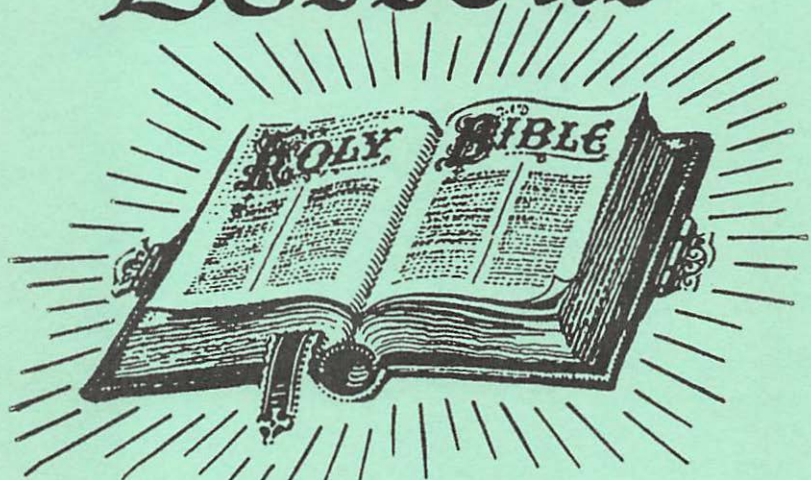


# Bible Lessons



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

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

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**Table of Contents**

DATE	LESSON TITLE	PAGE
Oct. 4	The Miraculous Conception .....	1
11	John the Baptist Introduces Christ .....	6
18	Christ Being Tempted of Satan .....	11
25	Christ Rejected by His Own People .....	16
Nov. 1	Jesus, The Friend of Sinners .....	21
8	Jesus Causes the Blind to See .....	26
15	Jesus Christ, the Living Bread .....	31
22	Giving Thanks and Praise to God .....	35
29	Worldly Riches Versus True Riches .....	40
Dec. 6	Christ's Sacrificial Death for Mankind .....	44
13	Dead with Christ, Alive with Christ .....	49
20	Christ Appearing for Us in Heaven .....	54
27	Sowing Not to the Flesh, But to the Spirit .....	59

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## **BIBLE LESSONS FOR FOURTH QUARTER, 2009**

### **THEME FOR FOURTH QUARTER**

We feel greatly inspired of the Holy Spirit to set forth a series of lessons on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Beginning with His miraculous virgin conception and birth we want to survey various scenes of His life on earth, His teachings, what He manifested and accomplished, and then His sacrificial death for the sins of mankind, His glorious resurrection from death and the grave, His ascension to the right hand of God, and His office as High Priest there in Glory. We pray the Lord to bless these lessons to every one as He has so richly blessed and inspired our soul with them.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee



**OCTOBER 4, 2009**

### **THE MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION**

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

**MEMORY VERSE:** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ was brought about by the power of God causing His mother Mary to conceive in her womb and be with child before her marriage to Joseph.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Luke 1:27, "*virgin*": A young unmarried maiden. "*espoused*": Betrothed or engaged to be married.

Verse 28, "*Hail*": This is a word of greeting, meaning: "Be well!" or "Be of good cheer!" "*highly favoured*": Indued with great honor.

Verse 29, "*cast in her mind*": Reckoned and wondered greatly. "*salutation*": Greeting.

Matthew 1:18, "*on this wise*": In this way.

Verse 19, "*to make her a publick example*": To expose her publicly. "*put her away privily*": Secretly release her from her engagement to him.

Verse 21, "*JESUS*": From the Hebrew name "Jehoshua", the same as "Joshua", which means "Jehovah saves."

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The Bible account of the conception and birth of a child to a virgin is discredited and not believed by many people. But this is one of the foundation stones of the Christian faith. It was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14 and verified as taking place, beyond all question, by two New Testament writers. Matthew, one of Christ's disciples and Luke, a Gentile follower of Jesus, both bear witness of this wonderful fulfillment of Bible prophecy. We have the account of the virgin conception and birth of Christ by these two witnesses in our lesson for today.

Luke tells the story more in depth and background but Matthew gives more of Joseph's side of the matter. Luke began his Gospel with the account of another miraculous conception, that of Elisabeth, a cousin of the mother of Jesus. The son she gave birth to was to be the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist. As our lesson brings out, the angel Gabriel told Mary about the conception of Elisabeth being six months along, which was, no doubt, a great encouragement to Mary. This was very evident, for Luke tells about Mary rising in those days and going to pay a visit to her cousin, Elisabeth. And what a joyful time these two happy women had together!

Matthew's account reveals Joseph's side of the story. He

and Mary were engaged to be married. Very soon after she was informed by the angel that she was to be the mother of the Savior, Mary went in haste to the house of Elisabeth and tarried there for three months. No doubt by the time she returned to Nazareth her body was making manifest the fulfillment of the word of the angel of her conception. It was probably about that time that she broke the news to Joseph that she was expecting a child. We can imagine the distress Joseph was in, even though Mary without fail had explained to him about the visit of the angel and what he had foretold was to take place. But, thank God, the angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph and made him to know what was going on. So Joseph took Mary to be his wife and they both looked forward to the coming birth of the Savior. What a wonderful event to soon come to pass!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the message the angel gave to Mary?
2. Why was Mary in question about it?
3. What was Mary's response to the angel's message?
4. How did Joseph react to the news of Mary being with child?
5. What did he do when the angel explained the matter to him?

#### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 declared that a virgin would conceive and bear a son and His name would be called Immanuel. In Matthew 1:22-23 of our lesson it is stated that what came to pass in Mary was the fulfillment of that prophecy, and gave the interpretation of the name Emmanuel to be "God with us." In chapter one and verse 14 of John's Gospel it was declared that "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." In verse 1 John stated that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." How wonderful that Christ

was the very life and glory of the Almighty God come down in human flesh! Our great loving heavenly Father quickened the womb of Mary to be with child. This truth of the virgin birth of Christ is truly a wonderful and glorious foundation of our Christian faith. Jesus was a man with a natural body, but His essence was more than the flesh. His spirit and inner man possessed the Spirit of the Almighty God! Although we are not able to explain all the details of this blessed truth, we are positive in our convictions that it is the truth, and we need not doubt its certainty! Jesus was truly "God with us"!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Since sin entered into the world through the transgression of Adam and Eve, man has looked forward to the birth of Jesus. God promised Eve that through her seed the head of the serpent would be bruised. The promise was carried through Abraham, Isaac and on through David and the many generations that followed. At times the Lord gave additional confirmation of His promise and caused the children of Israel to greatly anticipate their coming Messiah.

