Himself?
John 21:1-2 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of _____; and on this wise shewed he himself. There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his _____.

Seven of the disciples were in company. They were clad in the humble garb of fishermen; they were poor in worldly goods, but rich in the knowledge and practice of the truth, which in the sight of Heaven gave them the highest rank as teachers. They had not been students in the schools of the prophets, but for three years they had been taught by the greatest Educator the world has ever known. Under His instruction they had become elevated, intelligent, and refined, agents through whom men might be led to a knowledge of the truth.

3) What were they doing before Jesus met up with them?
John 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught _____.

They found themselves surrounded by reminders of Jesus and His mighty works. On this sea, when their hearts were filled with terror, and the fierce storm was hurrying them to destruction, Jesus had walked upon the billows to their rescue. Here the tempest had been hushed by His word. Within sight was the beach where above ten thousand persons had been fed from a few small loaves and fishes. Not far distant was Capernaum, the scene of so many miracles. As the disciples looked upon the scene, their minds were full of the words and deeds of their Saviour.

The evening was pleasant, and Peter, who still had much of his old love for boats and fishing, proposed that they should go out upon the sea and cast their nets. In this plan all were ready to join; they were in need of food and clothing, which the proceeds of a successful night's fishing would supply. So, they went out in their boat.

4) Who met up with them?
John 21:4-5 But when the morning was now come, _____ stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any _____? They answered him, No.

5) What did He tell them to do?
John 21:6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the _____ side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

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6) With a boat FULL of fish, what happened?
John 21:7-8 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did _____ _____ into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little _____; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

7) What did Jesus do?
John 21:9-10 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and _____. Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the _____ which ye have now caught.

Peter rushed for the net, which he had dropped, and helped his brethren drag it to the shore. After the work was done, and the preparation made, Jesus bade the disciples come and dine. He broke the food, and divided it among them, and was known and acknowledged by all the seven. The miracle of feeding the five thousand on the mountainside was now brought to their minds; but a mysterious awe was upon them, and in silence they gazed upon the risen Saviour.

8) What flooded into their memories?
Luke 5:6-7 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net _____. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to _____.

Vividly they recalled the scene beside the sea when Jesus had bidden them follow Him. They remembered how, at His command, they had launched out into the deep, and had let down their net, and the catch had been so abundant as to fill the net, even to breaking. Then Jesus had called them to leave their fishing boats and had promised to make them fishers of men.

9) What did Jesus tell them?
John 21:12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and _____. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

It showed them that the death of their Master had not lessened their obligation to do the work He had assigned them. Though they were to be deprived of His personal companionship, and of the means of support by their former employment, the risen Saviour would still have a care for them.

10) How did Jesus bless Peter in the presence of the others?
John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my _____.
John 21:16 He saith to him again the _____ _____, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.
John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; _____ _____ that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

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11) What did He say that showed Peter and the rest that he was forgiven?
John 21:18-19 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be _____, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what _____ he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Peter's denial of his Lord had been in shameful contrast to his former professions of loyalty. He had dishonored Christ and had incurred the distrust of his brethren. They thought he would not be allowed to take his former position among them, and he himself felt that he had forfeited his trust. Before being called to take up again his apostolic work, he must before them all give evidence of his repentance. Without this, his sin, though repented of, might have destroyed his influence as a minister of Christ.

12) What was all this pertaining to?
Matthew 26:74-75 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter _____ the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and _____ bitterly.

Three times Peter had openly denied his Lord, and three times Jesus drew from him the assurance of his love and loyalty, pressing home that pointed question, like a barbed arrow to his wounded heart. Before the assembled disciples Jesus revealed the depth of Peter's repentance and showed how thoroughly humbled was the once boasting disciple.

13) What had Jesus done for Peter?
Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may _____ you as _____: But I have _____ for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

That time had now come, and the transformation in Peter was evident. The close, testing questions of the Lord had not called out one forward, self-sufficient reply; and because of his humiliation and repentance, Peter was better prepared than ever before to act as shepherd to the flock.

