

Men and Women of the Bible

Lives - Times - Events - Principles

THIRD QUARTER

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

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Third Quarter: The Life of Christ

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Lesson 1: Joseph and Mary

Introduction: In this lesson we will examine the lives of Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus. It had been prophesied that, "... the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (lit. "God with us") (Is. 7:14). About seven hundred years after the prophesy was spoken, it was fulfilled. Mary was chosen by God to give birth to the savior of the world, Jesus Christ. Joseph was not the actual father of Jesus but he plays an important role as the head of the family of Jesus.

I. Joseph

- A. The son of Jacob (Mt. 1:15; of Heli ?, Lk. 3:23).
 - 1. Descendent of David (Mt. 1:20; Lk. 2:4).
 - 2. A Carpenter (Mt. 13:55).
 - 3. A "just man" (Mt. 1:19).
 - 4. Lived in the city of Nazareth in Galilee (Lk. 2:4).
 - 5. Supposed father of Jesus (Mt. 13:55; Lk. 3:23; 4:22; Jn. 1:45; 6:42).
- B. Mental distress when he discovered Mary was with child, Mt. 1:18-25.
 - 1. Betrothed (espoused: engaged to be married) to Mary (1:18). Unfaithfulness during engagement period was considered adultery (Dt. 22:25,28).
 - 2. "before they came together": They were not yet married and therefore there had been no consummation.
 - 3. The child was of the Holy Spirit (1:18).
 - 4. Joseph was a just or upright man and did not want Mary to suffer the humiliation of public exposure and so wanted to put her away privately (1:19).
 - 5. An angel appeared to Joseph and explained that the child conceived in her was of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of the prophesy of Is. 7:14. (Mt. 1:20-23).
 - 6. Joseph did as the angel commanded and took Mary as his wife (1:24).
 - 7. Joseph had no sexual relations with Mary until after Jesus was born (1:25).
- C. Joseph received divine guidance.
 - 1. Commanded to flee to Egypt to avoid Herod's desire to destroy Jesus, Mt. 2:13,14.
 - 2. Commanded to return to the land of Israel after Herod's death, Mt. 2:19-21.
 - 3. Warned to return to Galilee because Archelaus, the son of Herod, was ruling in Judea in his father's place, Mt. 2:22,23.

Principles:

- 1. **Man can be confident that God will fulfill His promises.**
- 2. **God chooses just men and women to fulfill His purposes.**
- 3. **We must faithfully obey God's commands even though we may not fully understand them.**
- 4. **Husbands must love their wives and be considerate of them.**

II. Mary

- A. Infancy Narratives (Mt. 1,2; Lk. 1,2).
 - 1. Visited by the angel, Gabriel, Lk. 1:26-38.
 - a. "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" (1:28).
 - b. "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" (1:30).
 - c. Declaration of God's intent for her, (1:31-33).
 - d. Mary's question, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"
 - e. Answer: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you..." (1:35).
 - f. "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (1:38).
 - 2. Mary visited Elizabeth, Lk. 1:39-45 (See Lesson 2).
 - 3. The song of Mary, Lk. 1:46-55.
 - 4. The birth of Jesus, Lk. 2; Mt. 1.
 - 5. Flight to Egypt and return, Mt. 1:13-23.
- B. Mary and her other sons sent for Jesus, Mk. 3:31-35.
 - 1. "Who is My mother, or my brothers?" (3:33).
 - 2. "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother" (3:35).
- C. Mary at Cana, when Jesus turned water into wine, Jn. 2:1-11.
 - 1. Mary turns to Jesus and expects Him to help (2:3).
 - 2. Mary commands servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it." (2:5).
- D. Mary at the Cross, Jn. 19:25-27.
 - 1. Jesus said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" (19:26).
 - 2. Jesus told disciple to care for his mother, (19:27).
- E. Mary with the disciples in Jerusalem following the ascension of Jesus, Acts 1:14.

Principles:

- 1. We like Mary need to rejoice in God our savior (Lk. 1:46).**
- 2. The mercy of God is on those who fear Him (Lk. 1:50).**
- 3. God scatters the proud in the imagination of their hearts (Lk. 1:51).**
- 4. God fills the hungry with good things, and the rich he sends away empty (Lk. 1:53).**

III. Mariolatry: Doctrines taught by Roman Catholic church concerning Mary.

- A. Immaculate Conception: doctrine that Mary was born without inherited sin, therefore Jesus could be born sinless. (Pope Pius IX, Dec. 8, 1854).
- B. Perpetual Virginity: doctrine that Mary had no sexual relations with a man and had no other children besides Jesus.(Pope Vigilius, 553 A.D.).
- C. Sinless: doctrine that Mary never sinned. (*De Natura et Gratia*, 36)
- D. Assumption of Mary: doctrine that she was assumed body and soul into heaven (Pope Pius XII, Nov. 1, 1950).
- E. Mediatrix: "As Christ is the one Mediator between God and men so Mary is the one

'mediatrix' between Christ and all those whom He has redeemed" (The Question Box, p. 294).

Questions:

1. Be ready to explain the importance of the genealogies in Mt. 1:1-17 and Lk. 3:23-38. Why are they different?
2. What other children did Mary and Joseph have? What were their names?
3. Why did Joseph want to put Mary away privately?
4. How many times did Joseph receive divine guidance? How many times did he follow that guidance?
5. List the promises fulfilled in the birth of Jesus.
6. Describe Mary's and Joseph's attitude toward the events described in this lesson.
7. Explain Jesus' statement concerning His family in Mk. 3:31-35.
8. What happened to Mary following the ascension of Jesus?
9. Be ready to discuss the Roman Catholic doctrines which concern Mary. Give scriptures which support or deny these doctrines.

Lesson 2: Zacharias, Elizabeth, and the Birth of John

Introduction: The Bible places great significance on the work of John in preparing the way of the Lord. "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me" (Mal. 3:1). In this lesson we will learn about John's parents, his birth, and the prophecies concerning his ministry.

I. Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1)

A. John's parents described

1. Lived in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, (1:5).
2. Zacharias was a priest of the division of Abijah, (cf. 1 Chron. 24).
3. Elizabeth was a daughter of Aaron, (1:5).
4. They were righteous before God, walking in commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless, (1:6).
5. They were childless, because Elizabeth was barren, and now well advanced in years, (1:7).

B. An angel appeared to Zacharias, (1:8-20).

1. While serving as a priest, the lot fell on Zacharias to burn incense, (1:8,9).
2. When he was in the holy place burning incense, on the altar of incense, the angel, Gabriel, appeared to him, (1:11, 19, 26; Dan. 8:16; 9:21).
3. Zacharias was afraid.
4. The angel announced that Zacharias' prayer had been answered and he would have a son, who he would name John, (1:13).
5. "Many will rejoice at his birth" (1:14)
6. Zacharias asked, "How shall I know this?" He was made mute until it was fulfilled, (1:18-20).
7. After he served, he returned to his house, (1:23).

C. Elizabeth conceived, (1:24-25).

1. She hid herself for five months.
2. The Lord would take away her reproach among men, (1:25).

D. Mary the mother of Jesus, visited Elizabeth before John and Jesus were born, (1:39-56)

1. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child, John, leaped in her womb, And, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (1:41).
2. Elizabeth blesses Mary and the fruit of her womb (Jesus) (1:42).
3. Elizabeth said, "Why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me" (1:43).
4. Mary remained for about three months,(1:56).

Principles:

1. **One should strive to be righteous before God.**
2. **We must believe God's message to us today.**

3. We should have the humility which asks, "Why has God granted to me that His son should come to me?"

II. The Birth of John (Luke 1:57-66)

- A. When the child was born the neighbors and relatives rejoiced (1:58).
- B. The circumcision of John (1:59-66).
 - 1. The eighth day, (1:59).
 - 2. The naming of the child.
 - a. customary to name after the father, Zacharias
 - b. Elizabeth said, "No; he shall be called John" (1:60).
 - c. Zacharias (mute) wrote on a tablet, "His name is John" (1:63).
- C. The Mouth of Zacharias opened and this tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God (1:64).
- D. Amazement of the People
 - 1. Fear came upon them.
 - 2. They discussed all "these sayings" throughout the hill country of Judea.
 - 3. "What kind of child will this be?" (1:66).
- E. The hand of the Lord was with John, he grew and became strong in spirit and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel (1:66, 80).

Principles:

- 1. Even in things which we may think are insignificant (i.e. giving the name "John"), we must be careful to obey God.
- 2. We must use our tongues to praise God.
- 3. If the hand of the Lord is with us we too can become strong in spirit.

III. The Prophecy of Zacharias (Luke 1:67-79)

- A. Blessed is the Lord God of Israel (1:68)
 - 1. He has visited and redeemed His people, raised up a horn of salvation, in the house of His servant David (1:68,69, cf. 2 Sam. 7:12).
 - 2. He spoke through the prophets.
 - 3. He promised to remember His holy covenant.
 - 4. He swore to Abraham.
- B. Prophecies concerning John
 - 1. He will be called the prophet of the Highest (1:76; Is. 40:3).
 - 2. He will prepare the way of the Lord (Mal. 3:1)
 - 3. He will give knowledge of salvation to his people (1:77)
- C. He spoke of the Messiah.
 - 1. The "Dayspring" from on high has visited us (1:78; Mal. 4:2).
 - 2. He will give light to those in darkness, and guide our feet in the way of peace (1:79).

Questions:

1. What was the connection of Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth with the priestly tribe of Levi?
2. How does Luke say they were righteous before God? How can we be righteous before God today?
3. List the names of the people in the Old Testament who were said to be barren, or were not able to conceive without the direct intervention of God.
4. Describe the altar of incense and the incense of the Law of Moses (Ex. 30:1-10, 34-38).
5. The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias in the temple. In what other scriptures is Gabriel mentioned?
6. Why was it said of John that, "many will rejoice at his birth?"
7. How would the birth of John take away Elizabeth's reproach among men?
8. How did Elizabeth know that Mary had the Lord in her womb?

9. How can we become "strong in spirit"?

10. What was it that God swore to Abraham (Lk. 1:73). How was it fulfilled?

11. What is the "Dayspring" of Luke 1:78?

12. How does Christ give us light and guide our feet today?

Lesson 3: Jesus - Birth and Childhood

Introduction: In our first lesson we discussed the events which preceded the birth of Jesus. Mary was found with child and it was revealed from heaven that it was conceived of the Holy Spirit. In fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14, a virgin had conceived a child. In this lesson we will study the birth of Jesus and his childhood.

I. The Birth Of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)

- A. Decree of Augustus Caesar: "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered" (Lk 2:1).
 - 1. Augustus Caesar: first Roman emperor, grand nephew of Julius Caesar, reigned from the battle of Actium, 31 B.C. until his death in 14 A.D.
 - 2. Quirinius was governor of Syria (Josephus mentions Quirinius at a different time, 6-7 A.D. (Ant., XVIII,i), but an ancient inscription indicates he governed twice in Syria. The earlier date, 12- ??B.C. would be the time mentioned by Luke).
 - 3. The registration, it is believed, was for the purpose of taxation.
 - 4. Joseph and Mary went to Judea to the city of David called Bethlehem to register.
- B. When they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus.
 - 1. Date: We know that Jesus was born during the reign of Herod (Lesson 5), and that Herod died in 4 B.C. Therefore Jesus was born several years before the date indicated by our present day calendar system.
 - 2. Bethlehem was the prophesied place of the Lord's birth. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting" (Mic. 5:2).
 - 3. Jesus was Mary's "firstborn son" (2:7).
 - 4. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.
- C. News Announced To The Shepherds.
 - 1. The shepherds were out in the field keeping watch over their flock by night (Lk. 2:8).
 - 2. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.
 - 3. Announcement of good news: "This day, is born in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11).
 - 4. A sign: "you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk. 2:12).
 - a. "babe", note that this word translated from the Greek "brephos", is used of a child, Jesus, who had been born, and it is used of a child still in its mother's womb (Lk. 1:41,44).
 - b. "manger"; a feeding trough.

6. A multitude of heavenly host praised God, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men" (Lk. 2:14; 15:10; 1 Pet. 1:12).
7. The shepherds came to Bethlehem "with haste" (Lk. 2:16).
8. When they had seen the Child, they told others and those that heard marveled.

Principles:

- 1. God used the decree of Augustus to get Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. This is an example of the providence of God.**
- 2. The birth of Jesus was an historical event, occurring during the reigns of other historical figures.**
- 3. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.**
- 4. Jesus was Savior, Christ, and Lord. He would bring peace to mankind.**

II. Circumcision of Jesus (Luke 2:21)

- A. Circumcision on the 8th day, was in accordance with Law of Moses. "And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised" (Lev. 12:3).
- B. His name was called Jesus, which means "savior", "for He will save His people from their sins" (Mat. 1:21).

III. Jesus Presented In The Temple: Luke 2:22-24, 39-40

- A. Following the days of Mary's purification they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. "If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her customary impurity she shall be unclean...She shall then continue in the blood of her purification thirty-three days...When the days of her purification are fulfilled...she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting... if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons; one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean" (Lev. 12:2-8).
- B. Consecration of the Firstborn; Ex. 13:2.
- C. Other events in the temple (see Lesson 6).

Principles:

- 1. We see the devotion of Mary and Joseph to God manifested by their strict compliance with the Law of Moses.**
- 2. The purpose for the coming of Jesus is clear, he would save His people from their sins.**

- D. The Family Returns To Nazareth: (Luke does not include trip to Egypt (Mat. 1:13-

15). (This will be studied in Lesson 5.)

