

The Great Miracles of Jesus

in the Gospel of John

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The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 1 – Becoming Fully and Truly Human

Opening Questions

1. Have you experienced difficulties in expressing your thoughts in words? How?
2. In what ways do we and this world need the light of the sun?

Introduction

The Bible begins with the story of God creating the universe and this world, “In the beginning, God created the heavens [the universe] and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). God created the universe and everything in it by simply speaking or commanding it to exist out of nothing. When God says, “Let there be galaxies and stars to fill the universe,” those things suddenly appear. We don’t know how big the universe is. Scientists believe there are at least one hundred million galaxies with one hundred billion stars in the average galaxy. God created everything to fill this universe. He created space and time for us. God himself exists outside and is not bound by our space and time. Lastly, God created mankind (a man and a woman) and put them in a beautiful garden in this world that he had created for them. God is holy, loving, perfect, all-powerful, unlimited, eternal, and unchangeable.



To think about:

The light of the sun impacts us and the world in at least three major ways. (1) It is the source of all life in this world. Without the light of the sun, all life would freeze to death. (2) It gives us vision, enabling us to see and perceive the world around us. (3) It brings joy and happiness. In places where there are only a few hours of daylight at certain times of the year, many people suffer from depression. What does it look like to live a day without sun light for you and for the whole planet Earth?

From the Bible



John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Discussion Questions

1. John explains the mystery of the Triune God in sweet and short sentences. He invites us to meditate on who Jesus Christ (the Son of God) truly is. What can we know about the Word (v.1-2)? What are some essential truths or realities that John wants us to know?
2. What can we know about *the Word* (v.3)?
3. The Word is *the agent* through whom God the Father created the universe and everything in it. What else can we know about *the Word* [the Son of God] (v.4)? What do you think it means?
4. Life was in *the Word*. *The Word is the Life and the Light*. *The Word* is the source of all life and all light that enables us to live and see. What can we learn about *the Word* as *the Light* (v.5)? What do you think it means?
5. Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). What do you think it means?



Notes

The Word (the Word of God): the Son of God or Jesus Christ; the second person of the Triune God.

The Triune God (the Trinity): one God in three distinct persons (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). They are in unity and are equal in substance, power, and glory.

God: a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

God describes himself in the Bible (the written word of God) as one God in three distinct persons.

Each person of the Triune God loves the other two perfectly and receives love from them from eternity. Love is a characteristic of God, and so are truth, light, and life. God says, “I am love. I am truth. I am light. I am life. I am *the ultimate* love, truth, light, and life.”

John 1:9-14, 16-18

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the significance that *the Word* (the Son of God) is *the true light* that all other lights, including the sun, point to (v.9)?
2. What was the reality or the tragedy that the Son of God faced when he came to this world as a human being [a man] (v.10-11)? Why do you think he was willing to experience that?
3. What would Jesus do for those who believe and receive him by faith, trusting their lives to him (v.12-13)?
4. What else can we learn about *the Word* (v.14, 18)?
5. Jesus is the human name given to the Son of God. Does it make a difference if the Son of God came to this world not as a baby but as a grown-up and powerful man, such as a political leader? What is the significance of God as a baby given to us?
6. What is the significance of Jesus being born as a truly human baby and experiencing the dependency to grow up and have life struggles in this world? What is the significance that he is truly and fully human—for him and for us?
7. What can we receive from Jesus Christ (v.16-17)? How does it change our lives?



Closing Points

1. The Son of God is *the Word of God*, through whom God the Father created all things. He came from heaven to this world and was born as man. Jesus is his human name. *Christ* is his title, which means *the Promised Savior*. Jesus is the life-giving Word of God. He is the source of all life and all light that enables us to live and see. He is fully and truly God and fully and truly man. He came to reveal God (make God known) to us.
2. He was born as a baby given for us to adore, hug, and love. God is a personal and loving God. Jesus came to this world so we can have a personal and loving relationship with God. When we receive and believe in Jesus, trusting our lives to him, he makes us children of God, spiritually born again in him out of his grace.
3. As fully and truly God, Jesus is infinite. As fully and truly human, Jesus is finite. He experienced everything that we experience in this world. His struggles and sufferings are much more than ours. He understands our life struggles and can sympathize with us. He came with a purpose to save us by sacrificing himself to bear the punishment of all our sins against God. He died on the cross as our substitute. He took our sin punishment and death so we can have a new and eternal life with him. This is called *the Great Exchange*. Jesus took all our sins so we can receive his righteousness by believing and trusting our lives to him (2 Corinthians 5:21). In our union with Jesus, in our personal and loving relationship with him, we are righteous children of God.

Notes

Born of God: refers to our *spiritual birth*. Spiritually speaking, we are being born again and receive a new life with God when we believe and receive Jesus Christ, trusting our lives to him.

Flesh: a fully and truly human being.

Glory: great honor and respect; praise; great beauty or magnificence.

Grace: undeserved favor or blessing given by God with no consideration of our merit (quality of good or worth).

Fullness: the totality or abundance. Jesus is full of grace and truth.

Moses: a great messenger of God, through whom God gave his **law** to the people of Israel.

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For our sake he [God the Father] made him [Jesus Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 2 – Turning Water into Wine

Opening Questions

1. If you have been to several weddings, which one is the most memorable to you? Why?
2. What is your biggest need currently? If God would give you whatever you ask of him today, what would that be?

Introduction

What is a miracle? A miracle is an extremely unusual event that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws. A miracle is a *supernatural* occurrence. The Bible is full of stories of God's miracles. God is a supernatural being. God created the universe and its natural laws, but he himself is beyond or above these natural laws that he has created. Jesus came from heaven to this world with a purpose to save us from our sins and to bring in the Kingdom of God to us. While in this world, his work in growing the Kingdom of God included his teachings and miracles. His miracles show who he is—his identity as the Son of God, his divine power, and his love for us. When Jesus returns, he will complete his work of making the Kingdom of God for us. He will renew this world and unite it with his heaven (heaven on earth), making it a perfect place for God's people to live in—a place without sin and its effects (self-centeredness, pride, brokenness, pain, suffering, troubles, and death).



To think about:

Have you ever thought deeply that God as your Creator cares about your life. He wants us to know him well and be joyful by having a personal and loving relationship with him. God knows that we live in a broken world full of troubles. He knows our needs, but many of us do not know that we need him the most. God is our greatest need. A loving Savior is what we need the most in our lives. Jesus wants us to know that he is *the Savior* we need, who truly understands and loves us. He invites us to know him well and to a personal relationship with him by believing in him and trusting our lives to him.

From the Bible



John 2:1-5

¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Discussion Questions

1. Who were invited to a wedding at Cana (v.1-2)?
2. What problem happened during the wedding (v.3)? How big was the problem do you think according to the culture at that time in Israel?
3. What did Mary tell Jesus (v.3) and what was Jesus' reply to her (v.4)? Did Jesus' statement confuse you?
4. Mary could have thought that it was time for Jesus to show his power publicly. Jesus emphasized that Mary did not have authority over him on this thing. What did Mary say to the servants of the wedding (v.5)?
5. Why do you think Mary could give an order to the servants? The text didn't tell us who were the bride and the groom. Who were they possibly to Mary?



