

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS, THE CHRIST

3

His Teachings

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR STUDY

This study is important because it looks at the life and teachings of the greatest man who ever lived -- Jesus, the Christ. There are four parts we will study. Part One, has an **introduction** and studies in the **Sermon on the Mount**. Part Two studies the **parables** of Jesus. Part Three studies the **teachings of Jesus**. Part Four studies the **miracles** of Jesus. When you finish this part mail your test questions back, and begin the next Part.

1. Use your own Bible. The King James version of the Bible is being used in this study, but you may use your own Bible.
2. We encourage you to underline passages in your Bible during your study. Suggest you use a yellow "crayon" type underliner because liquid underliners will soak through the pages.
3. We also encourage you to buy a 1" or 1 ½ " three ring notebook in which to put notes, comments or questions you may have.
4. Read each lesson, then go to the end and answer the test questions.
5. When you complete the test questions, return them to us for grading. Send only the test questions, the lesson material is yours to keep for future reference..
6. At the conclusion of the study, you will be sent a Certificate of Completion.

God bless you as you study your Bible – it is time well spent.

HOME BIBLE SCHOOL

Internet Bible Education Program
4314 Dasher Rd.
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LIFE OF CHRIST - PART 3

LESSON ONE

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS, THE CHRIST The Heart and Soul of Predenominational Christianity

Predenominational Christianity is what we're aiming to reproduce in our day and age. "**Pre**" means "**before**" and "**denominational**" means "man made religions after the first century." We're wanting to go all the way back to the Bible, beyond the Catholic church and Protestant churches.

It took hundreds of years for the Roman Catholic church to develop and Martin Luther didn't start the Protestant Reformation until the early 1500's. In the rush to bend the truth with the times (as the Catholics did) and emphasize certain anti-Catholic doctrines (as the Protestants did), too often the pure teachings of Jesus and the rest of the New Testament were sacrificed for man's opinions and emphasis.

Christians today want to, and need to, be **nondenominational** and **undenominational**, but the only way that can happen is to be **predenominational**!

We have already studied the Sermon on the Mount in study number two. In this part, we're going to be studying other teachings of Jesus as he spoke them to individuals or to groups. Sometimes these teachings are called "**discourses**", so if we use that word, you'll know its definition. This will be a great study and we pray you'll open your Bibles and open your hearts.

We will put these teachings of Jesus roughly in the order in which they were delivered, which is called "chronological order." Each discourse (teaching) will have a scripture for you to read first. After reading the scripture, read the lesson and then answer the test questions at the end of the booklet. God bless us all as we study.

TEACHING TO NICODEMUS ABOUT THE NEW BIRTH

Read John 3:1-12

Place: Jerusalem

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews (v 1) and John also tells us Nicodemus provided a hundred pounds of aloes and myrrh for Jesus' body at his death (John 19:39), a very, very expensive gift. Joseph of Arimathea provided the tomb and Nicodemus provided the burial spices.

Jesus told this intelligent man that a person must be born of water and the spirit before getting into the kingdom of God (vv 5,6). Jesus called this being "**born again**" and it confused Nicodemus because he thought Jesus was talking about the rebirth of a baby (v 4). But Jesus was talking about a **rebirth** of the **soul** which is comprised of **water** and **spirit** (v 5) and a **changed life** (v 8). Sometimes this "rebirth" is called "regeneration."

The explanation for this "water, spirit and changed life" regeneration is found in Acts 2:38: "*Repent, and be **baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***"

A person becomes a Christian when he or she is baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. That person then leads a new life which is a spiritual (spirit-filled) life. He changes his **mind** (faith), he changes his **direction** (repentance) and he changes his **status** in life (baptism) by becoming a child of God – thus becoming “born again” with the “new birth.”

This new birth comes through the **word of God** and not the opinions of man. “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*” (1 Peter 1:23). The Bible tells us about God’s requirements for our faith (vv 15) which is based upon his love (v 16) and when we believe in the words of the Bible, we should not perish. The only way we can show our faith in God is to do what he says (Matthew 7:21) and by that, we walk in the light of God. **Walking in the light is only accomplished when we “do truth”** (V 21).

Titus 3:4,5 is a further explanation of the new birth. “*But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*” This “**washing of regeneration**” means that we respond to God’s kindness and love by being baptized. It’s not a popular teaching today, but it’s part of pre denominational Christianity.

Lesson learned: Be born again, but make sure you are a child of God by being born again according to what the Bible teaches.

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL AND TRUE WORSHIP

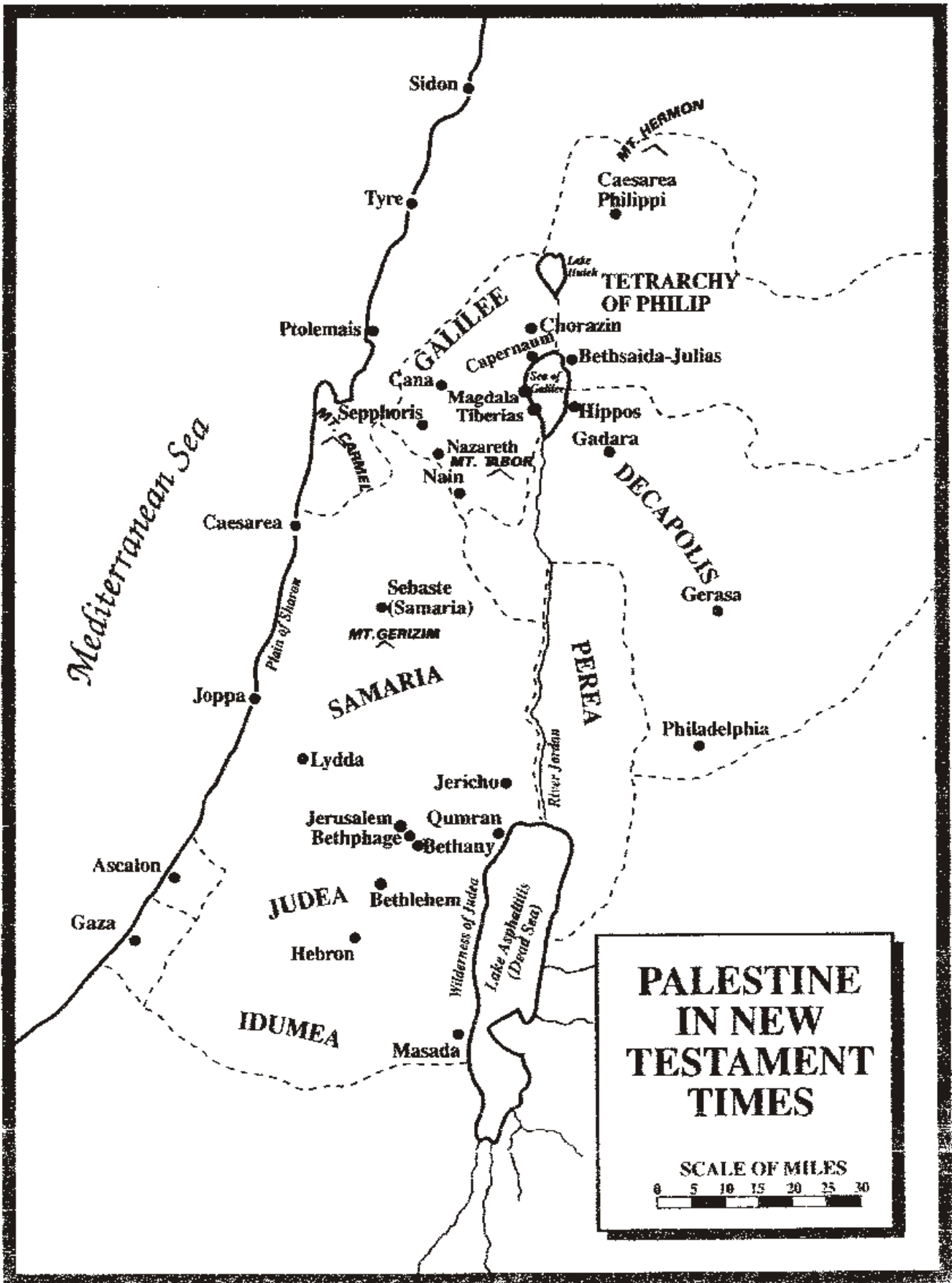
Read John 4:1-42

Place: the city of Sychar in Samaria

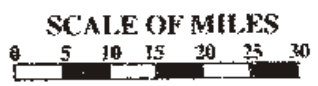
Check your map on the next page and find Samaria just north of Jerusalem. Remember, the Jews hated the Samaritans so much that when they traveled north to Galilee, they would go to the east side of the Jordan River up through Decapolis and Perea rather than go through Samaria. But Jesus loves all men, including Samaritans, so he was waiting by Jacob’s well about noontime while his disciples had gone into Sychar to get some food (vv 1-8). The way time was figured in those days was from 6 AM to 6 PM, so if Jesus was at the well at the sixth hour, it was 12:00 noon by our time.

The unnamed Samaritan woman was asked by Jesus for some water (v 7), but she was very hesitant because Jews didn’t have anything to do with Samaritans (v 9), to which Jesus promised her living water (v 10). She wondered at his phrase “living water”, so he told her that his water would cause people never to be thirsty (vv 13,14). Well, she surely wanted some of that kind of water (v 15) and who can blame her? When Jesus asked her to call her husband (v 17), she denied having one and Jesus said she had gone through five husbands and that she was just living with the man she had now (vv 17,18).