IV. The Childhood Of Jesus (Luke 2:40-52)

- A. "And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him" (Lk. 2:40).
- B. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Lk. 2:52).
- C. Jesus' visit to Jerusalem at the age of twelve (Lk. 2:41-51).
 - 1. Went with his parents to observe the Feast of the Passover
 - 2. Jesus was left in Jerusalem when his parents returned to Galilee.
 - 3. They returned to Jerusalem and found him with the teachers, listening, asking questions, and answering. The teachers were astonished at his answers, Lk. 2:46-47.
 - 4. His parents were amazed and asked him, "why have you done this to us"?
 - 5. Jesus answered, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Lk. 2: 49).

Principle: Jesus knew why He came to earth. We too must recognize that we are here primarily to do our Father's business.

Questions:

1. Why is it important to know when Jesus was born?

2. What Old Testament prophecies concern the birth of Jesus?

3. Did Joseph and Mary journey to Bethlehem in order to fulfill the prophecy of Micah 5:2?
4. What was the significance of the "firstborn" under the Law of Moses (Ex. 13:1,2,11-16)?
Jesus was the "firstborn" of Mary, in what other way is he referred to as "firstborn?"

5. Discuss the significance of the names given to Jesus; Savior, Christ, and Lord.

6. Who are the "heavenly host" and what was their interest in birth of Jesus?

7. What can be inferred from the choice of animals for sacrifice at Mary's purification?

8. In what things did Jesus increase, Luke 2:52?

9. What did Jesus mean when he answered his parents, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business"?

10. Is the birth of Jesus of importance to the Christian? What does the Bible teach we should do to commemorate the birth of Jesus?

Lesson 4: The Ministry Of John The Baptizer

Introduction: "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (Mat. 11: 11). Jesus had great respect for John and his work, but made it clear that John's ministry was only preparatory to His own ministry. In this lesson we will examine the ministry of John; the man, his preaching, and his death.

I. John's Coming Prophesied

- A. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD" (Is. 40:3-5).
- B. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse" (Mal. 4:5-6).
- C. The New Testament teaches that John was the fulfillment of these prophecies; Mat. 3:3; 11:14; 17:10-13.

Principles:

- 1. In the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah we see God's desire for men to accept His Son.**
- 2. God always keeps His promises, all prophecies are fulfilled.**

II. John, The Man

- A. The son of Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1).
- B. Lifestyle described; 1. Clothing: camel's hair, leather belt (Mat. 3:4) 2. Diet: locusts and wild honey (Mat. 3:4); neither eating bread nor wine (Lk. 7:33) 3. Thought to be demon possessed (Lk. 7:33).

III. John's Message

- A. Preaching in the wilderness of Judea.
 - 1. In the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar: 28 B.C.
 - 2. All of Jerusalem and Judea and all region around Jordan went out to him, Mat. 3:5.
- B. Message of John:
 - 1. Repentance (Mt. 3:2)
 - 2. Kingdom at hand (Mt. 3:2)
 - 3. Confession of sins (Mt. 3:6; implication)
 - 4. Bear fruits worthy of repentance (Mt. 3:8; cf. 2 Cor. 7:9-11)

5. Baptism (Mt. 3:6; cf. Acts 18:25; 19:3-7)
6. Judgment (Mt. 3:7-12)
7. Baptism of Holy Spirit (Mt. 3:11; cf. Acts 2, Acts 10)
8. The Coming of Jesus (Mt. 3:11)

Principles:

- 1. In the message preached we see God's desire to save man.**
- 2. Along with the message of hope is the message of damnation.**

IV. John Baptized Jesus

- A. Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John (Mt. 3:13).
- B. John's reluctance to baptize Jesus (Mt. 3:14,15)
- C. The purpose of Jesus' baptism; "fulfill all righteousness" (Mat. 3:15)
- D. The Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Jesus (Mt. 3:16).
- E. The voice of God the Father from heaven, "This is My beloved Son, In whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17).

V. John's Testimony Concerning Jesus

- A. "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29).
- B. "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him, (Jn. 1:32).
- C. "I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God" (Jn. 1:34).
- D. John told his disciples, "I am not the Christ, but, I have been sent before Him...He who believes in the Son has everlasting life" (Jn. 3:28-36).

V. The Death of John

- A. Imprisoned by Herod; teaching of John convicted Herod of his sin, Herod was living with Herodias, his brother Philip's wife (Mt. 14:3,4).
- B. Herod desired to put John to death but he feared the multitude (Mt. 14:5). Herod feared John, knowing he was a just and holy man (Mk. 6:20). Herod heard him gladly (Mk. 6:20).
- C. At Herod's birthday, Herod promised the daughter of Herodias anything she desired if she danced for him (Mt. 14:6,7).
- D. Herodias' daughter asked her mother what she should request. She asked for the head of John on a platter (Mt. 14:8)
- E. John was beheaded, the body was retrieved by his disciples and buried (Mt. 14:12).
- F. Later upon hearing of Jesus, Herod thought that John had been raised from the dead (Mk. 6:14).

Principles:

- 1. We see the courage one must have to preach the gospel, and condemn sin.**
- 2. It is wrong to take another man's wife (Mt. 19:9; Rom. 7:1-3).**
- 3. A high price is paid to fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

Questions:

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he (John)" (Mat. 11:11)?
2. Was John, the prophet Elijah (Mt. 17:10-13)?
3. What contrast does Jesus make between himself and John (Lk. 7:32-34)?
4. What repentance did John command (Mt. 3:2)?
5. What did John mean when he said the "kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 3:2)? When did the kingdom come?
6. What are "fruits worthy of repentance" (Mt. 3:8; 2 Cor. 7:9-11)?
7. Compare the baptism of John with the baptism that Peter commanded on the day of Pentecost?

8. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of fire taught by John (Mt. 3:11)?

9. Why was Jesus baptized (Mt. 3:15)?

10. Explain, Jn. 3:29,30.

11. Why did John die?

Lesson 5: Herod and the Wise Men (Matthew 2)

Introduction: The term "wise men" (KJV) is translated from *magos*. According to Thayer, *magos* is a term originating from the language of the Chaldees; it was used later by the Medes and Persians. In the ancient language, *magos* and other forms of this word referred to "men of learning, devoting special attention to astronomy and the natural sciences...in the process of time mere conjurers who had no scientific knowledge were called *Magi*. Simon Magus (Acts 8:9) and Bar-Jesus or Elymas (Acts 13:6,8) were men of this sort" (Manners and Customs of the Bible, James M. Freeman, 1972, p. 332).

The name *Herod* refers to a local dynasty of rulers in Israel under the Roman Empire. According to secular records, the Herod ruling of Jewish Palestine began with Herod the Great, governor of Galilee, and later, King of Judea. The Herodians were not Jewish but Idumaean. Herod the Great reigned from 47-4 BC and is mentioned in the Bible (Mat. 2; Lk. 1:5). In the eighteenth year of his reign, he began rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. Josephus, describing his intentions, says Herod desired to, "make it larger in compass, and to raise it to a most magnificent altitude, as esteeming it to be the **most glorious of all his actions** ...that this would be sufficient for **an everlasting memorial to him**" (Antiquities, 15.11.1). The Bible refers to this building project (John 2:20). The second generation of Herods included Antipas (Lk. 3:1, 19-20; Mat. 14), his brothers Archelaus (Mt. 2:22), Philip, the son of Cleopatra (Lk. 3:1), and others. Latter Herods included Agrippa I (Acts 12:1-24) and Agrippa II (Acts 25:13-26:32).

I. Arrival of the Wise Men In Jerusalem (vss. 1-6)

- A. Wise men arrived in Jerusalem and inquire about the "King of the Jews" (vss. 1-2).
- B. Herod was troubled and investigated (vss. 3-4).
- C. The chief priests and scribes cited written prophecy to Herod (vss. 5-6).

Principles:

1. **God fulfills detailed prophecies (Mt. 2:6).**
2. **The coming of the Messiah was well-publicized, not kept secret (Mt. 2:4,5).**

II. Herod's Plot To Locate Jesus (vss. 7-12)

- A. With evil intentions, Herod instructed the wise men to locate the child (vss. 7-8).
- B. The wise men located the Child by following the star (vss. 9-10).
 1. The wise men did not arrive on the night of Jesus' birth. When they came, Jesus was in a house (Mt. 2:11).
 2. Herod's decree to kill all male children two years old and younger is another indication that considerable time elapsed since Jesus' birth.
- C. The wise men worshiped the Child and presented gifts (vs. 11).
- D. Following God's instructions, they did not return to Herod (vs. 12).

Principles:

- 1. Evil rulers often feel threatened (Mt. 2:3,8).**
- 2. People sometimes plot against you, even if you have done nothing wrong (Mt. 2:7-8).**
- 3. The wicked often hide evil intentions under a cloak of religion.**
- 4. The wicked will often try to use the righteous to fulfill their evil desires.**

III. The Flight To Egypt (vss. 13-15)

- A. An angel told Joseph to flee to Egypt (vs. 13).
- B. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to Egypt, and remained until Herod died (vss. 14-15).

IV. Herod's Slaughter of Male Children (vss. 16-18)

Principles:

- 1. Innocent people are often persecuted (Mt. 2:16).**
- 2. Plotting against God's will is never successful (Mt. 2:16).**

V. The Return To Nazareth (vss. 19-23)

- A. After Herod died, and angel told Joseph to return to Israel (vss. 19-20).
- B. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus moved to Nazareth (vss. 21-23). Joseph was warned by God to go to Galilee because Archelaus, the son of Herod, was reigning in Judea.

Questions:

1. "Out of Egypt, have I called My son." In Hosea 11:1-7, this prophecy refers to a nation. Which nation is it?

In Mat. 2:15, it refers to an individual. Who is it?

2. Mat. 2:19-20 says that Herod died before Jesus' family returned to Israel. However, Mat. 14 says that Herod was alive, long after Jesus family returned to Israel. Agnostics say, "How can this be?" What is your simple reply?

3. Matthew chapter 2 records several incidents of God revealing His will to man. List them and include scriptures.

How many of these incidents involved O.T. prophets?

Does the Bible regard the birth of the Messiah a major event?

4. Today, we have a tendency to regard the birth of Christ as insignificant. Why do you think we do this? What can be done about it?

5. Can you find the prophecy cited in Mat. 2:23?

6. How many wise men were there, what gifts did they bring, and when did they arrive in Bethlehem?

7. Is Bethlehem of Judah the only Bethlehem in Palestine? What does this say about details in God's word?

8. The Jews understood some messianic prophecies, but not all of them. Did they understand Micah 5:2 (Mt. 2:4-6)?

9. Secular historians describe Herod the Great as a shrewd, cruel politician. Are they correct (Mt. 2:8, 16)?

10. THOUGHT QUESTION: Read the prophecy in Jeremiah 31. The meaning of this prophecy was revealed by inspiration (Mat. 2:18). In our time, with the benefit of Mat. 2:18, the meaning of this prophecy makes perfect sense. However....

...without the inspired revelation in Mat. 2:18, would you have figured out that Jeremiah 31:15 referred to Herod's massacre, near Bethlehem, at the time of Christ?

Was this the only time that the children of Israel were killed?

What does this tell us about the interpretation of some prophecies?

Lesson 6: Simeon & Anna (Luke 2:25-38)

Introduction: After the days of purification, Jesus was brought into the temple. He was received by a prophet and a prophetess. The Bible records little about these two people. However, it reveals that they awaited the Christ and lived righteous lives.

I. Simeon (vss. 25-27)

- A. Righteous and devout
- B. Looking for the consolation of Israel
- C. "The Holy Spirit was upon him."
- D. Revealed that he would not die until he saw the Christ

Principles:

1. It was possible for the Jews to be righteous, even under the old covenant.
2. God again kept His promise.
3. God kept His promise to the nation, of Israel (vs.32) and the prophet, Simeon (vs. 29-30).

II. Simeon's Prayer (vss. 28-35)

- A. Simeon's attitude
 1. Humility -- "Thy bond-servant" (vs. 29)
 2. Faith, contentment, and courage (vs. 29)
- B. Simeon's statements
 1. The Christ was "salvation."
 2. The Christ came to the Gentiles.
 3. The Christ was the "gibry of Thy people, Israel."
 4. Appointed for the rise and fall of many in Israel, a sign to be opposed
 5. "A sword will pierce through your own soul also."

Principles:

1. God told Jews that the Christ would bless the nations (Gentiles), but the Jews did not fully understand this until later (see also Acts 2:39 and Acts 10:14,28).
2. Righteous people must have faith that God will keep His promises (vss. 29-30).
3. Righteous people must be prepared for death (vs. 26, 29).

III. Anna (vss. 36-38)

- A. A prophetess

- B. "Advanced in years" -- 84 years old
- C. Lived with a husband only seven years after her marriage
- D. Lived as a widow for many years
- E. Like others, looking for the redemption of Israel
- F. Worshipped "night and day"

Principles:

- 1. The elderly can receive God's highest complements.**
- 2. It is possible to serve God well, even after the death of a spouse.**

Questions:

1. Describe Simeon.

2. What is the meaning of "waiting for the consolation of Israel?"

3. What does Luke 2:29-30 imply about Simeon's character?

4. Christ came from the Jews, but came to both Jews and Gentiles. Should the Jews have known this? Were they told? If so, where?

What did Peter say about the promise to the Gentiles (Acts 2:39)?

What did Isaiah say (Isa. 49:6-9; 57:19)?

5. What does Luke 2:34 mean? (See also I Cor. 1:22-24.)

6. How did Jesus' parents react to these prophecies? Why did they react that way? Had they heard that Jesus was the Christ?

7. Describe Anna.

8. Anna "served God with fastings and prayers night and day." This was because
- a) She wanted to look lean and holy.
 - b) She was completely devoted.
 - c) She was just made that way -- sort of built to enjoy worship.
 - d) She was young and full of energy.
9. What does Anna's age tell us of elderly people? What are some ways that elderly people serve God? Cite scripture.
10. This and the previous lessons discussed Jesus' birth and infant life. The lessons cited many scriptures and numerous incidents. In your own words, summarize these events. Were these events significant? Did they glorify God? Did they cause rejoicing? Did they cause paranoia? If so, how?

