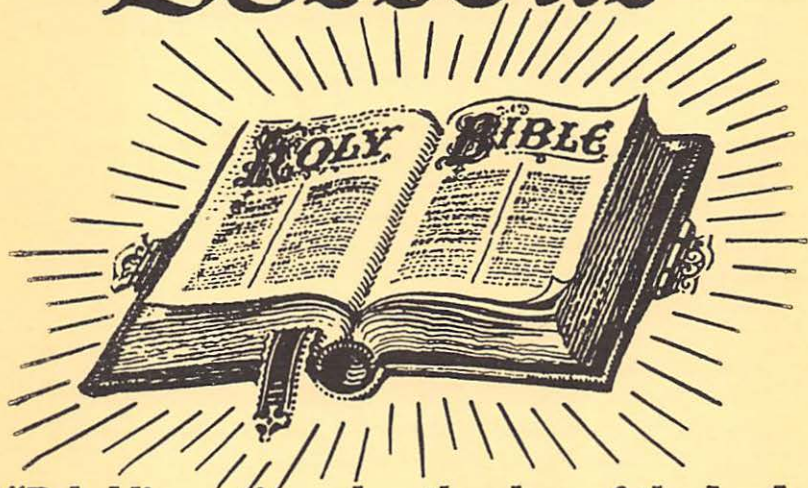


753

Bible Lessons



**"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
we are CHANGED" II Cor. 3:18**

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

Vol. 14, No. 2
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Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

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Volume 14

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No. 2

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**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of
Jesus Christ and His Church**
Edited by Leslie C. Busbee, and other co-workers

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Theme for Second Quarter, 1982

Jesus Christ is the Savior of Mankind from the power of sin and death. He is the eternal King of Glory. He is the great Shepherd of the souls of men. In filling these great roles as the Son of God, He also is our example for life and the pattern to which we are to conform our lives. To be like Jesus is the highest aspiration one can have. We are greatly inspired in this series of Bible lessons to study the attributes and characteristics of Jesus Christ. To grow up unto Him in all things and to come unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ should be the goal and desire of every child of God. It is our desire and prayer to God that these lessons concerning our being like Jesus will inspire and motivate us all to this high standard.

—Leslie C. Busbee

—————o—————
April 4, 1982

JESUS CHRIST, STEADFAST AND TRIUMPHANT OVER TEMPTATION

Matt. 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Heb. 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Memory Verse: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:15.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ overcame and defeated Satan in the very strategic points by which Satan had overthrown Adam and Eve in the beginning. Jesus triumphed over the devil so that we who believe in Him might have power to do the same.

Word Definitions: *Pinnacle:* Wingleet or topcorner. *Succor:* aid or relieve.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus Christ had just been introduced to mankind as the Son of God. God had borne witness of Him by sending the Holy Spirit like a dove upon His Son and speaking those divine words: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." But instead of going forth in His ministry right away, Jesus was led of the Spirit to leave the throng of expectant, wondering people and strike out across the barren wastes of wilderness land, away from people where He was to be allowed to suffer temptation from the devil. It was on the edge of the wilderness, the border of society, that Jesus had been baptized of John who was the voice of one crying in the wilderness. The wilderness was a place uninhabited by man, solitary, a desert. There away from every human support, Jesus was to meet Satan, the ancient foe who had shackled the human race. The world was under his dreadful sway. Jesus would go forth and set the captives free. He would liberate the souls of men from their woeful bondage of sin. But to do so, He must engage the enemy and overcome the one who ruled the world. He will be given an opportunity to yield to Satan's influence or follow his counsel.

Thank the Father for His support and help. Jesus did not follow the allurements of Satan. The lust of the flesh provided no entrance into His life. The suggestion to turn stones into loaves of bread came from the wrong source. His trust was in God, and He claimed sustenance in His word. He would not tempt the Lord God by jumping off the pinnacle or doing anything else that would deliberately require of God the supernatural. The power and wealth of the kingdoms of this world did not phase Him. He knew what God had promised. God can help us when we are tempted along these lines, too. But we will have to be determined like Jesus was. Let us set our face like a flint, and determine that whatever comes or goes, we will hold fast His hand of love.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why must Jesus overcome the devil in temptation?
2. On what three points was Jesus tempted?
3. How does the temptation of Jesus correspond with the temptation of Eve?
4. Is it possible for us today to overcome temptation?
5. How can we overcome temptation?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The flesh had subdued the spiritual. This is pretty well the summed up condition of man under sin. God and His law is spiritual, but mankind through the fall became carnal, sold under sin. Romans 7:14. Through the powers and allurements of temptation man allowed the natural elements to intrude into the sacred realm of the soul, thus staining and defiling the heart of man in the sight of God. Corruption and perversion were the results. The human invaded the divine. Man lost his hold and contact with God. To correct this condition as the Savior of the world, Jesus must meet Satan again on this plane of temptation and overcome him. It is a striking relationship revealed between Eve's temptation, Jesus' temptation, and the three things that John stated as being in the world contrary to the Father. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:16. Eve was tempted on these three points. She saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and that it was a tree to be desired to make one wise (pride of life). In yielding to Satan on these three points she subjected all creation to their domination. Jesus met Satan on

these same three points. He was tempted to use His power to miraculously produce food to appease his flesh (lust of the flesh). He was tempted to display His divinity through artificial means by deliberate endangering of Himself. This is a close proximity between the lust of the eye and the pride of life. So was the third temptation. Satan showed him all the kingdoms of this world with their glory, greatness, and riches. In all of these temptations Jesus was asked something to do. "You do this, and you will get this." This is the philosophy of temptation. It is all superficial allurements. The casting of the stones into bread would not have brought the satisfaction desired; the jump from the pinnacle would have been fallacy, and the dominion of this present world would not have really been all that stupendous. Such is temptation. Jesus overcame it all with "It is written." He clung to the counsel of His Father. So can everyone who serves this Christ who has wrought the great victory over the devil and temptation. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Near the close of His life on earth Christ left this advice with Peter: "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." Christ understood by experience the importance of being prayed up and spiritually awake. In our lesson of Christ's temptation, the key to His victory was that of being prepared for it. The devil approached Him at a time when His body was in a weakened state and susceptible to temptation, but we find that His spirit had been nourished and strengthened by forty days of fasting and prayer.

All temptations brought about by Satan, work through the avenue of the flesh. For this reason one should never place his body in a situation where the spirit will be unable to exercise control. The advice of one mother to her son as he left on a journey was, "Son, never do anything to place your body where your soul would not be the master."

We note several instances in the life of Lot wherein he occupied a position that was unwise. The most notable was when he pitched his tent toward Sodom. Soon we discover him inside the city. Lot was spared when judgment fell, but we find he suffered a great loss.

If we follow the example of Christ's diligence in prayer, and possess a knowledge of the Word of God, we also can share in the glories of heaven throughout eternity. The apostle James perceived this and wrote, "Blessed is the man that endureth

temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”
—Wayne Murphey

April 11, 1982

THE COMPASSIONATE SAVIOUR

Matt. 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matt. 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

18 He said, Bring them hither to me.

19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

Memory Verse: It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. Lam. 3:22.

Central Thought: Although Jesus was the Holy Son of God, He carried in His soul deep, tender, compassionate feelings for mankind. He was very considerate of their state, and reached out His heart to help them. We who follow Him ought to carry the same tender sense of compassion that He had, if we hope to be counted worthy of Him.

Word Definitions: *Compassion:* Bowels of mercies, tender yearnings from the depths of the heart; pity.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Behold the beautiful scene that our lesson today portrays to us! What is it that you see? Here a compassionate, loving, kind, and tender-hearted Savior is among the sons of men. He is moved with compassion at the sight of their troubles and needs. Is not mankind the same pitiful sight today? Jesus was MOVED with compassion. His heart was touched, yes, perhaps even to tears. He saw their frustrations, their weaknesses, their faintings. He saw them as eternity bound souls to stand before a just God some day. He saw their darkness, ignorance, and error. He saw them groping for the light like a blind man. He saw their wretchedness, their degradation, and woe. He wanted to help them. He did what He could. But He saw that the very best that He, the Son of God could do, was not enough to really get the job done. More laborers were needed. More hearts filled with the same compassion that He had would be called up to consecrate their lives to this enormous endeavor. Men are overbearing, harsh, cruel, and unreasonable. Men are rebellious and uncooperative. Yet, think of that never-dying soul of theirs. It needs to be rescued. Light needs to shine into that darkened valley of despair. There are many members and all have not the same office, but all should have this same compassion. For we are all part of the brotherhood of mankind. Jesus shed His blood for all. Every soul must have an opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel. The evil plight of men was what moved Christ to compassion. This love and compassion drew Him down from heaven to seek and to save that which was lost.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What moved Christ's heart with compassion?
2. How did this compassion react in His heart?
3. Which is the operation of compassion: seeing another's faults, or beholding another's need?

4. Why did Jesus not send the multitude away?
5. What things can be in our lives that oppose compassion?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Christ could shed His blood a thousand times for mankind, but it would all be in vain if there were no compassion in the hearts of His people. Some are more naturally compassionate and tender-hearted. Others have a tendency to be domineering and unmerciful. We must all cultivate this spirit and attitude of compassion. We see three classes of people that Christ showed compassion for. "When He saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them." The multitudes represent the people beyond our reach. One man cannot reach them all. Jesus had been going about all the cities and villages and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. "But when He saw the multitudes—" Here were people out beyond what He as a man in the flesh could reach. But His compassion was moved on them. Thus He said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Then there were the people who did come and hear Him. He had access to them. He could reach them and meet their needs. His heart went out to them in their physical distress of hunger. The disciples could have felt very justified in just sending the people away. But Jesus was moved with compassion. He not only healed their sick, but He also fed them. Then there were His own, His disciples. They were toiling in the midst of the stormy sea in the dark of the night. He came to them in their distress. He came walking on the sea. He could have stayed on the land and rested somewhere, but His compassion went out toward His brethren. Let us cultivate this same loving and kind spirit today. Let us have compassion one for another; let us be pitiful and courteous. This will please God and give Him a chance to work with souls and bring them to His truth.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus manifested compassion for the problems of the people. He possessed a concern which encompassed both spiritual and physical needs. To take upon ourselves the name of a Christian, we must have a measure of the same compassion that Christ had.

There are some who are unwilling to aid their fellow man in a temporal matter, though the need be obvious to the physical eye. How then can such a one show compassion for the spiritual

needs of man which are comprehended through spiritual perception?

The best way to fulfill our compassion is to have the necessary goods on hand and make effective use of them. We are of no value to a hungry person unless we provide him with food. Therefore it is a challenge to us to possess enough spirituality that when encountering someone in spiritual jeopardy, we can provide the compassionate encouragement needed.

In James 2:15 and 16 it says, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" This type of compassion fails to profit anyone. In contrast, notice how that when Peter and John met the lame man, they were able to deliver the goods. "And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength." Acts 3:4-7. Good works are the evidence and a result of Christ's compassion working within us. —Wayne Murphey

ALMOST A MARTYR

He was converted at the age of sixteen, and within six months shipped on board a sailing vessel with a crew of twelve. He was the only Christian on board, and had previously promised his mother that he would meet her three times a day at the throne of grace. To accomplish this he would go below, and, feeling that he was not making a satisfactory prayer unless it was audible, he made it a point always to pray aloud. This brought terrible persecution upon him from the sailors. They tried to get him to give up praying, but he would not. They sang and danced around him while he was engaged in his devotion, but he would pray. They threw wood upon him and bruised him, and poured buckets of water upon him, but could not put out the fire in his soul. Then they tied him to the mast and laid thirty-nine stripes upon his back, the marks of which he carries today. But still he prayed. Finally they tied a rope under his arms, and threw him overboard. He struggled and swam as best he could, and when he would take hold of the side of the ship to climb up, they would push him off with a long

pole. At last his strength gave way and, supposing they really meant to kill him, he made a final effort, prayed that God would forgive them, and called to the sailors: "Send my body to my mother and tell her I died for Jesus." He then sank into the deep, and the water poured over him; but he was pulled out and up on the deck, and after being worked with for some time he came to. Conviction then began to seize hold upon those sailors. Before night, two of them were gloriously converted, and while they were praying down below with the young martyr, the others thought they were up to their persecutions again, and called for them to desist, saying they had persecuted the boy enough. Inside of a week everyone on board the vessel, including the captain, was blessedly saved.