Notes

Divine: relating to God; godlike.

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

Cana: a small town in **Galilee** (northern Israel).

Jesus' hometown is Nazareth, which is very close to Cana.

Wedding & Wine:

In Israel's culture at that time, a wedding was celebrated for several days. It needed to be carefully planned. Running out of wine at a wedding would bring embarrassment to the couple and their families.

Woman: It is not a disrespectful term of address in that day. Jesus tenderly addressed Mary as "woman" again when he was on the cross.

Hour: time – the time that Jesus should reveal himself as the Messiah (the promised Savior) sent by God to save his people from sin and darkness.

John 2:6-11

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Discussion Questions

1. How much water was in that building that was prepared for the rites of purification (v.6)?
2. What did Jesus say to the servants (v.7)? What else did he say to them (v.8)?
3. What did the water become (v.9)? What did the master of the feast (party coordinator) say to the bridegroom (v.10)? What do you think about the quality of the wine?
4. What was the impact of Jesus’ miracle on his disciples (v.11)? What do you think the impact could be on the bride, the groom, and the guests?
5. What does this situation tell us about the neediness of our lives in general? Can you relate to this neediness in some way? Have you ever run out of something important?
6. How does Jesus’ miracle show who he is as well as God’s love and grace for us?



Closing Points

1. Jesus’ miracle of turning water into wine reveals his divine power and identity. He is fully and truly God and fully and truly human.
2. Jesus’ miracle reveals his love for us. Running out of wine would bring embarrassment to the couple and their families. Jesus knew their problem. He cared and wanted to help them. He provided more wine to take away their shame and embarrassment. Similarly, Jesus takes away all our sins against God that bring shame, guilt, and fear to us by sacrificing himself to die for the punishment of all our sins on the cross as our substitute. He loves us. When we believe in him and trust our lives to him, we receive God’s forgiveness and a new life—a personal and loving relationship with God in Jesus.
3. Jesus’ miracle reveals his goodness to us. Jesus not only took the couple’s shame and embarrassment but also gave them a joyful wedding. Just as Jesus gives the best wine to the couple, he gives the best gift to us. The best gift we receive from Jesus is not a material thing but himself. He has sacrificed himself for us. He offers himself to be in our lives and invites us to have a personal and loving relationship with him. When we have Jesus in our lives—when he is the center of our lives—he gives us abundant joy.
4. Jesus’ miracle reveals his sovereignty. God is sovereign and nothing is difficult or impossible for God. Whenever we have difficulties in life, we can pray and ask God for help. He loves us. If we are his children, he takes care of us. He wants us to be joyful in our lives with him. God is a faithful, gracious, and loving God to us. He always hears and answers those who humbly ask for his help. He is also a surprising God. What he gives us is much better than what we ask for or can ever think.

Notes

Rite of purification: a religious ritual of cleansing by water—hands, feet, and vessels or containers.

Sign: miracle, wonder.

Glory: great power, great honor. God’s glory includes his great holiness, majesty, power, honor, wisdom, and love.

Sovereignty (noun), **sovereign** (adjective): supreme power or authority. God’s sovereignty means that he is in control over all things.

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Lesson 3 – Healing an Official’s Son

Opening Questions

1. Have you had a family member who died because of sickness?
2. Are you satisfied with your current doctor or the one you recently visited? Why?

Introduction

Hospitals and graveyards are two places in this world that are never empty. In fact, we need more and better hospitals. We get sick, old, and die. This is natural for us. However, it was not natural when God created Adam and Eve, the first man and woman in this world. God’s original purpose was for Adam, Eve, and their children (humanity) to live with God forever in a loving relationship. Adam and Eve’s bodies could live forever if they did not rebel and sin against God. Their sin (disobedience) against God has destructively impacted their bodies, souls, and the whole world. We are born with a body that is vulnerable to sickness and will eventually get old and die.



To think about:

In the Bible, God shows that he can give us physical healing to our bodies and spiritual healing to our souls. Spiritual healing is God restoring our relationship with him, in which God forgives all our sins against him, treats us as righteous people (justifies us), and adopts us as his children. Which one is more important: asking God for physical healing or spiritual healing?

From the Bible



John 4:46-50

⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” ⁴⁹ The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus went to Cana again where he had turned water into wine at a wedding (v.1). Who do you think might be happy to see Jesus again?
2. What troubling situation did an official (a king’s officer) at Capernaum have (v.46)? Have you experienced a similar situation? Can you relate to his situation?
3. What did he ask of Jesus (v.47)?
How do you think he might have heard about Jesus’ special power or ability?
What is your thought about a king’s officer asking help from a regular citizen?
4. What did Jesus say to him and those who were around them (v.48)?
How does Jesus want people to believe in him—believing after seeing supernatural wonders (miracles) or believing in his words without needing to see miracles? Why?
5. How urgent do you think the official was to ask Jesus to go to his house (v.49)? What do you think about his thoughts and emotions?
6. What was Jesus’ reply to him? How did the official take Jesus’ reply—Jesus did not go with him (v.50)? If you were the official, how would you react to Jesus’ reply?



Notes

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

Justify: to consider to be right.
When God justifies us, he forgives all our sins and accepts us as a righteous person by crediting the righteousness of Jesus to us. We can receive this by faith alone—by believing and trusting our lives to Jesus.

Cana: a small town in **Galilee** (northern Israel).

Capernaum: a small fishing town in northern Israel not far from Cana, about a full day’s journey by walking.

Judea: a region in southern Israel.

Signs and wonders: miracles; supernatural occurrences.

John 4:51-54

⁵¹As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵²So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” ⁵³The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

Discussion Questions

1. What happened on the road as the official went home (v.51)? What do you think his reactions and emotions would be?
2. What did he ask his servants, and what was their answer (v.52)?
3. What did he know about the time (v.53)?
4. What do you think the meaning of *he believed and all his household*? What story would he tell his household [wife, other children, and servants] about Jesus (v.53)?
5. This supernatural healing (miracle) was not seen by people in public but only known to the official’s household. This was a special gift and grace from Jesus for them. What kind of relationship would they have with Jesus since then?
6. Jesus speaks about renewing this world when he returns, making it a new world (heaven on earth) for God’s people to live in, where there is no pain, troubles, sickness, and death. How does this miracle give us a glimpse of what God’s future kingdom or world would look like for us?