Lesson 7: Jesus: Baptism & Temptation

Introduction: In the last few lessons we studied events in the early life of Jesus. In this lesson we will study the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

I. The Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-22)

- A. John was baptizing "in the Jordan river" (Matt. 3:6).
- B. Jesus came when all the other people were being baptized.
- C. John was reluctant to baptize Jesus.
- D. Jesus was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15).
- E. Jesus came "up out of the water" (Mk. 1:10).
- F. While praying, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit "descended in bodily form, as a dove" (Lk. 3:21-22).
- G. A voice from heaven called, "Thou art My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased" (Matt. 3:17; Mk. 1:11; Lk. 3:22).

Principle:

1. Water baptism occurs "in" water.

II. The Temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13)

- A. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
- B. He fasted 40 days & nights.
- C. He was "with wild beasts" (Mk. 1:13).
- D. Satan tempted Jesus to "command that these stones become bread." He appealed to Jesus' natural needs. Jesus' response was, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," a quote from Duet.8:3.
- E. In another temptation, Satan took Jesus to the holy city and placed Him on the pinnacle of the temple. Satan told Jesus that if He was the Son of God, He could cast Himself down. Satan quoted a verse (Psa. 91:11-12) that described the security of the faithful, a verse that referred to the care of angels. He hoped to appeal to Jesus' pride. Jesus resisted and responded with another verse --"Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Duet. 6:16).
- F. In a third temptation, Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him "all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time (Lk. 4:5), and "the glory of them" (Matt. 4:8). Satan offered these to Jesus in exchange for Jesus' worship. It was an effort to appeal to a lust for power. Jesus responded by saying, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."
- G. After these temptations, Satan departed for a while.
- H. Angels ministered unto Him (Mk. 1:13; Matt. 4:11).

Principles:

- 1. False teachers quote scripture.**
- 2. Scripture can be distorted (see also II Pet. 3:15-16).**
- 3. Temptations appeal to natural human desires.**
- 4. Jesus possessed great power, but did not use it improperly (see also Matt. 26:52-54).**
- 5. When tempted, Jesus resisted and quoted scripture.**
- 6. Jesus was tempted in all things, just as we are (Heb. 4:14-15).**

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus get baptized?
2. Did John come up to Jesus and sprinkle Him? How do you know?
3. When the voice from heaven sounded, what did it say? How was the message different than the message at the transfiguration (Lk. 9:35)? Why were there different messages?
4. When Satan tempted Jesus, he took Him to the top of the temple; he also showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. But the Hebrew writer says that Jesus was tempted like us (Heb. 4:14-15).

Have you been tempted this way? What is the meaning of Heb. 4:14-15?

5. Is it wrong to be tempted?

What does James say about temptation and sin (Jas. 1:13-15)?

What does John say (I Jno. 2:16)?

6. What should we do when we are tempted? (Cite scripture.)

7. What does Peter say about Christians who become entangled in sin (II Pet. 2:20-22)?

What does the Hebrew writer say about the same subject (Heb. 10:26)?

What does Paul say (I Cor. 6:8-11)?

8. Even if new converts learn much about the Bible, they are not qualified to become elders (I Tim. 3:6). Why is this?

9. What does Paul say about temptations (I Cor. 10:13)?

10. In the parable of the sower (Mk. 4:3-20), Jesus describes many reasons why people fall away.

The seed that fell by the wayside represents what type of falling away?

The seed that fell on the rocky ground represents what type of falling away?

The seed that fell among thorns represents what type of falling away?

List some things that can make us fall away like the seed that fell among thorns.

11. How did Joseph and David react differently when tempted (Gen. 39:7-10 & II Sam. 11:2)?
What was the result?

Lesson 8: Peter

Introduction: In this lesson, we will study the character of Peter through incidents recorded in the New Testament. We will see his spiritual growth, his increase in understanding, and his battle with sin. We will also see his contribution to the spread of the gospel.

I. Peter's early life

- A. Son of Jonas, also called *John* and *Joannes* (Jno. 1:42-43).
- B. Originally named *Simon*, renamed by Jesus as *Cephas* (Aramaic for *Peter*)
- C. Brought to Christ by his brother, Andrew (Matt. 4:18; Jno. 1:40-42)
- D. From the city of Bethsaida (Jno. 1:44).
- E. Lived some time in Capernaum (Matt. 8:5, 14)
- F. A fisherman by trade (Matt. 4:18)
- G. Married (Matt. 8:14; 1 Cor. 9:1-5)

Principles:

1. Many great church leaders did not rely on worldly status or secular education (Matt. 4:18; Acts 4:13).
2. Great church leaders may or may not have had families (Matt. 8:14; 1 Cor. 7:7; 32-35; 9:5).

II. Peter's Character During Jesus' Ministry

- A. Humility and confession
 1. Casting nets (Lk. 5:1-10)
- B. Impulsive actions
 1. Walking on water (Matt. 14:22-33)
 2. Cutting off the slave's ear (Jno. 18:10-11)
- C. Impulsive words
 1. Suggestion at the transfiguration (Lk. 9:28-35)
 2. Disapproval of Jesus' foot-washing (Jno. 13:3-9)
 3. Disapproval of Jesus' suffering (Matt. 16:21-23)
- D. Weakness
 1. Denial before crucifixion (Mk. 14:66-72)
 2. Doubt (Matt. 14:22-33)

Principles:

1. "My thoughts are not your thoughts" (Is. 55:8). At first, Jesus' own disciples did not understand the spiritual nature of His kingdom.
2. Jesus loves sinners (Lk. 5:8-10).
3. We are often zealous until we feel threatened (Matt. 14:29-30; Mk. 14:29-31,72; Acts 15:6-11; Gal. 2:11-12).

4. **God's people must learn to be servants (Jno. 13:3-9).**
5. **We must feel deep sorrow when convicted of sin (Lk. 22:61-62).**

III. Peter in the Church

- A. Preached first gospel sermon (Acts 2:14-47)
- B. Healed the lame man (Acts 3:11-26)
- C. Arrested with John after another sermon (Acts 3:11-26; 4:1-4)
- D. Condemned Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
- E. Respected for healing power (Acts 5:14-15)
- F. Probably the first apostle to leave Jerusalem (Acts 8: 1-15)
- G. Preached outside of Jerusalem, healing several (Acts 9:31-42)
- H. Preaches first gospel sermon to Gentiles (Acts 10 & 11)
- I. Imprisoned by Herod, but freed by an angel (Acts 12:3-11)
- J. Fled to Judea and Caesarea (Acts 12:18-19)
- K. Returned to Jerusalem (Acts 15:2, 7)
- L. Because of fear, withdrew from Gentile Christians (Gal. 2:11-14)
- M. Had foreknowledge of his being killed (Jno. 21:17-19; 2 Pet. 1:13-15)
- N. Wrote 2 epistles:
 1. In general, 1 Peter is about retaining purity and hope during suffering.
 2. 2 Peter is generally about "true knowledge" (*epignosko*) vs. false doctrine.

Principles:

1. **Salvation is from the Jews, but is open to all (Jn. 4:22; Acts 10:34-35).**
2. **When persecuted, we must obey God rather than man (Acts 5:27-29).**
3. **Our service to God will cost something (Jno. 21:17-19; 2 Pet. 1:14; 2 Tim. 3:12).**
4. **God's specific prophecies are fulfilled (Acts 1:8).**
5. **At times, we must expose sin (Acts 5:1-11).**
6. **When guilty, we must accept rebuke (Gal. 2:14).**

Questions:

1. Section II cites several incidents that reflect Peter's thinking. Look at the scriptures in this section. How did Peter initially view Jesus' mission and kingdom?
2. Looking at scriptures in Section II, show how Peter was zealous until he was threatened.

How can we be guilty of this today?

3. What happened after the cock crowed (Lk. 22:61-62)?

4. Some people think of Peter as the first pope.

Was Peter single or married?

Did he accept worship?

How does the Bible describe the special following of Peter (Cephas) (1 Cor. 1:12)?

Does the Bible mention popes?

Although Christ is the head of the church, specific men are appointed to lead local churches. Who are these men? Cite scripture.

Comment about the play on words used by Jesus in Matt. 16:18. The word *Peter* is translated from the Greek *petros*, meaning small stone or pebble. The word *rock* is translated from the Greek *petra*, meaning large stone or boulder.

5. After Peter healed the lame man, he appeared before the Jewish Council. What did he say about the healing (Acts 4:10)?

How did the Jewish leaders respond (vss. 13-18)?

By this time, how many people had been converted in the city (vs. 4)?

6. Peter told Ananias that he had lied to whom (Acts 5:4)? Did he lie to men? What did Peter mean?

How did the church feel after Ananias and Sapphira were killed (vs. 11)?

Can this feeling be helpful?

7. When the persecution began, what happened to the church (Acts 8:1-2)?

How does this compare with Jesus' prophecy (Acts 1:8)?

Did all the members leave Jerusalem (Acts 8:4, 14)?

When did Peter leave (8:14-17)? Why? What was the result?

Lesson 9: John - The Apostle

Introduction: John was the "disciple whom Jesus loved." He was a fisherman by trade who worked at the family business. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. Salome was thought to be the sister of Mary which would make John the cousin of Jesus (Matt. 27:56; Mk. 15:40). John and his family were a family of means. They had hired servants (Mk. 1:19, 20). Salome ministered to Jesus (Lk. 8:3; Mk. 15:40). She also brought spices for the body of Christ (Mk. 16:1). John knew the High Priest well enough to get into the court where Jesus was tried.

I. John Becomes A Disciple

- A. We first see John as a disciple of John the baptist (Jn. 1:35).
- B. Scholars believe that the other disciple mentioned in John 1:35-42 is John.
- C. These disciples left John the baptist and followed Christ. John vividly recalls the exact time (4 pm by the Jewish clock) when they met Jesus.
- D. John the baptist was not envious or angry over the loss of his disciples to Christ (Jn. 3:22-36).
- E. Later, John the baptist is imprisoned, and Jesus leaves for Galilee (Mk. 1:14; Matt. 4:12-16). Some disciples, including John, seemed to be called a second time in Galilee while they were fishing (Matt. 4:18-22; Mk. 1:16-20).

II. John's Life With Christ

- A. Wedding feast in Cana (Jn. 2:1-12).
- B. In Jerusalem when the temple was cleansed by Jesus (Jn. 2:13-17).
- C. The visit with Nicodemus (Jn. 3:1-21).
- D. In Judea calling for repentance when the disciples baptized many (Jn. 4:1-3).
- E. At the well with the Samaritan woman (only John records this event) (Jn. 4:5-42).
- F. Chosen to be an apostle (Matt. 10:2-4; Lk. 6:12-16; Mk. 3:13-19).

Principles:

- 1. **Jesus calls us (Acts 8:39).**
- 2. **We may be asked to leave family, job, country, friends, etc., to serve Christ.**
- 3. **John witnessed the life of Christ. We read that witness through the Holy Spirit inspired scriptures (Jn. 20:30-31).**
- 4. **Christ did not go to the wealthy or prominent rulers for support. He called fishermen to do the most important work in the history of the world (1 Cor. 1:26-31).**

III. John, "Son Of Thunder"

- A. John was one of the more prominent disciples. He was a part of Christ's inner ring of beloved disciples which included Peter and James.
 - 1. Witnesses the raising of Jairus' daughter (Mk. 5:37; Lk. 8:51)
 - 2. Present at the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1; Mk. 9:2; Lk. 9:28)
 - 3. With Christ in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:37; Mk. 14:33)

- B. John told Jesus of a man casting out demons (Mk. 9:38; Lk. 9:49).
- C. John and James asked for fire from heaven to be sent on Samaritan villages (Lk. 9:54).
- D. John wanted a place of honor (Mk. 10:35).
- E. John asked when Christ's prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem would come to pass (Mk. 13:3, 4).
- F. John and Peter were sent by Jesus to prepare a place to observe the Passover (Lk. 22:8).
- G. John asked Jesus who would be the traitor (Jn. 13:25).
- H. John fled with the other apostles when Jesus was arrested. Later, he and Peter managed to get into the courtyard (Jn. 18:15-16).
- I. When Jesus was on the cross He asked John to take care of His mother (Jn. 19:26).
- J. John and Peter ran to the tomb of Christ after receiving word that His body was gone (Jn. 20:2, 3).
- K. John was the first to recognize Jesus on the morning that he and the other apostles went fishing and Jesus called to them from the shore (Jn. 21:1-7).

IV. John After Pentecost

- A. With Peter at the healing of the lame man (Acts 4:1-22). Arrested and brought before the council.
- B. John and Peter were sent to Samaria to impart gifts of the Holy Spirit on new converts (Acts 8:14, 15).
- C. John spoken of as "a pillar of the church" (Gal. 2:9).
- D. John wrote the books of John, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Revelation (written while exiled on the isle of Patmos, Rev. 1:9).
- E. According to secular sources, John spent the last years of his life preaching in Ephesus and to the seven churches of Asia.

V. John, "The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved"

- A. John makes reference repeatedly to "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 24). This appears to be a reference to himself according to many.

Principles:

- 1. Christ changed John. Christ is trying to change us as well.**
- 2. Christians are to be selfless people. We must sacrifice ourselves to the cause of Christ our Lord. John saw himself only in relation to Christ, "the beloved of Jesus."**
- 3. Even though service to God may mean exile, persecution, or death, Christians can be the happiest people on earth (3 Jn. 3,4; Rev. 22:14; Acts 5:41).**
- 4. People marveled because John "had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). Our lives should also reflect the glory of Christ.**

Questions:

1. Describe John's background; his home, profession, family, education. How do you think he would be regarded by the world today?
2. Why was John (as well as others) so interested in a place of honor in the kingdom of Christ?