In a little while the vessel put into Provincetown Harbor, near Cape Cod, on account of an approaching storm. Other vessels gathered in to the number of nearly three hundred. The boy had been conducting religious services every Sunday on board the ship. Unbeknown to him when the vessels were lying at anchor, the captain sent word around that at 10 o'clock Sunday there would be services on his ship, and a boy would give his experience of how he was persecuted and nearly killed for Jesus' sake. While the boy was down below, preparing something to say in the meeting as usual, the people began to gather in. They filled the ship's deck, climbed into the rigging, filled every available space, and also sat in boats all around the ship. When the young preacher came on deck, this was the sight that met him. The crew formed a ring around him, and they sang. He prayed, and then took for his text, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." The Holy Ghost began to work, and after the message an invitation was given for all who wanted to be prayed for to manifest it. In every direction came the response to be prayed for. The work of grace broke out, and people began to get saved, until by careful estimate, there were about one hundred conversions that afternoon. And it did not stop there, for after that, while the vessels lay in the harbor and out on the ocean, vessels would come to us, and those on board tell us of someone being saved. They had us keep our colors at the masthead, to distinguish us from the other vessels. People were getting saved, and word kept coming in that on such and such a vessel they had a meeting and someone was saved. So it continued for weeks.

In this boy's experience we have an illustration of how the Holy Spirit may work in convicting power, through those who

are wholly surrendered to God, "who love not their lives unto the death."

—J. H. Crowell

April, 18, 1982

JESUS CHRIST, OBEDIENT TO THE WILL OF GOD

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Heb. 5:5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Memory Verse: He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. Matt. 26:42.

Central Thought: Jesus as our example was in perfect conformity to the divine will of His heavenly Father and submitted to the utmost requirement of God even to the death on

the cross. If we would share His eternal glory, we must follow this same path of obedience.

LESSON BACKGROUND

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” Romans 5:19. Adam and Eve plunged the whole world into sin because of one disobedience. The unsaved are labeled in Scripture as the “children of disobedience.” Ephesians 2:2. A return to God calls for a return to obedience to His will. Man was helplessly shackled to the ways of sin and the world which was a state of disobedience. In order for man to be saved a Savior must come and open up the way of obedience again. The law had failed to make man obedient. Just “Thou shalt” and “Thou shalt not” was not sufficient. The coming and work of Jesus was obedience all the way through. Our lesson declares that He “being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation.” The expression here is somewhat vague, but a close look at the original Greek text reveals clearly what it means. He “being in the form of God, thought not equality with God a thing to be earnestly desired or grasped, but emptied himself.” It is not the carnal and unregenerate nature to empty one’s self. This is the cause of disobedience. Man is craving and demanding his own way. But Jesus set the example for us in the matter of obedience. He was willing to submit to the Father’s will and come down into human flesh. Then He went on down and submitted to the suffering and death of the cross. He learned obedience by the things that He suffered. He could not have been our Savior had He not been willing to go through the suffering. But He was obedient to God, and being made perfect He became to us a glorious and Wonderful Redeemer.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was being obedient to God so important to Jesus?
2. Why did we need an example for the sake of our obedience to God?
3. Is there much danger in our being disobedient?
4. What did Christ’s obedience to God cost Him? What was His gain?
5. What gain is there for us in being obedient to God?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

It surely pays to be obedient to God. God's way is best. Mankind is suffering today because of disobedience. Men have broken God's commandments in their darkness and ignorance. They have trodden down His laws and precepts and have heaped sorrow upon their lives. Satan, the devil, has seen to it that disobedience and rebellion against God are attractive to the flesh. It is a very difficult thing for a person to become submissive and obedient. It is because he or she cannot see the value and benefit of such. People think that selfish gratification and living to the flesh is the road to happiness and success. In this they are sadly mistaken and disappointed. But Christ has proven that obedience to God is the only way to life. His submission to God during his life and mission was well pleasing in the sight of His Father. He did all things that were pleasing in the sight of God. He knew full enough that the Father's will was for Him to be crucified and slain for the sins of mankind. To this He meekly submitted, even with the flesh drawing back as it did in Gethsemane's garden of prayer. He said, "Not my will, but thine be done." He did all that because He was making a way for us who believe in and follow Him to be obedient to the blessed Father's will, too. He set the example, and laid out the pattern for us to follow. Oh, think of the many in the world who live in a state of disobedience. Not only are they disobedient, but they do not allow the God of mercy to work with their souls so that they can be brought to obedience. They do not give the Lord a chance. We have a Savior who can help us if we will let Him. There is no requirement to be met or sacrifice to give but what Jesus can make it a joy. We could not be obedient on our own. He went before us and fought the battle. He submitted to God so that He could help us to be submitted to God also. Thus we need no longer to be called the children of disobedience. We can be obedient children, sharing the glory and blessing of the obedient Savior.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are many who exhibit a form of obedience, but fail to achieve the genuine obedience which is acceptable to God. Some are willing to forsake fond treasures for the name of religion. Others will subject their bodies to torturous activities in an effort to find favor with God. In 1 Samuel we read that "... to obey is better than sacrifice." If we suffer simply for the sake of sacrifice, all will be in vain. To subject one's self to something

because of a belief that bringing about great self-denial will elevate one before God is an erroneous perspective of obedience to the will of God.

It is only when suffering for real obedience to God's will that we profit from our sufferings. We read in our lesson that Christ was made perfect in suffering through obedience to God.

Christ set a perfect example for us in willingness. While in the flesh we must all strive to live up to this example. As Christ was preparing to offer the supreme sacrifice, He desired that three of His disciples help bear His burden in prayer. No doubt Peter, James, and John had good intentions, but we find that the flesh overcame them and they fell asleep. Christ spoke thus, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." It is easy to condemn these three disciples, but today we may also fail in obediently sharing Christ's sufferings. Good intentions will not get us into heaven. It requires action to move up this stairway of life toward our goal, an action that is in obedience to the will of God.

—Wayne Murphey

April 25, 1982

"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE"

Matt. 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Rom. 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Memory Verse: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Lk. 6:38.

Central Thought: Jesus taught and exemplified by His life and labors that it is truly more blessed and pleasing in God's sight to give than to receive. Jesus gave Himself to the will of God, the service and benefit of the souls of men, and offered His life as a sacrifice to pay the ransom that was over the human race. He calls us to follow Him.

Word Definitions: *Give:* To bestow freely without charge; to deliver, yield, furnish or supply; to present or proffer. *Ransom:* money or price paid for the redemption or release of a captive, a penalty.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus gave the greatest example of giving that the world has ever known. This was His philosophy as quoted by Paul: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Now just when Jesus actually spoke those words is not recorded word for word in the four gospels. But Paul's testimony is sufficient for us to believe that He actually made this statement. The sentiment of these words is worthy of Christ. Adam Clarke observes: "A truly generous mind, rejoices in opportunities to do good, and feels happy in doing such. The giver is more happy than the receiver." The teachings of Christ are full of the giving principle. Paul stated in another place that God loves a cheerful giver. The current of the world around us is far from this truth. But it is still true. It is more blessed to give than to receive. And we should realize that giving covers more ground than financial or material bestowals. As James Russell Lowell put it: "Not what we give, but what we share: for the gift without the giver

is bare." We must give of ourselves. We must support the weak and bear with their infirmities. We must be willing to bear the blame of others, and thus realize the full impact of Calvary. Many people are so quick to tell some one else what he should do and what he should not do. But there is more than that to Calvary. If this principle of giving that Jesus laid down were followed today, it would completely revolutionize our world.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus give?
2. Why is it more blessed to give than to receive?
3. In what ways should we give?
4. In what are we tempted to be selfish, and what are the fruits of selfishness?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The Son of Man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. It is more blessed to give than to receive. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. These three statements taken from the three different sections of our Scripture text should always be in our hearts. Why? Because the human tendency and current of the world around us is contrary and foreign to these vital principles. Even in religious people and those who seek to please God there is a tendency to overlook the thought of bearing others' reproaches. The two sons of Zebedee had large mental aspects as to what sort of a kingdom their Savior would possess. All that they could think about was how they would look sitting on His right hand and His left. How wonderful that would be to have everyone else ministering to Me! But their sand castle dreams were quickly washed away with one wave of Christ's authoritative counsel. It was not His to give anyway, and to desire such a position gave evidence to a wrong attitude and condition of pride in the heart. Instead of looking for gain for ourselves, we should be earnestly watching and seeking God for where we can be of more service to His cause, His name, and His people. People's hearts need to be swept clean of guilt and condemnation. But it takes someone being used of the Lord in bestowing words of comfort and consolation to the downcast. Jesus became a servant. The reproaches and sins of the whole world He took upon himself. This is why He had to die on Calvary's cold and cruel cross. He was taking our place. We are

to possess the same attitude toward our fellow man that Christ had toward us. As Christ received us, so are we to receive one another. Oh, how wonderful this aspect of Christianity is! We must give our lives, our strength, our time, our intellect, and powers to the Lord for His to use as He will. And as we give, we shall receive.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The many troubles in the world today are often prompted by the selfishness of others. It is contrary to the flesh to give of itself to others. When we acquaint ourselves with Christ, then we can better understand what it means to give of ourselves. Many of the wars recorded in history have been activated through the greed of some person or group.

Ideologically the communist plan of government as laid out by John Marx would be a heaven on earth. Practically, it will never succeed because the greed of people will never allow it to.

If mankind could realize the truth in the words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," this world would be a far superior place to live in. One who is greedy makes himself and those about him miserable. There is nothing attractive about greed. Leroy Brownlow once wrote, "He who receives but does not give is as stagnant and unattractive as the Dead Sea. All the fresh waters of the Jordan River cannot enliven and refresh its dead salt depths, for it self-devotedly receives and never gives. It hoards and never shares. Its own self-absorption has consigned it to death—the Dead Sea. Comparatively, all the streams of God's bounty cannot animate and invigorate a heart that has no outlet, one that ever receives, but never overflows and gives. Like the Dead Sea, such a self-centered existence is only a Dead Life."

Selfishness instigates problems and friction. Let us strive to radiate Christ out of our lives and help solve the problems we meet.

—Wayne Murphey

THE TIME I WAS ARRESTED

When I was a little boy two years of age, my mother died. When I was four years of age, my father died. I was living here and there and was a sinner. I was to be fourteen years of age the tenth of the coming March. It was Christmas week, and I was caught in sin and put under arrest and dragged into court. I did not cry. I had cried all the tears out of my head. My bones had pulled out of their sockets. I tried

to look at the judge. I wished that I could faint. I was guilty. I did not have a friend. I was miserable, and they packed the courthouse. They looked at me and then at the judge. Their faces said, "Judge, give him the full benefit of the law and save trouble later on." It looked as if the whole universe was down on me. By and by a clerk stood up and said, "The court is open." The judge said, "Has this boy any one to represent him?" I did not know the meaning of this. I thought that fellow was the one who was going to take me out and hang me. They said, "No." I was hopeful. The judge said to a lawyer, "I appoint you to take this boy's case." He walked through the crowd, pushed the policeman aside, and took me into a room. I slunk into a corner. I thought he was going to drag me to execution. But I saw tears under his eyelids. He sat down and slipped his arm around me. It was the tenderest touch I ever felt, and it drew me to him.

"My little friend, are you guilty?" he asked.