Adam Clarke made this statement regarding the desire Rachael, the wife of Jacob, had for a child, "We may remark among the Jewish women an intense desire of having children; and it seems to have been produced, not from any peculiar affection for children, but through the hope of having a share in the blessing of Abraham, by bringing forth Him in Whom all the nations of the earth were to be blessed."

This great honor was eventually bestowed upon Mary, the handmaid of the Lord. This humble young lady was willing for God to have His way in her life even though it would cause her to suffer hardship and scorn from the world. It was through this miraculous union that our blessed Redeemer was born.

May we, like Mary, have the same willingness for God's holy Son to be made manifest to the world through us by allowing that heavenly seed to germinate in our hearts and bring forth fruits of righteousness that proclaims His glory is still alive in the earth.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey

**OCTOBER 11, 2009**

**JOHN THE BAPTIST INTRODUCES CHRIST**

Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luke 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Matthew 3:5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,

6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to



no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ....John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** John the Baptist was prophesied of and sent by God to preach repentance to Israel to prepare them for Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and to receive Him, the Lamb of God Who was the Savior of the world.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Matthew 3:2, "*Repent*": Be sorry for your sins, and be of a mind to quit them and live righteously before God.

Luke 3:4, "*Prepare*": Make ready your heart, by humility and submission to God, for Him to come in.

Verse 5, "*valley*": Ways of life below the standard of holiness. "*mountain and hill*": Places and ways of pride and self-exaltation. "*crooked*": Evil, corrupt and dishonest ways. "*rough ways*": Hard, mean and cruel ways of bitterness and hatred.

Luke 3:8, "*fruits worthy of repentance*": Suitable and deserving ways and actions that show you are really sorry for your sins and are willing to change.

Verse 12, "*publicans*": Tax-collectors.

Matthew 3:12, "*fan*": The breath and Spirit of God. "*purge his floor*": Cleanse the hearts of men. "*wheat*": Souls of men pure and righteous before God. "*chaff*": All impurity and sin.

Verse 15, "*becometh*": Is fitting and proper. "*suffered*": Allowed.

Verse 16, "*straightway*": At once.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

For our lesson today we have put together the account of John the Baptist from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. It shows that the appearance of John in the wilderness of Judea preaching to the people to confess and repent of their sins and straighten their lives up before God was fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3-8. Our lesson shows the seriousness of John's ministry, for it pointed men to godly sorrow for their sins and changing their minds, hearts and ways to what pleases God. This change the people were called to make before being baptized by John. And truly it is still required in the New Testament for us today to be saved and brought into the kingdom of God.

Luke records some of the questions that different people asked John of what they were supposed to do, and what John's answer to them was. This shows that repentance is not just a formal public confession, but it must be followed by the very actions and ways of one's life.

John told them what their repentance and baptism was for. It was to prepare them to receive the One Who was coming to be their Lord and Savior. And we have the wonderful scene of Christ coming to be baptized of John, and the glorious descent of the Holy Spirit like a dove coming down and lighting upon Him, and the voice of God speaking from Heaven. This was all great evidence pointing to Christ's acceptance with the Almighty God, His Heavenly Father. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the message of John the Baptist to the people?

2. What does it mean to repent and prepare the way of the Lord?

3. What was John's ministry preparing the people for?

4. What happened when John baptized Jesus?

5. What did John declare Jesus to really be?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

There are more serious and important matters in the ministry of John the Baptist than many people realize. His burden that God invested him with, as is revealed in the prophecy, was to call people to repentance in order to prepare them to receive the Messiah, the Anointed One Who was to come as the Savior of fallen mankind. It is identical to the repentance and straightening up that we must do today to be saved and born of the Spirit of God. Humanity has gone astray and turned every man to his own way. God has worked out a plan to redeem and restore us to favor and fellowship with Him as He had with man in the beginning.

But there is something that we must do to obtain this salvation from sin and death. We must repent and change our ways and thoughts. In Isaiah 55:7 it says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Jeremiah 3:13 says, "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God," We must come to attention and straighten up our ways and thoughts. This is true repentance.

There must be a consciousness of our sins and transgressions; otherwise there will be no effort put forth to straighten up. God gave us His holy law through Moses and it has enough truth and information to convict a soul of his sinful and lost condition. Through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit a person can be made aware of their defiled state before God, and they must seek the Lord, repent and straighten up their lives, and believe in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior to find peace and acceptance with God. The valleys of corruption, shame, and unholy attitudes and desires must be brought up to honesty, sincerity and submission to God. The mountains and hills of pride, self, worldly honor and rebellion must be

brought down to humility and meekness. The crooked, corrupt, evil and dishonest ways must be corrected, and the rough, mean and cruel ways of life must be smoothed out into merciful kindness and love. These things make up true and godly sorrow, repentance and reformation that we must have to be saved.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Terry was a man who was raised right, and went wrong. At age 12, a friend handed him a half pint of whiskey, and from there, his life spiraled downward. As a freshman, he began smoking pot and taking speed. It was pot, pills and drinking every weekend through high school.

His wild ways cost him two good jobs and his marriage. By that time he was into acid and cocaine. At 30, he was handed three ounces of cocaine and invited to start selling it. In four hours he had made \$600, and he was hooked. Making up to \$14,000 a week, Terry lived a wild life of non-stop partying. His family, well known and respected—his dad, a mayor; his two older brothers, successful businessmen—tried every way they knew to intervene and get him to change his life, but to no avail. In sober moments, Terry was sick of how he was grieving his parents and abandoning his wife and baby girl, but he only buried his guilt with another hit of cocaine. "Enough dope will help you forget anything," he said.