Closing Points

1. Jesus’ miracle of healing the official’s son reveals his divine power and identity. Jesus is the Son of God who came from heaven. He is fully and truly God and fully and truly human. He could give physical healing from far away by simply speaking, “Go; your son will live.” His words contain power and are powerful.
2. Jesus’ miracle shows his compassion and grace for those in need. Just as the official asked Jesus for help, we can ask Jesus for help in our prayers. He wants to hear our prayers. More importantly, he wants us to pray to him daily and to develop a personal relationship with him.
3. Jesus’ miracle brings a greater miracle. The official believed in Jesus’ words, “Go; your son will live.” His son was healed at the moment Jesus spoke to him. His faith in Jesus was strengthened by his son’s *physical healing*. His faith in Jesus is shown by his sharing about Jesus to his household. As a result, his household also believed in Jesus. They received *spiritual healing*. They had a new relationship with God in Jesus. This is a much greater miracle. It means that God has forgiven their sins against him and adopted them to be part of his kingdom family. At the moment we believe in Jesus and trust our lives to him, we become God’s children. We have a new life—a personal and loving relationship with Jesus that will never end. It is an eternal life with Jesus.
4. Jesus’ miracle gives us a beautiful glimpse and foretaste of God’s future kingdom or world for us, a perfect place for God’s people to live in—a place without sin and its effects, including self-centeredness, pride, brokenness, pain, suffering, troubles, sickness, and deaths. Jesus’ power will bring healing to all things (our bodies, our souls, and this broken world). He is *the true Healer*.

Notes

The seventh hour: Ancient Jews used the sun as their time. It starts at 6 am our time. The first hour is 7 am. The seventh hour is 1 pm.

Household: the entire family including servants who live in the house.

The second sign: the first sign was turning water into wine.

Grace: an act of mercy, kindness, or blessing from God to us with no consideration of our good quality or worth.

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Lesson 4 – Healing a Hopeless and Disabled Man

Opening Questions

1. Do you have a friend who is disabled? What caused his/her disability?
2. When was the last time you felt hopeless about something? Why were you hopeless?

Introduction

Physical disability brings pain and suffering. It makes the sufferers unable to do certain things. It can bring hopelessness to them. There is another kind of disability which is worse. Spiritual disability makes us unable to have a personal and loving relationship with God. The Bible tells us that each of us was born as a sinner (a spiritually disabled person) with a self-centered heart and with no personal and loving relationship with God. Because God is a loving and merciful God, he wants to heal us spiritually and physically. Jesus came from heaven to this world with a purpose to bear the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute. He sacrificed himself and died on the cross for us. He rose again from the dead, defeated death, and went back to heaven. He offers us forgiveness and spiritual healing if we believe and trust our lives to him.



To think about:

We sometimes feel hopeless in certain situations. We say to ourselves, “There is nothing else that I can do.” Where we put our sources of hope will impact us. We can be peaceful or anxious, confident or stressful, and joyful or fearful. God wants us to know that he is the true source of our hope. He can give peace and joy in our hearts. There is nothing impossible for him. He wants us to know that if we are his people, he loves us and watches over our lives. He says to us, “I am with you. I can change things for you. And even if I don’t change your situation, I am still with you to the end. I will sustain you.”

From the Bible



John 5:1-9

¹After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.

⁵One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” ⁷The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Jesus go, and what did he possibly go there for (v.1)?
2. What was something unique about the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem (v.2-3)?
3. Whom did Jesus see there (v.5-6)? Can you relate to his suffering in some way?
4. How do you think Jesus knew about him, and why do you think Jesus wanted to go and talk to him (v.6)?
5. What was his reply to Jesus (v.7)? How hopeless do you think he was?
6. What did Jesus say to him (v.8)? What happened to him, and what did he do (v.9)? Would this surprise the people around him?



Notes

Jerusalem: the capital city of Israel.

The Sheep Gate: a gate that was used to bring sheep to the temple for sacrifices.

The invalids at the Sheep Gate were waiting, because there was a legend that an angel could come down and stir up the pool’s water and the first person who got into the pool would be cured of whatever disease. Because many invalids gathered there, the colonnades were built to provide shade from the sun.

Sabbath: a holy day to worship God and to rest from work.

John 5:10-18

¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." ¹¹ But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" ¹² They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." ¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.



Discussion Questions

1. What did the Jews say to him (v.10), and how did he respond to them (v.11)? If you were the man who was just healed by Jesus' power and grace and were soon criticized by a group of ignorant religious people, how would you feel?
2. Why were the Jews so concerned about *the man* (Jesus) who said to the disabled man to take up his bed and walk, breaking their Sabbath law, rather than be thankful to Jesus who has just healed the disabled man, showing mercy and God's power (v.12)?
3. Where did Jesus see him again, and what did Jesus say to him (v.14)? What could be a possibility of his past sin (wrongdoing) that made him become disabled?
4. Does Jesus' act of showing mercy and healing this man, then intentionally approaching and giving him advice surprise you? Does this teach us something about God and us?
5. Why did the Jews persecute Jesus (v.15-16)?
6. What did Jesus say to the Jews (v.17)? What do you think it means? How did the Jews respond to Jesus' statement (v.18)?

Closing Points

1. Jesus asked the disabled man, "Do you want to be healed?" The disabled man assumed Jesus talked about physical healing. However, Jesus talked about both physical healing and spiritual healing. Later Jesus told him, "Sin no more." Jesus always wants to spiritually heal us primarily, restoring our broken relationship with God. Jesus wants to physically heal us as well, giving us a new body that cannot get sick and old when he returns to renew this world for his people and to judge those who are not his. He prepares for our future lives by restoring first our broken relationship with God, giving us a new heart that loves him. The same question he asks each of us, "Do you want to be healed?" He does mean both spiritually and physically.
2. Jesus' miracle of healing a disabled man reveals his divine power and identity. Jesus is the Son of God who came from heaven. He is fully and truly God and fully and truly human. He could give physical healing by simply speaking, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." His words contain power and are powerful.
3. The disabled man looked at Jesus and trusted his words. He got up and walked. Jesus took away his sickness and hopelessness. Likewise, when we look at Jesus, believing in him and trusting our lives to him, we will find strength and hope. We will know that he has taken away our hopelessness. "The Lord is my strength ... in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him" (Psalm 28:7).

Notes

The Jews: here refers to an influential group of Jewish religious people.

Sabbath Laws: Sabbath is a holy day to worship God and to rest from work. The Jewish religious leaders made many laws not allowing people to do things on the Sabbath. Sabbath was observed on Saturday. Since Jesus' resurrection, which was on Sunday, Christians have gathered to worship God on Sundays.

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

Sin no more: the reason he was disabled was most likely because of his sin in the past, and Jesus knew this.

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Lesson 5 – Multiplying Food for Over 5,000 People

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever been involved in serving food to a lot of people and you ran out of food?
2. Why do some people have many *followers* on social media? Do you follow anyone?

Introduction

What does it mean to follow someone? On many social media apps, we can follow someone with a simple click. During Jesus' life on earth, many people followed him for different reasons. Some wanted to hear his teaching about the kingdom of God. Some wanted to see his miracles, supernaturally healing sick people. Jesus never used people who followed him to gain power or benefit for himself. He often turned people away and even made many angry at him. What Jesus wants from people who follow him is to believe in him as the Son of God who came from heaven and to trust their lives to him.



To think about:

Jesus says, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:2-4). Since we have a body and a soul, bread or physical food alone is not enough for our lives. We need spiritual food as well as physical food. If without physical food, we will starve and die, similarly, without spiritual food we starve and die spiritually. God alone is the true source of our lives. He gives us both physical food and spiritual food. He gives us bread and other physical food as well as the Bible—his written word—as our spiritual food.