It was obvious to this woman that Jesus was a prophet and she wanted to know where the right place to worship was, at Jerusalem or in Samaria? This was a long controversy between the Jews and the Samaritans in those days – the Jews said Jerusalem, the Samaritans said Mount Gerizim. Jesus said the **place** of worship didn’t matter, but the **content** of worship was what counts with heaven (vv 21-24).



**PALESTINE
IN NEW
TESTAMENT
TIMES**



Our worship today is based on three things: **1) God is a Spirit, 2) we worship him in spirit and 3) we worship him in truth.**

In our worship today, God is our audience and not we ourselves. We wouldn't know how to worship God without the New Testament, so whatever the New Testament teaches is worship, then that's God's will for what we do in our worship. "**Worship**" means "**bowing down on our faces to a superior being**" whose name is God. It is to be done with our own spirits to the "father of spirits" (Hebrews 12:9).

Now comes the word "**truth.**" "Truth" is defined as "**that which is and it can be nothing else.**" When we look at the New Testament, we find the first century Christians worshipping God "in truth" by **praying** (1 Thessalonians 5:17), **teaching/learning** the word of God (Acts 20:7), **singing** with the human voice as our instrument (Colossians 3:16,17), giving our **money** on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1,2) and taking the **Lord's Supper** every Sunday (Acts 20:7). Adding things to this list just because we like something different makes our worship less than "in truth."

Back to the Samaritan well, the now-amazed woman left Jesus for the city and joyfully informed everyone about what Jesus had told her (v 29). In the meantime, his disciples urged him to eat some food (v 31) and he chose this time to teach them about the spiritual food he offered (v 34). The Bible calls Jesus the **bread** of life (John 6:35), the word of God is called **milk** (1 Peter 2:2) and **meat** (Hebrews 5:14). The Bible feeds our souls like our mothers feed our bodies, only better.

If a preacher or a church preaches something that is not in the Bible, he's feeding his people junk food. Let's stick with the Bible and worship and serve God in exactly the way he has written.

Lesson learned: Worship God according to what he has revealed in the Bible.

LESSON TWO

TEACHING IN THE SYNAGOGUE WHERE HE GREW UP

Read Luke 4:16-31

Place: Nazareth

A synagogue was a place where Jews would gather to worship, to read the Old Testament, sing, eat and enjoy fellowship. The "synagogue" came about when the Jews were scattered into all the world as a result of the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. Going to synagogue was the Jewish equivalent of our going to church.

Jesus was in his home synagogue in Nazareth and read from Isaiah 61:1,2: "*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.*"

You would think the home folks would have been glad to have a man of such gracious words (v 22), but they rebelled at his statement that Isaiah 61:1,2 was being fulfilled that very day (v 21). After he said, "*no prophet is accepted in his own country*" (v 24), he pushed his point home to them by showing that God loves all people, including Gentiles (vv 25-27).

The Jews just couldn't swallow this truth, even in spite of the fact that God had clearly said in the Old Testament that the Gentiles would come to the light (Isaiah 60:3) and would see God's righteousness (Isaiah 62:2). The home folks proved Jesus right when they were so mad at him they wanted to kill him (vv 28,29).

Someone has said, "The truth always hurts." That's really not the way it is. We should say, "**The truth never hurts unless it ought to.**" These Jews took the parts of the Old Testament that they wanted to take, but refused to listen to other parts. It's very bad for a religious person to do that sort of thing, but we see it going on today. A person wants to be a Christian, but calls himself by another **name**. A person wants to remember the Lord's death in communion, but does it only **twice a year** or once a quarter. A person wants to pray to God but instead of going through Jesus, they try to go through **Mary**, Jesus' mother.

Lesson learned: The Bible says it; that settles it; we believe it and obey it. Plus nothing, minus nothing.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE APOSTLES

Read Matthew 10

Place: Galilee

After three and one half years of preaching in his earthly ministry, Jesus concluded his work on earth by saying, "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*" (Mark 16:15,16). Here in Matthew 10, he begins that work by giving the apostles their instructions as they preached.

NOTE: This is the first time all twelve apostles are mentioned as a group. We know a lot about Peter, James, Matthew and Judas, but not much about the rest of them. Catholic tradition says only John died a natural death, but the Bible says nothing about the death of any of the apostles, except James, John's brother, Judas and maybe Peter and Paul. Don't let someone else's tradition become your belief – study things out for yourself.

Here are the instructions Jesus gave to the twelve:

- The disciples were to go just to the Jews (vv 5,6) and not to Gentiles or Samaritans yet. This is why this chapter is sometimes called "**The Limited Commission**" because it was to go to Jews only, but the "**Great Commission**" (Mark 16:15) was to go to all the world.
- They were to preach that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand", meaning it's coming soon (v 7). This is also the same message John the Baptist preached (Matthew 3:2). The difference was that the kingdom would belong to Christ and would be established in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. John the Baptist died in Matthew 14 and Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 that "upon this rock I will build my church." John was never a Christian.
- The disciples could do miracles (v 8) to confirm the word (Hebrews 2:1-3).
- They were to depend upon the hospitality of those whom they taught (v 9,10)
- They were not to waste their time teaching people who don't want to be taught (vv 11-15;23).
- They would be persecuted (vv 16-19), but the Holy Spirit would guide them in what they spoke (v 20 and John 16:13).
- Their own families would hate them (v 21) and so would most all people they taught (v 22).
- They were to be like Christ (v 25), meaning they were to teach the gospel publicly (v 27)
- If they died in his service, they would be rewarded in heaven (v 28)

- God cares for them (vv 29, 30)
- Before a sinner becomes a Christian, he confesses Christ as the son of God, like the eunuch did in Acts 8:37, but we also “confess” Christ when we preach the truth. We will be rewarded by knowing that our names are spoken in the presence of God (vv 32,33)
- Jesus came to earth for men to make their own decisions about their own souls and the gospel is not a bunch of soft-soap (vv 34-36)
- They were to “*love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength*” (Mark 12:30) and this means putting Jesus first, even before their own families (v 37)
- When they preached and taught, it meant they were taking up the cross (v 38)
- They were to understand that true happiness in life comes from serving Jesus (v 39)
- They were to understand that when people heard them, they were hearing Jesus (v 40,41). The same is true today – when the Bible is preached, that is God speaking to man.
- Kindness brings heaven’s reward (v 42)

Lesson learned: “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2)

SPEAKING AGAINST CERTAIN CITIES

Read Matthew 11:20-24

Place: Galilee

Check your map and find the cities of **Chorazin, Bethsaida, Tyre, Sidon** and **Capernaum**, the cities that the Lord speaks against in this teaching. The location of Sodom is unknown, but it may have been to the east of the southern end of the Dead Sea.

These were cities around Nazareth, Jesus’ boyhood home territory and his teaching here is against their rejection of the mighty works done by God through his son in their vicinity.

Lesson learned: Truth is truth and must be obeyed, even when preached at our home towns.

TEACHING AFTER HEALING THE SICK MAN

Read John 5

Place: Jerusalem

When an angel “troubled the waters” at the pool Bethesda in Jerusalem, the first sick person to get in the pool was healed (vv 1-4). Some teach that this is just a fictional story, but we deny that because the fact of the angel troubling the water is clearly stated. A man with a thirty-year sickness was there and, after speaking with him (vv 6,7) Jesus healed him (v 8). Notice verse 9 and the word “**immediately.**” Miracles in the New Testament happened at once and were not strung out over a

long period of time as some people claim today. The problem the Jews had with this healing was that it was done on the Sabbath (Saturday) and they wanted to locate the man that was healed (vv 10-12).

Jesus teaches us several things in this chapter that are important to his religion. (And, remember, the church belongs to Christ and not to any human being.) The teachings Jesus gives in this chapter are:

- He received his power from God (v 19) and whatever God did, he did through Jesus and because of their love one for another (v 20)

The teachings of Jesus are based upon the love of God

- There will surely be a resurrection of the dead when God brings the soul to a new body (v 21;1 Corinthians 15:44), when every dead person who's ever lived will arise (v 25,28) and be judged according to their good or evil works (v 29)

God holds every single person who has ever been born accountable for their actions.

- People cannot honor God and obey him without honoring and obeying Jesus (v 23)
- People who believe and obey Christ will not be condemned and have passed from death to life (v 24)

NOTE: If a person who believes in Jesus has everlasting life and has "passed from death unto life" (v 24), when does a person pass from death unto life? The answer is found in Romans 6:3,4: "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were **baptized into his death?** Therefore we are buried with him by **baptism into death:** that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life.***"

There will be a judgment day and no one will miss it.

- John the Baptist was the greatest man who ever lived, but nothing he taught would have the power of Jesus' teachings because Jesus witnessed in heaven what he taught on earth (vv32-38).

There is only one only begotten son of God and salvation is through his name (Acts 4:12)

- The Old Testament taught about Jesus, the Christ (v 39), and Moses was very specific in the law (v 45) but the Jews didn't listen to their own scriptures about Christ (v 40), refused to honor him (v 40) because they didn't really love God (v 42).

The teachings of the Bible are based upon that God-approved person, Jesus of Nazareth.

- The Jews were too busy honoring one another (v 44) to do honor to the son of God.

Lesson learned: People who love themselves and like what they believe, sometimes find it hard to love God, Jesus and the New Testament.

LESSON THREE

PLUCKING GRAIN ON THE SABBATH AND LESSONS LEARNED

Read Matthew 12:1-8

Place: Judea

When the disciples pulled the ears of grain, you can just see those hypocritical Pharisees grinning and wringing their hands, thinking "Aha! We have him now!" The hypocrites knew that in Exodus 20:10, Moses taught that no work could be done on the Sabbath day (our Saturday) and the Pharisees pounced on Jesus to rebuke him because his disciples plucked grain. Jesus told them that he was greater than the Sabbath day (v 6,8) and besides King David ate the tabernacle shewbread (v 3,4) and the priests can prepare shewbread on the Sabbath, but are blameless (v 5).