Flirting with death became a way of life for Terry. High on cocaine, he would ride down the interstate on his Harley at 70 mph, leaning back, hands folded across his chest, a cocky smile on his face, while friends cruising alongside handed beers to him out their truck window. But he was also paranoid and always carried a pistol, afraid that some one was going to get him, or that he would get busted by the police. Usually stories like this end in early death. But God intervened in Terry's life and in one of the largest drug busts in his state, Terry was brought face to face with his life. It was during drug rehab in the state penitentiary that he finally came to repentance. His counsellor asked him if he had ever sold drugs to a pregnant woman, or to children. "You must be crazy. I was a good drug dealer," he replied. She told him, "Your drugs did

get into the hands of children. You don't know how many divorces you're responsible for, or how many broken homes."

That broke him. "My famous words were always, 'I'm only hurting myself.'" But now he faced the truth. He had damaged countless people with the only thing he was good at—selling drugs. He had brought misery on all those he loved most. He had totally failed as a son, a brother, a husband and a father. Only when you face the truth about your life can you hope to turn your life around. That's what repentance is, that's what John preached on the shores of Jordan, and that's the only way to the new life that Jesus offers you.

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**OCTOBER 18, 2009**

### **CHRIST BEING TEMPTED OF SATAN**

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

Mark 1:13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan: and was with the wild beasts: and the angels ministered unto him.

Matthew 4:2 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.

Luke 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou thereforc wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

**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. Hebrews 4:15.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God allowed Jesus to be enticed with fleshly desires and worldly honor and unbalanced reasonings in the depths of mortal weakness to prove His faithfulness and obedience as our Saviour.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Matthew 4:2, "*an hungred*": He was extremely hungry.

Verse 5, "*pinnacle*": Extremity or top corner.

Verse 7, "*It is written again*": It is written furthermore and on the other hand. "*not tempt*:" Not deliberately put to the test or test thoroughly.

Luke 4:6, "*power*": Authority and rule. "*glory*": Dignity, honor and outward brilliance.

Verse 7, "*worship*": Fall down in adoration and submission.

Hebrews 4:5, "*be touched*": Able to sympathize. "*in all points*": In every manner and attraction.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we have the account of our Savior meeting the great power of evil and deceptive attractions of the enemy of all righteousness, the one who overthrew Adam and Eve in the beginning. For Jesus Christ to be our Savior, Redeemer and Rescuer from the woeful plight that humanity had fallen into under the curse of satan and sin, He must meet

and overcome the very force and influence that we as humans face in this life. He must be tempted and enticed to yield to the flesh and the world just as we are tempted. Immediately after His baptism by John and the glorious witness given by God as being His Son well beloved and well pleasing, the Spirit of God took Him away from humanity out into the wilderness. There, apart from friends and family, among the beasts of the wild, He passed forty days of fasting and no telling what difficulty and adversity.

Our lesson shows the three main points in which the devil sought to allure our blessed Savior into sin and transgression against the will of God. These three points correspond with the three points of Eve's temptation in the Garden of Eden. And these three points correspond with I John 2:16 which lists the three worldly influences: "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." In Genesis 3:6 it describes the temptation of Eve to partake of the forbidden tree: "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (lust and appetites of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (attractive and appealing to visible grandeur and beauty), and a tree to be desired to make one wise (pride of life and worldly grandeur), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat." Jesus had to meet and overcome each one of these temptations.

Think of Jesus after fasting for forty days and how weak and hungry He probably was! And consider satan's suggestion of jumping from the pinnacle of the temple to show that God would deliver Him, and what glory He would receive in the eyes of the people for such a deliverance! Think of the attraction of all the kingdoms of the world, the Roman Empire and the nations around! But, thank God, it did not prevail with our Lord and Savior! He resisted and overcame this world and He will give us power and victory to overcome the world we live in! And how sweet it was when satan had to take his leave and the angels came and ministered to our Savior's needs!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did Jesus have to be so sorely tried and tempted?
2. What were the three points in which He was tempted?

3. What weapon did Christ use to overcome these temptations?
4. How did Jesus overcome satan's scripture talk?
5. What did Christ's victory make possible for us?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Jesus had fasted for forty days, far beyond the bounds of how long man can do without food and survive. He was alive not because of literal food, but because He was sustained by the Word of God! If only human kind could take hold of this! We live in a world that is dominated by overeating and living to the appetites of the flesh. That is all that most people live for. The desires for natural and temporal pleasure and possessions are the paramount and the most important. Think of the awful sinful relationships of men and women. Man does not live by bread alone and the fulfillment of sensual passions. Jesus had fasted for forty days and was terribly hungry as you can imagine. But He was able to resist the suggestion of the devil to command the stones to turn into bread, and was willing to wait for God to provide the food needed as He would see fit. Jesus was keeping under His body and bringing it into subjection, as Paul expressed in I Corinthians 9:27.

Satan suggested that Jesus jump off the pinnacle of the temple. There was something behind this temptation. PRIDE! There were probably people around the temple that would behold the angelic help satan mentioned. And he had some scripture to accompany his suggestion. But Jesus looked beyond it all and balanced it up with "It is written again!" People can take the Bible and just about prove any thing they want. But let us remember, "It is written again."

Then let us consider the kingdoms of this world and the glory of them. Yes, there was some temptation to the human aspect of such a thought. But in reality, to Christ the dominion of this present evil world in an earthly rule was not what He really desired. He had in His heart and mind a greater and more wonderful kingdom, a spiritual kingdom in which He would rule with a scepter of love and humility. The throne that He came to establish was in the hearts and lives of people that He would redeem from sin and this present evil world. It would not be worth forfeiting His chance of obtaining this eternal kingdom to bow to satan and be a partaker of the frivolous



substance of material glory and power. Oh, that men and women, boys and girls could get their eyes off of physical and earthly attainments and gratification of the flesh, and be enlightened to what Christ has gained and what He is inviting us to share with Him! Oh, that the eyes of our understanding would be enlightened that we might know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the greatness of His power! (Ephesians 1:17-19.) Oh, that men could be delivered from lusts of this fleeting mortal flesh and experience true happiness and contentment!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

I Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The devil is interested only in our spiritual failure and will use whatever scheme and tactic to accomplish the same. Satan did not appear to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration or while He was walking on the Sea of Galilee. He appeared to Christ when He had fasted forty days and nights. This was at a time when Christ was vulnerable, alone, tired and hungry. But we are thankful that Jesus passed this test and is there to encourage us in our times of distress and temptation. We can be sure that whenever satan has a ploy; our God has a plan.