What does this say about his character at this time in his life?

3. Why were John and his brother James called the "Sons of Thunder" (Mk. 3:17)?
4. How does Jesus call us into His service today?

Is that service mandatory?

What is the nature of our service to God?

5. Read Matthew 10. These are the words Christ spoke to His apostles when he sent them to preach the message of the kingdom to the house of Israel. What do his instructions tell one about serving Christ?
6. How did the apostles feel about Christ talking to the Samaritan woman at the well? How did John's attitude toward Samaritans change?
7. Read 1, 2, and 3 John. How would you contrast John's character before and after Pentecost?

Think about your own life, and note how you have changed since becoming a Christian.

8. Why was the gospel of John written? Does it serve a purpose today?

9. Did Jesus say that John would never die (Jn. 21:20-25)?

10. How did John react to persecution (Acts 3,4, and 5)?

Lesson 10: The Apostles

Introduction: The apostles were chosen during the second year of Christ's ministry after He had prayed all night. Although Jesus was surrounded by enemies who were already plotting his death, Christ was more concerned about the future. He chose men to spread the story of redemption to the entire world. The men Christ chose to be His representatives were perhaps not the men that you and I would have selected for such a job. Most people would expect Christ to pick men of power, intelligence, wealth, and influence to get the message to as many people as possible. But the men He chose were simple, ignorant, uneducated, superstitious, prejudiced, and full of selfish ambition. Why these men?

I. Peter

- A. Picked first, but not because of his excellent qualities. He was a fisherman. When confronted with Christ he admitted that he was unworthy to even be in Christ's presence (Lk. 5:8).
- B. Called "satan" (or adversary) by Jesus (Mt. 16:23).

II. Matthew (Lk. 5:27-30)

- A. Matthew was a publican. He was not only a tax collector, but he was collecting money for the Roman Empire. Publicans were hated and despised by the Jewish people. They were unethical and corrupt in taking more than even the Romans required in taxes.
- B. Publicans were equated with the gentiles. They were not allowed in the synagogue, and no one associated with them.
- C. A Publican was not a good choice if Jesus wanted to be popular with the people.

III. Simon the Zealot (Lk. 6:15)

- A. The Zealots were a Jewish patriotic party whose primary desire in life was to see a violent end to the Roman Empire. They often resorted to fanatical violence and assassination in their hatred of the Romans.
- B. Christ picked this man to work side by side with Matthew, a publican.
- C. Now people on both sides of the issue could find reason to criticize the group Jesus was assembling.

IV. James and John - "Sons of Thunder"

- A. Fishermen who left their father's fishing business to follow Jesus.
- B. When Christ was rejected by a Samaritan village, James and John asked for fire from heaven to punish them. Jesus told them they did not know what manner of spirit they were of. Jesus came to save men, not to destroy them (Lk. 9:54-56).

V. Prejudice and Ignorance

- A. The apostles were astounded that it would be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:23-25).
- B. When they saw a blind man, the apostles asked "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his

parents, that he was born blind" (John 9:2)?

VI. Selfish Ambition

- A. After the transfiguration, the apostles began to argue about who would be the greatest in the kingdom (Mk. 9:33-34). Remember this was the third year of Christ's ministry. They had been with Christ almost three years and were still bickering.
- B. Mark 10 and Matthew 20 record how Mother Zebadee asked the Lord to put her sons in places of power when He came into His kingdom.
- C. The other apostles were angry because James and John were trying to get ahead of them.
- D. During the Last Supper they were again arguing about who would be the greatest. Jesus washed their feet to teach them about true greatness. Jesus would die on the cross the next day, and still they did not understand (Lk. 22:24, Jn. 13:1-17).

VII. Slow to Understand

- A. They could not grasp the fact that Jesus would be put to death. The concept of man killing God was too much for them to understand.
- B. Jesus told them many times yet they did not see beyond their own selfish interests.
- C. See Mt. 16:21; Mt. 20:17-19; Mk. 9:31-32; Mt. 26:1-2; and there are many other references where Jesus plainly tells them that He will be crucified.

VIII. Willing to Follow

- A. These men sincerely believed that Jesus was the Son of God, but their belief was a misinformed belief. They left all to follow Christ expecting an earthly kingdom, but they did so willingly.
- B. Even though they did not understand, they were sometimes sorrowful over what Jesus told them (Mt. 17:22-23).
- C. They were fiercely loyal at times (Mt. 26:34-35).

IX. Servants for Life

- A. This same Peter wrote I and II Peter
- B. John wrote the gospel of John, I, II, III John and Revelation.
- C. Many lost their lives for the cause of Christ.

Principles:

- 1. Becoming a servant of Christ demands a change in our lives.**
- 2. The Church today is not made up of senators, millionaires, or celebrities.**
Christ calls everyone regardless of social standing, wealth, power, education, or personality.
- 3. Christ accepts all who will come. No one is too sinful to be forgiven. There is useful work for all who will dedicate their lives to Christ. There is no talent too small to use for the cause of Christ.**
- 4. There is no room for cowards in God's army. Christianity has never been for the weak or faint-hearted (Eph. 6:10-20; 1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Cor. 11:22-**

33).

5. Even from the beginning there were those who fell away. We must learn from the example of Judas. If an apostle could fall away, then we must be careful to remain faithful (1 Cor. 9:27).

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus pick these men to be His apostles?
2. Why did Jesus call us to follow and to serve?
3. What does the word Apostle mean? Are there apostles in the twentieth century? What special tools were they given to do their job? Are those powers available to us today?
4. Compare the attitude and character of these men before and after the day of Pentecost. What changed them?
5. What changes do we have to make in our lives when we commit ourselves to Christ?
6. Why did Judas betray Christ? Was he forced to sin to fulfill prophecy? Are we forced to sin? John 13:1-2 and 21-30. How did Judas act after he sinned. How should we act when we have sinned?
7. What were some of the good qualities of the early apostles before the coming of the Holy Spirit? What characteristics of Andrew and Phillip should we have? John 1:40,41,& 45. What characteristic of Nathaniel should we cultivate? John 1:46-49.

8. How does I Cor 1:26-31 relate to this lesson?

9. Did the disciples love Jesus? Why did they flee after He was arrested?

10. The last conversation with Peter recorded in John 21 is very touching. Do the words of Christ have any application to us?

11. What did the apostles do after Jesus died on the cross? John 20 and 21.

12. What abilities do you have? Are you using them for the cause of Christ?

Lesson 11: The Women Who Followed Jesus

Introduction: Although Christ was a "man of sorrows" and no place to lay His head, He was not without friends who loved Him dearly. He was surrounded by His disciples, and as they worked, they were ministered to by certain women (Lk. 8:1-3). This would seem necessary since these men gave up their professions to follow Christ. There are many references to the women who served Jesus. Most are not mentioned by name, but we know that there were many (Mt. 27:55). Luke 8:1-3 mentions that one of them was the wife of one of Herod's stewards.

I. Mary Magdalene

- A. Mary was a favorite name among Hebrew women. This Mary was called "of Magdala" which was a small town near Tiberias on the SW coast of the Sea of Galilee.
- B. She was possessed with 7 demons whom Jesus cast out (Lk. 8:2).
- C. She became a devoted disciple and followed Christ to the crucifixion (Mt. 27:54-56, see also Mk. 15:40-ff).
- D. She helped with the burial of Christ. She was the first person Christ appeared to after His resurrection (Mt. 27:59-61; 28:1-10; Mk. 16:9; see also Jn. 20:1ff).
- E. There is no firm evidence to suggest that she was an immoral woman as tradition has taught. This belief comes from the fact that the first mention of her comes immediately after the story of the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet (Lk. 7:36-50).

Principles:

1. **As Mary Magdalene was healed, we also have been healed.**
2. **We should also give our lives in service out of gratitude and love.**

II. Mary of Bethany

- A. She was the sister of Martha and Lazarus (Jn. 11:1).
- B. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to His words. Martha was more worried about being a good hostess and thus Jesus commends the better choice that Mary made (Lk. 10:38-42).
- C. Mary had a strong faith in her Lord. She knew of Jesus' power to raise men from the dead (Jn. 11:1-57).
- D. Mary washed Jesus' feet with a costly oil as if for His burial (Jn. 12:1-8).

Principles:

1. **We need to make sure our priorities are proper (Mt. 6:33).**
2. **We can spend our whole lives making sure of our physical needs, but in the end, only one thing is needed (Lk. 10:41-42; Phil. 3:7-9; Eccl. 12:13-14).**

III. Martha

- A. Martha welcomed Christ into her house (Lk. 10:38-42).
- B. She was "distracted with much serving".
- C. Jesus loved this family (Jn. 11:5). Bethany may have been the place Jesus felt most at home while on this earth. Both Martha and Mary knew the power of Jesus, both of them stated that if Jesus had arrived sooner, Lazarus would not have died (Jn. 11:21,32). But it was Martha who stated her confidence in the resurrection (Jn. 11:24), and then confessed that Christ was the Son of God who had come to save the world (Jn. 11:27).

Principles:

1. Christ should be a welcome guest in our homes.
2. We must be confident of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19).

IV. Salome

- A. She was the wife of Zebedee and the mother of James and John. Compare Mt. 27:56 with Mk. 15:40 and 16:1.
- B. She was one of the women who accompanied with Jesus in Galilee (Mk. 15:40).
- C. She was present at the crucifixion and was among those who went to Christ's tomb to anoint His body (Mk. 16:1).
- D. Zebedee and his family were of some means as evidenced by the hired servants for their fishing business (Mk. 1:18-20).
- E. She asked that her sons be given places of honor in the kingdom (Mt. 20:20-22).

Principles:

1. These women gave of their time and money. We must cheerfully give of our means (2 Cor. 9:6-8).
2. Salome did not understand the nature of the kingdom when she asked for positions of honor for her sons, but it is admirable that she wished for her sons to be with Christ. We must train our children according to God's word so that they may be with Christ.

Questions:

1. Of what was Mary Magdalene cured? Read Ezekiel 16:1-14 and comment on God's love for His people. Are we that helpless? What was Christ willing to do for us and what debt do we owe Him? See also Rev 3:14-17.

2. What is your first priority in this life? Can others tell what is most important to you? How?

3. What was the "one thing" Jesus referred to in Luke 10:42?

4. How can Christ be a welcome guest in our homes? Is there more than one way? See Mt. 25:34-46.

5. How did Martha know that there would be a resurrection? How do we know that we will be raised up from the dead (Jn. 5:28-29; 11:24,25; Acts 2:31; 4:33; Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor. 15).

6. What things did these women give to Christ? What attitude accompanied their gifts? What is the nature of giving in the Church?

7. What do parents hope for their children? What is more important: a good job, financial security, influence, education, or serving the Lord (Eccl. 12:1)? How can we teach our children godly priorities? How may we give them conflicting messages regarding what is important in this life?

8. Critics of the Bible (especially of Paul's epistles) say that New Testament teaching is demeaning to women. How would you answer such criticism?

Lesson 12: Those Healed By Jesus - 1

Lepers, Peter's Mother-in-Law, The Demon Possessed

Introduction: Jesus did many signs and wonders during His three-year ministry. The purpose of these miracles were to confirm the fact that He was the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31). No other miracles were more convincing of Christ's power than those of healing. Christ healed the sick and raised the dead in such a way that no science can duplicate. The only explanation for these events is that Jesus Christ is who He said He was, the Son of God. He also showed His power over the spiritual world by casting our demons.

I. Christ Heals Lepers

- A. Christ was not accepted in His own Nazareth. He rebuked the people and reminded them of Naaman, a foreigner who was healed of his leprosy (Lk. 4:24-27). Christ healed lepers!
- B. The fact that He healed lepers confirmed that He was the Christ (Mt. 11:3-5).
- C. Mt. 8:1-4; Mk. 1:40-45; Lk. 5:12-16, all tell the same story of Christ healing a leper. As a consequence, Jesus was followed by great multitudes.
- D. Lk. 17:11-19 records the healing of the ten lepers. Only one returned to give glory to God.

Principles:

- 1. Miracles proved the words spoken by Christ.**
- 2. Many follow Christ for the wrong reasons (see also Phil. 1:15).**
- 3. Healing caused many to glorify God.**
- 4. Even when blessed miraculously, some were ungrateful.**

II. Christ Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law.

- A. Peter asked on behalf of his mother-in-law and Jesus healed her of her fever. Luke, the physician, tells us it was a "high fever." The Greek word "puresso" here indicates that it was a severe illness and not just a mild fever or a cold (Mt. 8:14-17; Mk. 1:29-31; Lk. 4:38-39).
- B. Jesus touched her hand, and she immediately felt well enough to "arise and serve them."
- C. Many more were brought to Jesus after this, and He healed all of them. This was a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:4.