Jesus was teaching these hypocrites that their interpretations of the law of Moses stopped them from tending to the basic human needs of religion and were using their religion to reject Christ as the son of God! “Full well ye **reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition**” (Mark 7:9).

Lesson learned: The New Testament is for the benefit of people and must be preached and practiced.

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read Matthew 12:22-37

Mark 3:28-30

Luke 12:10

Place: Capernaum

When Jesus healed a devil-possessed blind and dumb man, the people got the hint: such miracles could only come from heaven (vv 22,23), but here comes the Pharisees again saying he cast out devils by Beelzebub (v 24). According to Jewish tradition, Beelzebub was the prince of the devils, but not Satan himself. Jesus showed the utter stupidity of this position by saying a kingdom is not divided against itself (v 25), Satan cannot cast out himself (v 26) and, besides, when their followers cast out devils, that too must be from Satan (v 27)!

Then Jesus speaks about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and we're interested in what he says because sometimes Bible-reading people worry that we may sin against the Holy Spirit today and will never receive forgiveness for it.

Mark 3:28-30 tells us what this kind of blasphemy is. “*Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme, but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: **Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.***” **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is saying that his works are the works of the devil.** Nothing more, nothing less. Today, when people deny the miracles of Jesus, they blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

People do talk and they say what's in their hearts (v 34). If they talk evil, their hearts are evil and if they talk well, their hearts are good (v 35). Listen to what people teach from the Bible and you'll know how much respect they have for the Book. Idle words – words that are spoken against the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament – will come back to haunt false religious teachers in the judgment day (vv 36,37).

Lesson learned: Watch your mouth and your heart.

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

Read John 6

Place: Capernaum

Jesus miraculously fed the 5000 after they heard him preach (vv 1-14) and when they wanted to make him king he went away (v 15), after which the disciples put out to sea (v 16,17). The winds came up and Jesus walked on the water to the ship (vv 19,20). This is the backdrop about his teaching on how we eat spiritually even today.

The word of Jesus' miracles had spread far and wide, but Jesus knew that these particular folks weren't there because he was the son of God, but because they wanted to eat some more (v 26)! **Christianity is not a religion of the stomach, but of the soul.** People today who try to get others into the church by big suppers, Bingo parties, gymnasiums, miss the whole point of Jesus' religion: it's not how you entertain yourselves to be right in the sight of God, it's how your soul is dedicated to him through the teachings of the New Testament..

Just like we eat food for our bodies, Jesus tells those people then (and us too) that there is real soul food available to the world.

As we've seen before, Jesus is the **bread** of life (v 35) and the word of God is **milk** as 1 Peter 2:2 teaches: "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*"

Jesus is also the **water** of life as Revelation 21:6 says: "*And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*"

Hebrews 5:12-14 teaches: "*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*"

Through the Bible, Jesus feeds us with water, milk, bread and meat. What else is there to eat except sugar products? The New Testament **nourishes** us; it doesn't make us **fat!**

But Jesus continues his teaching and brings it down to our present day by saying "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*" Those people wanted to know how they could eat his flesh (v 52), but Jesus wasn't talking about his physical body.

When he said "*Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*" Today we know he's talking about the **Lord's Supper**, don't we? "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord*" (1 Corinthians 11:26,27).

Every church today takes the Lord's supper. Some take it once a year, some take it every day and some take it every Sunday. Some call it the "Eucharist", some call it "communion", some call it "mass" and some call it the "Lord's Supper." (Any name we give to a Bible teaching has to be a Bible name, so communion and Lord's Supper are okay, but the rest of those names don't fit the Bible's teachings.)

Acts 20:7: "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*" Christians take the Lord's Supper on the first day of each week in order to be pleasing to God.

Lesson learned: Eat well from the Bible and never go on a diet.

LESSON FOUR

PURITY IS IMPORTANT

Read Matthew 15:1-20

Place: Capernaum

Here comes another attempt by the scribes and Pharisees to put Jesus down. After the disciples plucked grain on the sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8) and Jesus defeated them, this time they thought surely they had them hung on a violation of the law of Moses. In this instance, they wanted to know why the disciples did not, of all things, wash their hands after the tradition of the elders (v 2)!

Jesus told them that their tradition disobeyed the direct commandment of God (v 3) to give respect and honor to parents (v 4). Because of some twisted logic in their traditions, instead of giving to their parents to help them in their old age, these religious people would pledge gifts to God (called “Corban” in Mark 7:11), so they didn’t have to honor their parents.

We have a hard time understanding this kind of reasoning in our day, but sometimes religious people do the same thing. “I know the Bible teaches this, but my church teaches differently so I’m going to go with my church’s teaching.” “I know the Bible teaches this, but I have a feeling in my heart, a good Holy-Spirit-given feeling, and I’m going to go with my feelings.” When we think like that, the Bible means nothing and we condemn our own souls to destruction!

The key verse in this discussion is verse 9: *“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*

Jesus knows it doesn’t do any good to know a lot without practicing what we know, so he now turns to the multitudes and teaches them about purity of mind and heart. The **things we speak** defile us and **not the things we eat** (v 11). His disciples worried that he had offended the Pharisees (v 12), but he told them, *“Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch”* (vv 13,14).

If we try to be saved by some other way than what the New Testament teaches, we’re still condemned. If we’re in a church that was not planted by God, we’re in the wrong church. If we try to put our feelings ahead of what the Bible teaches, we’re believing the wrong thing.

The Bible says it; that settles it and we believe it.

Peter wanted to know exactly what Jesus was talking about (v 15), so Jesus explained it by saying:

- * Even the disciples had a hard time accepting Jesus’ teachings (v 16)
- * Whatever we eat goes through our digestive process (v 17), but what we think in our hearts defiles a person (v 18)
- * From the heart comes a host of terrible sins (v 19)
- * Sin defiles a man and not because he didn’t wash his hands before eating (v 20).

Lesson learned: Watch your heart, then your mouth will take care of itself.

THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

PAYING TAXES

Read Matthew 17:1-9; 25-27

Places: A high mountain in the Capernaum area, Galilee and Capernaum

Peter, James and John went with Jesus into a high mountain (v 1) and there Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on what we called the “Mount of Transfiguration.”. The word “**transfigured**” means “**changed**” and the glory of God shone upon him (vv 2,3). The greatness of the three men in the glory of God so stunned Peter, James and John that Peter wanted to build three tabernacles (shrines, we might call them), one for Moses, one for Elijah and one for Jesus (v 4), but God told them, “**This** is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (v 5).

Moses represented the Old Testament **law** and Elijah represented the Old Testament **prophets**. Why did this “Mount of Transfiguration” thing happen?

- * First, it was the fulfillment of Zechariah 4:12-14: “*And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, **These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.***” Moses and Elijah were these two anointed ones.
- * Second, Moses and Elijah were the two witnesses of Revelation 11:4: “*These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*”
- * Third, these two witnesses are described in Revelation 11:6: “*These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.*” The only two people in the entire Bible that fits this description are Moses and Elijah.

The Mount of Transfiguration happening is important because it shows that the Old Testament would be **replaced** by the New Testament as God’s recognized law. Colossians 2:14: “*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.*”

Jesus told the three not to mention this until after his resurrection because it would take some time for the Jews to accept the fact that Judaism and the Old Testament would be replaced by the New Testament and the church.

Now, the tax question arises. Nobody likes to pay taxes, but doing so fairly is part of our lives as Christians. We are to “*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s*” (Mark 12:17).

Lesson learned: “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

HAVE A CHILD'S ATTITUDE
MAKE THINGS RIGHT IN THE CHURCH
FORGIVENESS
Read Matthew 18
Place: Capernaum

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). Pride is the downfall of a lot of people and Jesus is telling us here that we should be humble like little children or be lost (v 3). **People are prideful when they are so full of themselves that they don't listen to the Bible.**

The word "**offence**" means "**hurtful**" and since Christians are to "*live peaceably with all men*" (Romans 12:18), we do not go about hurting people. We practice the Golden Rule, "*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise*" (Luke 6:31). "**Halt**" and "**maimed**" are words meaning "**lame**" and "**crippled**" (v 8) and Jesus says it's better to be physically crippled than to be hurtful to others (little children), even to the point of plucking out our eyes (v 9). Plucking out eyes? What in the world does that mean? It simply means that, if we're doing something that will cause us to be lost, we'd better stop doing it.

There's a lot of attention being given today to the subject of **angels** so what about them? Hebrews 1:13,14 says: "*But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*" This scripture means that Jesus was never an angel and that angels are servants (ministers) to the heirs of salvation. This is the explanation of Matthew 18:10, "*Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*" No further explanation is given in the Bible about angels being our ministering servants and we do not know how this happens, but that it does. Do little children have "guardian angels" as the Roman Catholic teaches and so many believe? Remember: **any scripture that proves too much proves very little**. This scripture really cannot be used to prove the existence of such guardian angels.

Christians are to be concerned about lost people just like the man who had lost one sheep was (vv 12,13). It is the purpose of Jesus to seek and save the lost (v 11) and God's will that all be saved (v 14). "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9).