There are others who were targeted by satan. It was very clear in the writings in the book of Job, that satan had an evil design for Job's failure. He touched Job physically, mentally and emotionally. But through it all, Job proved faithful and never charged God foolishly. We see that when Satan had a ploy, God had a plan.

Satan was also interested in destroying John (the Revelator) by working through the carnal intents of men to have John tortured and left on the Isle of Patmos to die. But God had another plan. It was here that John received so many beautiful visions and prophecies.

Paul the Apostle was another soul whom satan was interested in destroying. The enemy was certain that imprisonment would stop Paul from preaching the Gospel. But while imprisoned, Paul wrote the letters to the people of Rome, of Colossi, of Galatia, etc. for their encouragement and edifica-

tion. These letters make up at least half of our New Testament and still reaches through the ages to encourage and edify us today. Once again, while satan had a ploy, God had a plan.

Be aware that satan is interested in your spiritual fall. He will do whatever it takes—however long it takes—to discourage you, to traumatize you, to terrorize you. But be of good courage. Our God has a plan and He can turn “what seems to harm you into everlasting joy.” —Sis. LaDawna Adams



**OCTOBER 25, 2009**

### **CHRIST REJECTED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE**

Luke 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. Luke 4:18.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Not everyone is in a frame of mind and condition of heart to hear and receive the Gospel of Christ. Jesus had just returned from a triumphant forty days fasting in the wilderness and was endued with the power of the Holy Spirit, but the people of His own city rejected Him and His message. It is the poor and brokenhearted, who deeply sense their need, who will receive the Word of Life.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Luke 4:14, "*fame*": rumor, the talk of people expressing to each other their thoughts.

Verse 18, "*the poor*": The destitute, the needy, those who deeply realize their poverty of mind and heart. "*broken-hearted*": The soul that is crushed, bruised and yearning for mercy and help. "*captives*": Those in the prison house and bondage of sin. "*recovering of sight*": Illumination of spiritual understanding to the spirit of man. "*set at liberty*": Turn loose;

provide a way to escape. *"bruised"*: Crushed and in despair.

Verse 19, *"the acceptable year of the Lord"*: This day of salvation when God will receive us back to His fellowship and embrace.

Verse 20, *"minister"*: Attendant or assistant. *"sat down"*: "The Jewish doctors, in honor of the law and the prophets, invariably stood up while they read them; but sat down while they taught or commented on them." From the Emphatic Diaglott.

Verse 21, *"this scripture fulfilled"*: He meant that, by Him coming to them as Lord and Savior, this prophecy of Isaiah was brought to pass.

Verse 22, *"gracious words"*: Beautiful words of comfort, assurance, and hope. They recognized that these were gracious words, but could not accept them as coming from Him, a man from their own town.

Verse 25, *"many widows in Israel"*: This, along with what He said in verse 27 about many lepers in Israel in the time of Eliseus (or Elisha), shows that God could not find in Israel any widow or leper in the time of these two prophets that were worthy or qualified to work with. And Jesus was speaking of this in reference to the present situation He was faced with there in His own native town.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we have the sad reality of the old saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt." Luke's account goes into more detail about Christ's rejection by His own countrymen than is mentioned in the other three Gospels. Matthew 13:54-58 and Mark 6:1-6 makes mention of it, and what they said when they heard Jesus teaching on the Sabbath day: "From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? And are not his sisters herewith us?" This is a warning to us today. John 1:10-11 says, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not." It is so vital to know Christ as He really is, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

As Jesus beheld the despising of Him in His own acquaintance, He made the statement that no prophet is accepted in his own country. He then referred to two of the Old Testament prophets, Elias (Elijah) and Eliseus (Elisha). God provided for Elijah in the time of famine in the home of a widow, not one among the Israelites, but one up on the seacoast. And Elisha granted healing to a leper, not from Israel, but from up north in Syria. It is evident that there was no one in Israel who was qualified to receive help from these two prophets. Jesus used these two illustrations as comparable to what He was meeting in His own country. It is also to be remembered that the leper who received healing with Elisha almost failed to get it. II Kings 5:10-13 tells how Naaman, the leper, turned away in a rage when he was told by the messenger from Elisha to go and dip seven times in Jordan to be healed. He was offended at the prophet, and had not one of his men entreated him to be obedient to what was told him, he would have gone back to his country still a leper. There is a great lesson and warning in this. Jesus was prophesied to be a "stone refused by the builders" (Psalm 118:22), "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence" (Isaiah 8:14), and "despised and rejected of men." (Isaiah 53:3.) And here, in our lesson, we see this tragedy take place in Nazareth, Christ's hometown, and it has happened again and again down through the ages since. Let us take heed lest it happen to us in this our time. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What scripture did Jesus read in Nazareth that day?
2. What did He say about it?
3. What was the reaction of the people to what He said?
4. Why did Jesus refer to the prophets Elias and Eliseus?
5. What danger is there of despising Christ and His Gospel today?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

How wonderful is the scripture prophecy about Christ that He read that day in Nazareth! Think of it: the Gospel preached to the poor! Also proclaimed is the good news of salvation, healing for the soul and the body, deliverance to those in the prison house of sin, recovering of sight to the blind, and liberty for those who are bruised. Is this not what

we as mortals today and those back there as mortals, have dire need of? Why did these people take offense to this? It was because they were totally unconscious of their desperate need. Like the poor woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears compared to the self-righteous Pharisee, and like many of our day, there are those who are keenly aware of their deep need of salvation and deliverance and there are those who are not. May God help us today to be fully aware of our need. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"Is not this the carpenter's son?" They had known of Him, His mother, brothers and sisters. It appears from John 7:15 that Christ had no formal education—"How knoweth this man letters, having never learned." Isaiah also relates that "he hath no form nor comeliness that we should desire him." This means He wasn't attractive in personal appearances. His family was poor and of low station. This is what it means when it says that He descended into the lower parts of the earth. Matthew Henry remarks, "...and this is turned to his reproach, as if men had nothing to be valued but by foreign extraction, noble birth, or splendid titles; poor things to measure worth by."