The converted Peter was very different. He retained his former fervor, but the grace of Christ regulated his zeal. He was no longer impetuous, self-confident, and self-exalted, but calm, self-possessed, and teachable. He could then feed the lambs as well as the sheep of Christ's flock.

14) Christ told the Disciples earlier that He was going to return to heaven, what promise did he give?
John 13:36-37 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me _____; but thou shalt follow me _____.

When he said this, he little knew to what heights and depths Christ's feet would lead the way. Peter had failed when the test came, but again he was to have opportunity to prove his love for Christ. That he might be strengthened for the final test of his faith, the Saviour opened to him his future. He told him that after living a life of usefulness, when age was telling upon his strength, he would indeed follow his Lord. afterwards.

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15) What did Jesus tell Peter?

John 21:18-19 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, _____ _____

To Peter the words ***"Follow Me"*** were full of instruction. Not only for his death, but for every step of his life, was the lesson given. Hitherto Peter had been inclined to act independently. He had tried to plan for the work of God, instead of waiting to follow out God's plan. But he could gain nothing by rushing on before the Lord. Jesus bids him, "Follow Me." Do not run ahead of Me. Then you will not have the hosts of Satan to meet alone. Let Me go before you, and you will not be overcome by the enemy.

16) What question did Peter ask Jesus?

John 21:20-21 Then Peter, turning about, _____ the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man _____?

17) What did Jesus answer?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? _____ thou me.

Jesus gave no assurance that this disciple should live until the Lord's second coming. He merely asserted His own supreme power, and that even if He should will this to be so, it would in no way affect Peter's work. The future of both John and Peter was in the hands of their Lord. Obedience in following Him was the duty required of each.

John lived to be very aged. He witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem, and the ruin of the stately temple, a symbol of the final ruin of the world. To his latest days John closely followed his Lord.

18) What was his testimony at the end of his life?

1 John 4:7,16 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and _____ God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in _____, and God in him.

19) What was the testimony at the end of Peter's life?

1 Peter 5:2-4 _____ the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being _____ to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Can you see God calls you?

Do you want to live life to the fullest?

When is the time to heed the call?

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Lesson 74 – Go Teach All Nations

Based on Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-20

1) What did Jesus declare to the Disciples after he had risen again?
Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, _____ _____ is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Standing but a step from His heavenly throne, Christ gave their commission to His disciples.

2) What was it?
Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the _____, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Again, and again the words were repeated, that the disciples might grasp their significance. Upon all the inhabitants of the earth, high and low, rich and poor, was the light of heaven to shine in clear, strong rays. The disciples were to be co-laborers with their Redeemer in the work of saving the world.

3) How did Matthew say the same thing?
Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to _____ all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

Christ's words on the mountainside were the announcement that His sacrifice on behalf of man was full and complete. The conditions of the atonement had been fulfilled; the work for which He came to this world had been accomplished. He was on His way to the throne of God, to be honored by angels, principalities, and powers. He had entered upon His mediatorial work.

4) What Words of encouragement did Jesus remind His Disciples of?
John 5:39 Search the _____; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of _____.

Before leaving His disciples, Christ plainly stated the nature of His kingdom. He called to their minds what He had previously told them concerning it. He declared that it was not His purpose to establish in this world a temporal, but a spiritual kingdom. He was not to reign as an earthly king on David's throne. Again, He opened to them the Scriptures, showing that all He had passed through had been ordained in heaven, in the councils between the Father and Himself. All had been foretold by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. He said, You see that all I have revealed to you concerning My rejection as the Messiah has come to pass. All I have said in regard to the humiliation I should endure and the death I should die, has been verified. On the third day I rose again. Search the Scriptures more diligently, and you will see that in all these things the specifications of prophecy concerning Me have been fulfilled.

5) What was God's plan for the Disciples as they first started out?
Zechariah 12:7 The LORD also shall save the tents of _____ first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of _____ do not magnify themselves against Judah.