What happens when sin gets into the church? Jesus tells us how to handle that terribly sad situation in the next few verses. His theme is that, when a Christians sins and hurts another Christian, what should happen? He teaches that the person sinned against must **go to the one** who sinned against him (v 15), but if the situation can't be straightened out, we are to take **two or three witnesses** with us (v 16). But if the sinning Christian refuses to repent, we are to **inform the church** and if he still sins after the church begs him to repent, then he is acting like a sinner and, unless he repents, he will die a sinner (v 17). If the church takes withdrawal action against this brother, heaven will recognize such action (v 18), as long as the church agrees to such an action (v 19). The reason heaven recognizes the church is "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*" (v 20).

Forgiveness is defined as "**the release of a burden on the soul**" and when a sinner is washed in the blood of Christ (Romans 6:3,4), he has his sins taken away. If a Christian sins, he is to **confess** those sins (1 John 1:7).

But, even today we have problems forgiving people when they sin against us and that's exactly what Peter wanted to know in verse 21. Jesus answers that our forgiveness to that repentant person must be **without limit** (v 22). The parable of the Unjust Servant follows, which is covered in the second booklet of The Life of Christ, the Parables of Jesus.

LESSON FIVE

TEACHINGS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Read Matthew 19:1-12

Place: Judea beyond Jordan

We are about to begin discussing one of Jesus' most ignored teachings -- **marriage, divorce and remarriage**. Today, just as in the New Testament days, God's law about marriage and divorce is not being followed. What does Jesus teach?

Back in the sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught, *"It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery"* (Matthew 5:31,32). **The only cause for divorce is fornication, according to Jesus, the Christ.**

This was a radical teaching to the Pharisees so here in Matthew 19, they, *"tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"* (v 3). Jesus goes all the way back to Genesis 2:23,24 which teaches, *"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* It didn't satisfy these Pharisees when he quoted scripture, so they wanted to know, *"Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?"* (V 7) Go to Deuteronomy 24:1-4 and read what that law said.

So here's God's plan for marriage: **One man, one wife, for life except for death or fornication.**

"His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry" (v 10), to which Jesus gives an explanation. Some men are **born** eunuchs, some are **made** eunuchs by men and some **make themselves** eunuchs so that their souls can be saved in the judgment (vv 11, 12). A eunuch is a man who has been deprived of his manhood either by birth or by surgery. Jesus teaches that, if a person is going to lose their soul by having a wife or husband, it's best not to have a mate, if they want to go to heaven.

Lesson learned: Sometimes it's hard to follow Christ but, if we want to go to heaven, we'd better do what he says.

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST JUDGING RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

Read: John 7

Place: Jerusalem

Jesus had four brothers, **James, Joses, Simon and Judas (Jude)**, plus sisters, whose number is not known (Matthew 13:55,56). His brothers wanted him to be more public (v 4) even though they did not believe in him at this time. After this, he went secretly into Jerusalem and taught the people some important lessons.

- **Jesus' doctrine was from God.** The word "doctrine" comes from a word which means "teaching." It's a little bit shocking to discover that Jesus spoke **nothing** original, but only what God told him to say. "*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works*" (John 14:10). Jesus also said the same thing about the Holy Spirit in John 16:13, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.*"

Neither Jesus nor the Holy Spirit taught anything except what came from heaven! Think: If you or I believe something that is not taught in the Bible and claim that it came from the Holy Spirit, we are being fooled by the devil!

- Jesus taught that Christians cannot judge (Matthew 7:1,2), but here in verse 24, he teaches, "*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*" Here Jesus is teaching the Jews that good can be done on the sabbath day and we look at that good rather than at the twisting of the Bible to fit somebody's own opinions.

Lesson learned: When the Bible judges us, we can't undo the sentence.

THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY ANSWERING QUESTIONS TEACHING TO BELIEVING JEWS

Read John 8

Place: Jerusalem

While Jesus was teaching in the temple (v 2), the religious leaders brought a woman to him, whom they said had been taken in the very act of adultery (vv 3,4) and deserved to die according to the law of Moses (v 5). After he stooped down and wrote something on the ground, he asked them, "*He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her*" (v 7). The men left, from the oldest to the youngest, convicted by their own consciences (v 9) and, after Jesus stood up, she answered his question that no one was left who accused her. He said, "*Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more*" (v 11).

Where was the man with whom this woman committed adultery? These religious leaders just wanted to cause trouble for Jesus and didn't even produce the guilty man! Maybe it was one of them – we don't know.

Jesus is the light of the world (v 12), but Christians are told that we are also the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). How is a Christian the light of the world? Read John 3:20, 21, “*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*” The only way that people can walk in the light is to obey what Jesus has taught!

If we do not obey Jesus, we love the devil, hate Jesus and walk in darkness.

Jesus is not only the world’s light, but was sent by God (v 16), not to give this world the final judgment, but to glorify God and if those unbelieving Jews obeyed Jesus, they would have been obeying God (v 19).

Jesus will judge the world in the final day as we’re told in John 12:48, “*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*” The reason we don’t have a true picture of what Jesus looked like is because he comes to us only through the Bible, his word. If we do not obey the Bible, we are putting away that thing which will judge us when we see Jesus face to face when “*every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*”

Lesson learned: Obey the Bible and avoid being surprised and scared at the judgment day.

One thing we forget about the teachings of Jesus is that he taught them over and over again as he reminds the religious people in verse 25 (because they kept pestering him throughout his three and one half year ministry on this earth). He answered their questions, he refused to argue with them, he taught God’s will and still they kept on and on – because they did not want to believe him! Today, when people know what the Bible teaches and still refuse to do it, they’re the same as these religious Jews – **they argue with the Bible because they don’t want to do what the Bible teaches.**

After these teachings, many believed on Jesus (v 30) and he taught them that the only way to be faithful to God is to “*continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.*” You and I can talk, talk and talk some more about how much we love Jesus, but if we don’t **do what he says**, then we’re all talk and no Christian. A good example of this is in Mark 16:16 where Jesus says, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” Most religious people today don’t teach that, when a person believes in Jesus, he must be baptized to be saved – exactly as Jesus says in this verse. Think about it.

Only the truth of Jesus, which is the Bible, can make us free (v 32), but that upset those believing Jews who were proud of being children of Abraham and, in their own minds, free from bondage (v 33).

Jesus tells them that if a person keeps on sinning after he knows the truth, he serves sin (v 34) and is bound in sin by the horrible chains of disobedience. Those Jews were seeking to kill Jesus (v 37) simply because he told them the truth (v 40). He shocked them by telling them they were of their father, the devil (v 41, 44) who is the father of all murderers and liars (v 44).

Let’s get a handle on what Jesus is teaching us here. Christians who teach the Bible and only the Bible are hounded by others who don’t want to listen to the truth. These “hounds” may be sincere people but must understand this horrible fact: **when they do not listen to the Bible, they are serving the devil.**

Whenever Jesus taught, it was always to honor and glorify God (vv 49, 54) and never himself as a human being (v 50), but these Jews got so mad at him when he said “*Before Abraham was, I am*” (v 58), that they wanted to kill him (v 59). We live a long time from these things and it’s easy to say, “If I had been there, I wouldn’t have done or thought those things!” But look at what those Jews did:

- they didn’t listen to his teachings because they already thought they knew everything about God
- they argued with him even though he did miracles to prove he was from God
- when they saw they couldn’t win the religious argument with him, they turned to hate and murder to solve the situation

There’s not a bit of difference between those Jews and people today who are taught the Bible by sincere Christians. People never have wanted to listen to the truth of God in the Bible -- they are still bound in their religious sins and still keep on serving the devil.

Lesson learned: “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

LESSON SIX

CHRISTIANS ARE CHRIST’S TRUE SHEEP

Read John 10

Place: Jerusalem

This beautiful chapter teaches us who are the true sheep of Christ and who is trying to slaughter the sheep. These teachings are based upon the loving care of a shepherd for his sheep (sheep sometimes can be quite stupid!). Some good lessons can be learned here if we listen.

- Real shepherds will come through the door and everyone who is in charge of the shepherd’s sheep will listen to the shepherd’s voice (vv 1-5)
- Jesus is the door (vv 7, 9) and nobody gets into the sheepfold except by Jesus.
- The **saved sheepfold** is the **church** because “*the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*” (Acts 2:47). A “sheepfold” is a place where the shepherd keeps his sheep.
- The church does exactly what Jesus teaches just like a sheep does exactly what its shepherd wants (v 4).
- People who claim to be in the church, but who falsely teach things that are not in the Bible are strangers (v 6), thieves and robbers (vv 8-10)
- People who claim to be Christians, but who teach false things are called hirelings and wolves (v 12)
- True Christians who follow the Bible are the only ones who really know Christ in the free pardon of their sins (v 14)
- Even the Gentiles, the “other sheep” will also be brought into the fold of God, the church (v 16)
- Christ, our good shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep, the church, (vv 11, 15, 17,18) and God loves him because of his sacrifice (v 18).

Lesson learned: Be in the fold (the church) or have no spiritual shepherd for your life.

TEACHING THE RICH YOUNG RULER HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN

Place: Perea

Read: Mark 10: 16-30

We know this man was a **ruler** because of Luke 18:18 and we know he was a **good** man because he wanted to know how to live eternally in heaven (v 17). We also know he was a **Jew** because he was told to keep the ten commandments (v 19). What surprises us is his statement that he was a faithful Jew because he was obedient to God's law since he was a boy (v 20). No wonder Jesus loved him (v 21a) and then told him to give away his money to the poor and then he would go to heaven (v 21), but this young man left Jesus because he had too much money (v 22).