Principles:

- 1. Christ did not come into the world to remove all diseases. If that were true, then He failed in His mission, since our hospitals are full of the sick. Miracles were performed to confirm the word.**

2. Service to Christ follows healing by Christ.
3. Christ will take care of our spiritual illness if we will ask Him.

III. Demon Possession

- A. Demons were a common problem in the time of Jesus (Mt. 4:24). They produced harmful effects in their victims, including blindness (Mt. 12:22), physical defects (Lk. 13:11-17), insanity (Lk. 8:26-36), suicidal mania (Mk. 9:22), and dumbness (Mt. 9:32-33).
- B. They were described as unclean spirits and thus were evil (Mt. 10:1; Mk. 1:27; Lk. 4:36; Acts 8:7; Rev. 16:13).
- C. They still knew that Jesus was the Son of God and feared Him.
- D. The demons referred to as "Legion" feared Christ and asked not to be thrown into the abyss. They were forced to leave, and the man was restored to his right mind. The people of the area were so frightened at the sight of seeing this man suddenly healed that they asked Jesus to leave. The man went his way and proclaimed what great things Jesus had done for him (Lk. 8:26-39; compare with Mt. 8:28).
- E. When Jesus healed this demon-possessed blind and deaf mute, He was accused of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub (Mt. 9:32-33; 12:22).
- F. Christ's disciples tried to cast out a demon but could not because of their unbelief (Mk. 9:14-29). Note that Jesus performed this miracle when He saw the people coming, running together.
- G. Jesus healed a gentile woman's daughter (Mt. 15:21-28). Again, He did not come to rid the world of all problems. He ignored this woman at first, and then finally told her that He was not sent except to the house of Israel. Still, she persisted and her daughter was healed. Her statement in verse 27 showed her great faith.
- H. Jesus cast a demon out of a man in the synagogue. This spirit identifies Jesus as "the Holy One of God" (Lk. 4:31-37).
- I. There is an everlasting punishment set aside for the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). All the sinful will join them in that punishment (Mt. 25:46). There seems to be a temporary place for these demons where they await this punishment (Lk. 8:31). Compare this abyss with the bottomless pit mentioned in Rev. 9:1-11; 20:1-3.

Principles:

1. Jesus has power over both the physical world and the spiritual. Christ has all authority (Mt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22).
2. We also have problems with demons (Eph. 6:10-13).
3. If we resist, we will overcome (1 Pet. 5:8-9; Js. 4:7-8).

Questions:

1. What was the purpose of miracles? Did they accomplish this purpose? How can you know that these events really happened?

2. What was the social life of a leper? (See Lev. 13, especially 43-46.) In Mt. 8:1-4, what is the significance of Christ touching the leper? What other acts of compassion did Jesus perform?

3. Why did the crowds follow Jesus?

4. What lessons do you learn from the story of the ten lepers?

We must give glory to God for our salvation (Acts 12:23; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Col. 2:6-7). What can we say in our prayers and in our songs to thank God and give Him glory?

5. How have we been healed by Christ (Is. 53:1-6)?

How should that change our lives?

How did forgiveness change Isaiah's life (Is. 6:6-8)?

6. Did Christ come to the world to remove all disease, suffering and poverty (Mt. 26:11)? Why did Christ come to earth?

7. How do we fight with demons?

How can we resist?

Do we know the outcome of this battle?

8. What kind of place will Hell be if all the demons are there?

The demons know their fate (Js. 2:19). Have we been given ample warning of judgment?

Why do some not listen?

Why do some sin even though they know what God has promised for the disobedient (Eccl. 8:11-13)?

9. Why was it impossible for Jesus to cast our demons by the power of Beelzebub (Mt. 12:25-32)?

Lesson 13: Those Healed By Jesus - 2

The Paralytic, Woman With Flow Of Blood, Girl Raised From The Dead, Blind Men

Introduction: In this lesson we see Jesus continue to perform great and wonderful miracles. People who were ill with conditions that were, and in some cases still are, considered impossible to be healed, were healed. Jesus knew that the people who witnessed these miracles would be affected by what they saw.

- I. The Paralytic:** (Mt. 9:1-8; Mk. 2:1-12; Lk. 5:17-26)
- A. A man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed.
 - B. Those who brought the sick man could not get near Jesus because of the crowd.
 - C. They had to let the sick man down through the roof of the house.
 - D. Jesus saw their faith.
 - E. "Thy sins are forgiven."
 - F. The scribes thought Jesus was a blasphemer.
 - G. Jesus knew their thoughts.
 - H. Jesus told them of his power and authority to forgive sins.
 - I. The man arose, and departed to his house.

Principles:

- 1. Jesus had the power to heal and to forgive sins when He was on the earth.**
- 2. Today people can be forgiven of sins.**
- 3. People are concerned about those who are their friends and will go to great lengths to help them physically and spiritually.**

- II. Woman With A Flow Of Blood:** (Mt. 9:20-22; Mk. 5:25-34; Lk. 8:43-48)
- A. She had an issue of blood for twelve years.
 - B. See Lev. 15:19-33.
 - C. She touched the boarder of Jesus' garment.
 - D. Her faith was so great that she knew she would be healed.
 - E. She had faith in Jesus' power to heal her.
 - F. Jesus wanted to know who had touched him.
 - G. Jesus turned and said "your faith has made you whole."
 - H. She was healed that same hour.

Principles:

- 1. Faith was important then and it is important today.**
- 2. This miracle was not kept private. Miracles were performed not just to heal, but to confirm.**

- III. Girl Raised From The Dead:** (Mt. 9:18-26; Mk. 5:21-43; Lk. 8:40-56)

4. Jesus told the people not to tell anyone about the miracles he performed. Did they obey him? Why or why not?

5. Why did Jesus perform miracles? Why did the Apostles perform miracles?

6. Are miracles performed today? Explain your answer.

7. What does the ability to forgive sins say about Jesus?

How does this relate to the argument that the thief on the cross was saved without being baptized?

8. Did Jesus know that the woman with the flow of blood had touched him and was healed?

Why did he want her to come forward and testify?

9. When the blind man who had received his sight was brought before the Pharisees, what did they say to him (Jn. 9:24)?

What did the formerly blind man say when the Pharisees said that Jesus was a sinner (Jn. 9:25)?

The Pharisees claimed to be disciples of Moses (Jn. 9:28), they said, "We know that God spoke to Moses" (Jn. 9:29). How did they "know" that?

The Pharisees said, "as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from" (Jn.9:29). What was the reply of the formerly blind man?

10. What did many do when blind Barimaeus called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me" (Mk. 10:47, 48)?

Did this stop the blind man?

11. Was Jairus' daughter dead or just sleeping (Lk. 8:52)? (Consider Lk. 8:49,53,55; Jn. 11:11-14)

Lesson 14: Those Healed By Jesus - 3

The Mute, The Lame Man, Touching The Hem of His Garment, Healing On The Sabbath

Introduction: In this lesson we continue to see Jesus perform more great and wonderful miracles - healings that were witnessed by many people and recorded for us by Matthew and John. Jesus did so many things, that if every one of them were recorded, the world could not contain the books that would be written (Jn. 21:25).

I. The Mute (Mt. 9:32-38)

- A. A dumb man is brought to Jesus.
- B. He was possessed with a demon.
- C. Jesus cast the demon out of the man.
- D. After the demon was cast out, the dumb man was able to speak.
- E. The people marveled.
- F. The people said "This has never been seen in Israel."
- G. The Pharisees said "By the prince of demons he casts out demons." (cf. Mt. 12:22-28)
- H. Jesus went through all the cities teaching in the synagogues.
 - 1. Preaching, healing, moved with compassion because they were weary and scattered like sheep without a shepherd.

II. The Lame Man (Bethzatha) (Jn. 5:1-16)

- A. In Jerusalem by the sheep gate.
- B. It had five porches.
- C. Invalids, blind, lame, and paralyzed would come here to be healed.
- D. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.
- E. Jesus asked "Do you want to be healed?"
- F. Jesus said "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk."
- G. The man was healed.
- H. This happened on the Sabbath.
- I. The Jews said it was unlawful to carry a pallet on the Sabbath.
- J. The man told them what had happened and what Jesus had said.
- K. When Jesus saw the man again, he told him to "sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you" (vs. 14).
- L. The Jews persecuted Jesus because of what he had done on the Sabbath.

Principles:

- 1. Faith in Jesus as the Son of God is the best possible attitude of the soul.**
- 2. Jesus was able to do what no one had ever seen before.**
- 3. Unlike the so called "miracles" of today these miracles were clearly evident.**
- 4. Sin is worse than physical disease or ailment.**

III. Touching The Hem (Mt. 14:34-36)

- A. Jesus was in Gennesaret.
- B. Gennesaret was in the region on the west side of the Sea of Galilee.
- C. Many people there had heard of Jesus and the wonderful things he had done.
- D. When Jesus arrived, they recognized him and "sent out" into all the region and brought sick people to be healed.
- E. The sick were eager to be healed; they knew that if they were able to touch Jesus' garment, they would be cured.
- F. All who touched, "were made whole" (NKJV: "perfectly well").

IV. Healing On The Sabbath (Mt. 12:9-14; Mk. 3:1-6; Lk. 6:6-11)

- A. Jesus went into the Jewish synagogue on the Sabbath.
- B. There was a man there who had a withered hand (Luke the physician tells us it was his right hand (Lk. 6:6)).
- C. Some asked Jesus if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath.
- D. They wanted to find a reason to accuse Jesus, and He knew their thoughts (Lk. 6:8).
- E. Jesus asked them if they would save an animal on the Sabbath.
- F. Jesus asked, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill" (Mk. 3:4)?" When they remained silent Jesus looked at them with "anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts" (Mk. 3:5).
- G. Jesus healed the man.
- H. The Pharisees planned to destroy Jesus.

Principles:

1. **We must never grow tired of doing good.**
2. **We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God.**
3. **The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16).**
4. **Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen (Heb 11:1).**
5. **The "good news" must be "sent out" so that all will come to Jesus.**
6. **The miracles of the first century made people "perfectly well."**

Questions:

1. Why must we believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
2. What happens when our faith is tested?
3. Describe the "whole armor of God."

4. Explain what the scriptures mean when they describe faith as substance, evidence, assurance, and conviction.
5. What does Paul mean when he tells us that the scriptures are the power of God for (unto) salvation?
6. What does Paul mean when he tells us we have been saved by grace?
7. If you were mute and were miraculously healed, what do you think would be the first words you would speak? (compare Lk. 1:64)
8. How was demon possession manifested in people in New Testament times?
9. How apparent was it that miracles were being performed?
10. What was wrong with the Pharisees' reasoning, that Jesus was the prince of demons? (Mt. 12:22-28).
11. What was it about the people's condition that moved Jesus with compassion?
12. What "worse thing" would come upon the lame man if he continued in sin?
13. Give another example of one being healed by touching Jesus' garment. Did Luke record anything like this happening in the book of Acts?
14. Was Jesus using the argument of "situation ethics" when he asked if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath?

Lesson 15: Nicodemus And The New Birth (John 3:1-21)

Introduction: The miracles of Jesus had convinced many that He was a teacher sent from God. In this lesson we will see a ruler of the Jews approach Jesus, and ask Him about the miracles. Nicodemus knew that God must be with Jesus; Nicodemus would learn about the new birth, and the Kingdom of God (Jn. 3:1-21).

I. A Ruler Of The Jews Comes To Jesus By Night: (Jn. 3:1-3)

- A. Nicodemus
 - 1. A Pharisees
 - 2. A ruler of the Jews.
- B. He came to Jesus by night.
- C. He called Jesus "Rabbi" (teacher). (compare Mt. 23:7,8)
- D He knew that God was with Jesus because of the signs (Jn. 2:3).
- E. Jesus answers; "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"(vs. 3).

Principles:

- 1. **Jesus is our teacher.**
- 2. **Jesus "assuredly" stated that one cannot see the kingdom of God without being born again (Jn. 3:3,5). It is clear that whatever being "born again" is, it is necessary.**

II. Nicodemus Is Puzzled By Jesus Declaration: (Jn. 3:4-9)

- A. Nicodemus asks, "Can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb" (vs. 4)?
- B. Jesus answers; "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (vs. 5).
- C. Jesus makes a distinction between being born of the flesh (physical birth) and being born of the Spirit (spiritual birth) (vs. 6). The spiritual birth makes it possible for one to "see" (vs. 3), and "enter" (vs. 5) the kingdom of God.
 - 1. We learn what it means to be born again by seeing how people entered the kingdom (Acts 2)
 - 2. When those on Pentecost asked "What shall we do?" The Spirit's answer given to them by Peter was, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).
 - 3. They gladly received the word (of the Spirit) and were baptized (in water), thus entering the kingdom of God (Acts 2:41, 47).
- D. "You must be born again" (vs. 7). Compare Mt. 7:21; Eph. 5:26; 1 Cor. 12:13; Jn. 8:32; Rom. 8:2; Acts 22:16).

Principles:

- 1. **We must be born again (baptized).**
- 2. **Never be afraid to ask questions.**

4. In Christ we are a new creature. Does this have any reference or relationship to being born again? How?

5. If being born of water refers to baptism, what does the spirit (Spirit) refer to?

6. What does the kingdom of God refer to? Explain your answer.

7. Why did Nicodemus have such a hard time understanding Jesus?

8. How did people enter the kingdom of God on the day of Pentecost?

9. Explain Ephesians 5:26 and Titus 3:5.

10. Many teach that being born of water is physical birth and being born of the Spirit is Holy Spirit baptism evidenced by speaking in tongues. How would you respond?

Lesson 16: Religious Leaders - 1

Introduction: During His ministry, Jesus had several confrontations with religious leaders. In this lesson we will learn that these religious leaders tried to find fault with Him because He ate with sinners, and cast out demons. They also tested Him, asking for a sign, even though He had performed many signs.