Jesus said once, "Judge not according to the appearance but judge righteous judgment." We as humans are so prone to measure or judge a person's value on the exterior. Jesus gave them a wonderful message in Nazareth that day. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,..." When I think of the poor I think of the disadvantaged, those that have had difficult life circumstances. Those that have been abused emotionally, verbally, physically, sexually. It would include those that have impediments perhaps from accidents or birth. Those that have been wounded by broken homes that had to find their way without a mom or a dad. Those bruises or wounds enter the soul of man and affect the way he views life and views himself. Those wounds send a message—you are not valuable, you are not attractive, you are trash, you have no purpose. These are all lies of satan that come with the wounds. When a person accepts these lies

(thoughts, feelings) as reality, then begins the downward descent. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

There was once a quadriplegic that wanted to die, feeling her life was useless. No use of hands, feet or legs. Lying in bed day after day needing the care of others. Yet when she got hold of the truth that her life had value, purpose and meaning, she began to shine for Jesus. Let us not underestimate the value of a soul. Let us be encouraged to look beyond the sin, failures, provocations and see the pain, hurt and bruises that are affecting them. Let us have a heart of compassion.

—Bro. Bob Wilson



**NOVEMBER 1, 2009**

### **JESUS, THE FRIEND OF SINNERS**

Luke 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this* is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

**MEMORY VERSE:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior will be more dearly loved and gratefully received by those who keenly feel their own guilt and weight of their sinful state than by those who have no conviction in their heart for their sin.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Luke 7:36, "*Pharisees*": A Jewish sect who were very self-righteous and sought to keep separate and not defiled by association with other people.

Verse 37, "*alabaster box of ointment*": A stone vase of perfumed oil.

Verse 38, "*stood at his feet behind*": Adam Clarke comments: "In taking their meals, the eastern people reclined on one side; the loins and the knees being bent to make more room, and the feet of each person were turned outwards behind them. This is the meaning of standing "at his feet behind." "*kissed*": The Greek word means to ardently or earnestly kiss.



Verse 41, "*creditor*": One who loans. "*debtor*": One who owes.

Verse 42, "*frankly*": Kindly and freely.

Verse 47, "*she loved much*": She put forth great effort to express her sorrow and conviction for sin and loving confidence in the Savior to whom she came for mercy and forgiveness. "*loveth little*": He that feels little or no condemnation or guilt for sin will put forth very little effort to seek for mercy and forgiveness.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We have in our lesson today two different kinds of people exemplified. The first one was a Pharisee. The word Pharisee means "separate." They were very careful and sought to be righteous by doing good works. They had very little conviction for sin about themselves. The other person was an outright sinner who felt the awful weight of guilt and condemnation of her sinful state. She heard that Jesus was in the Pharisee's house and knew that in Him was the refuge and help that she needed for her sin-sick soul. We still have these two kinds of people in the world today. In God's dealings with mankind through the ages He has set before us two things: First, in Abraham He portrayed the workings of faith, trust, and confidence. He wants us to assume in our hearts the kind of faith that Abraham manifested in his life. Then, later in Moses, He gave His law to help man to see his sin and where he was erring and coming short of God's good pleasure.

It is for us to be influenced by both of these. We must have the faith that will believe and trust in God's mercy and forgiveness. And we must be aware of our sin and God's displeasure toward us. The little woman in our lesson had both of these. She was heavily laden with guilt and sorrow for her sin, and, she had faith in the Savior for help and deliverance. The Pharisee had neither of these. He was in darkness about his own sinfulness and wrong while he had no esteem for Christ for that purpose.

This is a condition that still exists in society and mankind today. So many are not aware of their sinful condition. I remember hearing about a man several years ago who was aged and facing the end of this life. His expression was, "I do

not feel that I have ever done anything wrong." He had a brother who was convicted of his sinful state and sought the Lord and found Him precious as Savior and became a faithful minister of the Gospel. Oh, how we need to be honest and teachable and let the Word of God influence us to know the truth about Him and about ourselves! This woman in our lesson sought earnestly and fervently for help from Jesus and she found it. She went in peace and the joy of being forgiven. But we have no record of Simon finding that forgiveness that he needed as much as the woman did. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the woman's trouble who wept at Jesus' feet?
2. What was the trouble with Simon, the Pharisee?
3. What did the woman's sorrow cause her to do?
4. Why did not Simon seek for forgiveness?
5. What do we need from Jesus today, and how do we get it?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Jesus said in John 16:7-8 that He would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, "and when he is come, he will reprove (or convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." It is the mercy of God upon a soul when they are convicted of their sin and sinful state. Jesus stated that the Holy Spirit would do this. But the sad thing about it is that there are so many opposing influences and voices in the world that are from satan and will seek to hinder the soul of man from being convicted of his sin and his need for salvation in Christ. These drowning influences are keeping the major part of society from finding real salvation and victory over sin. Satan works against the convicting Spirit of God.

We have many fleshly activities that take up people's minds and emotions and desires. We have noticed that gambling is on the increase with Bingo parlors and Casinos drawing the crowds into their circle. Of course, it is covetousness and the love of money that is the life of their crowd. Business and big organizations throng our land and society, and people are so carried away with fleshly wealth and enterprise. The television and internet has captivated homes

and families. All of it is serving one purpose of satan, and that is to dull the heart from being convicted of their sin and transgression before God.

May the Lord help us all to be on our guard. May His Spirit rebuke this flood of wickedness, lust and covetousness. Let us stand fast for the truth and keep our hearts tender and responsive to the Holy Spirit. We can grieve the Spirit of God very easily. Let us keep tender and submissive to His dealings, chastisements and corrections. Watch and pray always that we will be accounted worthy to escape the destruction of this wicked world and to stand accepted before Him in that day.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Dan was excited about the new winged suit he was going to be wearing as the plane climbed higher and higher in the blue skies of Florida. Skydiving was not a new sport for Dan; he had already logged more than 100 jumps and this was his second trip up on this beautiful January day. As the plane reached 13,500 ft. and leveled off, the jumpmaster asked Dan if his stuff was ok. "Yeah," he said confidently. Shortly the plane was in position and without further ado, Dan was out of the plane and felt the exhilarating blast of air rushing past his body. He loved the feeling of freedom and the beautiful, unobstructed view that surrounded him. However, before long it was time to reach for the ripcord and open his parachute. The sound of the canopy popped over his head and at the same time jerked on his shoulder harness, but something was different. Dan had failed to secure the leg straps on his harness and the sudden deceleration created by the open canopy caused him to slip out of the shoulder harness and separate from his parachute. Dan plunged to his death while the chute drifted some 1,000 ft. away and tangled on some power lines.