Jesus said the rich will have a hard time getting into heaven (v 23) and this shocked the disciples (v 24a). Why were they shocked? The answer is simple: **they thought that if a person had money, he was especially blessed by God and if a person was poor, God had it in for him.** They were thinking like other religious people in their day and their thinking was wrong. God "*maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust*" (Matthew 5:45) and "*God is no respecter of persons but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him*" (Acts 10:34,35).

Today, preachers who say that God gives special money to his true servants (especially if you send that preacher some money) have missed the boat about why God blesses people. **God blesses those who fear him, love him and do what he says**, no matter if they are rich or poor. The great blessing is going to heaven and not having a big bank account.

Lesson learned: Many people of today are no better than the rich young ruler in missing the whole point of how God blesses his people.

TEACHING AGAINST THE PHARISEES

Read: Matthew 23

Place: Jerusalem

If you want to hear some strong preaching, read carefully Matthew 23 and listen to the son of God talk truth to religious people. Jesus did not beat around the bush when he spoke these very strong things about these Pharisees and scribes, which he specifically called "hypocrites." A hypocrite is one who **claims to be something but practices something else.**

These were very religious people who believed in the law of Moses but didn't practice God's word because they bound instructions on others while not taking them upon themselves. "*They say and do not*" (v 3). They wanted titles of religious respect (vv 7, 10), showed off their religion (v 5) and wanted the praise of men (v 6). This reminds us of many preachers who want to be called "reverend" and flash their Rolex watches to impress their audiences. Would Jesus wear a Rolex on his television show?

How do we separate the hypocrites from the real Christians? Let's take a look at what the Lord had to say in this chapter. Read the comment and then check out the verse.

- Hypocrites keep people from obeying the gospel and becoming Christians (v 13)
- Hypocrites want to pray but they don't want to help the poor (v 14)
- Hypocrites want people to believe like they believe and not what the Bible teaches (v 15)
- Hypocrites interpret the Bible to fit their own ideas (vv 16-22)

- Hypocrites shout “obey” but don’t get down to the basics of Christianity: judgment, mercy and faith (v 23)
- Hypocrites look clean on the outside, but are filthy on the inside (v 24,25)
- Hypocrites appear beautiful on the outside; inside they’re like a dead man’s tomb (v 27,28)
- Hypocrites try to justify their own heathen actions, even to the point of rewriting the past (vv 29-31).
- Hypocrites don’t listen to people who tell them the truth (v 34)

Now, these hypocrites in Jerusalem in Jesus’ day were about to pay a terrible price: the destruction of the city of Jerusalem. The Jews thought Jerusalem was where God lived and that God would never destroy his house, the temple. Jesus is going to use a lot of Matthew 24 to teach them that they were believing falsely.

Lesson learned: Hypocrites are false, but the Bible is not.

TEACHING ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE END OF THE WORLD

Read Matthew 24

Place: Jerusalem

In Matthew 23:35,36, Jesus warns the religious leaders of their hypocrisy and also tells them *“That upon **you** may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, **All these things shall come upon this generation.**”* These first century religious people who should have known better were now to receive God’s vengeance and this is what is discussed in the first part of Matthew 24.

The temple Jesus referred to in verse 1 was built by **Herod** the Great. The first temple was built by King **Solomon** and was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The second temple was built by **Zerubbabel** after the Jews returned from Babylonian Captivity. Ezekiel dreamed of a temple in his visions, but it was never built. Herod built a beautiful temple and one historical thing describes its beauty: Its doors were 70 feet high and were so delicately balanced that they could be opened by a single man’s hand.

The Jews just absolutely refused to believe that anything could ever happen to the city of Jerusalem and some of them, the Sadducees, did not even believe in the resurrection. So Jesus addresses both of these ideas with Matthew 24 and also Matthew 25.

The Jews believed Jerusalem would never be destroyed because of 1 Kings 9:3: *“And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put **my name there for ever**; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there **perpetually.**”* The Jews didn’t realize that their **sins** and their **rejection** of Jesus as the Christ would cause Jerusalem to fall.

In Matthew 24, the disciples asked two questions: **1)** what are the signs that would warn them of Jerusalem’s destruction and **2)** what about the end of the world? The first question is answered from verses 4 through 34 and the second question is answered from Matthew 24:36 through Matthew 25.

Let’s take a look at those things which would happen in the first century before the fall of Jerusalem:

- There will be false prophets and false Christs on the scene (vv 5, 11,23,24)
- There will be wars and rumors of wars before the end (v 6)

NOTE: The end of what? Since these things were going to happen in the first century, the phrase “end of all things” refers to the destruction of Jerusalem.

- The church will be persecuted (v 9) and many Christians would fall away (v 12)
- The gospel would be preached into all the world before the end came (v 14)

NOTE: The gospel was preached to every creature in the first century as we are taught in Colossians 1:23, *“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.”*

- The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet would happen (v 15)
- Those who were Christians were warned to flee Jerusalem (vv 16-20) and Luke 21:20 adds even more light: *“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.”*
- The great tribulation would happen (v 21)

NOTE: There will only be one great tribulation because Jesus says in verse 21 that it would be **“such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”** Some folks believe the great tribulation is yet to come, but Jesus said it happened in the first century. I think we’ll believe Christ on this, don’t you?

- The first century Christians must not be deceived when these things happen (vv 25-27)
- The destruction of Jerusalem is a “coming of Jesus” (v 30)
- The gathering together of the elect in verse 31 refers to John 11:52, *“And not for that nation only, but that also he should **gather together in one** the children of God that were scattered abroad.”* This is a reference to Ephesians 4:4, *“There is **one** body...”*
- “This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled” (v 34)

Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 by the Roman armies under the leadership of General Titus.

The rest of chapter 24 speaks of the second appearing of Jesus Christ when he will come in the clouds and “every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7). Here are some teachings about the second appearing which we had better take notice of.

- Nobody knows when the second coming will happen (v 36) and that means nobody

NOTE: People who predict the time when Jesus will come again put themselves against God because God is the only one who knows.

- The second coming will be sudden and people will be unprepared (vv 37-41)
- Christians, even today, are to be always watchful (v 42)
- Faithful Christians will be rewarded (vv 46,47)
- Unfaithful Christians will be condemned (vv 48-51)

Jesus is making sure that we know that he always keeps his word and the destruction of Jerusalem proves it. There is also a warning for us of the second coming of Christ. We surely had better be prepared because it will happen.

Lesson learned: The Jews didn't believe Jerusalem would be destroyed and weren't ready; when Jesus comes in judgment, the same thing will be true of most people on earth

LESSON SEVEN

TEACHING IN THE UPPER ROOM

Read: John 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Place: Jerusalem

These wonderful teachings happened right before Jesus was crucified. These teachings are called the "**Upper Room Teachings**" because they were given in the upper room of the place where Jesus and the apostles were taking the last Jewish Passover ever approved by God. The Sermon on the Mount and the "Upper Room Teachings" are the longest one-time, sit-down teachings of Jesus that the New Testament has. There are many good lessons to be gained from this last discussion of his teachings that he had with his disciples.

CHAPTER 13

The Jewish Passover remembered the night before Pharaoh let the Jews go out of Egypt. Moses had commanded that a lamb would be killed and that there would be no yeast bread taken on the great journey (Exodus 12:11-48). The Jews' slavery time in Egypt was very bitter for them, so at every Passover feast, there would be a piece of no-leaven bread dipped in a bowl of bitter herbs to remind them of the cruel bitterness they suffered in the land of Egypt.

Jews had to take the Passover every year to remind them of their slavery days. This particular Passover feast was the **last one** ever eaten with God's approval because Jesus was about to die on the cross where "*he taketh away the first, that he may establish the second*" (Hebrews 10:9). When he died on the cross, he took away the Old Testament, as law, and brought in the New Testament as the eternal covenant for all time.

At this time, Jesus used this Passover feast to teach the disciples that they were to eat the Lord's Supper every Sunday (Acts 20:7) to remind them of the death of Jesus and not the Egyptian slavery days.

v.2: "**the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot**". Judas had made a bargain with the chief priests back in Luke 22:3, where it also says "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve." Judas made the choice to betray Jesus. Some teach that Judas was the only apostle not from Galilee, but from Judah, and that is a possibility.

vv 4-17: **Jesus washes the disciples' feet**. Foot washing was something done in the New Testament days as an act of courtesy because the roads were not paved and, when someone would come into the house to eat a meal, their feet would be very dusty. The lowest servant in the household would wash the visitors' feet. Otherwise, when they reclined at table to eat (no chairs), dirty feet might be in their faces.

Peter didn't want the Lord to wash his feet (v 6,8) because Jesus was God's son and Peter thought that the son of God shouldn't do something so humble, but when Jesus told Peter that what he was trying to teach them was a necessary thing, Peter wanted his whole body washed (v 9)!

Just what was Jesus trying to teach them? He wanted them to be humble toward each other (v 14) and wanted them to know that *“the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him”* (John 13:16).

Some religious people teach that the church should wash feet as a part of worship just like we take the Lord’s Supper. But these churches usually don’t take the Lord’s Supper every Sunday like the New Testament teaches (Acts 20:7). So why wash feet as a part of worship if the Lord’s Supper is not taken? Washing feet is not another act of worship; it was intended to teach them that they should be humble in the sight of God and each other. They learned this lesson very well and so should we.

vv 18- 29: **Judas continues his betrayal of Jesus.** Jesus quotes from Psalm 41:9 which says his betrayer would eat with him and Jesus was so troubled that he told the disciples one of them would betray him (v 21). What a shock to the disciples (v 22)! The “disciple whom Jesus loved” (v 23) was probably John, the author of this book, and Jesus told him he would give the bread sopped with bitter herbs to the betrayer (v 26).