I. **Eating With Sinners:** (Mt. 9:9-13; Mk. 2:14-17; Lk. 5:27-32; 15:1-10)

- A. Jesus asks Matthew (Levi) to follow him (Matt. 9:9).
 - 1. At Matthew's house, Jesus eats with sinners and publicans (Mk. 2:15).
 - 2. The Pharisees ask his disciples why Jesus eats with sinners (Mk. 2:16).
 - 3. Jesus heard what they were asking, and tells them those who are well do not need a physician, but those who are sick (Mk. 2:17).
 - 4. Jesus tells them to learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice" (Mt. 9:13; Hos. 6:6).
 - 5. He reminds them he has come into the world to call sinners to repentance (Mt. 9:13).
- B. Tax collectors and sinners drew near to Jesus to hear Him (Lk. 15:1-32).
 - 1. The Pharisees murmured saying, "This man receives (welcomes) sinners and eats with them" (Lk. 15:2).
 - 2. Jesus gives instruction about the lost and attitudes toward the lost in parables.
 - a. The parable of the lost sheep (Lk. 15:4-7)
 - b. The parable of the lost piece of silver (Lk. 15:8-10).
 - c. The parable of the two sons (Lk. 15:11-32)
- C. These "sinners":
 - 1. Drew near to Jesus (Lk. 15:1).
 - 2. Came and sat down with Jesus (Mt. 9:10).
 - 3. Followed Jesus (Mk. 2:15).

Principles:

- 1. **The unloving attitude toward sinners is not pleasing to God.**
- 2. **Sometimes those who are sinning themselves are unwilling to forgive others (Matt. 7:1-5). All have sinned (Rom. 3:23).**
- 3. **Jesus died so we could have our sins forgiven.**
- 4. **It is because of the love and mercy of God, and the sacrifice of Jesus that we have the hope of eternal life.**
- 5. **Great effort is required on our part to seek and save the lost.**
- 6. **Those who recognize their sin are the ones who are ready to follow Jesus.**

II. **Casting Out Demons:** (Mt. 8:16-17; 8:28-34; 9:32-35; 10:1; 12:22-30; Mk. 1:21-28; 3:20-30; Lk. 4:31-37)

- A. Many possessed with demons (devils) were brought to Jesus to be healed.

1. He was able to cast out the demons with his words (Mk. 8:16).
 2. Demon possession was manifested in different ways.
 3. This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah (Mt. 8:16, 17; Isaiah 53:4).
- B. The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of demons (Matt. 12:24).
1. Jesus responded by saying that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand (Mt. 12: 25-27).
 2. Jesus warned that blasphemy against Him would be forgiven, but that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven (Mt. 12:31, 32).

Principles:

- 1. Casting out demons by a word was a demonstration of the great power of Jesus.**
- 2. Often those who are doing good are accused of evil.**
- 3. One who rejects the testimony of the Holy Spirit cannot be saved (Acts 7:51).**

III. The Scribes And Pharisees Seek A Sign: (Mt. 12:38-45; 16:1-4; Mk. 8:11-12; Lk. 11:16-29)

- A. They called Jesus "Teacher" and requested a sign (Mt. 12:38). They were testing Him (Lk. 11:16).
1. Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah" (Mt. 12:39).
 - a. Jonah - three days and nights in the belly of a great fish (whale? see Jon. 1:17).
 - b. The men of Ninevah repented, at the preaching of Jonah (Mt. 12:41) .
 - c. Something (someone) greater than Jonah is here.
 2. The queen of the South (Sheba) will rise up in judgment with this generation and condemn it (Mt. 12:42).
 - a.. She witnessed the wisdom of Solomon.
 - b. One greater than Solomon is here.
- B. Jesus called them hypocrites because they could discern the face of the sky but could not discern the signs of the times (Mt. 16:1-4).
1. Red sky in the evening - fair weather.
 2. Red sky in the morning - foul weather.

Principles:

- 1. Hearts that persist in evil may never repent.**
- 2. Jesus is greater than Jonah and Solomon.**
- 3. God hates sin (Prov 6:16-19).**

Questions:

1. Are there any sins that cannot be forgiven? If so, identify them.

2. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

3. What value does God place on the soul of a person? Explain your answer.

4. Why does God hate sin?

5. Read Proverbs 2:1-12; Then explain what is meant by the "fear of the Lord."

6. After reading Proverbs 2:1-12, explain what is meant by "righteousness."

7. We know that the Pharisees as well as the "sinners" and tax collectors were guilty of sin. How were they different?

8. What does, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice" mean?

9. Why would it be illogical for Beelzebub to cast out demons?

10. What was the sign of Jonah?

11. How would you describe the Christian's attitude toward sin?

How would you describe his attitude toward sinners?

12. Discuss 1 Cor. 6:5,11 and 1 Cor. 10:21.

Lesson 17: Religious Leaders - 2

Introduction: This lesson discusses the traditions of men, the envy of the Jewish leaders, and Jesus' explanation of the resurrection.

I. Traditions: The Washing of Hands (Mt. 15:1-22, Lk. 11:37-41, Mk. 7:1-23)

- A. The scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus and his disciples of transgressing the traditions of the elders by eating with unwashed hands. This elaborate ritual is referenced in Lk. 7:13 where they "carefully" (literally, *with the fist*) wash their hands. This washing as practiced by the Pharisees, was ceremonial in nature, mistakenly derived from Lev. 12-15. It was based on the idea that they contact uncleanness. There were also supposed oral traditions handed down from Moses (Deut. 4:14) to subsequent generations (Deut. 17:10) that were considered equal to the law.
- B. Jesus taught in this context that:
 - 1. Food did not defile a person (Mk. 7:18).
 - 2. That which proceeded out of a person (evil thoughts and deeds) defiled him.
- C. The Pharisees bound many such traditions on the Jews (Mt. 23:4). Some of these are mentioned in Mt. 23:5, 14, 16.
- D. Jesus delivered a scathing rebuke. He accused the Pharisees of..
 - 1. Being hypocrits
 - 2. Teaching as doctrine the precepts of men.
 - 3. Negating the commandments of God.
 - 4. Being blind guides of the blind.

Principles:

- 1. Men seek to bind their ways on others (Col. 2:8, Mt. 23: 1-3).
- 2. Worship according to the doctrines of men is vain.
- 3. God must be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

II. The Jew's Envy Of Jesus

- A. As Jesus' ministry progressed, the influence of the Jewish leaders was threatened. In their jealousy, they opposed him and even conspired to kill him. For examples, refer to Mt. 9:34; 12:14; 12:24; 21:43-46; 26:4; 14-15.
- B. Finally, in their envy, they caused the Roman authorities to execute Jesus (Mt. 27:18; Mk.15:10; Acts 7:52)

Principles:

- 1. Envy is the rottenness of the bones (Prov. 14:30).

2. Those who are jealous or threatened by the truth will try to stop it (Mt. 26:4; Acts 13:45)

III. Questions About The Resurrection (Mt. 22:23-31; Mk. 12:18-27; Lk. 20:27-40)

A. The Sadducees, who said there was no resurrection, sought to confound Jesus by asking him, "If a woman who had a sequence of seven brothers as husband, which would be her husband in the resurrection?"

B. Jesus replied that:

1. The Sadducees were wrong, because they did not understand the scriptures or the power of God.
2. There is no marriage in heaven.
3. The Sadducee belief concerning the resurrection was erroneous. Jesus quoted Ex 3:6, showing that God is the God of the living (Mt 22:32). This argument is based on the tense of the verb, I AM, indicating that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, though dead, had not ceased to exist. God was still their God.

C. The results of Jesus' discourse

1. The Sadducees were silenced.
2. Some of the scribes honored Jesus.
3. The multitudes were astonished.

Principles:

- 1. Error can be opposed by the word of God.**
- 2. False doctrines arise when people do not understand the scriptures or the power of God.**

Questions:

1. Is there the danger of following the traditions of men today (Col 2:8)? Give examples.
2. Is this a problem in the Church?
3. How does 2 Thes. 2:15, 3:6 apply?

4. How can a Christian stand against false traditions and false teachers (even those with impressive credentials) who openly set aside God's word as not inspired and not binding?

5. If Christians are not being opposed or persecuted for teaching the gospel today, which of the following is true?
 - a. The gospel is not being taught effectively?
 - b. False teachers no longer feel threatened by the truth?
 - c. False teachers no longer exist?
 - d. Times have changed?
 - e. Nobody cares?
 - f. None of the above?
 - g. All of the above?

6. In light of Jesus' explanation to the Sadducees, do all religious leaders now agree that there is no marriage in heaven?

7. Who is the first-fruits from the dead (1 Cor. 15:23)? What does this mean to us?

8. Since there is no marriage in heaven, what form will one have for one's eternal existence with God?

9. Is envy a problem today? Is it directed at Jesus? Is it something the Church should be vigilant about?

10. What is the significance of the resurrection of Christ to Christians?

Lesson 18: The Rich Young Ruler, The Lawyer

Introduction: Jesus interacted with many people during his ministry. This lesson deals with His meetings with the rich young ruler, a devout man, and with the lawyer, who sought to test Him.

I. **The Rich Young Ruler:** (Mt. 19:16-30; Mk. 10:17-31; Lk. 18:18-30)

A. The young man's request

1. He ran and knelt before Jesus, calling him "Good Teacher"
2. He asked what good thing he could do to inherit eternal life.

B. Jesus' reply

1. He asked "Why are you calling me good?" Then He answered His own question saying, "Only God is good." That is, God had already provided that which was good to the nation of Israel, along with the path of goodness.
2. Jesus then elaborated upon His answer, saying that if the young man wished eternal life, he simply had to keep God's commandments. Jesus quoted the last 6 of the 10 commandments and added in summation, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

C. Jesus tests the Rich Young Ruler.

1. The young man replied to Jesus that he had kept the commandments from his youth and then asked, "What lack I yet?"
2. Jesus looking upon him, loved him. Jesus answered his question, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give it to the poor and you shall have treasures in heaven; and come follow Me."
3. Upon getting this answer:
 - a. His countenance fell.
 - b. He became exceedingly sorrowful.
 - c. He went away, for he was very rich.

D. Jesus instructs His disciples.

1. It is difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.
2. Jesus' disciples asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replied, "All things are possible with God".
3. Jesus then instructed his disciples that the rewards of following him were twofold.
 - a. on earth, that received from God would greatly exceed that given up.
 - b. in heaven, eternal life
4. To illustrate the above, Jesus then related the parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Mt. 20:1-16)

Principles:

1. **You cannot serve God and mammon (Mt. 6:24).**

2. One should fix his hope on God, not riches, to store up the treasure for the future, to take hold of life indeed (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

II. The Lawyer: (Lk. 10:25-37)

- A. The lawyer, testing Jesus, asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
- B. Jesus asked the lawyer what the Law said about his question. The lawyer quoted from Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18 (Lk. 10:27), "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and your neighbor as yourself."
- C. Jesus then told the lawyer that he would live if he did as he had just replied.
- D. Seeking to justify himself, the lawyer then asked, "And who is my neighbor?"
- E. Jesus answered this question with the parable of the good Samaritan. (vs. 30-35).
- F. Jesus then asked whether the Priest, Levite, or Samaritan proved himself the neighbor of the man who was robbed.
- G. The lawyer answered, "The one who showed mercy."
- H. Jesus told the lawyer "Go, and do the same."

Principle: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and your neighbor as yourself."

Questions:

1. How does "all things are possible with God" relate to the failure of the rich young ruler to respond to Jesus' invitation?

2. Did Jesus teach that His disciples must sell all of their goods and give the proceeds to the poor?

3. Should we, as the rich young ruler did, seek further instruction from God for godly living and salvation?

4. Why was this devout young ruler, whom Jesus loved, unacceptable as he sought guidance?

5. Are we tested today as he was?

6. When the young ruler replied that he had kept the commandments since his youth, why did he persist and ask, "What lack I yet?"

7. When Jesus promised His disciples that they would reap a hundred-fold on earth what they had sown, was He speaking literally (I Tim 4:8)? How did this apply to John the Baptist and Jesus (12:49)?

8. In what ways are we required to be "good Samaritans" today?

9. What did the Law require regarding mercy and help to a neighbor (Ex. 23:4-5, Deut. 23:1-4)?

10. Why did the lawyer say "the one who showed mercy" rather than "the Samaritan"?

Lesson 19: The Samaritan Woman, The Widow With Two Mites, And The Gentile Woman

Introduction: During his ministry, Jesus met and taught women as well as men. This lesson discusses His meeting with three of these women: a Samaritan, a Jew, and a Gentile.

I. The Samaritan Woman (Jn. 4:4-42)

A. Jesus met a woman at a well.

1. As Jesus passed through Samaria he stopped at Jacob's well and rested as his disciples went into Sychar to get food. See Gen. 33:19, 48:22 and Josh. 24:32 in reference to Jacob's well.
2. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink. The well was over 100' deep.
3. The woman was amazed that Jesus, a Jew, had spoken to her.

B. Jesus taught the Samaritan woman.

1. He told her of living water.
2. She did not understand.
3. Jesus further explained that He was talking about the water of life.
4. She still did not understand and asked for this living water, thinking that it would be nice to have.
5. Jesus miraculously told her of her five husbands and the man with whom she currently lived.
6. She then perceived Jesus to be a prophet and asked Him to teach her whether God should be worshipped on Mt. Gerazim, the location of Samaritan worship, or in Jerusalem.
7. Jesus answered that true worship at that time was in Jerusalem, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;" (Jn. 4:23).
8. The Samaritan woman knew that the "Messiah is coming who would declare all things to them."
9. Jesus said, "I am He."

C. Jesus instructed His disciples (vss. 27-38).

1. They requested Him to eat of the food they had brought.
2. He said, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."
3. Like the Samaritan woman, they did not understand.
4. Jesus instructed them that the true food was "to do the will of God."
 - a. The field is white for harvest.
 - b. The reapers are receiving wages and gathering fruit for life eternal.
 - c. Others had sown, the disciples should reap.

D. Jesus taught the Samaritans.

1. Some of the Samaritans believed because of Jesus' talk with the Samaritan woman.
2. At their request, Jesus stayed with them two days.
3. Many Samaritans believed when He taught them, "This one is indeed the Savior of the world."