From the Bible



John 6:1-10

¹ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Jesus go, and who followed him? Why do you think they followed him? What did they want (v.1-2, see also Luke 9:11)?
2. Where did Jesus go after he arrived in the area, and who accompanied him (v.3)?
3. What holiday or festival was near (v.4)?
4. Seeing a large crowd following him, what was Jesus concerned about? What did he ask Philip? Why (v.5-6)? What was Philip's answer to Jesus (v.7)?
5. What did Andrew tell Jesus about the food that was available for them (v.8-9)? Do you think Andrew was discouraged or encouraged? Why?
6. What did Jesus say to his disciples? How many people were there (v.10)?



Notes

Sea of Galilee: a sea in northern Israel. It became known as the **Sea of Tiberias** after the city of Tiberias was built on its western shore in honor of Tiberius, the second Roman emperor.

Passover: a Jewish festival celebrating God's rescuing the nation of Israel out of slavery in Egypt.

Denarii (denarius--singular): an ancient Roman silver coin; a fair salary for a full day of work.

Five thousand: in addition to the men, there were also women and children.

Luke 9:11 "... they (the crowd) followed him (Jesus), and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing."

John 6:11-15

¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus do with the bread and the fish? Was the bread and fish enough to feed over 5,000 people (v.11-12)?
2. How much leftover food did the disciples collect (v.13)? Is there a significance that Jesus multiplied and gave food to people more than they needed?
3. What did the people think about Jesus? What did they say to one another (v.14)?
4. What did the crowd want to do? What did Jesus do, knowing what the crowd would do to him (v.15)?
5. Jesus has true power. He multiplied food. Was Jesus’ refusal to be made king an unusual act compared to contemporary political world leaders who want power?
6. Through Jesus’ miracle and godlike character (loving, compassionate, humble, etc.), how do you think those who truly followed him were impacted by this event?
7. Jesus says, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst” (John 6:35). What do you think it means?



Closing Points

1. Jesus’ miracle of multiplying bread for over 5,000 people reveals his divine power and identity. Jesus is the Son of God who came from heaven. He is fully and truly God and fully and truly human. He gave people food more than they needed. God’s grace and love for us is abundant. His mercy and grace are more than our sins against him.
2. The people thought that Jesus was *the promised Prophet* that God would send, and they were right. They thought he would be their political leader and king, and they were wrong. However, Jesus is indeed the true and better Prophet of God that all other prophets point to. He is also the true and better King that all kings in this world should be like. He does not need people to give him power because he has the true power.
3. Jesus says about his purpose for coming, “... the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Jesus came to serve and teach people about God’s kingdom. He came to sacrifice himself for the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute. When we believe in him and trust our lives to him, he makes us citizens of God’s kingdom. He is our only true King.
4. There is a real spiritual hunger and starvation deep inside people’s hearts that many do not realize. Jesus says, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. I am the living bread that came down from heaven” (John 6:35, 51). He is indeed our true spiritual food who came down from heaven. Believing in him and trusting our lives to him restores our spiritual relationship with God, satisfying our spiritual need. In having a personal and loving relationship with Jesus, he meets our needs—physical food and spiritual food. He gives us abundant grace, more than we need. He is our true Savior, Prophet, and King.

Notes

Give thanks: Jesus modeled a prayer to God, giving thanks for what God has given us.

Sign: refers to the miracle Jesus did.

Prophet: a messenger of God.
The Prophet: refers to a great prophet like Moses, whom God used to deliver the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Jesus is the true and better Prophet of God that all other prophets point to. Jesus delivers us from spiritual slavery of sin and darkness.

King: the Jews believed the promised Prophet would be their savior and king who would free them from the Roman’s power.

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 6 – Walking on the Sea & Calming the Storm

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever been in a boat on the ocean? Have you ever rowed a boat?
2. What are some characteristics of a trustworthy person?

Introduction

Life in this broken world can be challenging. Unexpected troubles may suddenly come into our lives. Children depend on their parents to help them face difficult situations. Most adults rely on themselves or on other adults when they need help overcoming challenges. It is frightening when we have no one to call for help. Many Christians who have a close relationship with God experience greater peace in their lives, knowing that God (their heavenly Father) loves them and is always with them. As God’s children, they know and often experience his care in their daily lives. When sudden and difficult situations arise, God is usually the first one they talk and pray to.



To think about:

Jesus told a story about a wise man who built his house on solid rock and a foolish man who built his house on sand. When the storm and flood came, the foolish man’s house was destroyed, but the wise man’s house stood firm. Jesus says, “I am the solid rock foundation. If I am the foundation of your life, you will never fall when storms come into your life, not because you are strong, but because I am strong. I hold your life in my hands.” Jesus invites all of us to have him as the foundation of our lives.

From the Bible



John 6:16-21

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”

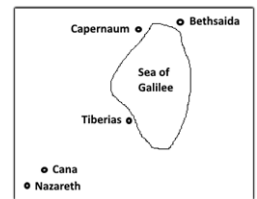
²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Jesus’ disciples go? Was it during the day or night? Was Jesus with them (v.16-17)?
2. Jesus often spent time alone praying to God without being accompanied by his disciples. What happened with the sea? Why (v.18)?
If you were one of the disciples in the boat, how might you feel?
3. How far did the disciples try to row the boat? How long do you think it might take them, given the sea was rough? What or whom did they see, and how did they feel seeing it (v.19, see also Mark 6:49)? What did Jesus say to calm them down (v.20)?
4. What suddenly happened as Jesus stepped into the boat, and how did the disciples feel (v.21, see also Mark 6:51)? How do you think their feelings this time compared to their feelings when facing a rough ocean?
5. Have you ever faced a big “storm” (a very difficult situation) in your life?



Notes



Evening: the evening after Jesus multiplied food to feed over 5,000 people near Bethsaida.

Capernaum: a small fishing town on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel.

Immediately: here most likely it means *soon* and does not mean that there is no gap of time.

Mark 6:49-51

⁴⁹ but when they saw him [Jesus] walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded.

John 6:22-29

²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

Discussion Questions

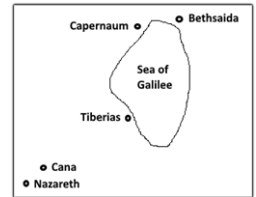
1. Why did the crowd not see Jesus the next day? Where was Jesus the night before (v.22, 16-17)?
2. Where did the crowd go to find Jesus (v.23-24)? What do you think was the reason they were looking for Jesus?
3. Do you think they were surprised to see Jesus there? What did they ask him (v.25)?
4. Did Jesus give them the answer to their question? What did Jesus say to them (v.26-27)? Why do you think he said that?
5. What question did they ask Jesus (v.28)? What was Jesus’ answer to them (v.29)?
6. What do you think about Jesus’ answer that the *works* they need to *do* for God are not to do a lot of religious works but simply to *believe* in him (Jesus)? Why do people like to work and gain self-achievement in general?