Sadly, there are many who are swiftly plunging to their eternal destruction claiming that everything is all right with them. If one asks them about their soul they say, "I'm okay. Don't worry about me." And yet, there are things seriously wrong—Sin is reigning in their life and they are nonchalant about it. Oh, careless soul, allow your dear friend, Jesus, to

search your life and reveal the truth of your lost condition. He does not want to see you perish. If you will humble your heart before Him, as the woman spoken of in our lesson today, Jesus will graciously extend pardon to you also.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



**NOVEMBER 8, 2009**

### **JESUS CAUSES THE BLIND TO SEE**

John 9:1 And...Jesus...saw a man which was blind from his birth.

6 ...He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam...He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

14 And it was the Sabbath day...

16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

27 ...Will ye also be his disciples?

28 Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.

31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. John 9:39.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus wants to enlighten our spiritual blindness to be able to understand the truth He has brought in His Word, just as He opened the eyes of the man who had been blind from birth.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

John 9:6, "*anointed*": Applied and spread upon.

Verse 30, "*Why herein is a marvelous thing*": For this is a wonder.

Verse 31, "*be a worshipper of God*": Is God-fearing.

Verse 34, "*altogether born in sins*": A sinner wholly and completely. How sad it was that they themselves were in that same condition, but they were not aware of it. "*cast him out*": Threw him outside.

Verse 38, "*worshipped*": Bowed down before him in reverence and honor.

Verse 39, "*they which see not*": Those who are really aware of their spiritual darkness. "*they which see*": Those who think that they can see and do not realize that they are blind to the truth. "*might be made blind*": May become aware of their darkness and blindness of heart.

Verse 41, The real meaning of Christ's words here is this: If you could but be truly aware of the darkness you are in, you could be enlightened of your sinful condition and obtain deliverance and spiritual light: but you think you are all right and have no need, therefore your sin remains undiscovered in your heart.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

We have in our lesson today, not only the marvelous healing of the poor man who had been blind ever since his birth, but we have also the sore conflict that he ran into with the religious leaders, the self-righteous Pharisees with whom Jesus had so much trouble. This 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, being quite lengthy with 41 verses, we have endeavored to condense to the main objects of the story in our lesson text. Jesus and His disciples met this blind man, and Jesus undertook to bring healing to him. He gave the man something to do and he obeyed and obediently went to wash off the clay, and came back healed and seeing. When his neighbors inquired about it, the man told of the man called Jesus and what He had done. So they brought him to the Pharisees and they began to question him about what had happened. Right away the Pharisees began to raise their disapproval of Jesus because He did this on the Sabbath day. They called his parents to question them about it, and, as the parents were afraid of being put out of the synagogue, they refrained from telling them about Jesus, but told them to ask their son.

In our lesson we have the healed man standing up well for Jesus. One thing beyond all question and doubt was the fact that he had been blind, but could now see. And he followed with some good counsel, standing up for the One Who had healed him. As our lesson reveals, the Pharisees did not count him worthy of teaching them, so they excommunicated him. Then Jesus made Himself known to the man and he believed and fell down and worshipped Him.

Jesus then made the statement (which we have chosen for our memory verse) that in the judgment of God He came into

the world, and that it was to bring spiritual light to those who were honest in heart to realize and confess their darkness, and to hide the truth from those who refuse to acknowledge their blindness. The Pharisees heard what He said, and asked the critical question: "Are we blind also?" So Jesus affirmed what He had already said. And it is still true today. It was like the Pharisee in the previous lesson, who was not aware of his true sinful condition. These self-righteous men were in ignorance about the real destitute spiritual darkness they were in so deeply. And it is still a universal condition that this evil world is in today.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How did Jesus bring healing to the blind man?
2. Why were the Pharisees critical of Jesus?
3. What was the healed man's testimony about Jesus?
4. What kind of blindness does Christ want to heal us of?
5. What must we become aware of before we can be made to see?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

It is an age-old problem that God Almighty has had with humanity and is still working today. The ones that He can bless and bring healing and help to are those who deeply realize their true poor and needy condition before Him. But those who justify their selves and refuse to acknowledge any need or lack on their part will miss out all the way around. To the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:17 he said, "...Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." This can be our state, too. This was the state of Israel and its leaders in the time of Christ. They did not want to acknowledge their defiled and filthy condition of heart and life. It is such an inclination that mortals fall prey to. It is one of the roots and fruits of pride in the heart of man. And it is darkness and error in abundance in the life of one so affected by the devil. Satan, the god of this world is good at blinding the hearts of men to keep the light of glorious Gospel of Christ from shining unto them. (II Corinthians 4:4.) And it is even as Jesus says in our lesson today, "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin." If you come to grips with the

need of your soul of light and knowledge from God and realize how bad off you are, you can get help from Him. You can see your sin and repent and get cleaned up from it. "But now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth." You do not feel nor sense the darkness of your heart and the vileness of your sins. Therefore you will not change your ways in obedience to Christ, and your sins remain in your heart. And they will be there until you become aware of your lost and undone condition.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

We think that those old Pharisees were just plain ridiculous for the way they blindly refused to acknowledge truth, but just consider how many times we, because we are human, and because we react humanly and carnally when we first hear the truth about ourselves, make the same feeble attempts at denial. How many times have you heard this:

"I'm not addicted. I can quit any time I want."

"I don't have unhealthy eating habits—obesity runs in my family."

"If I could just get a better job, I could live within my means."

"If these children would just give me some help, we could clean up around here."

"At least I'm not a hypocrite like some of you church people."

"I could control my anger if my wife didn't make me so upset."

"There's nothing wrong with the movies I watch."

"What do you mean, is my home a godly example? We've stayed together, haven't we?"

"I've just never understood why we teach that doctrine."