It’s interesting to note that *“no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him”* (v 28). Did that include John? Here’s a thought: Judas handled the money for the group (v 29) and you wouldn’t put your money into the hands of someone you didn’t trust, would you? I wouldn’t. Perhaps Judas had the disciples’ trust more than we think. Of course, Jesus knew he was a thief (John 12:6), but evidently the disciples did not know that. And, after all, Jesus had just washed even Judas’ feet.

Notice that “after the sop Satan entered into him” (v 27). Satan had also entered Judas when he betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Luke 22:3-5), but also notice that *“he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude”* (Luke 22:6). It’s very possible that Judas didn’t want Jesus to die, but that didn’t matter, did it? His actions brought about the death of the son of God and Judas is forever remembered in history as the traitor. That’s why we don’t name our sons “Judas.”

vv 31-38: **Jesus begins to be glorified.** The word “glorify” means “to be revealed” and the Lord tells the disciples that the time for him to be revealed as God’s true son was upon them (vv 31,32). This is a reference to Jesus’ resurrection because only the son of God could conquer death.

Jesus had washed the disciples’ feet to teach them to be humble and now he teaches them that the main way people will know that a person truly follows Jesus is by the love we have one for another (vv 34,35). Peter wanted to go with Christ (v 36a), but Jesus said he couldn’t go with him to the cross now, but would later (v 36b). After Peter said he would give his own life for Jesus, the Lord told him he would deny Jesus three times (thrice) before the rooster would crow.

Lesson learned: We can talk about being followers of Jesus, but if we don’t have a loving heart of service, all we’re doing nothing but shouting words.

CHAPTER 14

Now that Judas had left the group and Jesus had taught the disciples the lessons of humility and glorifying, he now turns to hope-filled instructions for those with whom he had worked for three and one half years.

vv 1-4: **The heavenly homes waiting for us and how to get there.** Today, when people are worried and troubled, they turn to faith in Christ (v 1) and to the hope of going to heaven when they die (2-4).

Faithful Christians will go to heaven, but non-obedient people and unfaithful Christians will not. Notice he told the disciples *“And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know”* (v 4). The disciples had been taught Christ’s way and the Christian’s destination – all they (and we) had to do was put what they knew into practice.

We can only get to heaven through Jesus because he is the way, the truth and the life (v 6). Mohammed and Islam are not the way; man-made religions are not the way but only the religion of Jesus which is based upon truth and which will give life everlasting to the faithful Christian.

vv 9-14: **Jesus and God.** If people are honest with their heart of hearts they want to know God, but God can only be known through his son (v 9) and the son of God never taught anything that wasn’t from heaven (v 10). God showed he was with Jesus because of the mighty works Jesus did (v 22), but even greater works would be done by his followers (v 12). Only God, through Jesus, can answer prayers (vv 13,14).

vv 15-31: **How to love Christ through the Holy Spirit.** “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (v 15,21) means that no person can say they love Jesus and not do all of what he teaches, which includes all the New Testament. The Holy Spirit today is our Comforter and he will abide with us forever (v 16) because he is the spirit of truth which will not be accepted by the world (v 17). *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* (2 Peter 1:21). God, through the Holy Spirit, inspired the Bible and the **Bible** brings us comfort and **the Bible is the way the Holy Spirit works in man.** Jesus continues to emphasize that loving him means keeping his commandments (vv 23-26) and also that the Holy Spirit will be the apostles’ teacher and reminder (v 26). We also emphasize that the way the Holy Spirit works is through the Bible.

Peace is defined as **“making God’s will my will”** and the only way we can do that is also to know what the Bible teaches and do it (v 27).

Lesson learned: Nobody can claim to have the Holy Spirit if they believe anything not taught in the Bible.

CHAPTER 15

vv 1-8: **The vine and the vine dresser.** A “husbandman” is an old word meaning “one who takes care of grape vines” and it refers to the days when vines would grow and produce grapes, but someone had to trim off the old branches so that the vine could produce to its fullest capacity.

We get our nourishment from Christ and that’s why the Bible is called **milk** (1 Peter 2:2), **meat** (Hebrews 5:14,15) and **bread** (John 6:41).

Some believe that the branches are the various denominations in the world today, but when we read verse 6, we find, *“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”* Christians glorify God when we bear fruit (v 8). Christians bear fruit when we live righteous lives, when we honor the word of God by obeying it and when we teach the word of God to others.

vv 9-19-27: **Love, the new commandment and what happens.** Love for God, love for our fellow man and Christian love for one another are the things that will last throughout eternity as we are taught in 1 Corinthians 13:13: *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”*

People today claim to love Jesus and then don't follow his instructions, but verse 10 teaches that we show we love him by doing what he says and John 14:15 also teaches, **"If ye love me, keep my commandments."** Jesus also wants Christians to love one another *"as I have loved you"* (v 12), meaning Jesus would die for all (v 13). Romans 5:8 also teaches, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* We are not only servants of Jesus, but also his friends, if we obey him (v 14).

One of the worst things a Christian can do is hate his fellow Christians. 1 John 4:20, *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"* Jesus chose his disciples out of the world (v 19) and the world hated them because they hated him. You can always tell a "religious" person from a real Christian – the real New Testament Christian loves his fellow Christians, but the religious person is mean, hateful and spiteful. Christians in the first century were horribly persecuted and Christians today will also suffer some kind of persecution. *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* (2 Timothy 3:12).

Lesson learned: When it comes to our souls, talk is cheap; loving and faithful obedience is rich

LESSON EIGHT

CHAPTER 16

Jesus mentions the Comforter in chapter 15, verse 26 and in this chapter he says more about this subject. The reasons that the Comforter would come to them were:

- The disciples were going to be persecuted and would need comforting
- The Comforter would help them to **remember** all things Jesus taught them
- The Comforter would **give** them all truth
- The Comforter would **guide** them into all truth

The Comforter is the Holy Spirit who came in the New Testament with miracles; who inspired both the Old and new Testaments and who still lives in the world through Christians who obey the New Testament. There is a lot of misunderstanding about the Holy Spirit today and we ask that you be prepared to open your Bible and find out exactly what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit.

The disciples were very sad because Jesus was going to leave them (v 5,6), but he had to go because, if he didn't go, the Comforter wouldn't come (v 7). Why did Jesus call the Holy Spirit the **"Comforter?"** Remember that the New Testament was not written in English, but in the common, everyday Greek language of the first century.

That language had a word **"paracletos"** which means "the comforter" and Jesus uses "paracletos" to describe the Holy Spirit. Sometimes in older Bibles, you might find the word **"Paraclete"** to refer to the Holy Spirit and now you know why!

Jesus told them the Holy Spirit would do several things:

He would convince (reprove) the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (vv 8-11)

- * *"...sin is the transgression of the law"* (1 John 3:4) and the Holy Spirit would spell out in detail just exactly what sin was, but people would not believe it

- * **“Righteousness”** is what happens when a person does right and the Holy Spirit would say exactly what are the right things we must do because Christ would be back in heaven with his father
- * And what the Holy Spirit would teach is what judges the world. People who follow the devil are just like him – already judged. God judged the devil when he sinned “in the beginning”, but how is a human being judged? John 12:48: *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

God used the Holy Spirit to produce the Bible. *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*
(2 Peter 1:21).

Notice this:

- The Bible will judge us in the judgment day
- The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible
- Therefore, the world will be judged by the Holy Spirit through the Bible

He would guide the apostles into all truth (v 13)

2 Timothy 3:16,17 teaches, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be **perfect**, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

God used the Holy Spirit to inspire the Bible and in the New Testament days the Holy Spirit worked through the apostles as we are taught in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11:

*“For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; to another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; to another the **working of miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another **divers kinds of tongues**; to another the **interpretation of tongues**, but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

And we also add to this list Mark 16:17,18 which says, *“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they **cast out devils**; they shall speak with **new tongues**, they shall **take up serpents**; and if they **drink any deadly thing**, it shall not hurt them; they shall **lay hands on the sick**, and they shall recover.”*

So, we have the **nine** gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, plus these **three: cast out devils, take up serpents and drink any deadly thing**. By these gifts of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all truth.

Let’s also notice something else. You can see that these twelve spiritual gifts fall into two categories:

Category number one: Gifts which have to do with them receiving the gospel truth (the **word of wisdom**, the **word of knowledge**, **faith**, **prophecy**, **discerning of spirits**, **tongues**)

Category number two: Gifts which were miraculous (**gifts of healing**, **working of miracles**, **casting out devils**, **laying hands on the sick**, **taking up serpents and poison**)

Remember that Mark 16:15,16 teaches: “Go ye into **all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

This is how the apostles took the gospel into all the world:

- They taught the truth (**word of knowledge**) publically (**prophecy**) which produced **faith** in their hearers and they taught the new Christians how to apply the truth (**word of wisdom**) to their lives. If someone taught something that was wrong, they would be corrected (**discerning of spirits**). All of this teaching was done in the native language of those who heard them (**tongues**) and if someone didn't know that native language, the truth would still be taught (**interpretation of tongues**).
- To get their hearers' attention, they would **heal the sick** and **cast out devils** in the name of Jesus Christ. What a huge thing to do – to teach the gospel to every creature in one generation! But they did it as we are told in Colossians 1:23: “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was **preached to every creature which is under heaven**; whereof I Paul am made a minister.” If they accidentally drank **poison** or if they accidentally were bitten by a **serpent**, they were protected from death like Paul was in Acts 28:3.