Principles:

1. **The word of God is true drink.**
2. **God gives the true bread out of heaven (Jn. 6:32).**
3. **Worship is no longer tied to a specific geographical location.**
4. **Nothing about our lives is hidden from God.**
5. **Reapers have been sent into the world today.**

II. The Widow With Two Mites (Mk.12:41-44)

A. Jesus observed rich people putting large sums of money into the temple treasury.

B. He then observed a poor widow putting in two small copper coins.

C. Jesus instructed His disciples.

1. The widow contributed more than all the others; in her poverty, she gave all she had.
2. The rich contributed out of their abundance.

Principles:

1. **God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7).**
2. **We should give as we have been prospered (1 Cor. 16:2).**

III. The Gentile Woman (Mt. 15:21-28; Mk. 7:24-30)

A. Jesus withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. It was His first visit to a Gentile nation.

B. A Canaanite woman sought help for her demon-possessed daughter.

C. His disciples asked Him to send her away.

D. Jesus told her that He was sent only to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

E. She persevered, bowing down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me."

F. He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

G. She replied, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their master's table."

H. Jesus answered, "O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish."

Principles:

1. **Great faith brings great rewards.**
2. **Perseverance brings great rewards (Lk. 18:1-8).**

Questions:

1. Who had sown that the disciples should reap?
2. What was the living water of which Jesus spoke?

Lesson 20: Lazarus (John 11)

Introduction: Lazarus was a close friend of Jesus. He lived in Bethany on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives approximately two miles from Jerusalem. On his journeys, Jesus on occasion stopped to visit at the home of Lazarus. John 11:5 says Jesus loved Lazarus and his two sisters, Martha and Mary (Lesson 11). This lesson concerns the resurrection of Lazarus.

I. **Lazarus Is Sick:** (Jn. 11:1-10)

- A. The sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus that their brother was sick (vs. 3). "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."
- B. Jesus upon receiving word of his sickness said,
 - 1. "This sickness is not unto death,
 - 2. but for the glory of God,
 - 3. that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (vs. 4).
- C. Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters (vs. 5).
- D. Jesus delayed going to Bethany for two days.
- E. After this He said to His disciples, "Let us go to Judea again" (vs. 7).
 - 1. The disciples were afraid of what the Jews might do to Jesus if he went there, that he might be stoned. (vs. 8)
 - 2. The Jews had attempted to stone Jesus when he said, "before Abraham was, I AM" (Jn. 8:58, 59).
 - 3. The Jews on another occasion tried to stone Jesus when they accused Him of blasphemy, making Himself God (Jn. 10:30-33).
 - 4. We most often remember Thomas for his unbelief following Jesus' resurrection, but here we see his courage. "Then Thomas,..said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him" (vs. 16).

Principles:

- 1. **The miracles performed by Jesus brought glory to God.**
- 2. **One who is a disciple must be willing to die for his Lord.**

II. **Lazarus Sleeps; Lazarus Is Dead:** (Jn. 11:11, 14)

- A. Jesus tells His disciples they are going to Judea so that he can wake up Lazarus(vs. 11).
- B. The disciples still thought Lazarus was just sick and that he would get well, but Jesus meant that Lazarus was dead and that He was going to raise him from the dead (vss. 12-14).
 - 1. The raising of Lazarus from the dead was so that they might believe.
 - 2. "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him" (vs. 15).
- C. When Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has already been in the tomb for 4 days (vs. 17).
- D. Jesus consoles Mary and Martha (vss. 20-37).

1. Martha, hearing that Jesus was coming, met him on the way and said:
 - a. Lazarus wouldn't have died if Jesus had arrived earlier.
 - b. Whatever Jesus might ask of God, God would grant.
2. Jesus replied that Lazarus would rise again.
3. Martha thought that Jesus spoke of the resurrection "at the last day" (vs. 24).
4. Jesus said to Martha,
 - a. "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me shall live even if he dies.
 - b. Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
5. Martha replied, I have believed that you are the Christ, the son of God.
6. Martha went away and told Mary that Jesus wanted to see her.
7. Mary said to Jesus what Martha had said earlier (vss. 21, 32).
8. When Jesus saw Mary and the Jews, who had followed her, weeping he:
 - a. was moved in spirit.
 - b. was troubled and wept.
9. Some of the Jews wondered why one who could open the eyes of the blind could not have kept Lazarus from dying (vs. 37).

Principles:

1. **Miracles were performed so that people would believe in Jesus.**
2. **It is easy to misunderstand God if we do not know His purpose.**

III. Lazarus Raised From The Dead, (vss. 38-44).

- A. They led Jesus to the tomb.
- B. Jesus said "Remove the stone".
- C. Martha replied that He had been dead four days and there would be a stench.
- D. Jesus reminded Martha of what he had just told her, "if you believe, you will see the glory of God."
- E. The stone was removed.
- F. Jesus gave the glory to God that the people might believe that God had sent Him.
- G. Jesus cried out "Lazarus, come forth".
- H. Lazarus came forth in his burial wrappings.
 - I. The chief priests and the Pharisees therefore conspired to kill Jesus, and Lazarus (Jn. 11:45-57; 12:9-11).

Principles:

1. **God has power over death.**
2. **Those who love God and obey his commandments are promised everlasting life (2 Tim. 1:10).**

Questions:

1. What relationship did Jesus have with Lazarus and his two sisters?
2. Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? Give at least three reasons.
3. Why did Jesus tarry on the way to Bethany, allowing Lazarus to die?
4. Why did the leaders of the Jews react so strongly to the raising of Lazarus?
5. What did Martha think Jesus was speaking of when He said that Lazarus would rise again?

Who will be raised from the dead?

6. Why was Jesus moved at the sight of Mary and the Jews weeping?
7. Why did Jesus weep if he knew that he would raise Lazarus?
8. Why did Jesus love some more than others? Of whom else is this said?

9. What are some ways men conspire against the truth today?

10. What other occurrences of Jesus raising people from the dead do we find in the New Testament?

11. How courageous were Jesus' disciples after he was arrested? Give examples.

Lesson 21: Judas

Introduction: Judas, one of the original twelve apostles selected by Christ, is thought to have been the only apostle from Judea. His name is synonymous with "traitor." He betrayed his Lord.

I. Name And Early History:

- A. Judas Iscariot: "Judas man of Kerioth."
 - 1. Judas in Hebrew means "praise."
 - 2. Kerioth is a town believed to have been located in south Judea.
- B. The son of Simon (Jn. 6:71; 13:2,26).
- C. His appointment as an apostle (Mt. 10:1-4; Mk. 3:14-19; Lk. 6:13-16).

II. His Character:

- A. Jesus indicated, following the desertion of many of His disciples and Peter's statement concerning the allegiance of the apostles, that one of the twelve was a devil (Jn. 6:69, 70). John said that Jesus spoke of Judas (Jn. 6:71). At the time Jesus did not expose him, so Judas continued to enjoy the fellowship of the apostles.
- B. His greed is evidenced when he questions the cost of the oil Mary used to anoint the Lord's feet (Jn. 12:1-9).
 - 1. John 12:5-6 (NKJV) "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it."

III. The Betrayal:

- A. The words of Jesus concerning His burial (Mt. 26:12; Mk. 14:8; Jn. 12:7), revealed to Judas that Jesus already knew of the evil powers that were at work against him.
- B. During the last supper Jesus referred to the betrayal by Judas.
 - 1. John 13:10 (NKJV) "Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash *his* feet, but is completely clean; and **you are clean, but not all of you.**"
 - 2. John 13:18 (NKJV) "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, **He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.**"
 - 3. Mt. 26:21 (NKJV) "Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, **one of you will betray Me.**"
 - 4. Mt. 26:25 (NKJV) "Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "**Rabbi, is it I?**" He said to him, "You have said it."
 - 5. Jn. 13:26 (NKJV) "Jesus answered, "**It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread** when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, **He gave it to Judas** Iscariot, the son of Simon."

- C. The Devil put it in Judas' heart to betray the Lord (Jn. 13:2).
- D. Judas bargains with the chief priests concerning the betrayal (Mt. 26:14-16; Mk. 14:10-11; Lk. 22:3-6).
- E. Judas leads the multitude to arrest Jesus (Mt. 26:47-50; Mk. 14:43-45; Lk. 22:47-48; Jn. 18:2-5).
 - 1. The sign of the betrayal, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him" (Mt. 26:48).
 - 2. "Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him" (Mt. 26:49).
 - 3. Jesus said:
 - a. "Friend, why have you come" (Mt. 26:50)?
 - b. "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss" (Lk. 22:48)?
 - 4. The betrayal by Judas was unnecessary. "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking? They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them" (Jn. 18:4, 5).

IV. The Death Of Judas:

- A. In sorrow Judas casts the thirty pieces of silver before the chief priests and elders and hangs himself (Mt. 27:3-5). Luke records that, "falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out" (Acts 1:18).
- B. The chief priests said it was not lawful to put the money in the treasury "because they are the price of blood", and so the money was used to purchase a potter's field (called Akel Dama, "field of blood", Acts 1:19) to bury strangers in (Mt. 27:6, 7; Zech. 11:12, 13).
- C. After the resurrection Peter refers to him as the guide to those who arrested the Lord (Acts 1:16), and as one who by "transgression fell" (Acts 1:25).

Principles:

- 1. We like Judas have been called to serve the Lord.**
- 2. Many try to hide their dishonesty under a cloak of religion.**
- 3. We cannot deceive the Lord by hypocrisy.**
- 4. People will deny the Lord for insignificant gain.**
- 5. Those who would cause us to deny our Lord have little concern for us.**

Questions:

1. An apostle was one "sent forth." In what way are we sent by the Lord?
2. How successful was Judas at hiding his true character? What does the Bible say of hypocrisy?

3. What seems to have been the central character flaw in Judas? Cite scriptures.

4. After betraying Jesus, Judas realized that he stood condemned, he was remorseful, he confessed his sin to the chief priest, and he gave the money back (Mt. 27:3-5). Was this repentance? What is repentance (2 Cor. 7:9-11)?

5. What does it mean when it says that the devil put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus.

Was Judas responsible for his actions?

6. When was Judas referred to as a devil by Jesus, and what was meant?

7. Why is it believed that Judas was from Judea?

8. Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus?

9. Is there anything ironic about the sign that Judas chose to indicate his betrayal of Jesus?

10. Did Jesus resist when the soldiers came to arrest Him? Why?

11. Matthew indicates that Judas hanged himself (Mt. 27:3-5) and Luke says that he fell (Acts 1:18). Is there a discrepancy in the accounts? Explain.

12. Why is hypocrisy practiced and why is it foolish?

Lesson 22: Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate

Introduction: Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane. He was brought before Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin and found worthy of death. The high priest and the council had no authority to carry out a death penalty, so they brought Jesus to Pilate. In this lesson we will study these three men.

I. Annas (Lk. 3:2; Jn. 18:13, 24; Acts 4:6)

- A. Annas was elevated to the high-priesthood by Quirinius, governor of Syria, in 7 AD.
- B. Deposed by Valerius Gratus in 15 AD
- C. Even though he was "deprived of official status, he continued to wield great power as the dominant member of the hierarchy, using members of his family as his willing instruments" (ISBE, p. 137).
- D. When Jesus was arrested, He was led away to Annas first (Jn. 18:13).
- E. Annas questioned Jesus about His disciples and His doctrines (Jn. 18:19-23).
 - 1. Jesus responded to Annas by saying that He taught openly.
 - 2. An officer struck Jesus because of the way he answered the high priest.
- F. Jesus was bound and sent to Caiaphas (Jn. 18:24).

II. Caiaphas (Mt. 26:3,57; Lk. 3:2; Jn. 11:49; 18:13,14,24,28; Acts 4:6)

- A. The high priest, son-in-law of Annas (Jn. 18:13)
- B. Caiaphas served as high priest from about 18-36 AD.
- C. He prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation (Jn. 11:49-51).
- D. Plotted to kill Jesus (Mt. 26:3,4)
- E. Appearance of Jesus before Caiaphas and the council (Mt. 26:57-68)
 - 1. When false witness came forward, Caiaphas asked Jesus to answer the charges, but Jesus remained silent.
 - 2. Caiaphas said to Jesus, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God" (Mt. 26:63)!
 - 3. Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Mt. 26:64).
 - 4. Caiaphas accused Jesus of blasphemy. They spat in His face and beat Him, and in the morning, led Jesus away and delivered Him to Pilate (Mt. 26:65-68; 27:1-2).

Principle: Some people will resort to unscrupulous acts to protect their status.

III. Pilate (Mt. 27; Mk. 15; Lk. 23; Jn. 18, 19)

- A. At the time of Christ's arrest, Pilate was the governor of Palestine, the representative of Rome.

1. "Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene," (Lk. 3:1).
- B. Jesus was delivered to Pilate (Mt. 27:2; Mk. 15:1).
1. The rulers of the Jews asked Pilate to put Jesus to death (Acts 13:28).
 2. Jesus entered the judgment hall, and Pilate asked, "Are You the King of the Jews" (Jn. 18:33)? Jesus answered, "You have said so" (Mt. 27:11, cf. 1 Tim. 6:13). After this, Jesus answered nothing (Mk. 15:5).
 3. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod because he knew that Jesus belonged to Herod's jurisdiction (Lk. 23:6-12).
 - a. Herod questioned Jesus.
 - b. He hoped that Jesus would perform a miracle.
 - c. Jesus did not answer Herod's questions, so Herod sent him back to Pilate. That day, Herod and Pilate became friends.
- C. Jesus was brought to Pilate a second time.
1. Pilate declared the innocence of Jesus to the chief priests and rulers (Lk. 23:13).
 2. Pilate told them that even Herod could find no fault in Him (Lk. 23:15).
 3. Pilate was afraid (Jn. 19:8).
 4. Pilate said he would release Jesus after chastising Him (Lk. 23:16). He was determined to let Him go (Acts 3:13).
 5. Pilate asked, "Which of the two (Jesus or Barabbas) do you want me to release to you?" They said, 'Barabbas'" (Mt. 27:21). Barabbas was a notorious prisoner arrested for robbery, sedition, and murder (Mt. 27:16; Mk. 15:7; Jn. 18:40).
 6. The people cried out, "Crucify Him" (Lk. 23:21).
 7. Pilate washed his hands before the crowd saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood" (Mt. 27:24).
- D. Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified (Mt. 27:26; Acts 4:27).
1. Pilate placed the title, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," on the cross (Jn. 19:19).
 2. When Jesus was dead, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body (Lk. 23:52; Jn. 19:38), and Pilate complied.