Jesus said that a person who "doeth truth," or an honest person, will come "to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest." (John 3:21.) A wicked person will run from the light, he hates the light, because it exposes and reproves his deeds. Is your life sick? Do you want to be healed? Honestly own up to the truth, and your life will be transformed.

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**NOVEMBER 15, 2009**

**JESUS CHRIST, THE LIVING BREAD**

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting

life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. John 6:27

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** To obtain life that will never end in death, we must partake of Jesus Christ by obeying His teachings and being led by His Holy Spirit.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

John 6:32, "*Verily*": From the Hebrew word "amen", which means firm, trustworthy, truly, surely, unfailing, reliable and safe. In the four New Testament Gospels, Jesus used this word many times, often using it twice in a row, as He did in this place.

Verse 35, "*never hunger, never thirst*": Find complete and perfect satisfaction and fulfillment in one's heart and mind.

Verse 44, "*draw*": Attract; cause to have a longing and desire for. "*raise him up*": Resurrect from the dead; cause him to stand up again at the last day when Christ comes in power and great glory, and the heavens and the earth pass out of existence, and all mankind are brought to the judgment.

Verse 45, "*taught*": Instructed and influenced in mind and heart. "*heard and learned*": Be informed and enlightened of the truth of God.

Verse 53, "*eat the flesh of the Son of man*": This is pure spiritual talk. The Jews were questioning among themselves about what this meant. They, like people today, were so inclined to take something from a literal standpoint. And Jesus spoke spiritual language to them, thus giving them a place to be offended in Him.

Verse 57, "*eateth me*": To really eat of Jesus is to set our hearts upon Him to follow His teachings.

Verse 63, "*the spirit that quickeneth*": It is not a literal eating of the fleshy part of the Lord Jesus that we need, but a yielding obedience to the counsel and guidance of His Holy Spirit. "*the flesh profiteth nothing*": It would do no good if one would literally eat of the fleshy body of Jesus.

John 6:27, "*Labour not*": Do not toil nor make it your priority or utmost aim to have. "*God the Father sealed*": Stamped with the seal of high approval and security by the Almighty God Himself.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our Lord Jesus had on the previous day fed the multitude of five thousand men, beside the women and children. (Matthew 14:21.) The men beheld this miracle with great wonder, and Jesus, perceiving that they would come and take Him by force to make Him a king, departed into a mountain Himself alone. The people came looking for Jesus, and Jesus said to them, "Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." And then He counseled them to "Labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life." We have chosen that text for our Memory Verse. It is a vital message for us today. We live in an "eating" age and society. People are eating themselves to the grave, with all kinds of cafes and restaurants and grocery stores abounding. But it is "meat that perisheth," and the real food that they need is not sought for.

The people made mention to Jesus about their fathers eating manna in the desert, quoting from Psalm 78:24. But Jesus corrected them that this was not the real bread from Heaven. And then He brought it to them that the Father was offering them the true bread from Heaven, and that He was that living bread. He followed up with some truths that the people were not aware of. Quoting from Isaiah 54:13, He showed that it was through His Father in Heaven that men are drawn and attracted to Him. Without being taught of God and His holiness, man will not be aware of his sin and need of a Savior. This was vital teaching that Christ was seeking to impart to this people. It is a tragic truth, even in our day, that many people are in the dark concerning what Christ is really needed for. The consciousness of sin and transgression against God is at a low ebb.

And then we see these very people who had wanted to make Christ a king become offended at Him, and many of them went back and walked no more with Him. Jesus turned to the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" And Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of bread did Jesus offer to the people?
2. How does a person eat of the Bread that Jesus spoke of?

3. How does the Father draw people to Jesus, His Son?
4. Why did the people take offence at Jesus?
5. What does "eating His flesh and drinking His blood" mean?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Jesus reveals in our lesson what it takes to truly partake of Him as the Bread of life. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Verse 63. Just as He told Nicodemus that he must be born of the Word and the Spirit, just as He told the woman at the well of the spiritual water of life, so Jesus sought to present to the people in our lesson the spiritual Bread of life. All of Christ's ministry and message to us is spiritual. He speaks of spiritual worship to God, a spiritual resurrection from the dead state of sin, a spiritual freedom from the sins of the flesh, spiritual eyesight and hearing, spiritual sheep, a spiritual kingdom, and spiritual riches.

Then we have spiritual warfare, spiritual understanding, spiritual light, and other vital spiritual blessings. Jesus came to bring man away from the vain and perishing realm of the flesh, the world, and self, and lift us up to the realm of spiritual life and health. It is a wonderful experience to be made a new creature in Christ Jesus and to find the reality of this world of the Word and the Spirit of God! All of this material and earthly wealth is but vanity and vexation of spirit! It is all going to perish. All of these automobiles, airplanes, buildings, houses, streets, radios, televisions, computers, and such like will vanish away in twinkling of the eye. How sad that so many people are so carried away and taken up with the physical and earthly commodities!

Let us be wise and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness! Turn from earthly riches and pleasures and seek after the true riches of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

When you shop down the bread aisle of a grocery store, you will be faced with all sorts of varieties to choose from: lite bread, whitewheat bread, whole grain bread, 100 percent

whole wheat bread, just about any kind of bread you can think of. But when you look at the ingredients, most offer only flour, sugar and a bit of leavening. But a truly wholesome bread offers nourishment: vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber and carbohydrates.

The world searches for many kinds of bread. There is the bread of entertainment; the bread of philosophy, the bread of passion, the bread of reasoning, the bread of government/power. These only offer a superficial fulfillment—no spiritual nourishment at all. But Jesus is that bread of life. He offers to us wholesome nourishment that will keep us spiritually healthy and fit for eternity.

"Give us this day our daily bread." We can be fed with the heavenly manna—Jesus Christ—each day just as the children of Israel were fed with the manna provided from the Lord. It is not a "Sunday, Wednesday, Sunday" manna. Nor is it a "camp meeting to camp meeting" manna. It is a daily, personal manna to meet all of our needs spiritually. May each one have a fervent desire of "Evermore give us this bread."

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



**NOVEMBER 22, 2009**

### **GIVING THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD**

Luke 17:11 And it came to pass, as he (Jesus) went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Luke 19:37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Matthew 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased.