There you have it: the Holy Spirit provided these gifts so that the gospel could go to every creature in the first century. Hebrews 2:2-4 teaches, “For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed unto us by them that heard him, God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**”

I know this may be hard for some folks to digest, but I've tried to take us back to the New Testament days and make the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit real to you. These miracles were done to confirm the word spoken and since the word of God has been completely confirmed, there is no need for miracles to be done by the Holy Spirit today. Don't let anyone deceive you into thinking miracles can still be done. **If miracles are still done, there is more truth to be revealed from heaven and that's just not so.**

After telling the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and do these things, the main point Jesus makes to the end of the chapter is that if they continue to love him and believe on him, even though they would suffer, they would go to heaven.

Lesson learned: The Holy Spirit works on the sinner's heart through the word of God.

CHAPTER 17: A Prayer from the Heart of Jesus

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus prayed what we usually call “The **Lord's Prayer**.” It was his because he prayed it, but it's also called “The **Model Prayer**” or “The **Disciples' Prayer**” because Jesus gave it as an example for his disciples to follow.

This prayer in John 17 is another Lord's prayer and this one also comes from the heart of Jesus because it contains things in it that he considered to be important for his followers. There are some good lessons for us too, so let's look at them.

Just as Jesus glorified God, so should his followers even today. Christ was glorified in the cross (v 1) which has given the right to eternal life to all men (vv 2,3). Jesus had finished his work on earth (v 4) and God was now to glorify him on the cross (v 5). While Jesus was on the earth, he always did God's will (v 6) and never his own will (John 12:48-50); Jesus taught his disciples that whatever he said, God wanted (v 7,8).

How do we glorify God through Jesus? *“And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them”* (v 10). How Jesus is glorified is shown in verse 22,23, “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one, I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

Christians today glorify Jesus when we are united in Christ. The saddest and most horrible thing existing in the religious world today is there is no unity. “Join the church of your choice”, the advertisements say, when they ought to say, **“Become a member of the church of Christ's choice.”** “If you don't like it in that church, go to another church”, people believe when they ought to believe, **“There is only one church (Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:18) and I want to be a member of it.”** The church of the Bible is the one which goes by the Bible and is unified through the gospel truth.

How do Christians unite? Jesus gave God's word to the disciples (v 14) and that's how we are united. Christians are set apart (sanctified) from the world through the truth. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” v 17). The result of being united upon the truth of God is found in verse 21, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”

Christians who are united in Christ will go to heaven; others will not. *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world”* (v 24). It is a serious violation of God's truth for religious people today to be divided. 1 Corinthians 1:10 says, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*

Let us all be united with God, through Christ, and always in his word.

Lesson learned: Religious division is sinful and people who practice it will not go to heaven. The Bible is the only answer to the evils of religious division.

LESSON NINE

THE LAST TEACHINGS OF JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES

Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15–18; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:22,23

Place: Jerusalem and Galilee

When a person gets close to leaving this earth, you and I can always tell what's very important to them because they talk about it. That's true of Jesus. To him, getting the gospel out to every creature on earth was the most important in the world's history at that time. It's still a command to the church and Christians must dedicate our entire being to teaching every creature. We sometimes call this command the **“Great Commission.”**

What Matthew's Account Says Matthew 28:18-20

Another word for “**power**” (v 18) is “**authority**” and some Bible translations use the word “authority.” Christ has all power and he gave the apostles the command to teach all nations, knowing that his authority would be behind every word they spoke. When they taught people the powerful truth of Christ,

- They were to baptize them
- They were to baptize them in the name of (by the authority of) the **father, son and Holy Spirit** (v 29)
- They were to teach them after they were baptized

NOTE: If a person is baptized by the authority of a man made church or by the authority of the Rome, Italy, church or as a baby, their baptism lacks the right authority.

Matthew's account happened in Galilee (v 16), but the other three accounts happened the same day that Jesus arose from the dead.

What Mark's Account Says Mark 16:15-18

Can you believe it? After spending three and one half years with the Lord, seeing him and seeing him arisen from the dead, the disciples still had problems because verse 14 says, “*Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*” The word “upbraid” means to really get on someone's case and that's what Jesus did here in Mark's account.

This is what Jesus told his disciples.

- The gospel was to be preached to every person in the world (v 15)
- People who believed and were baptized would be saved, but people who didn't believe the gospel would be lost (v 16)
- In the New Testament days only, Holy Spirit-given-signs would follow their preaching (vv 17,18)

NOTE: Some believe that these signs still follow the preaching of the gospel, but their purpose in the New Testament days was to confirm the word spoken by the teachers (Hebrews 2:1-4).

What Luke's Account Says Luke 24:46-49

The Old Testament prophesied the sufferings, death and resurrection of Christ (v 47) and also prophesied that repentance and remission of sins should begin at Jerusalem and go into all the world (v 48).

Repentance and remission of sins was preached in Jerusalem in Acts 2:38, “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

The “**promise of the father**” (v 49) refers to Acts 2:39, “*For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*” We are called by the gospel as 2 Thessalonians 2:14 teaches, “*Whereunto he **called you by our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” The full gospel was first preached in Jerusalem in Acts 2 after the apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:26-Acts 2:4).

What John’s Account Says John 20:22,23

This is John’s account of the suppertime call on the evening of the day of Jesus’ resurrection. He breathed on them and said, “*Receive ye the Holy Ghost*” (v 22) and then explained that they would preach remission and retaining of sins (v 23).

What does this mean, this “remission and retaining” thing? Peter had been told in Matthew 16:19, “*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **bind** on earth shall be **bound** in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **loose** on earth shall be **loosed** in heaven.*” This “**binding and loosing**” is the same thing as “**retaining and remitting.**” The word “remit” means to “free up; let loose.” Here in John’s account of the great commission, the rest of the apostles received this binding/loosing retaining/remitting power.

That same power is in the world today when we “**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature by the authority of Jesus Christ. Those who believe and are baptized will have their sins loosed (remitted), but those who do not believe will keep their sins bound (retained) on their souls.**”

Which would you rather have on your soul?

THIS CONCLUDES YOUR STUDY ON
THE LIFE OF CHRIST
PART THREE

PLEASE ANSWER THE TEST QUESTIONS
AND MAIL JUST THE QUESTIONS BACK TO US

Your graded questions will be returned to you. Please continue your studies with Part 4.

TEST QUESTIONS

THE LIFE OF CHRIST PART THREE

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

WHERE DO YOU GO TO CHURCH? _____

LESSON ONE

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. Samaria was located **A** To the south of Jerusalem **B** To the north of Jerusalem **C** Below Jerusalem
2. Truth is defined as **A** That which is and it can be nothing else **B** The Bible **C** Both of these
3. We are "born again" **A** By the Holy Spirit through the word **B** By ourselves **C** By the doctrine of our church
4. The Samaritans wanted to worship God **A** In Jerusalem **B** On Mount Gerizim **C** Anywhere they wanted
5. God is **A** A spirit **B** Unknown to man **C** A creation of man

Fill in the blanks

1. Christians today want to, and _____ to, be _____ and undenominational but the only way this can happen is to be _____.
2. 1 Peter 1:23: "Being _____ again, not of corruptible _____, but of _____, by the _____ of God which liveth and abideth forever."
3. Titus 3:5, "But after that the _____ and _____ of God our Saviour toward _____ appeared, not by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but according to his _____ he saved us, by the _____ of _____ and _____ of the Holy Ghost."
4. In our _____ today, _____ is the audience and not we ourselves.
5. _____ Christianity is what we're aiming to _____ in our day and age.

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1. Christians are to worship God by the doctrines of a denomination | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. Christians are to worship God according to what <u>he</u> revealed in the Bible | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. The teachings of Christ are the very heart of Christianity | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. No Protestant church is older than the 1500's | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. The Bible feeds us with spiritual nourishment | T _____ | F _____ |

LESSON TWO

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. Jesus grew up in **A** Bethel **B** Nazareth **C** Jerusalem
2. God holds every single person who has ever been born accountable for their **A** Sins **B** Actions **C** Thoughts **D** All of these
3. Jesus says our worship consists of **A** Spirit and truth **B** Television rallies **C** Healings
4. The day which nobody will miss is **A** The judgment day **B** The second coming of Christ **C** Both of these
5. Jesus told the disciples that among those who would hate them would be **A** Their own families **B** The Jews **C** Both of these

Match the "lessons learned"

- | | | |
|---|----------|---|
| _____ Teaching where he grew up | A | "Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season" |
| _____ Instructions to the apostles | B | Truth is truth even when preached in our home towns |
| _____ Speaking against certain cities | C | The Bible says it; that settles; we believe and obey it |
| _____ Teaching after healing the sick man | D | People who love themselves sometimes find it hard to love Jesus and obey him. |

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. In the "limited commission", the disciples were to **A** Go into all the world **B** Go just to the Gentiles **C** Go to the Jews only.
2. The teachings of Jesus are based upon **A** The wisdom of the ages **B** The love of God **C** The fact that Jesus was only a good man
3. A person "passes from death unto life" when he is **A** Baptized **B** Born again **C** Both of these
4. Jesus' earthly ministry lasted for **A** Six years **B** Three and one half years **C** Forever
5. The number of the apostles was **A** Fourteen **B** Three **C** Twelve

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Jesus was born in Nazareth | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. The sick man in John 5 was healed immediately by Jesus | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. We know where and when all twelve apostles died | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. Salvation is only through the name of Jesus, the son of God | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. We know exactly where Sodom was located | T _____ F _____ |

LESSON THREE

Match the “lessons learned”

- | | | |
|---|----------|--|
| _____ Plucking corn on the sabbath | A | Eat well from the Bible and never go on a diet |
| _____ Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit | B | The New Testament must be preached and practiced |
| _____ Jesus is the bread of life | C | Watch your mouth <u>and</u> your heart |

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit **A** Is saying that the works of Jesus were the works of the devil
B Could happen only in Jesus’ day **C** Never did happen
- The Jews rejected the commandment of God **A** So they could keep their own tradition **B**
Because they hated Jesus **C** Both of these
- Idle words are **A** Jokes **B** Words spoken against the teachings of Jesus and the New
Testament **C** Words spoken by people who are lazy
- Christianity is not a religion of the stomach, but of the **A** Body **B** Family **C** Soul
- Jesus’ “eating” his flesh and “drinking” his blood refers to **A** The Lord’s supper **B** Christian
Cannibalism **C** Jesus’ family
- Christians take the Lord’s Supper **A** Only on the first day of the week **B** Whenever they want
to **C** Twice a year

Fill in the blanks

- Mark 7:9, “Full well ye _____ the _____ of God that ye may
keep your own _____.”
- 1 Peter 2:2, “As _____ babes, desire the sincere _____ of the
_____, that ye may _____ thereby.”
- Acts 20:7, “And upon the _____ day of the week, _____ the disciples
came together to _____.”
- Today some people call the Lord’s Supper the E_____.
- Hebrews 5:12,13, “For when for the time ye ought to be _____, ye have need that
one teach you again which be the _____ principles of the oracles of God; and are
become as have need of _____ and not of strong _____.”