I could not have lied to him to save the world. He gave me a little squeeze. My bones slipped back into their sockets, and I began to breathe. I said, "Yes sir, I am guilty, and lots more they don't know about." I was in for a clean breast. When I looked at him, I could not lie. I had found a friend. I could feel he was a friend. I feel his hand yet. Oh, it was a wonderful touch on an orphan child.

He said, "Don't you think we had better confess guilty and throw you on the mercy of the court?"

I did not know what that meant, but I thought if it would throw you on the mercy of the court it was best. I said, "Please, sir, throw me on the mercy of the court."

He put his hand on my head, and I put out my dirty, claw-like fingers and grabbed his coat tail; and the feeling came to me, If I hang on to his coat, he will pull me through. He came to the judge and said,

"Please, Your Honor, it has been my privilege to practice before the bar for many years. I have noticed that when the ends of justice can be secured and society can be protected, it is Your Honor's custom to show mercy. I stand with this trembling orphan child, without father or mother, home or friend, to beg of Your Honor's mercy. His heart was broken. He confesses with readiness his sin. He pleads for forgiveness."

I grabbed some more coat. I thought that was a great speech. It was just an introductory remark. He spoke until silence fell everywhere. He spoke until the most beautiful

language filled every corner of the court. He spoke until old men wept. He spoke until my policeman was brushing tears from his cheeks. He spoke until he said, "If you will show compassion to this orphan child, I pledge, Your Honor, I'll look after his education and give to society a useful citizen." He spoke until my heart burst within me for love and admiration for my Friend. If I could but put my ragged coat sleeves around his neck and kiss his cheek one time, they could take me and hang me, and I would die happy. He spoke and said, "My Father." That shot through me. The judge had appointed his own son to plead for me! "My Father, the intentness of my love for my little client comes out of the fact that he is my Brother." I wasn't much on mathematics, but I could see at once that if the judge on the bench was the Father of the attorney, and the attorney was my Brother, then the judge was my Father, too. I gave a shout. I made a leap, and the Judge stood up and said, "Rejoice, for the lost is found, and the dead is alive." And all the people in that courthouse began to say, "Glory!"

I need not tell you that scene was not in a courthouse, but it was in an old church. Jesus pleaded my case, and revealed to me that God was my Father. It went to my heart, as an orphan boy, and I could say, "My Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name." Jesus came to reveal God: to reveal that God is love, that God is merciful, that God is compassion, that God is a Saviour, that whosoever cometh shall not come in vain, but there is mercy and salvation free for all.

—H. C. Morrison

May 2, 1982

THE HOLINESS OF JESUS CHRIST

Heb. 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Heb. 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Heb. 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Heb. 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Memory Verse: Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.
Heb. 13:12.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ to qualify as the Savior of men was perfect, holy, and unblameable before God. He never sinned or came short of God's will. He was the perfect innocent victim for the sins of mankind, and because of this the offering of Himself was accepted with God. He was our example and through the virtue of His sacrifice, we can be in perfect holiness as Almighty God commands us to be.

Word Definitions: "*For such an high priest became us . . .*": For such a proper High Priest He was to us. Greek. *Guile*: deceit. *Sanctified*: consecrated, purged, cleansed, made holy. In the Greek the two words *sanctification* and *holiness* are from the same word.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we have a varied list of scriptural references that all tie together in expressing the great and important truth of the holiness of Jesus Christ. The book of Hebrews from which most of our material emerges is a grand and glorious treatise of the virtue and value of Christ in His sacrifice for sins and what follows in His Church. The entire

book is one great chain of vital truth. Only God could inspire such a writing. It has numerous references to Christ's holiness and perfection. Christ's entrance into the heavenly places as the High Priest for the souls of men bespeak His holiness and acceptance with God. Peter declared His holiness, saying in another place that He was a lamb without blemish and without spot. We have an expression from the prayer of Christ for His followers just before He was taken from them in which is found the true purpose of Christ giving Himself. In submitting to the will of God to go to the cross of Calvary, He was sanctifying Himself so that His own could be sanctified. The submission to death in the will of God is a vital part of one's consecration. Carnal man struggles to save Himself, but the holiness of man will submit to and triumph in death. Jesus was holy as the begotten Son of God, but He purchased holiness for us when He submitted to the death of the cross. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What made Jesus qualify to be the proper High Priest for men?
2. Of what value is the holiness of Jesus Christ to us?
3. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be without spot?
4. How did Jesus sanctify Himself and why?
5. What most holy place did Jesus enter?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Savior, was pure and holy. He was without spot or blemish. He stood true in every temptation. He overcame every human weakness and tendency. He was triumphant over every happening regardless of how hard or injurious it was to Him. He held no grudge or ill will. He willingly obeyed the heavenly Father's decree to go to the cross of Calvary and die. He let the wicked men bind Him and take Him away. He could have stopped them if He had chosen to do so. They did not take His life. He gave it in obedience to the Father. He offered on Calvary's tree a pure and stainless life as a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. These thoughts are very, very important to us. Had He not been perfect or holy, He would not have been the proper sacrifice for mankind. But, thank God, He was pure and sinless before God. As the high priest of old entered into the Most Holy Place in the Mosaic tabernacle on the behalf of the children of Israel, so Jesus entered into the Holy Place of the heavenlies on the behalf of all mankind. Oh, what a wonderful truth! He sanctified Himself,

that is, He consecrated to go to the cross and die and shed His blood. He offered Himself without spot to God. God accepted that sacrifice. He was pleased with it. He saw of the travail of his soul and was satisfied. Isaiah 53:10, 11. Kiss the Son, lest ye perish from the way. Psalm 2:12. Oh, how we ought to love our Savior and be willing to follow Him all the way! In doing all of this He was bearing the blame for our sins. His holiness and acceptance with God was so great that God counted His suffering sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole world. The blackness and stain of sin has been removed from God's heart concerning us. We have but to repent and turn from our ways and yield to Him with all our hearts, and accept the sacrifice of His Son for our salvation. Then we must walk in the light of His word. We must be willing to walk with Jesus in His perfect holiness. The holiness and purity of the Son of God will stabilize and establish our lives in His perfection.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Holiness is a wonderful virtue of the saint of God, Think of the fame of Christ that spread throughout Israel. He was a man different from any other. The only one who had even approached this popularity had been John the Baptist. Christ, through His holiness made an impact upon the world that time has been unable to erase.

In following Christ, we also may create an impact upon those around us. Through our holiness, individuals will be able to mark our lives as something above the ordinary. This is that city set on a hill that cannot be hid—the New Jerusalem of which Christ is the head.

Not only will holiness claim the attention of strangers, but our lives will be equipped to stand the scrutiny of our family and close acquaintances. It has been said that if you want to know what kind of Christian you are, go ask your family. The holiness of God as set forth by Christ should so infiltrate our lives that the closest friend or companion can have perfect confidence in us.

I recall the story of a preacher who discovered some young boys skipping school. Upon inquiry the boys informed the preacher that they were "lying for a dog." The one who told the biggest lie would receive a little puppy. After the preacher admonished the boys for telling lies, one of the children inquired of the preacher if he had ever lied. With sanctimonious

air, the preacher replied with a "No-o." One of the little boys scoffed and said, "What a whopper—give the preacher the pup."

We should live such an example in holiness, modesty, truthfulness, and integrity that those whom we are unaware are observing us, will have a good report of our general conduct.

—Wayne Murphey

THE CUT FINGER

Jack, a careless boy thirteen or fourteen years old, was turning the crank of the haycutter, while Thad, a bright boy of four, fed in the hay. "Take care there, take care," exclaimed the little fellow, but it was all too late. The deed was done. The bone of the finger was cut off, and it hung only by the flesh on one side of it. The white end of the bone contrasted strangely with the scarlet blood. Jack caught Thad, and carried him across the road to his mother who heard the fearful cry, and met them at the door. "Hush, hush, crying won't help it," she said to her only boy. Turning to Jack who had deposited his burden on the floor, she said, "Take the horse, and go as quickly as you can to Dr. Young, and if he is not at home go to Dr. Reed. Ask the one you first find to come over and dress Thad's finger as quickly as he can."

The boy hurried on the errand, and in about two hours Dr. Reed, the second choice of Mrs. Estep, made his appearance. He dressed the finger with care, left it neatly bound, directed that it should remain in the same bandage for six days, and then he left. Thad was comparatively free from pain for the first twenty-four hours. Then it began to ache. The pain grew more and more severe. The mother enforced self-control, or the boy would have groaned and cried by the hour. As it was, his face wore a look of agony; he moaned now and then piteously, and sleep was a stranger to his eyes for whole nights together.

The six days slowly wore away. The horse was harnessed, and Mrs. Estep took her boy into her carriage and drove to the young doctor's. When the finger was opened, to the surprise of the doctor and the grief of the mother, it fell apart. It had not knit together in six days sufficiently to bear its own weight. "It's of no use," said the doctor, "it will not grow together. There is a man waiting now to see me, whom I cannot put off. I will call for Dr. Young this afternoon, and come around and take it off." As he said these words, he put one of the old bandages around the wound, and left the room to go to the other patient who was waiting for him.

The mother's heart sank within her. Covering over the grief that welled up within her at the thought, "maimed for life, and on his *right* hand," she said in tones as cheerful as she could

command, "Come, my son, we will go home now." As she drove over the road, she lifted up her heart to God for her first-born son. When she reached her house she sought her bethel, the little room where she was accustomed to meet her heavenly Father alone. There she poured out her heart before him. The vision of her son, a man, a minister in the pulpit perhaps, with this shortened finger, loomed up, as such visions do to mothers. She was used to going to God. She had often sought Him and found Him. Her prayers had many times been answered. She spread the case before Him. She begged, as a child may beg of a father, that He would grant healing power and restoring mercy. She left her room calm, assured that God had heard, and that whatever was the event, all would be for the best.

The afternoon came, but the doctor's carriage did not appear. Meanwhile the finger was easier. The child slept much, and slept easily. His face, when he was asleep, no longer wore that look of distress it had been so painful to behold. The next morning, about twenty-four hours from the time of her visit to the doctor's house, the two physicians arrived. Dr. Young, Mrs. Estep's first choice, was a man of skill, experience, and tenderness. Before the bandage was removed, she said to them, "I wish that the finger may be saved, if possible." When it was unbound, to the surprise of Dr. Reed the finger held together. The old doctor remarked, "The mother is very desirous that the finger should be saved, and it seems to have been doing so well since yesterday, that we can but wait and see what it may do." At his suggestion it was bound up anew, the old gentleman directing the operation, and saying more than once to the young man, "Not quite so tight. Give it room to vent itself."

The mother was not surprised at the favorable change. It was hardly more than she expected. She lifted her thoughts in grateful adoration to her heavenly Father, and when the doctors were gone she found a few moments to go to her bethel. There on her knees she poured out her heart in thankfulness for the mercy given, and implored that the good work begun might be carried forward.

A few days later, when the finger was dressed, the young surgeon said, "It will be a crooked finger. If it were my boy, I would take the finger off." At the succeeding dressing he let fall similar remarks, until at length, tired of hearing them, the mother put an end to them by saying in a decided tone, "When he is twenty-one years old *he* can have the finger removed if he chooses. I shall not take it off." All things went on favorably.

The child is now a man of eighteen years. His finger is a little bent, but no one would notice its stiffness. The mother still lives to

remember the way by which the Lord led her. You may explain to her until your lungs ache that the reason her boy suffered so much that first week, and the finger did not begin to grow together was that the young surgeon had bound the wound too tightly, and left no room for the healing action. She is an intelligent woman. She understands diseases as well as many a young physician. She knows the young man made a mistake. She knows the connection of means and ends. Yet she knows also that her God is kind and gracious, ready to hear and quick to answer. Not overlooking second causes, she still clings to the great fact that her God hears and answers prayer, and that she knows it in her own experience as well as in the written promise.