Closing Points

1. Jesus’ miracle of walking on the sea and calming the storm reveals his divine power and identity. He is the Creator of the universe and has control over nature. He is the Son of God who came from heaven. He is fully and truly God and fully and truly human.
2. Once Jesus came into the boat, his disciples found that their trouble had passed. There was no more storm. They had joy and peace. Similarly, once Jesus comes into our “boats” (lives), he will give us joy and peace. He will help us to overcome our troubles. He does not promise to take away all troubles from our lives, but he promises to be with us—in the boat together—to face our troubles.
3. Jesus teaches us that the biggest storm that each of us can potentially experience is the wrath and judgment of God against our sins. Jesus came from heaven to this world with the purpose to sacrifice himself and to die bearing the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute. When we believe in him, God forgives all our sins and credits Jesus’ righteousness to us. God treats us as righteous people and even adopts us as his children. John 1:12 tells us, “But to all who did receive him [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
4. Jesus told the crowd to simply believe in him. Is Jesus trustworthy? Many man-made religions teach things that people need to do and accomplish, so they can *earn* their way to their gods. The only thing that Jesus wants from us is to believe that he is our Savior who came from heaven and who has sacrificed himself and died for us because he loves us. Then, out of love for him as children of God, and not for gaining anything, we serve and love others to bring honor and glory to God.

Notes



The crowd: people who received food from Jesus near Bethsaida the day before.

Tiberias: a city on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The city was built in honor of Tiberius, the second Roman emperor.

Capernaum: a small fishing town on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel.

Rabbi: a Jewish teacher or scholar.

Sign: miracle, wonder.

Eternal life: a forever life with God in his heavenly kingdom.

The Son of Man: Jesus’ favorite title to emphasize his humanity and heavenly kingship.

Seal: a stamp used as evidence of authenticity.

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 7 – Healing a Man Born Blind

Opening Questions

1. Do you personally know someone who was born with a disease?
2. Have you ever tried to help someone understand something, and it was difficult? What are the causes of our ignorance?

Introduction

It is heart-breaking to see people who were born with a disease. Life is full of struggles for them. God does not like our world that is full of diseases. In his life on earth, Jesus met many people who had diseases and healed many of them. He had compassion for them. He is planning to renew this world from the impacts of our sins, including diseases, when he returns. He will renew this world and make it a new home for all his people—heaven on earth—where there is no sin, diseases, and death but only a joyful and everlasting life.



To think about:

What is spiritual blindness? While some people were born physically blind, according to the Bible, all people were born spiritually blind, unable to see *the truth of God*. Unless God heals our *spiritual eyes*, helping us to truly understand him, desire to have a personal relationship with him, regret our self-centered lifestyle, and trust our lives to him, we remain spiritually blind.

From the Bible



John 9:1-17 (selected)

¹ As he [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² ... his disciples asked ... “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ ... he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool ...” So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸ ... those who had seen him before ... were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ... ¹¹ ... “Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go ... and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ... ¹³ They brought [him] to the Pharisees ... ¹⁴ ... it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees ... asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

Discussion Questions

1. Whom did Jesus see as he passed by? What did his disciples ask him (v.1-2)?
2. What was Jesus’ answer to them (v.3-5)? What do you think he means?
3. How did Jesus heal the man born blind (v.6-7)? On what day did Jesus heal him (v.14)?
4. What did some of the Pharisees think of Jesus healing the man on Sabbath, and what did other Pharisees think about this (v.15-16)?
5. What did the blind man think of who Jesus is (v.17)?



Notes

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

Sinner: someone who sins against God; a law breaker.

Rabbi: a Jewish teacher.

Pharisees: religious leaders of the Jewish community.

Sabbath: a holy day to worship God and to rest from work. Sabbath was observed on Saturday. Since Jesus’ resurrection, which was on Sunday, Christians have gathered to worship God on Sundays.

The Jewish religious leaders made many **Sabbath laws and regulations** that forbid people to do certain things on Sabbath day. Jesus often broke their Sabbath laws and was labeled as a sinner (a law breaker) by them. This caused many confrontations between Jesus and them.

John 9:24-41 (selected)

²⁴ ... they ... said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ... ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses." ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

Discussion Questions

1. How did the blind man reason with the Pharisees about who Jesus is (v.24-33)?
2. How did the Pharisees condemn him, and what did they do to him (v.34)?
3. Jesus proactively went to find him (v.35). How was this important to him personally?
4. What did Jesus ask him (v.35)? Did he believe in Jesus? Did he believe that Jesus is more than a prophet? What did he do immediately to show his belief (v.36-38)?
5. How does this show that Jesus has also healed his spiritual blindness, enabling him to understand who Jesus is and restoring his personal relationship with God?
6. What did Jesus say to him (v.39)? What did some of the Pharisees hearing this say to Jesus (v.40)? What was Jesus' reply to them (v.41)? What do you think he means?
7. How spiritually blind do you think some the Pharisees are? In what ways are we sometimes like them, unable to understand certain realities or truths?



Closing Points

1. Jesus' miracle of healing a man born blind reveals his divine power and identity. He is fully and truly God and fully and truly human. As *the Son of God*, who came from heaven, Jesus has power over diseases and death. He is worthy of our worship. As *the Son of Man*, Jesus sacrificed himself, bearing the punishment of all our sins against God, and died on the cross as our substitute. On earth, he lived and died for us.
2. Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world." He asked the blind man, "Do you believe in me?" The man believed and worshiped Jesus. Jesus asks the same question to us. He came to bring light and healing to those living in spiritual darkness and are unable to see the truth of God. He heals us from our spiritual blindness and rescues us from the darkness of our sin and this world. He restores our relationship with God. Jesus wants us to see and receive his divine light. He wants us to believe in him.
3. The physically blind man became a physically and spiritually seeing man. The physically seeing men (the Pharisees) were spiritually blind to the truth of God and refused to believe in Jesus. The blind man became a follower of Jesus and began to speak and act like Jesus, giving glory and honor to God and seeing the hypocrisy and blindness of the Pharisees. He also began to be treated like Jesus, rejected by the Pharisees. Followers of Jesus should speak and act like Jesus and expect to be rejected.

Notes

Glory: honor.
To "give glory or honor to God" here means to tell the truth.

The truth is the blind man was giving glory to God, but the Pharisees could not see that because of their spiritual blindness.

Moses: A great prophet of God, who led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. God gave his laws to the people of Israel through Moses. Moses gave and taught the law of God to them.

The Son of Man: Jesus' favorite *messianic* title to emphasize his humanity and heavenly kingship. Jesus is *the Messiah* (the Promised Savior), whom God has promised to send to save his people from sin and evil.

Lord: a person who has authority; a master.
Jesus is *the Lord* because he is the only true Master.

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 8 – Giving Life to a Dead Man

Opening Questions

1. When was the last time you were sick?
2. If God would grant your request to bring one person back to life from the dead, who would you choose? Why?

Introduction

Many people who are sick and dying are concerned about many things, including leaving family and friends behind and wondering what life after death would be like. The Bible tells us that for God's people, when they die, their souls immediately go to heaven to be with God and to be purified from sin. When Jesus returns, he will give a new heavenly body to their souls and bring them to a renewed heavenly world to live with him for eternity.