LESSON FOUR

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Christianity should only be based upon our feelings | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Angels are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. The two witnesses of Revelation 11 are Moses and Elijah | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. Christians do not have to forgive anyone, just be forgiven by God | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. Christians do not have to pay taxes | T _____ F _____ |
| 6. Sin cannot come into the church | T _____ F _____ |
| 7. Christians have to forgive in order to be forgiven | T _____ F _____ |
| 8. The disciples plucked grain on Saturday (the sabbath) | T _____ F _____ |
| 9. On the Mount of Transfiguration Moses represented the prophets and Elijah represented the law | T _____ F _____ |
| 10. The Bible proves definitely that children have guardian angels | T _____ F _____ |

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

- The Mount of Transfiguration is important because **A** It is a fulfillment of Zechariah 14 **B** It shows that the New Testament was to replace the Old Testament **C** Both of these
- The thing which defiles a person's heart is **A** When we do not wash our hands **B** Sin **C** Eating high cholesterol foods
- On the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah represented **A** The Old and New Testaments **B** The law and the prophets **C** The ten commandments
- Some of the things which can condemn our souls are **A** The doctrines of men **B** Our feelings **C** The devil **D** All of these
- The word "transfigured" means **A** Taking a trip **B** Changed **C** Sin

Fill in the blanks

- Matthew 15:9, "But in _____ - they do _____ me, teaching for _____ the commandments of _____."
- Mark 12:17, "Render unto _____ the things that are Caesar's and unto _____ the things that are God's."
- 2 Peter 3:9, "The _____ is not slack concerning his _____, but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should _____ but that all should come to _____."
- Matthew 15:13, "Every _____ which my heavenly father hath not planted shall be _____ up."

LESSON FIVE

Match the “lessons learned”

- | | | |
|---|----------|--|
| _____ Teachings in marriage and divorce | A | We can't undo Bible judgment |
| _____ Judging righteous judgment | B | Ye shall know the truth |
| _____ Adultery; questions; teaching to believing Jews | C | If we want to go to heaven, we'd better do what Jesus says |

True False (Check the correct answer)

- | | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| 1. Today, the Holy Spirit teaches things different from the Bible's teachings | T_____ | F_____ |
| 2. The miracles of Jesus proved he was from God | T_____ | F_____ |
| 3. When a person learns the truth and still continues to sin, he is still bound | T_____ | F_____ |
| 4. The only cause for divorce is fornication, according to Jesus' teachings | T_____ | F_____ |
| 5. If we do not obey Jesus, we love the devil and walk in darkness | T_____ | F_____ |

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. What Jesus said to the woman taken in adultery was: **A** “Shame on you” **B** “Where is the man?” **C** “Go and sin no more”
2. People today argue with the Bible because **A** They believe it was written by men **C** They don't want to believe the Bible **C** They don't have a Bible
3. The doctrine of Jesus and the teachings of the Holy Spirit were from **A** Themselves **B** The Jews **C** God
4. God's plan for marriage is **A** One man, one wife, for life **B** Divorce can be granted for any cause **C** People do not have to get married
5. When it comes to judgment, Christians **A** Cannot be harshly critical of others **B** Can judge righteous judgment **C** Both of these

LESSON SIX

Fill in the blanks

1. The first temple in Jerusalem was built by King _____, the second was built by _____ and the temple in Jesus' day was built by _____ the Great.
2. Acts 10:34: “God is no _____ of persons, but in every nation he that _____ him and _____ righteousness is accepted with him.”
3. Luke 21:20: “And when ye shall see _____ compassed with _____, then know that the _____ thereof is nigh”
4. People who claim to be in the _____, but who _____ teach things not in the _____ are _____, thieves and _____.
5. Jerusalem was destroyed in AD _____ by the _____ armies under the leadership of General _____.

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. The great tribulation happened in the first century | T_____ F_____ |
| 2. The rich young ruler did not obey the law of Moses | T_____ F_____ |
| 3. The prophet Daniel's abomination of desolation will happen in 2006 | T_____ F_____ |
| 4. Hypocrites don't listen to people who tell them the truth | T_____ F_____ |
| 5. The gospel was preached to every creature in the first century | T_____ F_____ |
| 6. In the New Testament, religious people thought if a person had money,
God was blessing him in a special way | T_____ F_____ |
| 7. Religious people can still be hypocrites | T_____ F_____ |
| 8. God blesses those who obey him, regardless of whether we have money | T_____ F_____ |
| 9. Jesus always keeps his word | T_____ F_____ |
| 10. Jesus will return to this earth in the year 2004 | T_____ F_____ |

LESSON SEVEN

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. The disciple who betrayed Jesus was **A** Peter **B** Judas **C** Nathaniel
2. To show the lesson of humility, Jesus **A** Upbraided the disciples **B** Prayed for them **C** Washed their feet
3. The "branches" in John 15 refer to **A** People **B** Churches **C** Angels
4. The way, the truth and the life is **A** Mohammed **B** The Pope **C** Jesus
5. The "disciple whom Jesus loved" was **A** John **B** Peter **C** Andrew
6. The disciple who handled the money for the group was **A** Bartholomew **B** Simon **C** Judas
7. You can always tell a "religious" person from a real Christians by **A** How much money he gives **B** How he loves his brother **C** How many times a week he goes to church
8. The "Comforter" is **A** The Holy Spirit **B** The Paraclete **C** Both of these
9. The Holy Spirit comforts us **A** Through the word of God **B** By our feelings **C** By our church by-laws
10. The "new commandment" Jesus gave was to **A** Love one another **B** Flee the devil **C** Give money

Fill in the blanks

1. 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now abideth _____, hope, _____, these three; but the _____ of these is charity."
2. _____ is defined as "making my will God's will" and the only way we can do that is to _____ what the Bible teaches and _____ it.
3. Only _____, through Jesus, can answer _____.
4. Faithful _____ will go to heaven, but _____ people and _____ Christians will be lost.
5. God, through the Holy _____ inspired the _____ and the Bible brings us _____ and the _____ is the way the Holy Spirit works in _____

LESSON EIGHT

True False (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. The New Testament was originally written in English | T_____ F_____ |
| 2. God used the Holy Spirit to inspire and produce the Bible | T_____ F_____ |
| 3. Miracles were performed by the Holy Spirit in New Testament days | T_____ F_____ |
| 4. Miracles are not done today because we the complete word of God | T_____ F_____ |
| 5. The gospel was preached to every creature in the first century | T_____ F_____ |
| 6. The gospel has never been preached to everybody | T_____ F_____ |
| 7. Christians show they are Christians by loving one another | T_____ F_____ |
| 8. Religious divisions are okay today, but were not in the first century | T_____ F_____ |
| 9. Christians who are united in Christ will go to heaven | T_____ F_____ |
| 10. Christians today can unite on the word of God | T_____ F_____ |
| 11. There is only one church of the Bible | T_____ F_____ |
| 12. The words, Comforter and Paraclete, both refer to the Holy Spirit | T_____ F_____ |
| 13. The Holy Spirit works today through our feelings | T_____ F_____ |
| 14. There were thirty-seven gifts of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament days | T_____ F_____ |
| 15. The devil is a liar and a murderer | T_____ F_____ |
| 16. When people today do not obey the Bible, they serve the devil | T_____ F_____ |
| 17. The Lord's prayer is found in Revelation 1 | T_____ F_____ |

LESSON NINE

Match the Great Commission accounts

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| _____ Matthew 28:18-20 | A "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" |
| _____ Mark 16:15,16 | B "Repentance and remission of sins shall be preached beginning at Jerusalem" |
| _____ Luke 24:46-49 | C "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost." |
| _____ John 20:22,23 | D "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" |

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. People who believe, repent and are baptized will be saved | T_____ F_____ |
| 2. "Power" and "authority" mean the same thing | T_____ F_____ |
| 3. People who believe will be saved and don't have to be baptized | T_____ F_____ |
| 4. Matthew's account of the Great Commission was given in Galilee | T_____ F_____ |
| 5. The New Testament was confirmed by miracles of the Holy Spirit | T_____ F_____ |
| 6. We are called by a church to be Christians and not by the gospel | T_____ F_____ |
| 7. After people are baptized, they are to be taught further | T_____ F_____ |