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6) What does the Book of Acts say they did?
Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at _____, and throughout all the coasts of _____, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Christ commissioned His disciples to do the work He had left in their hands, beginning at Jerusalem. Jerusalem had been the scene of His amazing condescension for the human race. There He had suffered, been rejected and condemned. The land of Judea was His birthplace. There, clad in the garb of humanity, He had walked with men, and few had discerned how near heaven came to the earth when Jesus was among them. At Jerusalem the work of the disciples must begin.

7) What amazing testimony did Luke give us in the Book of Acts?
Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the _____ were obedient to the faith.

there were in Jerusalem many who had secretly believed on Jesus, and many who had been deceived by the priests and rulers. To these also the gospel was to be presented. They were to be called to repentance. The wonderful truth that through Christ alone could remission of sins be obtained was to be made plain. While all Jerusalem was stirred by the thrilling events of the past few weeks, the preaching of the gospel would make the deepest impression.

8) What promise did Jesus keep, even with Gentiles?
John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in _____ _____ cast out.

The Gospel was to be extended to the earth's remotest bounds. To His disciples Christ said, You have been witnesses of My life of self-sacrifice on behalf of the world. You have witnessed My labors for Israel. Although they would not come unto Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done to Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me as the Scriptures foretold, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God. You have seen that all who come to Me, confessing their sins, I freely receive.

9) What promises did Jesus make to the Disciples (and us)?
Mark 16:17-18 And these _____ shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall _____.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit the disciples were to receive a marvelous power. Their testimony was to be confirmed by signs and wonders. Miracles would be wrought, not only by the apostles, but by those who received their message.

10) What example had Christ made previously?
Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, _____ in their synagogues, and _____ the gospel of the kingdom, and _____ all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

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The disciples were to have the same power which Jesus had. And a new endowment was now promised. The disciples were to preach among other nations, and they would receive power to speak other tongues. The apostles and their associates were unlettered men, yet through the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, their speech, whether in their own or a foreign language, became pure, simple, and accurate, both in word and in accent.

Christ gave His disciples their commission. He made full provision for the prosecution of the work and took upon Himself the responsibility for its success. So long as they obeyed His word, and worked in connection with Him, they could not fail. Go to all nations, He bade them. Go to the farthest part of the habitable globe but know that My presence will be there. Labor in faith and confidence, for the time will never come when I will forsake you.

It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men.

11) What call does Jesus make?
Revelation 22:17 And the _____ and the _____ say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Everyone who hears is to repeat the invitation. Whatever one's calling in life, his first interest should be to win souls for Christ. He may not be able to speak to congregations, but he can work for individuals. To them he can communicate the instruction received from his Lord. Ministry does not consist alone in preaching. Those who minister, who relieve the sick and suffering, helping the needy, speaking words of comfort to the desponding and those of little faith. Nigh and afar off are souls weighed down by a sense of guilt. It is not hardship, toil, or poverty that degrades humanity. It is guilt, wrongdoing. This brings unrest and dissatisfaction. Christ would have His servants minister to sin-sick souls.

12) What was Paul's goal in life?
2 Corinthains 10:16 To preach the gospel in the _____ _____ you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

Christ tears away the wall of partition, the dividing prejudice of nationality, and teaches a love for all the human family. He lifts men from the narrow circle which their selfishness prescribes; He abolishes all territorial lines and artificial distinctions of society. He makes no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. He teaches us to look upon every needy soul as our brother, and the world as our field.

13) What will give power to our work?
1 Corinthians 12:7-10 But the manifestation of the _____ is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of _____; to another the word of _____ by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of _____ by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of _____; to another the interpretation of tongues:

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14) What will the Holy Spirit bring to our work?
1 Corinthains 12:11-12 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many _____, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is _____.

The promise is just as strong and trustworthy now as in the days of the apostles.

15) What is one of the conditions of receiving His power?
Matthew 11:29-30 Take my _____ upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The very life of the church depends upon her faithfulness in fulfilling the Lord's commission. To neglect this work is surely to invite spiritual feebleness and decay. Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim.

16) What does God say to those who won't carry this mantle?
Luke 13:27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of _____.