Oh, dear mother and father, whose beloved boy or girl is in danger from physical or from moral instrumentalities, do not forget to carry them to your Father. Lay the case fully before the gracious and compassionate God. Seek the Lord in faith. He holds second causes in His hand, and can make all things work together for the good of His loving, trusting children. —From *Sketches from Life*.



May 9, 1982

THE HOLINESS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2 Cor. 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Memory Verse: Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ offered Himself a spotless sacrifice to God to purchase for Himself a spotless Bride. All who love and obey Him must be without spot even as He is pure. The blood will cleanse from all sin, but every soul must also be cleansed by obeying the truth.

Word Definitions: *Spot:* a blemish, mar, stain, imperfection, fault, sin, anything that is foreign to the holiness of the Lord. *Wrinkle:* blemish or imperfection, Greek.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In our previous lesson we studied the holiness of Christ Jesus, the Savior. In conjunction with that study, we are inspired to set forth truths concerning the holiness of the Church of God which is the Bride of Christ. The Bridegroom was spotless. Christ was without sin or blemish. He had to be in that perfect state to be the acceptable sacrifice that God was requiring. But we must also be aware that His Bride, the Church, must also be spotless and pure if she is to stand at His side. Holiness is not only provided in the New Testament plan of salvation, it is commanded. It is not optional; it is standard. We must be holy if we are to be worthy of His blessed name. Holiness is sanctity, purity, reverent sacredness and worship to God. Since Christ was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, even so must we who take His name be in like

manner. "We shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John 3:2, 3. God wills that we be faultless and perfect in heart and soul. He has chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. God wants us to be partakers of His holiness. Hebrews 12:10. Jesus gave His life to purchase for Himself a spotless bride. Every spot of imperfection must be purged out of our lives. Not only must we be cleansed beneath the blood, but we must also in a practical way conform our life pattern to the divine will of God. It means that we must obey the blessed doctrine of Christ and be a follower of Him in all details.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Questions:

1. What was God's plan for us before the foundation of the world?
2. What did Jesus give His life for?
3. What must we do to be a part of the spotless Bride of Christ?
4. Give some reasons why we should be holy.
5. Will it be possible for a person to enter heaven with any spot in his life?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

It is so easy to conform to the pattern and ways of the world around us. But if we do this, we will not be holy. To be holy, we must be transformed by the renewing of our mind concerning the Word of God and what it means for us. We must be washed in the blood of Jesus and cleansed through obedience to His doctrine and teachings. Heaven is a holy place filled with glory and with grace. Sin can never enter there. Provisions have been made and it is possible for us here to be cleansed from every trace of sin and disobedience. It is God's command for us to be holy in all manner of conversation. It is not that we take it upon ourselves through rigid self endeavor to make ourselves pure. It is rather that we respond to the gospel and to the will of God revealed in the Holy Bible and apply ourselves to discipline and fashion our lives in conformity to the likeness of Jesus Christ. If we are to be a part of the spotless Bride of Christ then our lives must be spotless. No spot or imperfection can be overlooked and ignored. Neither can it be justified and excused. It must be dealt with. As light and understanding comes to the soul concerning what the will of God is,

there must be a willingness to walk therein. As we walk in the light we have fellowship with God and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. The blood of Jesus could be shed a thousand times, but if we are not willing in practicality to do and observe the saying and commandments of Christ, it is all done in vanity. The blood of Jesus will do us no good without cleansing of the word of God. If we claim to have the blood of Jesus cover lying and theft, our claim is fruitless unless we cease from dishonesty and wrong. Survey all the Scriptures of our lesson, and be assured that only the spotless and pure will be in glory with the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Spirit of God emblazon this truth upon each heart and stir us to greater diligence in serving Him.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In lesson three we studied about being obedient to the will of God. This obedience will bring about a holiness which is our topic today. Since each individual in the Church of God is holy, so the Church as a whole is one of complete holiness.

Eph. 5:23, 24 says, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their husbands in every thing." If we recognize Christ as our head, and follow in His footsteps, we will automatically be a part of the holy body for which He died.

I am glad that the Apostle Paul explained in this fifth chapter of Ephesians, that the body of Christ will be holy, not because of a submission of fear but due to a submission of love. If we possess a love for God in our hearts there will be no difficulty in being holy.

Love is the strongest force that can bind two individuals together. Love will cause each to submit to the other and bring about a peaceful and joyful coexistence.

Holiness contains the same qualities as love. Some synonyms of *holy* are *reverence, sacred, and hallowed*. If we manifest these feelings toward God it will bind us together as individuals that are the substance of the body of Christ to God.

Webster says that *holy* is the strongest word, being applied only to things that have the most immediate connection with God. If we dare to take upon ourselves the designation of holy, we must be certain that we have a strong connection with God.

—Wayne Murphey

MARRIED TO A DRUNKARD

Daily as we go up and down the streets of our towns and cities we see whisky, gin, ale, beer, and liquor signs of various sizes and kinds flaming in our faces. Beautiful manhood and womanhood are seen inside the windows of the places where these signs hang above the doors, or are painted on the windows. In years gone by, the accursed liquor was sold behind curtained windows and screened doors—away from the public eye, but, alas! today it has become so common, and so tolerated, and apparently so little hated that multitudes drink it in full view of the public eye. But with all this, liquor has the same cruel, yea, damnable effects that it had in years gone by. God help the people to get their eyes open and see where America is sending her young folk, and what the future will mean if this continues.

The following article was printed many years ago and we do not know the author, but we feel like reprinting it and are praying that it may have a restraining influence on many and save some from the pangs that this poor woman suffered:

This woman rose in the meeting and spoke as follows: "Married to a drunkard! Yes, I was married to a drunkard. Look at me! I am talking to the girls." We all turned and looked at her. She was a wan woman with dark, sad eyes, and white hair placed smoothly over a brow that denoted intellect.

"When I married a drunkard, I reached the acme of misery," she continued. "I was young, and oh, so foolish. I married the man I loved, and who professed to love me. He was a drunkard and I knew it—knew it, but did not understand it. There is not a young girl in this building that does understand it, unless she has a drunkard in her family; then, perhaps, she knows how deeply the iron enters the soul of a woman when she loves and is allied to a drunkard, whether father, husband, brother or son. Girls, believe me when I tell you that to marry a drunkard is the crown of misery. I have gone through the deep waters, and I know. I have gained that fearful knowledge, at the expense of happiness, sanity, almost life itself. Do you wonder that my hair is white? It turned white in a night—'bleached by sorrow,' as another said of her hair. I am not forty years old, yet snows of seventy winters rest upon my head, and upon my heart—ah! I cannot begin to count the winters resting there," she said, with unutterable pathos in her voice.

"My husband was a professional man. His calling took him from home frequently at night, and when he returned, he returned drunk. Gradually he gave way to temptation in the

day, and was rarely sober. I had two lovely girls and a boy." Here her voice faltered, and we sat in deep silence, listening to her story.

"My husband had been drinking deeply. I had not seen him for two days. He had kept away from his home. One night I was seated by my sick boy; the two girls were in bed in the next room, while beyond, was another room into which I heard my husband go as he entered the house. That room connected with the one in which my little girls were sleeping. I do not know why, but a feeling of terror suddenly took possession of me, and I felt that my little girls were in danger. I arose and went to the room; the door was locked. I knocked on it frantically, but no answer came. I seemed endowed with superhuman strength, and throwing myself with all my force against the door, the lock gave away, and the door flew open. Oh, the sight! The terrible sight!" she wailed out in a voice that haunts me now; and she covered her face with her hands, and when she removed them she was whiter and sadder than ever.

"Delirium tremens! you have never seen it, girls; God grant you never may. My husband stood beside the bed, his eyes glaring with insanity, and in his hands a large knife. "Take them away!" he screamed. "The horrible things; they are crawling all over me. Take them away, I say!" and he flourished the knife in the air. Regardless of danger, I rushed up to the bed and my heart seemed to stop beating. There lay my children, covered with their life-blood, slain by their own father. For a moment I could not utter a sound. I was literally dumb in the presence of this terrible sorrow. I scarcely heeded the maniac at my side—the man who had brought me all this woe. Then I uttered a loud scream, and my wailings filled the air. The servants heard me and hastened to the room, and when my husband saw them, he suddenly drew the knife across his throat. I knew nothing more. I was borne senseless from that room that contained my slaughtered children and the body of my husband. The next day my hair was white, and my mind was so shattered that I knew no one."

She ceased. Our eyes were riveted upon her wan face, and some women present sobbed aloud, while there was scarcely a dry eye in that temperance meeting. So much sorrow, we thought, and through no fault of her own. We saw that she had not done speaking, and was only waiting to subdue her emotion to resume her story.

"Two years ago," she continued, "I was a mental wreck; then I recovered from the shock, and absorbed myself in the

care of my baby. But the sin of the father was visited upon the child, and six months ago my boy, eighteen, was placed in a drunkard's grave; and as I, his loving mother, stood and saw the sod heaped over him, I said, 'Thank God I'd rather see him there than have him live a drunkard,' and I went to my home a childless woman on whom the hand of God rested heavily.

"Girls, it is you I wish to rescue from the fate that overtook me. Do not blast your life as I blasted mine; do not be drawn into the madness of marrying a drunkard. You love him! So much the worse for you; for, married to him, the greater is your misery because of your love. You will marry him and then reform him, so you say. Ah! a woman sadly overrates her strength when she undertakes to do this. You are no match for that great demon, Drink, when he possesses a man's body and soul. You are no match for him, I say. What is your puny strength beside his gigantic force? He will crush you, too. It is to save you, girls, from the sorrow that wrecked my happiness that I have unfolded my history to you. I am a stranger in this great city. I am merely passing through it, and have a message to bear to every girl—never marry a drunkard!"

I can see her now as she stood there amid the hushed audience, her dark eyes glowing and quivering with emotion as she uttered her impassioned appeal. Then she hurried out, and we never saw her again. Her words, "fitly spoken," were not without effect, and because of them, there is one girl single now.

—Selected

May 16, 1982

THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST

John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Memory Verse: I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. John 16:28.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ freely submitted to the Father's will to be put to death because He knew and believed that God would resurrect Him from the state of death to eternal life that would be shared by all who believed in Him.

Word Definitions: *Author and finisher of our faith:* Leader and Perfecter, Greek.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The faith of a Christian has a foundation. The Christian has something to substantiate his beliefs in. The foundation of the Christian faith is Jesus Christ. But it was the faith that He as the Lord in the flesh exercised and formulated that He bequeathed to His people. His purpose to come into the world was to make it possible for our faith and hope to be in God. Unless He had come and made possible the plan of salvation, it would do no good to believe in God. And the carrying out of this faith meant the giving of His life. Some Greeks who had

come to the feast desired to see Him. When the disciples told Him of this, He seemed to not indicate any acknowledgement of the same. Instead, He entered the discourse that we have in our lesson. We have been impressed with this scene. Many today would like to see Jesus. Those Greeks wanted to see Jesus. Why? Was it mere curiosity because of what they had heard about Him? Or were their hearts really reaching out to know Him and to follow Him? Why do people want to see Jesus today? Herod had been for a long time desirous to see Jesus, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by Him. Luke 23:8. He was disappointed. Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus who He was. Jesus knew that this man's heart was reaching out for Him. Today we should seek to know Jesus and be as the apostle Paul said, "found of Him having the righteousness which is through the faith of Christ." Phil. 3:9. The faith of Christ was to lay down His life believing that God would resurrect Him. It was the same faith that Abraham had when he obeyed God and offered Isaac on the altar. It was the same faith that all the heroes of faith (the great cloud of witnesses) had in times past. It is the faith that we need today.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What illustration did Jesus liken His death to?
2. Why was Jesus willing to die?
3. What result did He know His death would have?
4. Do you believe that Jesus knew from the start that He would have to do this?
5. What was the "joy set before Him"?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone. But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." This Jesus said in reference to Himself. The planting of seed is such a common procedure that we easily overlook the significance of what it portrays. Paul in 1 Cor. 15:37, 38, uses this same thought in explaining the resurrection of the dead. "That which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain. . . but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him." Jesus applies this to Himself in the resignation that He gave to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world. Had he looked at the awful suffering before Him merely from a human standpoint, He could not have done it. But He knew that the offering of His body in death was on the parallel with the sowing of the seed in

the earth in hopes of a harvest. This was His faith. This faith helped Him withstand the great contradiction of sinners against Himself. He preached and taught truth that went against the tide of His day. It was because He was of faith. The faith that He declared and lived went against the spirit that had hold of the religious leaders. They had lost the faith of Abraham (whom they claimed as their father) and had only the cold, formal, legalistic law system. One sect of the Jews, the Sadducees, had abandoned all belief in spiritual reality. They did not believe in the resurrection, nor angels, nor spirits. Acts 23:8. Today when a person really begins to apply the principles of the faith of Jesus Christ to his heart and life, there will be opposition from those who have not that same faith. It meant much for Jesus to hold fast to His faith, and it will mean much for us to do the same.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The faith of the saint is rooted and grounded in spiritual things. Their hope centers on a life after death. Although Christ was the Son of God, He was required to fight a final fight of faith. The devil will endeavor to destroy faith throughout one's life, but the time comes for each of us when we must hurdle the final barrier of death by faith into heaven. Even in the valley of the shadow of death God has promised to be with us.