Principles:

1. **Being cowardly and weak will cause us to forsake the Lord.**
2. **Unbridled desire for worldly acclaim will lead us away from our Lord.**
3. **No matter the cost, we must do that which is right in the sight of God.**
4. **We cannot "wash our hands" of our responsibilities.**

Questions:

1. Explain Paul's statement in 1 Tim. 6:13, "...who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate."

2. What was the Sanhedrin?

3. What title did Pilate put on the cross, and why did the Jews object?

4. Why was Pilate afraid (Jn. 19:8), and what warning did he receive from his wife (Mt. 27:19)?

5. Describe the character of Pilate.

6. Why are both Annas and Caiaphas referred to as the high priest?

7. Caiaphas and Annas resorted to unscrupulous acts to protect their status. Why did they feel threatened, and what did they do?

8. List the trials of Jesus in order of occurrence.

9. Were Annas and Caiaphas Sadducees or Pharisees?

10. Why did Pilate want to release Jesus?

Lesson 23: Soldiers

Introduction: There are at least three classes of soldiers mentioned in the New Testament. Although the Jews in the time of Christ were subject to Roman rule, they were allowed to govern themselves to some extent. The New Testament speaks of the troops and officers who were under the authority of the chief priest. Herod the tetrarch of Galilee also had his "men of war" (Lk. 23:11). And, there were the Roman troops who answered to the governor of the region and maintained the peace. In this lesson, we will study statements concerning soldiers during the time of Christ.

I. Jewish Soldiers, Who Questioned John The Baptizer (Lk. 3:14).

- A. John went into all the region around Jordan, preaching baptism for the remission of sins (Lk. 3:3).
- B. When John preached to them, telling them to bear fruits worthy of repentance, they questioned him, saying, "What shall we do then" (Lk. 3:10)?
- C. The soldiers asked John, "And what shall we do" (Lk. 3:14)?
 - 1. John said, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages" (Lk. 3:14).
 - 2. The word translated "intimidate" literally means "shake down for money."

Principles:

- 1. **One must not misuse authority.**
- 2. **It is wrong to accuse falsely.**
- 3. **Be content with wages.**

II. The Centurion (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:1-10)

- A. Jesus entered Capernaum and was met by elders of the Jews, who were sent by a centurion, pleading with Him to heal the centurion's servant.
 - 1. The centurion did not come to Jesus himself because he felt unworthy.
 - 2. The elders of the Jews told Jesus the centurion was worthy.
 - a. "he loves our nation"
 - b. "he built us a synagogue"
 - 3. When Jesus came, the centurion sent friends to Him saying, "Lord do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof."
- B. "Say the word, and my servant will be healed" (Lk. 7:7)
 - 1. The centurion spoke concerning the principle of authority.
 - 2. The centurion was under authority. There were soldiers under his authority.
 - 3. Authority had to do with the right to command.
 - 4. Jesus, by His authority could heal the centurion's servant.
 - 5. Jesus commended the faith of the centurion. "I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel" (Lk. 7:9).

Principles:

- 1. It is important for one to recognize his unworthiness.**
- 2. Jesus has authority (Mt. 28:18). He has the right to command. Since we are under his authority, we must obey.**

III. Soldiers Associated With The Arrest And Crucifixion Of Jesus

- A. Soldiers were sent by the chief priests and Pharisees to arrest Jesus (Jn. 18:3-12).
1. They came to the garden with lanterns, torches, and weapons (Jn. 18:3).
 2. Jesus asked them, "Who are you seeking?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." When He said this, they drew back and fell to the ground (Jn. 18:4-6).
 3. They arrested Jesus, bound him, and took him to Annas (Jn. 18:12).
- B. Herod's men of war treated Jesus with "contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate" (Lk. 11).
- C. Roman soldiers
1. Mocked Jesus: Mark 15:16-20 "Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him."
 2. Carried out the execution of Jesus:
 - a. They cast lots for His garment (Jn. 19:24).
 - b. They mocked Him and offered Him sour wine (Lk. 23:36).
 - c. When the centurion and the guard saw the earthquake, they feared greatly and said, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27:54).
 - d. Instead of breaking the legs of Jesus, a soldier pierced the side of Jesus with his spear (Jn. 19:34).
 3. Guarded the Tomb of Jesus:
 - a. The soldiers were to make the tomb as secure as they knew how (Mat. 27:65).
 - b. They made it secure, sealing the stone.
 - c. After Jesus was raised, the soldiers accepted a bribe to say that the disciples stole the body (Mt. 28:11-15).

Principles:

- 1. Jesus was not taken by force; He was delivered by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God (Acts 2:23).**
- 2. We have that evidence that Jesus is the Son of God.**
- 3. Monetary gain has led many to sin.**

Questions:

1. Be ready to discuss the question the soldiers asked John and his answer.

2. Was the centurion with a sick servant worthy to have Jesus enter his house? Why did the Jews think he was worthy?

3. What was the principle of authority that the centurion understood?

How does this principle relate to our relationship with Jesus?

4. What did Jesus say about the centurion's faith? On what other occasion did Jesus praise the faith of a Gentile?

5. What does it mean that the soldiers who arrested Jesus "fell back?"

6. How do soldiers show their authority? Was this effective when it came to arresting Jesus?

7. How did Herod's soldiers treat Jesus?

8. Why did the soldier pierce the side of Jesus instead of breaking His legs?

9. What convinced the centurion at the cross that Jesus was the Son of God?

10. Why did the soldiers make a crown of thorns for Jesus?

11. List the prophecies fulfilled in the actions of the soldiers at the cross.

12. Why did the chief priests and elders give money to the soldiers who guarded Jesus' tomb?

13. Since Jesus was mistreated, what kind of treatment should we as His disciples expect?

Lesson 24: Jesus - Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension

Introduction: Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, led to trials before the high priest, Herod and Pilate, and subsequently crucified at Golgotha. After three days, as He had prophesied, He arose from the grave. He appeared to His disciples and taught them for forty days, then ascended to the right hand of God in heaven.

I. The Crucifixion (Mt. 27:33-56; Mk. 15:22-41; Lk. 23:33-49; Jn. 19:17-37)

- A. The road to Golgotha (Mt. 27:33; Mk. 15:21; Lk. 23:26-32)
- B. The sacrifice at Golgotha (Mt. 27:33; Lk. 23:33)
 - 1. Skull Hill: "Calvary" - Latin, "Golgotha" - Hebrew
 - 2. "outside the city" (Jn. 19:17, 20; Heb. 13:12)
 - 3. "There is only one place around Jerusalem which has borne and still bears the name Skull Hill. It is just outside the north wall, near the old Damascus Gate" (Prelude To Glory, Leeper, p. 144).
 - 4. Jesus was offered wine mixed with gall but refused to drink it (Mt. 27:34; Mk. 15:23).
 - 5. They crucified Him, along with two criminals (Lk. 23:33; Jn. 19:18).
- C. The dividing of Jesus' garments (Jn. 19:23, 24; Mt. 27:35; Mk. 15:24)
- D. Inscription on the cross (Mt. 27:37; Mk. 15:26; Lk. 23:38; Jn. 19:19-22)
 - 1. JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS" (Jn. 19:19)
 - 2. Written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin (Jn. 19:20)
 - 3. Protested by the chief priests (Jn. 19:21)
- E. Mocking (Mt. 27:39-43; Lk. 23:36-37)
- F. The two thieves (Mt. 27:44; Lk. 23:39-43)
- G. "Woman, behold your Son" (Jn. 19:25-27)
- H. Sixth to ninth hour (Mk. 15:33)
- I. Ninth hour (Mk. 15:34; Mt. 27:47-49; Jn. 19:28, 29; Ps. 22)
 - 1. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me" (Mk. 15:34)?
 - 2. "I am thirsty" (Jn. 19:28, 29).
 - 3. "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30).
 - 4. "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, He breathed His last" (Lk. 23:46).
- J. The fury of God (Mt. 27:51-53)
- K. Jesus found dead (Jn. 19:31-37)

II. Burial (Mt. 27:58-66; Mk. 15:42-45; Lk. 23:50, 51; Jn. 19:38-42)

- A. Joseph of Arimathea went to Herod and requested the body of Jesus.
- B. Joseph was accompanied by Nicodemus (Jn. 3).
- C. Preparation of the body
- D. Burial

E. The tomb was sealed, and a guard was posted.

III. Resurrection (Mt. 28:1-15; Mk. 16:1-11; Lk. 24; Jn. 20)

- A. Earthquake, stone rolled back, angel sitting on stone (Mt. 28:2-4)
- B. Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb on the first day of the week
- C. Mary ran to tell Peter and John that the Lord had been removed from the tomb.
- D. Peter and John ran to the tomb, and upon entering, they found the linen cloths not the body.
- E. Two angels appeared to Mary Magdalene and asked her why she was weeping.
- F. Jesus appeared to Mary, and she told the other disciples.
- D. Appearances to disciples

IV. Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)

Principles:

- 1. Those faithful to Christ can expect persecution.**
- 2. The crucifixion of Christ is the supreme sacrifice of all time.**
- 3. Jesus was the King of the Jews, but His sacrifice was for all.**
- 4. It was impossible that Christ should be held by death (Acts 2:24).**
- 5. If Jesus were not raised faith is vain (1 Cor. 15:14).**
- 6. Jesus will return (Acts 1:11).**

Questions:

1. What is the translation of the Hebrew word Golgotha?

2. Thought Question: Why was the inscription, placed on the cross, written in different languages? What were the languages?

3. Why did the soldiers cast lots for the garment of Jesus?

4. What did the mockers say to Jesus?

5. List the things that happened when Jesus "gave up the spirit."

6. Why did the women return to the tomb on the first day of the week (Lk. 23:54-24:1; Jn. 19:38-42; Mk. 16:1)?

7. Why did the chief priests want Pilate to set a guard at the tomb? Why were the soldiers later bribed?

8. What evidence is there that Jesus was raised?

9. What is the shroud of Turin?

10. Why can a Christian expect to be persecuted? Cite scriptures.

11. Explain Eph. 4:8.

12. Explain Jesus' statement, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18).

Lesson 25: Review I (Lessons 1-12)

Lesson 1: Joseph and Mary

Why was Joseph distressed when he heard that Mary was with child (Mt. 1:18-25)? How did divine guidance alleviate his distress?

Lesson 2: Zacharias, Elizabeth, and the Birth of John

How did Zacharias and Elizabeth become "righteous before God?" How do we become righteous?

Lesson 3: Jesus - Birth and Childhood

When was Jesus born? Why was he born at this time in history (see Gal. 4:4)? Explain.

Lesson 4: The Ministry of John the Baptizer

What prophecies were fulfilled in John? Was he Elijah (Mt. 17:10-13)?

Lesson 5: Herod and the Wise Men

Why did Herod feel threatened by Jesus?

Lesson 6: Simeon and Anna

Why do you suppose these two individuals are spoken of in the Bible?

Lesson 7: Jesus: Baptism and Temptation

How did Jesus resist the temptation of Satan?

Lesson 8: Peter

What do you remember most about Peter's life before the beginning of the church? What can we learn from this?

Lesson 9: John

Did Jesus predict that John would never die (Jn. 21:20-25)? Why did he say these things to Peter?

Lesson 10: The Apostles

Describe the apostles' general understanding and ambition before the Lord's death.

Lesson 11: The Women Who Followed Jesus

Did the women have a leading position among the disciples? Did the women have an important position among the disciples? Explain.

Lesson 12: Those Healed By Jesus - 1

Give at least three things accomplished in the performance of a healing miracle.

Lesson 26: Review II (Lessons 13-24)

Lesson 13: Those Healed By Jesus - 2

Is there any spiritual significance to the healing miracles performed by Jesus?

Lesson 14: Those Healed By Jesus - 3

Why did the religious leaders object to Jesus healing on the sabbath? Was this a valid objection?

Lesson 15: Nicodemus And The New Birth

How did Nicodemus know Jesus was a teacher sent from God? Why did Nicodemus have such a hard time understanding Jesus?

Lesson 16: Religious Leaders - 1

Why didn't Jesus give them the sign they requested. Will signs convince all people?

Lesson 17: Religious Leaders - 2

How did Jesus respond to the Sadducees' unbelief concerning the resurrection?

Lesson 18: The Rich Young Ruler, The Lawyer

Why did Jesus tell this man to sell all that he had? Does Jesus want us to give up all that we have?

Lesson 19: The Samaritan Woman, The Widow With Two Mites, And The Gentile Woman

What did Jesus say of the Gentile woman's faith. Explain.

Lesson 20: Lazarus

Why did Jesus allow his friend Lazarus to die?

Lesson 21: Judas

Describe the character of Judas.

Lesson 22: Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate

What pressures were applied to Pilate in the trial of Jesus? How did he respond?

Lesson 23: Soldiers

What convinced the centurion, at the cross, that Jesus was the Son of God?

Lesson 24: Jesus - Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension

Did the disciples steal the body of Jesus from the tomb? How do you know?