Would we know how Christ regards it? How would a father and mother feel, did they know that their child, lost in the cold and the snow, had been passed by, and left to perish, by those who might have saved it? Would they not be terribly grieved, wildly indignant? Would they not denounce those murderers with wrath hot as their tears, intense as their love? The sufferings of every man are the sufferings of God's child, and those who reach out no helping hand to their perishing fellow beings provoke His righteous anger. This is the wrath of the Lamb.

17) What shall we do?
Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to _____ all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life. God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power. Those whose course has been most offensive to Him He freely accepts; when they repent, He imparts to them His divine Spirit, places them in the highest positions of trust, and sends them forth into the camp of the disloyal to proclaim His boundless mercy. He would have His servants bear testimony to the fact that through His grace men may possess Christlikeness of character and may rejoice in the assurance of His great love. He would have us bear testimony to the fact that He cannot be satisfied until the human race are reclaimed and reinstated in their holy privileges as His sons and daughters.

18) What image are we being made into?
Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the _____ of his _____, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

19) What does the Bible say the Disciples did?
Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached _____ _____, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

These disciples prepared themselves for their work. Before the day of Pentecost they met together and put away all differences. They were of one accord. They believed Christ's promise that the blessing would be given, and they prayed in faith. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely; they were weighted with the burden for the salvation of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the uttermost parts of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day.

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Lesson 75 – "To My Father, and Your Father"

Based on Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12.

1) What did Jesus declare to His Father before His death?
John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have _____ the work which thou gavest me to do.

The time had come for Christ to ascend to His Father's throne. As a divine conqueror He was about to return with the trophies of victory to the heavenly courts.

After His resurrection He tarried on earth for a season, that His disciples might become familiar with Him in His risen and glorified body. Now He was ready for the leave-taking. He had authenticated the fact that He was a living Saviour. His disciples need no longer associate Him with the tomb. They could think of Him as glorified before the heavenly universe.

2) Where were they?
Luke 24:50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Bethany is on the slope of the Mount of Olives.

3) Where did the Disciples come back from after Jesus left for Heaven?
Acts 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called _____, which is from Jerusalem a _____ day's journey.

A Sabbath Day's journey is 2000 Cubits or 3000 feet.

When Jesus was weary and heart-burdened, He had gone forth to find rest in the Mount of Olives. The Holy Shekinah, in departing from the first temple, had stood upon the eastern mountain, as if loath to forsake the chosen city; so, Christ stood upon Olivet, with yearning heart overlooking Jerusalem. The groves and glens of the mountain had been consecrated by His prayers and tears. Its steeps had echoed the triumphant shouts of the multitude that proclaimed Him king. On its sloping descent He had found a home with Lazarus at Bethany. In the garden of Gethsemane at its foot, He had prayed and agonized alone. From this mountain He was to ascend to heaven. Upon its summit His feet will rest when He shall come again. Not as a man of sorrows, but as a glorious and triumphant king He will stand upon Olivet, while Hebrew hallelujahs mingle with Gentile hosannas, and the voices of the redeemed as a mighty host shall swell the acclamation, Crown Him Lord of all!

4) What did Jesus discuss with them?
Acts 1:4-5 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the _____ of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the _____ _____ not many days hence.

5) What were the Disciples concerned with?
Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time _____ again the _____ to Israel?

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6) What was His answer?
Acts 1:7-8 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the _____ or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all _____, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The disciples knew not that this was to be their last interview with their Master. Jesus spent the time in conversation with them, repeating His former instruction. As they approached Gethsemane, He paused, that they might call to mind the lessons He had given them on the night of His great agony.

7) What promise has never been broken?
Matthew 28:20 …lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the _____. Amen.

Jesus led the way across the summit, to the vicinity of Bethany. Here He paused, and the disciples gathered about Him. Beams of light seemed to radiate from His countenance as He looked lovingly upon them. He upbraided them not for their faults and failures; words of the deepest tenderness were the last that fell upon their ears from the lips of their Lord. With hands outstretched in blessing, and as if in assurance of His protecting care, He slowly ascended from among them, drawn heavenward by a power stronger than any earthly attraction. As He passed upward, the awe-stricken disciples looked with straining eyes for the last glimpse of their ascending Lord. A cloud of glory hid Him from their sight. At the same time there floated down to them the sweetest and most joyous music from the angel choir.