No doubt to Christ the grave appeared as a dark prospect. Yet He pressed on through faith that he might destroy the sting of death. Read 1 Cor. 15:12-22. The verses 17-19 say, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Let us notice the death of Stephen. As he faced the reality of an untimely death, we find that Christ was there to help him. Few who have died have experienced what Stephen did as he saw Christ standing on the right hand of God. However, Christ has tasted death for every one of us and He knows how to bring about victory for us in death. This should encourage us to live and die the faith of Christ.

—Wayne Murpehy

NOTICE: If you have not placed your order, please do so immediately. We must have your order for the next quarter by June 1, 1982.

May 23, 1982

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Rev. 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne, and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Rev. 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Memory Verse: The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. Prov. 28:1.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ had the attributes and bore the characteristics of a lion in that he prevailed over Satan and sin to bring perfect redemption for the souls of men.

Word Definitions: "*On the back side*": the Greek word for this (opisthen) means from the back, denoting a secure aspect. This evidently means that the plan of God for the ages was securely withheld from man's vision, only to be revealed through the Spirit of God that was made available through Christ.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Being banished to the Isle of Patmos for his testimony of Jesus, John is visited by the Lord with a glorious series of revelations concerning the Church of God and the great plan of salvation. After receiving a series of special messages for the seven churches in Asia, John was taken up in the Spirit to the throne of God. The book in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne represented the great plan and purpose of God for the salvation of men and the course of time. It was sealed. This represents the barrier existing between carnal men and the spiritual things of God. This is where the Lion strength of Jesus came in. This barrier must be broken down, and this veil must be taken off the nations. A sacrifice for the sins and errors of mankind must be made. God's Spirit that had been withholden from the fall of man must once again visit and abide with men if man is ever to share the beauties of eternal life again. By Christ's purity and faithfulness in offering Himself without spot to God, He prevailed to open the book and make it possible for men to behold spiritual realities. He was of the tribe of Judah. Jacob spoke in the Spirit when he said of Judah: "Judah is a lion's whelp . . . he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Genesis 49:9, 10. This was a direct prophecy of the dominion that Christ would have for the souls of men. Thanks be unto God for the victory we have over all the power of the enemy through the Lion of Judah.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the Lion of Judah opening the seals mean to the Christian?
2. What did Jesus have to do to do this?
3. What did Christ conquer?
4. How can we conquer?
5. Is victory for us today?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The lion is known as the "King of Beasts," and it is worthy of such a title because of its royal bearing of beauty and strength. It is feared by man and beast. One sweep of his terrible paw can bring death and destruction, and with its powerful jaws and teeth it can rend the prey and consume it. Jesus in His great strength to bring salvation and deliverance to the souls of men justly merits the appellation of the Lion of the tribe of Judah. By the strength of his integrity and purity in triumph over the defilement of the world, He was able to offer a sinless sacrifice on the behalf of poor fallen mankind. By the strength of his wisdom He was able to elude all the cunning devices of men to ensnare his soul. He endured such great contradiction of sinners against himself. Hebrews 12:3. By the strength of his mercy and forbearance He was able to endure the faults and failures of others so that He could properly administrate in the role of a Redeemer. It takes strength of heart and mind to bear with others while seeking to help them. This same strength is needed by the Christian today, which we know that Christ can freely give. Christ had to go to the cross for the sins of the world. This took strength—divine strength. For a good man some would dare to die, but Christ died for the ungodly. He said in the garden, "Thy will be done!" By His strength He endured the cross and its suffering. He did not draw back. The humiliation and unjust condemnation He bore with grace and submission. He was completely void of fear. He was not afraid of death or evil of any kind. He rose up to the prey with courage and strength of heart, soul, and mind. He was crucified through weakness, but He liveth by the power of God. 2 Cor. 13:4. He was sent by the Father to appear in the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin in the flesh. Sin that had captivated and held man at bay was defeated and led captive by Christ. He overcame the world. He overcame the world so that we can overcome the world. Thank God for such a Redeemer! He burst the mighty bars of death asunder. The grave could not hold Him. He came forth to victory. He ascended up on high and gave the Holy Spirit to His disciples. By the strength of Christ we can overcome the devil and prevail as Jesus did.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In Christ's walk on earth, He stood head and shoulders above everyone else; not in a superficial sense, but in the value

of the inward man. Christ was unafraid to enter any situation. His words and actions bespoke confidence and authority. Anyone who was in need of help, whether physical or spiritual, could approach Christ to loose their bands. Certainly we can see why Christ was likened unto a lion.

Think of the joy of those who understood the full significance of Christ's accomplishment in opening the book. When Jesus was brought as a child to the temple, Simeon rejoiced that Christ was "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

It was with great rejoicing that the news of Christ's birth was delivered to the shepherds abiding in the fields. "And there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God."

If one comprehends the cursed condition he is in while captivated by sin, he, too, can rejoice exceedingly when liberated by the plan of salvation that was brought about by the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Not only does Christ release us, but He is able to lead us on to victory. The poet said, "Tho' armies may compass, tho' legions assail, with Him for commander we can but prevail; Our watchword is victory, we fear not the throng, with the Lion of Judah we're ten thousand strong."
—Wayne Murphey

THE FUR COAT

At one time I was in great need of a fur coat, for the winters are very cold in the northern states and Canada. So I set my heart on having a fur-lined coat listed in the Sears Roebuck catalogue for \$57.25. I asked the Lord if I could have it and He answered, "Yes."

Shortly after this matter had been decided, a brother came to me and said, "You need a fur coat and here is ten dollars to start toward it." Others wrote sending money specifying that it was for a fur coat, until I had \$36.50. Then a whole year passed and nothing came.

The following November I went to Rice Lake, Wisconsin to hold a meeting for Bro. E. G. Ahrendt. It was very cold and there was lots of snow. On my arrival Brother Ahrendt said to me, "Haven't you got a fur coat, Brother Susag?" I answered, "Yes." he said, "Why don't you wear it in this cold weather?" I answered, "I have it by faith—have had it for a year and a half and have \$36.50 laid by for it that was given me towards buying a coat, but the price is \$57.25." Then Bro. Ahrendt went upstairs and was gone for a long time. When he came down

again, he said, "Brother Susag, before you leave here you are going to have a fur coat." I said, "Is that faith or presumption?" To which he replied, "If it isn't faith, I have never had faith." I said, "Praise the Lord; good for you and good for me."

When the meeting was over, Bro. Ahrendt said, "Did you get the fur coat?" I told him, "No." He then asked me where I was going from there, and I told him I was going ten miles out in the country to a little meeting house for a service. He said, "I'll go with you."

After the service that night, Bro. Ahrendt again asked, "Did you get your fur coat?" I said, "No." Upon which he inquired where I was going that evening. I told him that a family had invited me to their home and had offered to take me to another railroad over which I would be able to reach home sooner. Bro. Ahrendt declared that he was going with me until he saw my last foot safe in the train, "and," he said, "if you haven't got the fur coat by then I'll not know what to think of myself or my faith." (By way of explanation I would say here, that the offerings I received went for my general expenses; the money for my fur coat was to come from other sources. The Lord had promised me the fur coat.)

That night I had a dream. I woke up about three o'clock in the morning, and as I stirred a little, Bro. Ahrendt whispered, "Are you awake?" I told him I was. "Did you have a dream?" he asked. I answered, "Yes, a woman came to me and gave me four bills!" "The fur coat! the fur coat!" he excitedly said. We got so happy that we couldn't sleep any more and we shouted, "Glory to God!" We made so much noise that we disturbed the folks down stairs, and when we went down they said, "What is the matter with you brethren making so much noise?" We told them we were so happy that we could not help ourselves.

After a while the sister asked me to come out into the kitchen. She gave me a chair and I sat down. She at once began to unburden her mind and said, "Did you understand when I spoke to you at the campmeeting at St. Paul Park three or four years ago that I was intending to give you some money for your trip to Europe?" I answered, "Yes, I thought so." "But," she said, "you said you had the fare." "Yes," I answered, "I had it by faith." Then in surprise, she asked, "But didn't you have the money in your possession? Weren't you then already on your way to Europe?"

"I was on my way to Europe," I answered, "but did not have all my fare—only by faith."

She then told me that she had been sick for about two years. She said, "I have been prayed for often, and have received some help, yet I gradually got worse. Finally," she said, "I got desperate about it and said to the Lord, 'What's the matter with me anyway; I cannot get well and I cannot die?' Then the Lord said, 'Do you know the brother you intended to give some money before he went to Europe?' I said, 'Yes, in a way but he's back now.' The Lord said, 'That does not make any difference; how much was it?' 'Fifteen dollars,' was my answer. 'That's right,' the Lord said, 'but there is ten dollars interest on that now.' 'I'll give it to him the first time I see him,' I said. Then I was prayed for and healed at once." Having said this, she handed me the money, "Here it is," and it was FOUR BILLS! I took it and commenced to shout the glory of God. In came Bro. Ahrendt and I held up the four bills for him to see. He shouted, "The fur coat, the fur coat!" Then I related my experience to her of my praying for a fur coat and said to her, "If you had given me the money when I came back from Europe I would not have had to suffer cold for about a winter and a half." The sister was healed and blessed, and I was kept warm for many a day inside that fur coat.

—From *Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag*

May 30, 1982

THE LAMB OF GOD

Rev. 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Acts 8:32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.

Memory Verse: And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Rev. 21:27

Central Thought: Jesus Christ was the sacrificial Lamb of God, meekly submitting Himself to the death of the cross as an example for us to follow for our salvation and eternal glory.

LESSON BACKGROUND

There are several places in the book of Revelations where Christ is referred to as the Lamb. The title *Lamb* denotes a very important characteristic of our Savior. First, it stands for His sacrificial and mediatorial office for the souls of men. He is the anti-type of the Passover Lamb slain on the night of Israel's escape from Egypt, whose blood was sprinkled on the doorposts as a safeguard from the death angel. "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." 1 Cor. 5:7. He was a spotless Lamb without

blemish, offered on Calvary's tree in our stead to take away our sins. John the Baptist heralded Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. The blood of this spotless Lamb is sufficient to cleanse the soul from all sin. The beautiful city pictured in Revelation 21 is the Church of God, the bride of the Lamb. No one can enter her except those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb and whose names are in the Lamb's Book of life. Philip was called of God to go down to the desert. There he met a man returning to his home land who had been to Jerusalem to worship. He was reading in Isaiah. We have in our lesson the Scripture that he was reading and had in question with Philip. Philip started from that text and preached Jesus. He was as a lamb dumb before her shearers and the slaughter. "He opened not his mouth." This is the nature of a lamb. This was the disposition of Jesus before the cross. This is the way that we should be. Too many times we open our mouths to defend our selves. But Jesus was defenseless. He committed Himself to God who judgeth righteously. When he was reviled, he reviled not again, and when he suffered, he did not threaten anyone. He had the disposition of a Lamb. May God help us who profess His name to follow His example as a Lamb.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God?
2. What attribute did Jesus manifest that qualified Him to be called a Lamb?
3. Why did he not retaliate nor hold up for Himself?
4. Is it necessary for us to follow His example?
5. Name the qualities that are like a Lamb.