To think about:

What is death? Why is there death? Where does death come from? The Bible tells us that our sins and rebellions against God bring death to us. Thankfully, God has a plan to remove sin and death from *our* lives without removing us from *his* life. That is why Jesus came to this world to save us.

From the Bible



John 11:1-22 (selected)

¹ Now a certain man [Lazarus] was ill ... [his sisters were] Mary and ... Martha. ² ... ³ So the sisters sent to him [Jesus], saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ ... he said ... "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said ... "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ ... they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ ... ¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ ... ¹⁹ and many ... had come to Martha and Mary to console them ... ²⁰ ... when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him ... ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

Discussion Questions

1. Who was ill, and whom did his sisters ask to come (v.1-3)?
2. What did Jesus say to his disciples about Lazarus' illness (v.4)? Did Jesus go to see Lazarus immediately (v.5-6)?
3. What did Jesus' disciples think about him wanting to go to see Lazarus in Judea (v.7-8)? What did Jesus say to them (v.9-10)? What do you think he means?
4. How did the disciples misunderstand what Jesus said about Lazarus (v.11-15)?
5. How many days had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived? How was the situation at the home of Martha and Mary (v.17-19)? What did Martha say to Jesus (v.20-22)?



Notes

Lord: a person who has authority; a master or a ruler. Jesus is called *the Lord* in the Bible because he has the highest authority in heaven and on earth, including over our lives.

The Son of God: Jesus' title to emphasize his divinity. He is fully and truly God.

Judea: a region in southern Israel.

Rabbi: a Jewish teacher or scholar.

The Jews: here refers to an influential group of Jewish religious people.

John 11:23-44 (selected)

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said ..., "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ²⁸ ... she went and called her sister Mary ... ²⁹ ... ³⁰ ... ³¹ ... ³² ... when Mary came to where Jesus was ... she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha ... said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus say to Martha (v.23)? Did she believe it, or did she understand it differently (v.24)?
2. What did Jesus say to Martha (v.25-26)? Was what Jesus said clear for Martha? What was Jesus' point? What was Martha's reply to him (v.27)?
3. What was Jesus' reaction seeing Mary and others with her weeping (v.32-38)? What did some of the Jews talk about among themselves (v.36-37)?
4. Where was Lazarus's body (v.38)? What did Jesus ask some people to do, and what was Martha's response to this (v.39)?
5. What was Jesus' reply to Martha (v.40)? What did they do (v.41)?
6. Was Jesus' prayer to God the Father important for what he was about to do (v.41-42)?
7. What miracle did Jesus do before the people, and how did he do it (v.43-44)?



Closing Points

1. Jesus' miracle of giving Lazarus another life and bringing him back from death reveals his divine power and identity. He is the Son of God and the Christ (the promised Savior) who came from heaven to save us from sin, evil, and death.
2. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." Jesus says that everyone is dead spiritually speaking. We are separated from God because of our sins and rebelliousness against him. Jesus sacrificed himself for the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute and took our death on the cross. When we believe in him and trust our lives to him, he gives us a new life. He restores our relationship with God through him. We "shall never die" or be separated from God again. Jesus gives us a new and joyful life, a personal and loving relationship with him.
3. When Jesus returns, he will give our souls a new heavenly body without the corruption of sin. He will also renew and clean this world from the corruption of sin and evil and will make it a perfect place for his holy people to live in with him for eternity.

Notes

The last day: refers to the end of the world; the day Jesus will return to judge the world, to renew this world, and to give a new heavenly body to all his people to live in a renewed world—heaven on earth.

The Christ: Jesus' title which means the promised Savior.

The Son of God: Jesus' title to emphasize his divinity. He is fully and truly God.

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 9 – Saving Us by Sacrificing Himself

Opening Questions

1. Do you think it's true that *true love requires sacrifice*? Why?
2. What is one sacrifice you have made for another person?

Introduction

God is a loving and just God. As a just God, he must punish our sins against him. All our sins are personal rebellions against him. As a loving God, he loves us and wants to save us from the punishment of our sins. That is why the Son of God came from heaven to this world and was born fully and truly as a man. He came with a purpose to bear the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute. He took our death, so he can save and give us a new life—sharing an eternal life together with him—when we trust our lives to him.



To think about:

It can take a long time for us to truly understand that Jesus really sacrificed himself and took our sin punishment against God as our substitute on the cross to save us. On the cross, as he took our sins, he was treated as a great sinner and took on the righteous judgment of God, so we can receive God's forgiveness and be made right with him (Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 5:21). If there is a Creator God who has created us, having a right relationship with him is fundamentally the most important matter in our lives.

From the Bible



John 12:44-48 ⁴⁴ [speaking to a crowd, Jesus said] "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day."

John 14: 1-3, 6 ¹ [speaking to his disciples, Jesus said] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁶ ... I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

[The Jewish community religious leaders arrested Jesus and brought him to Pilate—the Roman Governor overseeing the Jewish land, a colonial territory of the Roman Empire.]

John 19:1-3 ¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands."

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus say about believing and seeing him (12:44-45)?
2. What does Jesus say about his purpose of coming to this world, and what would be the result of (a) believing in him and (b) not believing in him (v.46-47)?
3. What does Jesus say about the last day (v.48)?
4. Why should followers of Jesus not be troubled in this broken world (14:1-3, 6)?
5. What did the Roman Governor Pilate and his soldiers do to Jesus (19:1-3)?



Notes

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For our sake he [God the Father] made him [Jesus Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Darkness: spiritual darkness; separated from God.

The last day: the day Jesus will return to this world as a Judge to judge all people—the end of the world.

Purple robe: a royal robe; a symbol of royalty. The soldiers used it to mock Jesus.

John 19:7, 15-22, 28-30

⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ... ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



Discussion Questions

1. What did the Jews not like about Jesus' claim (v.7)?
What did they want Pilate to do to Jesus? What did Pilate decide to do (v.15-16)?
2. What did the soldiers force Jesus to bear, and where did they lead him to (v.17)?
What did they do to Jesus there (v.18)?
3. What did Pilate put on Jesus' cross, and why was it written in three languages (v.19-20)? How did the chief priest of the Jews react to this, and what did Pilate say to them (v.21-22)?
4. What happened to Jesus on the cross (v.28-29)?
5. What were the last words that Jesus said on the cross before he died (v.30)?
What significance does his words have?

Closing Points

1. There is a beautiful miracle, *a spiritual exchange*, that happens when we confess our sins, believe in Jesus, and trust our lives to him. God forgives all our sins—past, present, and future—and treats us as a holy and righteous person in our spiritual union with Jesus. He credits us the holiness and righteousness of Jesus because he has taken our sin punishment for us. On the cross, God the Father treated Jesus as if he was us, a great sinner, as he sacrificed himself to be the substitute for all his people.
2. Our sins and rebellions against God are many, but his mercy for us is more. Jesus Christ is a great Savior who brings a great salvation to great sinners like us. His great *substitutionary sacrifice* proves his great love for us.
3. God's love for us is true. Jesus has proved it by sacrificing himself and dying in our place. It is true that it can take a long time for us to understand this great truth of God. In fact, unless God helps us, we cannot understand this and will remain in spiritual darkness, as Jesus has said, "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." When God brings the light of Jesus into our hearts and minds, helping us to understand his great love for us, we can do nothing else but, with a heart melted by his true love, love him back and trust our lives to him. Then, a great miracle happens in us—we are forgiven and saved by his grace.