8) Angels interrupted their awe, what did they say?
Acts 1:10-11 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye _____ up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in _____ _____ as ye have seen him go into heaven.

These angels were of the company that had been waiting in a shining cloud to escort Jesus to His heavenly home. The most exalted of the angel throng, they were the two who had come to the tomb at Christ's resurrection, and they had been with Him throughout His life on earth. With eager desire all heaven had waited for the end of His tarrying in a world marred by the curse of sin. The time had now come for the heavenly universe to receive their King. Did not the two angels long to join the throng that welcomed Jesus? But in sympathy and love for those whom He had left, they waited to give them comfort.

9) What did Paul say about God's faithful angels?
Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to _____ for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

10) How will Christ return?
Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

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1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall _____ from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the _____ _____ with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

11) What is Christ doing now (among other things)?

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a _____ for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Christ had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. The disciples had beheld the cloud receive Him. The same Jesus who had walked and talked and prayed with them; who had broken bread with them; who had been with them in their boats on the lake; and who had that very day toiled with them up the ascent of Olivet, the same Jesus had now gone to share His Father's throne. And the angels had assured them that the very One whom they had seen go up into heaven would come again even as He had ascended.

12) How did the Disciples return to Jerusalem?

Luke 24:52-53 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with _____ _____: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

When the disciples went back to Jerusalem, the people looked upon them with amazement. After the trial and crucifixion of Christ, it had been thought that they would appear downcast and ashamed. Their enemies expected to see upon their faces an expression of sorrow and defeat. Instead of this there was only gladness and triumph. Their faces were aglow with a happiness not born of earth. They did not mourn over disappointed hopes but were full of praise and thanksgiving to God. With rejoicing they told the wonderful story of Christ's resurrection and His ascension to heaven, and their testimony was received by many.

13) What promise did they take seriously?

John 16:23-24 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in _____ name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall _____, that your joy may be full.

14) Where is Jesus?

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the _____ _____ of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Pentecost brought them fullness of joy in the presence of the Comforter, even as Christ had promised.

15) What did the angels sing as Christ ascended?

Psalms 24:7-10 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the _____ of _____ shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD _____ and _____, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

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Then the portals of the city of God are opened wide, and the angelic throng sweep through the gates amid a burst of rapturous music.

There is the throne, and around it the rainbow of promise. There are cherubim and seraphim. The commanders of the angel hosts, the sons of God, the representatives of the unfallen worlds, are assembled. The heavenly council before which Lucifer had accused God and His Son, the representatives of those sinless realms over which Satan had thought to establish his dominion, all are there to welcome the Redeemer. They are eager to celebrate His triumph and to glorify their King.

But He waves them back. Not yet, He cannot now receive the coronet of glory and the royal robe. He enters into the presence of His Father. He points to His wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet; He lifts His hands, bearing the print of nails. He points to the tokens of His triumph; He presents to God the wave sheaf, those raised with Him as representatives of that great multitude who shall come forth from the grave at His second coming. He approaches the Father, with whom there is joy over one sinner that repents, who rejoices over one with singing.

16) What promise did Jesus claim before the Father?
John 17:24 Father, I will that _____ _____, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may _____ my _____, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

17) What was the Father's reply?
Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us _____ in the beloved.

Before the heavenly angels and the representatives of unfallen worlds, they are declared justified. Where He is, there His church shall be. With joy unutterable, rulers and principalities and powers acknowledge the supremacy of the Prince of life. The angel host prostrate themselves before Him, while the glad shout fills all the courts of heaven.

18) What praise is on their lips?
Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, _____ is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

19) What will we ALL say?
Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, _____, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the _____ for ever and ever.

20) What is Jesus doing now?
Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the _____ that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make _____ for them.

Can you see you are loved and have a place in God's Kingdom?

Do you want to stand on the Sea of Glass in the presence of God?

When is the time to surrender to His Will?

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