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Last lesson showed the characteristics of Jesus as a Lion. But we notice in our first Scripture that He that was introduced as a Lion is now appearing as a Lamb. The real strength of a person is not his ability to go and to do as his own desires would dictate. The real strength that we need is to be meek and lowly like Jesus was, and to wait on God. It is to take insults and injury without becoming bitter or retaliative. The text of Scripture that the prophet Isaiah divinely spoke is one we as children of God should never forget. It is an aspect of Jesus Christ that the carnal man cannot in his own strength come up to. And it has been verified by witnesses who have beheld sheep being shorn and slaughtered. One said that he watched the

shearers taking the wool from a sheep, and observed that even though now and then the shearer would cut into the meat, there was no outcry. Another farmer testified that he had to quit raising sheep on the account of how touching it was to see how they acted when being shorn and slaughtered. Another farmer, however, observed that when it came to the sheep's offspring, it was a different matter. He said that the sheep would put you right out of the pen. The sheep's love and protective devotion for her little lambs would cause that kind of action. But when it came to being shorn or slaughtered, there was no defense. Oh, that the pride and vanity of self love and self esteem could receive her death blow in the face of these truths. When we are faced with adversity and suffering for Christ's sake from the ungodly and unsaved, let us remember that Christ was as a lamb dumb before her shearers. Paul, in Romans 8:36, quoted from Psalm 44:22, in listing the things that come upon us as being persecuted for Christ's name. He knew that these things would come, and quoted the Scripture that stated that "we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Zechariah 11:4 speaks about the Lord's feeding the poor of the flock, the "flock of slaughter." Woe unto us if we cannot suffer as a Christian and take it like a Lamb! Jesus was the Lamb of God, and it was His disposition and spirit of meekness like a lamb that enabled Him to go to the cross and suffer as He did.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are times when we must follow Christ's example as a lion. There are times when we must play the part of a lamb. When facing forces that would sway us from right, we must be strong and valiant for the truth. In other instances we are compelled to keep peace and meekly suffer for Christ.

Christ did not suffer abuse in a lamb-like manner because He was powerless or inferior to His persecutors. The Scriptures plainly teach that He possessed power to deliver Himself from these things. In submitting the flesh, He was able to conquer sin and bring about the plan of salvation. When we submit to the abuses of others, often we can achieve spiritual victories that bring peace and joy. The Christian conduct we exhibit while suffering may even help win the soul of the abuser.

Many feel that unless they speak out to defend themselves they will appear inferior, guilty, or dumb. If abuse is unjustly given, the abuser will realize it and respect the one who manifests self control. During His sufferings, Christ was in

control of both His inner man and surface emotions.

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Prov. 16:32.
Herein is a lamb-like lion. —Wayne Murphey

From: PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF S. O. SUSAG

Once in company with Thomas Nelson, C. H. Tubbs, and my wife, we held a tent meeting in the country northwest of Colfax, Wisconsin. Several people were saved and some were healed. This stirred up great opposition so that on a couple of nights an angry mob was on the spot throwing stones, sticks, lumber, and bottles on the tent, demanding that we come out and they would cut me to pieces. One night, a minister of that community was in the tent, and as he saw the stones come rolling through the tent, he became badly frightened and said to me, "This is worse than in a heathen land." "Yes," I replied, "but are they not your people?" He said, "Yes," and then getting down on his hands and knees crawled out the back way from under the tent and escaped to the woods.

The reason for this unseemly tumult was because I had preached that baptism was by immersion and other truths. The situation was that two grown young people, the son and daughter of a minister in the community, were among those who were to be baptized. But the fact that there was no water nearby in which they could be immersed seemed to give the opposing element great satisfaction. However, we continued to advertise that there would be baptismal services on the coming Saturday afternoon. Friday night it rained heavily and near the tent there was a low place covered with green grass where the water settled and the water was deep enough in which to baptize the new converts.

This goes to prove that the Lord's resources are limitless. The next Sunday night, being the last night of the meeting, after all had left the tent except Bro. Tubbs and myself, and as I was not making any move towards leaving the tent, Brother Tubbs asked me whether I was not going home. I answered, "No, these people who threatened to cut me to pieces are coming back to pull the tent down and I want to be here when they come, but you go on home; I want to be here alone." But he said, "No, I will not leave you."

It was about a hundred rods or more to the house where we were staying and there was no other house nearby. We put out the lights and sat waiting. A number of times Bro. Tubbs urged that we go home, declaring that no one would come, but at

almost midnight a plank was thrown on the tent and out ran Bro. Tubbs for home. Just as I was coming out of the tent a big plank was thrown on me, striking my right shoulder and also hitting my head. It might have been quite serious, but I was wearing a stiff derby hat at the time. As it was, I was almost knocked out.

I said to them—there were between fifty and seventy of them, “Just a minute men. I am alone here. Please do not destroy the tent; it has no feelings. Take me and cut me in pieces as you said you wanted to do. If I have done anything wrong I am willing to suffer for it.” This I said as I walked slowly toward them, “But if it is because I have preached the Word of God to you folks and you do not receive it, you will meet it at the judgment bar of God,” and I continued to walk toward them. They said, “Do not come so near.” “Are you afraid of me?” I asked as I continued preaching to them. Then they commenced backing up. Finally, it seemed I had no more to say. One man said, “Give us more of that.” At that point Brother Tubbs appeared with eight of the brethren, whereupon the crowd turned and ran for their rigs and vanished into the darkness.

About eighteen months later I held another meeting in this same community and the attendance was very good. A number of the same people who had claimed that they wanted to cut me to pieces were also there. Eight souls had gotten saved and the attendance was increasing. All of a sudden, as I was closing the service, the Spirit of the Lord said to me, “This is your last service here. You will leave in the morning on the four o’clock train for Grand Meadows, Minn.” Saint and sinner alike, said, “You can’t close now; look at the manifest interest and the growing attendance.” “But,” I said, “the Lord tells me to close.” They insisted that it could not be that they all were wrong and I the only one that was right. So I consented to stay, but had I but left on that morning train I would have escaped the terrible storm that swept over that part of the country. As it was, I could neither get away nor continue the meeting. On the farm where I was staying they had to have a rope extended between the house and the barn for two days in order to find the way from one building to the other.

June 6, 1982

THE ROSE OF SHARON, THE LILY OF THE VALLEYS

Song of Sol. 2:1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

5:16 His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Matt. 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matt. 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner.

Memory Verse: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. 1 Peter 1:8.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ in His eternal life, ministry, and association with the souls of men is truly beautiful, fragrant, and endearing. It is because of His humility, meekness, and gentleness that He can be won to the heart's deepest affections.

Word Definitions: *Sharon*: the Hebrew definition is plain, straight, even. The proper name *Sharon* was for a long section of land that lay north and south on the Mediterranean side of the land of Israel. It was noted for its fertile land and beautiful roses. *Precious*: valuable, rare.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The Song of Solomon has expressions and thoughts on a romantic theme that can be applied to the relation of Christ and the Church, His Bride. Adam Clarke greatly questions its value, seeing there is no reference to God at all in it. But God has seen fit to allow it to be preserved for us, and although we cannot base sound doctrine in it alone, yet the references and things that are expressed can be used in conjunction with other Scriptures. We are studying today the love and endearing disposition that Jesus possesses. Since the other Scriptures refer to the preciousness of Christ and the New Testament does present Christ as a Bridegroom for the souls of men as His Bride, we can catch a glimpse of this beautiful relationship through the expressions found in the Song of Solomon. Two of the sweetest and most sublime characteristics of Jesus, and the quality of heart and mind that enabled Him to do what He did are His humility and simplicity. Sharon, referring to plainness and valleys referring to lowliness and humility, we can be assured that He is justly and Scripturally to be called the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valleys. This thought has inspired numerous hymns and spiritual songs, also. His wooing, drawing, affectionate manner of dealing with the soul is the greatest love story of all time. No one can really live for Christ without being wholly in love with Jesus. And the wonder of it all is that we can love Him, having never seen Him with the human eye. Through the avenue of the everlasting gospel and the workings of the Holy Spirit, Christ is revealed to the soul. We are enraptured and wrapped up in the love of Christ. No sacrifice or suffering is too great if it is done for Him. The rest that He gives to the weary, and the great cause that He stands for becomes the uppermost in our minds. He is truly the lover of our souls. We love Him because He first loved us.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Questions:

1. Why can we liken Jesus to the Rose of Sharon?
2. What kind of people are fertile soil for Him to flourish in?
3. Why does Jesus shun display and worldly show?

4. What would the bruised reed and smoking flax represent?
5. What will conformity to His beauty do for us?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

As we view through the eye of the gospel the nature, ways, working, and manner of the Lord and Savior of mankind, we are charmed and enraptured in holy worship and adoration for Him. Vile affections and worldly desires blind the soul to the beauty of Christ. Shunning display and fleshly advertising, Jesus seeks to draw the soul into a secret life with Him, separated from the pride and strife of men. Because of His healing and great miracles, the crowds followed Him. But He withdrew, as our lesson shows, to be apart. He sought not to stimulate the praise of men. He knew that the praise and honor of men was flighty and unstable. He sought the praise of God. The proud and self-sufficient passed Him by and rejected the corner stone. But the lowly, meek, contrite heart who recognized his own personal need of God and His salvation was made to see Christ as He really was. Those who stumble at the word, being unwilling to submit themselves to the divine will of God will reject Him. And they do so, not realizing what they do, because they see not the beauty of the Lord. They see no farther than the cross, and to think of surrendering their own ways to please God is too painful to bear. Thus they pass by, blindly. The cross becomes the filtering agent, filtering out souls who are not really determined to follow the Lord. But those who press beyond the cross, willing to do and to bear the reproaches and offences of the cross, are blessed with spiritual realities and blessings beyond measure. And to them is granted much mercy, longsuffering, and patience from the Lord. In their personal lives grace is given to overcome and fashion all according to His holiness. Rest for the soul is gained that before they were not aware of. Not just a mere refraining from physical exertion one day a week, but an every day soul rest, a sabbath-keeping all the time: this is the glorious inheritance of the child of God. We gladly walk in His steps, doing those things that best please and glorify His Name.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Think of what it means to be a possessor of the Rose of Sharon. Today some clubs host flower shows. Individuals tastefully prepare arrangements in the most becoming manner possible. The judges observe the arrangements and choose the

most perfect flowers for commendation. With a smile and joyful anticipation, the owner of the winning entry will accept a prize or ribbon.

This may be likened to the reaction of those who are possessors of the beautiful Rose of Sharon who is the perfect lamb of God. The obtaining of the Rose of Sharon should lift up the head of the downcast, replace the frown with a smile, place courage in the heart, and a song on the lips.

Paul said that he was "not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation . . ." Some feel that being a Christian makes one odd. The truth of it is, it lifts a person above the ordinary base desires of the world. It is not anything of ourselves, but it is the power of God.

Some in viewing the Christian life fail to see the rose for the thorns. People need to elevate their thinking above the "cannots" of the Christian life and see the beauty of it. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psa. 34:8.

—Wayne Murphey

From: PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF S. O. SUSAG

On one occasion I received an urgent call to come to Norway Lake to pray for Mrs. John Everson who was ill with tuberculosis. While on my way there I battled with devils. It seemed as though my buggy was full of devils, whispering to me and saying, "You are going to be arrested and put in jail." However, after driving sixteen miles, the Lord assured me that He was going to raise Sister Everson up, even if she were dead when I got there.