Notes

The Jews: here refers to a group of Jewish people led by their community religious leaders.

The Son of God: Jesus' title to emphasize his divinity. He is fully and truly God.

Caesar: the title of a Roman emperor.

Inscription: words written on a hard surface.
The inscription was written in three languages so that anyone who passed by could read it. It was a mocking statement because, as the king of the Jews, Jesus was hanged on the cross without clothes.

The Scripture: here means the foretelling of what is to come written in Psalm 69:21.

Grace: an act of mercy, kindness, or blessing from God to us with no consideration of our good quality.

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 10 – Defeating Death for Us by His Resurrection

Opening Questions

1. Which one is correct: (a) seeing is believing, or (b) believing is seeing?
2. How do you feel when you go to a graveyard?

Introduction

The sacrifice and death of Jesus Christ on the cross, bearing the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute, is a great miracle that brings forgiveness of our sins and restoration of our relationship with God. We can receive this grace of God by having faith in Jesus, believing in what he has done for us on the cross and trusting our lives to him. Another great miracle of Jesus is his resurrection. He rose from the dead, defeating death for all his people. Death has no power over them. Jesus will raise all his people up and give them a new heavenly body without sin or corruption when he returns to this world.



To think about:

Facing death can be scary for many people. Some of the main reasons are: (a) having no hope for life after death, (b) being afraid to face God, or (c) simply fearing the unknown after death. However, for those who truly have a personal and close relationship with God, none of those reasons apply to them. For them, death is the beginning of a holy and joyful life with God without any effects of sin and evil. It is a life where they will experience pure and perfect love, joy, and peace forever. Jesus offers us this life with him.

From the Bible



John 19:31-42

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath ... the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” ³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also ... ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and ... a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So ... they laid Jesus there.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the Jews ask Pilate to do to Jesus and the two other people who were crucified on the cross (v.31)? What did the soldiers do to Jesus (v.32-34)?
2. Why did John, the writer of this book who saw it happen, tell us about this (v.35)?
3. Has the way Jesus died been foretold in the Old Testament scriptures (v.36-37)?
4. Who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus so they could bury him (v.38-39)?
5. What did they do with the body of Jesus, and where did they bury him (v.40-42)?



Notes

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

Grace: an act of mercy or kindness from God to us with no consideration of our good quality.

The day of

Preparation:

Friday, the day before the **Sabbath**—a holy day to worship God and to rest from work. Sabbath was observed on Saturday. Since Jesus’ resurrection, which was on Sunday, Christians have gathered to worship God on Sundays.

The Scripture, another Scripture: here means the Word of God written in Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, and Zechariah 12:10.

Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus: Jewish religious leaders who became disciples (followers) of Jesus.

Pilate: the Roman Governor overseeing the Jewish land.

John 20:1-10, 19-29 (selected)

¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple ... ³ ... ⁴ ... ⁵ ... ⁶ ... Simon Peter ... went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple ... also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ ... yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹⁹ On the evening of that day ... the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² ... ²³ ... ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve ... was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Discussion Questions

1. Who went to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning? What did she see there (v.1)?
2. What did Simon Peter and another disciple (John, the writer of this book) see at Jesus' tomb (v.6-8)? What do you think their feelings and reactions might be (v.9-10)?
3. What happened on the evening of that day, and how did the disciples feel (v.19-20)?
4. What does Jesus send his disciples (including us) to do (v.21, Matthew 28:18-20)?
5. How could Thomas be convinced that Jesus had risen from the dead (v.24-25)?
6. How was he finally convinced (v.26-27)? What did he say to Jesus (v.28)?
7. What did Jesus say to Thomas (v.29)? What is the implication for us now?

Closing Points

1. Jesus has said before, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). Because he is fully and truly God, he has the power to rise from the dead. When we die, our souls immediately go to heaven to be with Jesus and to be purified from sin. Jesus has promised that his people will receive the same resurrection and the same heavenly body when he returns. Through his resurrection, death has been defeated for all his people. This is a great miracle for those who believe in Jesus and trust their lives to him.
2. Jesus has said to all his people, "I am sending you. Go and make disciples of all nations." Jesus wants all his follower to be disciple-makers (disciples who can make others to be disciples of Jesus). He wants us to be his lights in this world, bringing the good news (the gospel) that people can have hope and a new life in him. He wants us to be his witnesses, telling others about our life stories with him. He wants us to serve others out of love for him and teach his Word (the Bible) to them. As we do this for his glory, we will experience a joyful life—experiencing more and more of his love for us.



Notes

The Scripture: here means the Word of God written in Psalm 16:10, John 2:19, etc. about how Jesus would rise from the dead.

The Jews: here refers to a group of Jewish people led by their community religious leaders.

Lord: a person who has authority; a master. Christians call Jesus as **the Lord**, because he is the only Master of their lives; the only Lord they follow.

Twelve: the special disciples of Jesus.

Matthew 28:18-20
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 11 – Bringing Joy and Many Fish to Fishermen

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever gone fishing? If yes, what kind of fish did you catch?
2. Have you ever worked extremely hard on something and got little to no success on it, or have you ever been in a situation with very little or no hope?

Introduction

Jesus came from heaven and was born as a man in this world with the purpose to save us. In this world, he lived a righteous life that was pleasing to God. Unlike him, we live a life that is sinful and rebellious to God. We were supposed to be punished by God for the consequences of our sins and rebellions against him, but Jesus took that punishment as our substitute. After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, he rose again from the dead, defeating death for us. Death has no power over those who belong to Jesus. Before he went back to heaven, he appeared to his disciples. He assured them—and all his people—that he will always be with us in this world. A famous song about Jesus goes like this, “Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone. Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because he lives.”



To think about:

Joy and happiness are different. Happiness depends on good circumstances. Joy depends on a personal and close relationship with God. When we have a good relationship with God, we can be joyful even though we have difficult situations in this world because we know that he is in control over all things, including our lives. He holds our future. Life with Jesus is full of joy and hope.

From the Bible



John 21:1-8

¹ After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Jesus reveal himself again to his disciples (v.1)?
2. What did Simon Peter and other disciples of Jesus try to do because they did not have a clear direction about what they should do with their lives (v.2-3)?
3. How many fish did Jesus’ disciples catch in the night (v.3)? How do you think they might feel about this?
4. Did Jesus’ disciples recognize him when he showed up on the shore (v.4)?
5. What did Jesus suggest they do, and what was the result of it (v.5-6)?
6. What did John tell Peter, and what did Peter do then (v.7)?



Notes

Righteous:

blameless or morally right with God.