As I drove into the driveway I saw a number of men by the barn. It was the Constable and others. Jumping out of the buggy, I proceeded to unhook my team when Mr. Everson appeared, and said, "The hired man will take the team. Come along with me." We went into the house and into the room where the sick woman was. Mr. Everson sat down in a chair beside the bed, taking his watch out. He then took his wife's hand in his to count the pulse. She was unconscious. I spoke to her two or three times but she did not hear me. I knelt down and asked the Lord to restore her to consciousness. Then I arose and spoke to her again. After a bit she opened her eyes and I said, "Brother Susag is here. What do you want him to do for you?" She replied, "I want you to anoint me and pray for me." I immediately proceeded to do as she requested, following which she sat up in bed and asked for something to eat.

The constable, with others, was waiting outside the house to arrest me if the woman had died. Mr. Everson went out to them and they asked him how things were going. He told them that before I prayed for her, her pulse was 124, and when I took my hands off, her pulse was 82—which is normal!

Thirteen years later she was taken sick again. Mr. Everson, not being saved, called for the doctor they had previously employed. The doctor refused to come, saying that Mrs. Everson “had lived for thirteen years on something more than human. I can do nothing for her. If she has faith, she can live another thirteen years.” Then they telephoned me. I drove two miles in my automobile and was taken seriously ill and had to return home and go to bed. I was very sick for two days. Mrs. Everson died in the meantime, and I was well.

June 13, 1982

JESUS CHRIST SEEKING NOT THE PRAISE OF MEN

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believe not on him:

38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

John 5:41 I receive not honour from men.

43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Memory Verse: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. Rom. 2:29.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ, the Savior of lost mankind, sought not to please men. His aim and purpose was to please God. Nothing moved Him from this purpose. Man's ways are not God's ways, and His faithfulness in pleasing God put Him at variance with man.

Word Definitions: *Abominable:* Detestable, rejected, unaccepted and abhorred.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The prophet Isaiah foretold that Jesus Christ would be despised and rejected of men. Isa. 53:3. Since the fall of man, the ways of men have departed far away from the knowledge of God. It is so easy for man to be domineering, to want His own way. The carnal mind is enmity against God. Romans 8:7. The ways of men go astray from the divine will of God. Unenlightened by the Holy Spirit, man goes the wrong way every time. Jesus came down into a world that was engineered and domineered by the will of man. Satan had the upper hand of people's hearts and lives. He knew that men were going to reject Him. Therefore He sought no pleasure or favor from man. His trust was in His Father, the faithful God. The law system was corrupted by the ideas, opinions, and traditions of men. He quoted from Isaiah 29:13 when he said, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:8, 9. He said, "Beware of men." Matt. 10:17. Jesus knew that what He was bringing to the world would not fit with the carnal ways of men. And He also knew that those who loved and followed Him would be persecuted and meet the contradiction of men also. But God had spoken by the prophet Isaiah, "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" Isaiah 2:22. This is for every Christian today.

We must not live to men, but to God. To seek for the praise of man is to go astray from the ways of the Lord.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Christ rejected of men?
2. Why do man's ways differ from God's ways?
3. Is it possible to please men and to please God wholly at the same time?
4. Why is seeking to please men a good way to go into error?
5. Who should we honor?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Jesus Christ was God in the likeness of human flesh. He was the Son of God, He was the Son of man. But the man part of Jesus was subordinate to the God part. Because man had been alienated from the Spirit and true nature of His Creator, God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, so that man could be rescued from the error of His way. Beside Jesus, man was shown up to be foolish and sinful. And this is just what God wants man to realize that he is. He is corrupt in nature and warped in understanding. Without a warrant to be changed and without a willingness to learn, man becomes hardened and irresolute. God's ways and workings cross with His carnal mind. This is why Jesus came unto His own, and His own received Him not. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, but the world received Him not. But the few that did receive Him willingly and were grateful for the deliverance that He afforded were precious in His sight. The lowly twelve disciples and the few others who loved and appreciated Him were jewels and His peculiar treasure. It is the same today. The strait and narrow way will not allow the carnal minded men pleasers to enter. That men rejected Him meant nothing to Jesus. He expected persecution and being set at naught, and bore it bravely. He knew that it was God's will. He knew that He was the Son which was to be refused by the builders, but He also was persuaded that He was of God, and that all the antagonism of the Jews was as nothing. He knew that He was to be the Head Stone of the corner, the foundation Stone of the great Church of God. Disallowed indeed of men, He was chosen of God and precious. Jews sought a sign, and Greeks were for worldly wisdom. But Christ crucified is a stumbling block and foolishness. Why? It is because God seeks to offset the priority of man, and disrobe him of his pride so

that no flesh can glory in His presence. 1 Corinthians 1:22-29. These are serious truths to be dealt with by every one who would really follow Christ whithersoever He goeth. And how much it means to really follow Christ! His ways are above the ways of men. The true Christian life is not gauged by what man thinks, but what God orders and commands.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are several indications that Christ did not seek the praise of men. One of the most outstanding is in that He refused to set up an earthly kingdom. There were many who would have followed and worshipped Christ as a literal king. When Christ was tempted of the devil, He was offered all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. Whether or not the devil had it in his power to grant this could be debatable. However, if Christ had desired the praise of men this would have been an excellent opportunity. Jesus did not give it a second thought but immediately commanded the devil to depart.

There is another indication that Christ did not seek the praise of men. He came to this world to serve, not to be served. One who is seeking praise desires the personal benefit of all happenings and is unwilling to give of himself to others. Think of the attitude that Christ must have had when He washed the disciples' feet. He definitely was not seeking honor and praise in this act of humility.

It is honorable to acquire the respect of men but to value honor and respect of men more than the approval of God is dangerous. This is the situation of the chief priests who were mentioned in our lesson. They were afraid they would lose the approval and praise of the Pharisees if they confessed to a belief in Christ. They feared the Pharisees would banish them from the temple. Today it is often money that captivates people. Many preachers compromise the truth in order to retain human approval and contributions.

—Wayne Murphey

A STORY FROM THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The most interesting story I ever heard was told to me years ago by a man over eighty years of age. We were sitting together on a projecting rock of a mountainside in Arkansas. Here's the story:

"I was down in this country during the Civil War. Across on the other side yonder there were hundreds of tents where our

soldiers were encamped. Measles broke out and many of our brave lads died. The epidemic got so bad we stretched some tents farther down the valley and moved all the measles patients into these tents. This, of course, was done to protect as far as possible the health of the well soldier. I was wardmaster in charge of tents where the measles patients were located.

"One night while I was on the ward, I passed a bunk where there was a very sick soldier lad not more than seventeen years of age. The boy looked at me with a pathetic expression and said, 'Wardmaster, I believe I am going to die. I am not a Christian. My mother isn't a Christian. My father isn't a Christian. I never had any Christian training. I never did attend church. I did go with a friend to Sunday school just once. A woman taught the Sunday school class. She seemed to be a good woman. She read us something out of the Bible about a man—think his name was Nicodemus. Anyway, it was about a man who went to see Jesus one night. Jesus told this man he must be born again. The teacher said all people must be born again in order to go to heaven when they die. I have never been born again, and I don't want to die like this. Won't you please get the chaplain, so he can tell me how to be born again?' "

The old man hesitated for a moment. "You know, in those days I was an agnostic—at least, that is what I called myself. As a matter of fact, I wasn't anything but an old sinner. So I told the boy, 'You don't need a chaplain. Just be quiet now. Don't worry, you'll be all right.' I went on around the ward and, in about an hour I came back to the boy's bed. He looked at me out of such sad, staring eyes as he said, 'Wardmaster, if you won't get me the chaplain, please get me the doctor. I am choking to death.' 'All right, my son, I'll get you the doctor,' I said. So I went off and found the doctor, and he came, mopped out the throat of the lad so he could breathe just a little easier. I knew the boy was going to die. I had seen many other cases just like his. The boy was so sweet he literally climbed into my heart. The doctor and I went away from the bed.

"In about an hour I came back expecting to find the boy dead, but he was still struggling. He looked up out of eyes of death and said, 'There is no use, Wardmaster. I have got to die, and I haven't been born again. Whether you believe in it or not, won't you find the chaplain and let him tell me how to be born again?' I looked at him for a moment and thought about how helpless he was in the grip of death. So I said, 'All right, my son, I will get you the chaplain.'

“I walked away a few paces and then turned and went back to the boy’s bedside. I said, ‘My boy, I am not going to get you the chaplain. I am going to tell you what to do myself. . . . Now understand, I am an agnostic. I don’t know whether there is any God. I don’t know whether there is any heaven. I don’t know whether there is any hell. I don’t *know* anything. Yes, I do. I know one thing: I know my mother was a good woman. I know, if there is a God, my mother knew Him. If there is a heaven I know she is there. So I will tell you what my mother told me. You can try it and see if it works. Now, I am going to teach you a verse of Scripture. The verse is John 3:16. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”** My mother said that I cannot save myself, but if I will believe in Jesus He will save me.’

“I asked the boy to say the verse with me. I started and he followed with a weak, shaky voice slowly, ‘For God so loved the world’—‘For God so loved the world,’ ‘That He gave His only begotten Son,’—‘That He gave His only begotten Son,’—‘that whosoever believeth in Him,’—‘that whosoever believeth in Him,’—‘should not perish’—‘should not perish,’—‘but have everlasting life.’—‘but have everlasting life.’ ‘Now, my boy, my mother said, if a person will trust Jesus, he will not perish but have everlasting life.’

“I referred the lad to another verse my mother taught me, but he closed his eyes, stretched his hands across his breast and in a whisper he quoted slowly, repeating some of the words several times, ‘For God so loved the world . . . He gave His only begotten Son . . . that whosoever, whosoever . . . **whosoever** believeth in Him, **BELIEVETH in HIM.**’ Then, he stopped and said with a clear voice, ‘Praise God, Wardmaster, it works. I believe in Him! I shall not perish! I have everlasting **LIFE!** I have been born again! Wardmaster, your mother was right. Why don’t you say it? Do what your mother said. It works. Wardmaster. This thing works! Wardmaster, before I go, I want to ask you to do something for me. Take a kiss to my mother and tell her what you told me, and tell her that her dying son said, “It works.”’ I leaned over and he kissed me. Then, as he drew his last breath, he said, ‘It works.’

The old man, wiping tears out of his eyes and out of the wrinkles of his face said, “The lad was right. It does work. Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. It works. I **know** it works!”

—Selected

June 20, 1982

THE WISDOM OF JESUS

John 4:5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

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

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Memory Verse: The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Prov. 11:30.

Central Thought: The manner in which Jesus dealt with souls is an example of the wisdom that is needed today in our labors for His cause and the souls of men.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus Christ was endowed with the Holy Ghost and much wisdom in His ministry. Our study today will be concerning this special wisdom that He exercised. The story of His meeting the woman at the well of Samaria is but one example of His great profound wisdom. It serves as a pretty good pattern to associate with many dealings that we as Christians will meet. The individual being dealt with is seemingly an extreme case: a woman who had five living husbands, and the phrase: "he whom thou now hast is not thy husband" could indicate that she was just living with a man at that time beside five others she had been married to. It is to be noticed that while He made it clear to her that he KNEW about her past life, the account does not say that Jesus told her what to do about all her husbands. We do see that He dealt with her on the platform of her spiritual condition and need. He got her interested in the water of life. He knew that to tell her to go and straighten up her affairs in a point-blank manner would have accomplished nothing. But if she could get a vision of the well of water of life that He had to put within her soul (the same well that He wants to put into everyone) she would have grace to straighten up her life in whatever manner God would design. Jesus had true wisdom in dealing with souls. It is no doubt true that many people have been discouraged and decoyed from the truth because of a lack of wisdom on the part of well meaning efforts of others. A harsh, law spirit has reaped hearts of men and women that otherwise might have been won to Christ. "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God." James 1:5. The greatest mistake we can make is to not think that we lack wisdom. If we do not sense any lack, there will be no seeking for wisdom. A good surveyal of the wisdom Jesus used will cause us to feel a need for it.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Was Jesus merely thirsty when he asked for a drink?
2. Why did He approach the woman in this manner?
3. What was this woman's greatest need?
4. How did He deal with her marriage condition?
5. Can you honestly say that you have no need for more wisdom?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Jesus' dealings with the woman at the well is but one example of the wisdom that He possessed. When we think of the

many wise answers that He gave to the hard questions that crafty hearts put to Him to get Him in a corner, we stand in awe at the wisdom that God gave Him. Solomon was wise, but Jesus was a greater than Solomon. Nicodemus came to Him by night, praising Him as a teacher come from God because of the miracles. Jesus knew what this man's real need was. He needed to be born of the Spirit. The woman at the well was wondering about the right place to worship. Jesus showed her that the geographical place had not the value that she thought. He explained that true worship does not depend on the location, but the condition of the worshiper. One of the greatest answers Jesus gave was to the question of paying tribute. "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but to God the things that are God's." He had asked for a penny, and asked whose image was on the coin. When the Sadducees approached Him with a case of a woman who was married to seven brothers who had died one by one leaving her to the next, Jesus answered with a wisdom that put to silence their antagonizing hearts. We surely need the spirit of wisdom today. Isaiah 11:2, 3 prophesied that upon Christ would rest the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and would make Him of quick understanding, not judging after the sight of His eyes, neither reproving after the hearing of His ears. And Jesus surely did prove to be this. He was the wisdom of God manifest in the flesh. 1 Corinthians 1:30 declares that Christ of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Christ can give unto us the wisdom that we need in our ministries. If we will but sense our need and seek Him earnestly, He will give it to us liberally, and upbraid us not. No matter how ignorant we may seem to be, if we will wait on Him He will give us sound wisdom to be successful in our work for Him.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Any type of successful institution must be run wisely. To sell a product both the advertising and sales people equip themselves with well developed tactics to market the product. The same is true of salvation. No matter how perfect a plan it is, it must be handled with wisdom in order to attract souls.

This vital wisdom comes from above. Only God can give us the discernment and understanding to handle the plan of salvation. We find that Solomon, who is considered the wisest man to have ever lived had to seek God for his wisdom. It was not inherited from his father David, or acquired from a school

of learning, but was a direct gift of God. A person may possess much knowledge in this world, but compared to the mind of God, it appears as foolishness.

The first step toward gaining wisdom lies in following Christ's footsteps. One Scripture says, "A good understanding have all they that do his commandments." When one perceives the evil of this world and the value of living a holy life, he has made a great stride toward acquiring wisdom. For some it is applicable to say that "wisdom crieth in the streets." Many people love the simplicity of living to please the flesh.

If we have an honest heart before God, live in all the light He shines on our pathway, and ask for understanding in every situation, God will be pleased to give us the portion of wisdom we need.

—Wayne Murphey

THE WAY THEY GOSSIP

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Jones, two prominent members of a certain church, were conversing on topics regarding the spiritual state of the church.

"Sister Brown," said Sister Jones, "Isn't it terrible the way our members gossip? Why, Sister Smith and Sister Snow were talking scandalously the other day about Sister Davis. You know she got a new hat this year after getting a new one last year, and they thought it was terrible. They thought she could have given the money to the church for the benefit of foreign missions, and made it a little easier on those who hadn't money to buy a new hat every year. Then they said they were sure she didn't have what she professed, for she gave her approval for her daughters to dance and dress in the height of fashion, and she simply would not give her money. Between you and me, all this is true, and I think it is awful, don't you? But you know I was talking to Sister Davis and she told me that Sister Smith and Sister Snow were very poor representatives of Christianity, for they allowed their children to do as they pleased. She said Sister Snow had been to her house, and her little Mary who accompanied her, had climbed over the sofa, rattled on the piano, and even ransacked in buffet and cupboard drawers, while her mother sat telling her (Sister Davis) how children should be reared with kindness, and never even reproved the child. She said she thought that some hickory oil was better than too much kindness. Sister Smith and Sister Snow talk about each other too, when they aren't together. Oh, it is just terrible the way they gossip."

"Yes," said Sister Brown, "and do you know I was talking to Sister Davis, and she told me she thought Sister Snow was too hard on little Mary, and made her do things which were too hard for her to do. And she thought she did not allow her enough privileges. You can't tell a thing about people, and I'm so disgusted. I think they should keep still about Sis. Snow, although of course you know she does talk about all her neighbors. And dear me! don't tell this, but it was told me that she wasn't exactly honest in some of her dealings. I can't say about that—it probably is true. I know she doesn't always tell the truth."

"Oh no, she told me the other day that she didn't think she would attend that party at Rich's, and I knew she knew all the time she was going. And she fibbed to me about the price of her new dress, too. I found it out later. But still I don't think people should talk about her. Yes, it is awful the way they gossip."

"Sister Robinson said the other day that Grubbs and his wife were mad at the preacher again. Maybe the preacher reproved him for selling tobacco in his store. I think he intended to. And then he preached very plainly last Sunday about how folks should give as the Lord prospers them, and how they ought not to hold grudges, and should always attend the means of grace when it is possible. You know all that hits Grubbs. He is stingy and holds spite at Rowe because he took some of his customers. He hasn't spoken to him for three years and says he never will. And he won't come to prayer meeting. He surely can't think he is right, and how can he blame the preacher for preaching the truth? I am simply disgusted with him, too. But still, why do they talk about him?"

"Oh well, Sister Robinson has all she can do if she keeps her own doorstep clean. It will be a wonder if she isn't mad at the pastor herself before the year is out. She got mad at Bro. C._____ last year for nothing, you know."

"Sister Snyder is another gossip. She told me the other day, she said not to mention it, so you needn't tell her I told you—that the pastor was too intimate with one of the ladies in the choir. I guessed right away who she meant. Of course I don't believe it of the pastor, but a certain lady does hang around him too much. But Sister Snyder herself wants to run everything—just has to be bell sheep or none. She thinks her daughter and herself ought to do all the special singing, and you know you can't understand a word they say. My hus-

band says they sing like their mouths were full of mush. My, but their singing is a bore!"

"Yes, and the pastor shouldn't ask them so often. But I suppose he wants to keep peace, and you know if he asked anyone else to sing, the Snyders would be peeved. Indeed, if he didn't ask them, they would sing anyway, I do believe. But some of our members talk about them, and you know we shouldn't gossip. Sister Smith makes remarks once in a while, and she has no room to talk. You know how mean she acts every time anyone else leads the singing."

"Yes, I know. And I know how mad her husband was because he wasn't re-appointed Sunday school superintendent. He really stormed the castle. I don't like that new superintendent, do you?"

"No. But this gossip is a terrible thing."

"Yes, indeed! And so many do it. But I'm just keeping still. I really can't understand why people want to talk about others."

"Neither can I. It surely is terrible the way people gossip!"

—Sel.

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June 27, 1982

THE ZEAL OF JESUS CHRIST

John 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

Isaiah 40:10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

62:1 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Isaiah 42:4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Memory Verse: For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. Psalm 69:9.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ was possessed with the Spirit of God and a burning zeal for the salvation of men and the standard of righteousness for them to obey.

Word Definition: *Zeal*: a Greek word that indicates boiling heat, fervor, ardor, and vehement earnestness for a cause or purpose. "*Eaten me up*": devoured or consumed.

LESSON BACKGROUND

It is very evident that on two different occasions (if not more) Jesus visited the temple and cast out the money changers. John records this one at the beginning of His ministry, and Mark told of the occasion just before Jesus was crucified. Mark 11:15-17. Jesus was fully justified in doing what He did. By their carnal trafficking they were making the House of God a den of thieves and a house of merchandise. Jesus came into the world with a work to do. He set about it with great effort and determination to carry it through. He had a baptism to be baptized with. He filled His young life with service to the Father and for the souls of men. The zeal of God consumed Him. One sister rightly prayed, "Lord, I don't want to rust out, but wear out." Zeal is good, and it is a good thing to be zealously affected for a righteous cause. But our zeal must be according to knowledge. Paul testified that Israel had a zeal for God, but it was not according to knowledge. Romans 10:2. But to have a burning zeal for the cause of God, and the spiritual

welfare of men is vital for the child of God. Better it is to have more zeal seemingly in a righteous cause than to have no zeal at all. God has a way of pulling us back when we press too far. But the indifferent soul who has no burden or concern is of no value to the Lord. Jesus had a zeal for the cause of God. He wanted to see the temple worship right. He was a Man of action that time. He knew that probably no one else had the courage to do something about it. They questioned His authority, but they knew He was right. May we who are His servants maintain zeal and fervent determination for the cause of God.

—Leslie C Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What stirred Jesus' zeal when He saw the money changers?
2. What was Jesus zealous for?
3. What needs to accompany zeal?
4. What was Jesus' meat and drink?
5. What will zeal do for us today in the Church of God?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

There are two kinds of zeal. The word *zelos* in the Greek from which our word *zeal* comes is applied to both kinds of zeal. It is also the word that is translated *emulation* and *jealousy*. A person is zealous for what they are affected or influenced by. What makes a person zealous for the truth? It is the glory, blessing, benefit, value, and influence of truth on his life. He is zealously affected. The apostle Paul told the Galatian brethren that they had been affected zealously for the wrong thing. He said, "It is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing." Galatians 4:18. Some false teachers had come along and zealously affected the brethren who had once been zealously affected by the truth in Christ. We must be careful how we are affected. Adolph Hitler zealously affected his nation and they followed him to destruction. There is something about the truth that is in Christ that will cause one to have a great zeal for the cause of God and the salvation of souls. Zeal will bring about action. This action must be gauged by wisdom. We must move and function according to the Spirit of God. Many in history have been possessed with a zeal for God who went at it in the wrong way. With zeal must go humility and long-suffering. Be zealous, but also be wise. A candle that does not burn will not consume itself. The burning candle will consume itself. It is consuming as it burns and gives light. The light of our fervency and zeal for Christ and His perfect holiness will

shine brightly out into the darkness of this world, and draw souls to Him. But at the same time our life will be burning and consuming away. Zeal will cause one to consecrate his life to God and be willing to go where the Holy Spirit leads. Zeal will prompt and move us to work for the Lord and witness for Him at every opportunity. We will be willing to testify and help carry the burden of prayer in public services. We will join wholeheartedly in while the songs of Zion are floating above. Zeal will brighten up our experience and leave a trail of glowing hearts behind. Let us have a zeal for God and His truth, and be willing to follow Jesus in the service of the great cause He brought forth.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Without zeal, Christ would not have accomplished much in His short life span. There were only a few years of His life devoted to the ministry; yet in that time His zeal produced a great impact on the existing generation and those to come. If Christ had possessed the limited zeal of some modern day Christians, most of us would probably be in spiritual darkness.

Zeal is a motivating power. It can be likened unto anger, watered down. What happens when one becomes angry? Generally some action is produced. When people are angry they often commit rash deeds. The point is, they DO something. Likewise, zeal motivates an individual. The difference in zeal and anger is that zeal motivates at a slow enough pace one can direct his course of action. Anger stimulates the impulse to “fly off the handle,” but zeal accomplishes a purpose. Many say Jesus was angry as He drove the money changers from the temple. However, His motive was healthy and premeditated. I do not believe that He suddenly became overwrought and blindly beat upon the money changers. If we possess a true zeal for God’s work as Christ did, there will be a stir within our souls as we view the corruption about us. It will cause a righteous indignation. Those who can passively observe the wickedness about them without it causing grief to the inner man, need the provocation of the zealous passion of Christ to arouse their soul and dispel listless apathy.

—Wayne Murphey