Sea of Tiberias:

formerly known as the Sea of Galilee and became known as the Sea of Tiberias after the city of Tiberias was built on the western shore of the sea in honor of Tiberius, the second Roman emperor.

Cana: a small town in **Galilee** (northern Israel).

Disciple whom Jesus loved: John, the writer of this book.

Lord: a person who has authority; a master or a ruler.

Jesus is called **The Lord** in the Bible because he has the highest authority in heaven and on earth, including over our lives.

John 21:9-14

⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. ⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the disciples see when they got out on land (v.8-9)?
2. What did Jesus ask of them (v.10)?
3. How many fish did they catch? Why is the detail of the number of fish reported very important? Are they small or large fish? Was the net strong enough (v.11)? What do you think are some of the significances of this miracle?
4. What did Jesus do for his disciples (v.12-13)? Why is this important?
5. How many times had Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection (v.14)? If you were among the disciples who saw and spent time with Jesus in a different kind of resurrected body, how would you feel?



Closing Points

1. Jesus' miracle of bringing many fish to his disciples proves that he is fully and truly God who is in control over the universe and nature.
2. The disciples were tired and hungry after fishing all night and catching nothing. Jesus appeared to them to strengthen their faith in him. On the beach, he prepared a warm fire and breakfast for them. He comforted them in their confusion and uncertainty of their lives and what they must do. He assured them that he was in control and had a plan for their lives. Similarly, Jesus assures us that he is in control over our lives and wants us to trust in him. He has a great plan for our lives and wants us to work together with him in building his kingdom in this world, bringing many others to him.
3. The resurrection of Jesus has brought a new beginning for his people. As fully and truly man, he has sacrificed himself and died for us on the cross, bearing the punishment of all our sins as our substitute. He has saved us from the judgment of God against all our sins. As fully and truly God, he rose up from death. Therefore, he has conquered death for us. He will raise us up from death. Death has no power over us. We can receive all these blessings by believing in him and trusting our lives to him.
4. Jesus is now in heaven, preparing a place for us in his kingdom. He has said, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:1-3). Jesus will return, renew this world, and unite heaven and earth, making it a perfect place and a new home for all his people to live with him forever.
5. The resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our future hope. He has promised to give us a new resurrected and heavenly body like his when he returns to this world. It is true that because he lives, all our fear is gone, and our lives are full of joy and hope.

Notes

Resurrected body: a new kind of body that is not born but created by God without sin corruption and is eternal. It is also called a heavenly body; a body that is fit to live with God in heaven for eternity. It is a holy, beautiful, powerful, and eternal body. Jesus' resurrected body is the first kind and the model of our future body. Read more about this in 1 Corinthians 15.

The Great Miracles of Jesus

Lesson 12 – Changing Many Lives Until He Returns

Opening Questions

1. Why do we want to be truly loved by someone? What does being truly loved give us?
2. What is one of your life stories that you like to share with others?

Introduction

We all want a happy life. We all want to be loved sincerely. Deep inside our hearts, we want someone who truly loves and understands us just the way we are. When we have someone who truly loves and understands us, we are very happy being with that person. In return, we will love that person too. We are even willing to sacrifice our time, energy, and resources for that person. We all want true love and happiness.



To think about:

We cannot find perfect love in this world because no one is perfect. God, however, is perfect and his love for us is perfect. Jesus has shown his perfect love for us by sacrificing himself to die on the cross for us. He perfectly understands us and accepts us just as we are. We do not need to earn his love. He loves us without any conditions. Once his disciples understand his love for them, they love him back and are willing to sacrifice their time, energy, resources, and even lives for him. Ask Jesus if he truly loves you, and you will discover a beautiful truth. Your lives will be changed.

From the Bible



John 20:30-31

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

Discussion Questions

1. There were many signs (miracles) that Jesus did in his life in this world, including healing a disabled man and a man born blind, multiplying food for over 5,000 people, calming the storm, and giving life to a dead man. What was John’s purpose telling us about Jesus’ miracles in his book (20:30-31)?
2. Jesus revealed himself and prepared a warm fire and breakfast on the beach for his disciples. After breakfast, what question did Jesus ask Simon Peter, what was his answer, and what did Jesus ask him to do (21:15)?
3. What question did Jesus ask him for the second and third time, what were his answers, and what did Jesus ask him to do (v.16-17)? What differences do you notice?
4. How do you think Jesus’ questions and command to Peter impact (a) Peter’s personal life and (b) the life of many followers of Jesus now?



Notes

Sign: miracle, supernatural occurrence.

The Christ: Jesus’ title which means the promised Savior.

The Son of God: Jesus’ spiritual title to emphasize his divinity. He is fully and truly God.

Life: here means an eternal life with Jesus; a perfect loving relationship with God for eternity.

My lambs: refer to new followers of Jesus who are still *babies* spiritually.

My sheep: refer to followers of Jesus who are growing spiritually and becoming more mature and Christ-like in their thoughts, words, and actions. Jesus asked Simon Peter—and all church leaders as *shepherds* of his followers—to feed his people with God’s Word (the Bible) and to take care of them.

John 21:18-25

¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

²⁰ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?”

²² Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” ²³ So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?” ²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus told Simon Peter that he would die as a martyr as he served Jesus and his people. Tradition indicated that Peter was crucified. Other disciples also died as martyrs. Why do you think Peter would want to sacrifice himself and die for Jesus and his people as he taught people about Jesus and served his people (v.18-19)?
2. What was Peter’s question to Jesus about “the disciple whom Jesus loved” [John, the writer of this book], and what was Jesus’ reply to him (v.20-22)?
3. What kind of speculation about John was shared among the disciples, and how did John clarify for his readers [us] (v.23)?
4. How does John try to convince his readers that what he wrote about Jesus is true, and what did he say if everything that Jesus did was to be written (v.24-25)?
5. How have Jesus’ last words in Matthew 28:16-20 to his disciples before he went back to heaven changed many of his followers throughout history?
6. How many people do you think have been changed by Jesus by reading the story about him in this book of John and other books of the Bible?



Closing Points

1. The lives of Jesus’ disciples were completely changed. Jesus’ sacrifice for them and his resurrection brought much joy and courage to their lives. They were no longer afraid because their love for Jesus and joy had taken away their fear. They lived their lives for Jesus. They told others about Jesus. Within a couple of months, over 3,000 more people became followers of Jesus (Acts 2). Their lives were changed by Jesus.
2. Jesus wants us to tell others (people in all nations) about him so that they too can know and believe in him, experience his love for them, and be changed. Jesus still does miracles. He is still changing many people’s lives now and will continue to do so until he returns to gather all his people from all nations with him.
3. Jesus has also said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand” (John 10:27-28). The message of Jesus Christ is good news for all people. It is a message about his love for us. It is a life-changing message because he empowers the message and the messengers (his people) and changes the hearers’ hearts.
4. When we hear his voice in our hearts asking us to trust our lives to him and say yes to him, he will change our lives from within and give us a new and joyful life with him.

Notes

Baptize: to give a sign of one’s internal repentance and faith in God; to receive the sign as a follower of Jesus by water.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Resources

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