16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus said unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

**MEMORY VERSE:** I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psalm 139:14.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** By our Lord Jesus Christ...let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Hebrews 13:15.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

Luke 17:12, "*lepers*": Men who had the disease of leprosy, which was a highly infectious condition that Adam Clarke describes as "appearing in dry, thin, white scabs, either on the whole body, or on some part of it, usually attended with violent itching, and often with great pain. It was deemed incurable by any human means. God alone was sought to for its removal." "*stood afar off*": Clarke comments: "They kept at a distance,

because they were forbidden by law and custom to come near those who were sound, for fear of infecting them."

Verse 13, "*mercy*": Pity and compassion.

Verse 14, "*Go shew yourselves unto the priests*": According to the law the priests were those in authority who would pronounce them clean and cured from the leprosy so they could go back to their families and homes. In obeying Christ in going to the priests they were healed as they went.

Verse 15, "*And one of them*": The Greek text says, "But one of them." Out of the ten who were cleansed from that dreadful disease and the woes it inflicted on them, only one had the spirit of thankfulness and gratitude to "turn back" and come glorifying God and bowing in worship and praise at the feet of Jesus.

Verse 16, "*a Samaritan*": A nationality and class of people looked down upon and despised by the Jews. Samaria was the section of the land of Israel that lay between Galilee and Judea.

Verse 17, "*where are the nine?*": This expression of Jesus shows that He was grieved at the lack of thanksgiving and appreciation of those who did not turn back. Oh, how God loves and highly values praise, thanksgiving and honor rendered to Him from grateful hearts!

Matthew 21:15, "*Hosanna*": An exclamation of adoration and plea for salvation.

Verse 16, "*Yea*": A strong answer of Yes! It was in answer to their question to Him about hearing what the children were saying.

Psalms 139:14, "*fearfully and wonderfully made*": God designed and fashioned our mortal bodies with His superb and wise skill. We are delicate, frail and full of possible complications; and yet we are amazingly full of wonderful abilities and endurance. We need to praise Him in whom we live and move and have our being, and seek His favor and help continually. "*knoweth right well*": Knows and understands it with a glowing heart of praise.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Our lesson today has a special meaning and appeal to our hearts. It has to do with the thanks and praise that is due from our hearts to our gracious Creator and His beloved Son and all that they have done for us. This account of the healing of the ten lepers and the one, and only one, of the ten who turned

around and came back in special gratitude, praise, and glory to God and His beloved Son has a special message for us. Try to imagine the sadness and woe of these ten men who had to keep separate from society and their families. When they recognized Jesus they lifted up their voices for Him to have mercy and compassion on them. And when they heard what He told them to do, they all obeyed and started to seek out the priests who would pronounce them clean to return to a normal status of life. "And, as they went, they were cleansed." They looked at themselves and one another in wonder and joy. They were all anxious to hurry on to the priests to obtain their freedom to go back to their families. But this one leper was so thankful to the One Who had healed him and the God back of it all. Jesus was glad to have him turn back in thanks and praise, but was doubtless sad that none of the rest did so, too.

Also in our lesson we have two incidents when praise and honor broke forth from the people and the children to God and His Son Jesus for the mighty works that had been done in their midst. And we see in both of these cases that the Pharisees and priests strongly objected to these outbursts of praise. Notice what Christ's response to them was. He quoted from Psalm 8:2 that out of the mouths of babes and sucklings God has perfected praise. And He also made the statement that "if these hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. Oh, how we need to praise and glorify our God daily, and as Psalm 119:164 says, "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments."

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did the ten lepers lift up their voices to Jesus for?
2. Why did Jesus tell them to go and show themselves to the priests?
3. What happened when they obeyed Him?
4. Why is God so pleased with thanksgiving and praise from us?
5. Why should we be diligent to often thank and praise God?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

I do not believe that there is any thing that God loves to see, as He looks down into our hearts, more than thanksgiving and praise in appreciation for what He has done for us. When



He sees that we are truly thankful for His goodness and the many blessings that He has crowned our lives with, it pleases His great loving heart so greatly. And He wants us to express our thanks and praises to Him verbally and joyfully. What was part of the prayer of Daniel that he sent to heaven three times a day before his open window toward Jerusalem? "He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God." And he did this even in the face of the being thrown in the lions' den if he did so. We need to do as Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." I have found that in offering prayer to our God I can touch His throne very quickly if I begin my prayer with thanksgiving to Him for the many blessings He has given. It just pays to maintain a thankful heart and attitude toward God and our fellow man. And let not your thanks for food at meal time be short and formal, but let your prayer be fervent and earnest in gratitude and praise toward the one who has provided the food.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Thanksgiving and praise to the Lord is a quality that brings much beauty to the soul of man. Have you ever noticed how it makes you feel when one stops and takes time to express a "thank you", or "I love you," or "I appreciate you"? Whether it is from a wife, child, neighbor or friend. It brings goodness and warmth to a relationship and the relationship grows stronger and closer.

I recently lost my mother to a sudden illness on August 11 of this year. This was an unexpected, big blow to me. Friends and family came to the visitation, the funeral and graveside, some driving quite a distance. Many sent us cards with kind

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expressions, and flowers. Some helped us financially with the expense of our trip. It sent a comforting message to my soul—"We love and care about you and your family." I have a renewed appreciation for such sacrifices, they bear a message.

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are **good** and **profitable** unto men." Titus 3:8. —Bro. Bob Wilson



**NOVEMBER 29. 2009**

### **WORLDLY RICHES VERSUS TRUE RICHES**

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. I Timothy 6:10.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Hebrews 13:5-6.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Mark 10:19, "*Defraud*": To take something by deceit or cheating; relative to coveting. This was from the tenth commandment from Exodus 20:17 which says: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." Paul said in Romans 7:7, "...I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Herein is found one of the greatest sins of mankind and it shows up everywhere and throughout all history. The desire for something that belongs to someone else, and the course taken to get it is at the root of all sin and wickedness.

Verse 23, "*How hardly*": How impracticable, not being able to carry it out in deed and practice. "*have riches*": Possess and hold on to earthly wealth.

Verse 24, "*answereth again*": Explains a little farther. "*them that trust in riches*": As long as a man is depending on his wealth for support, comfort, hope and security it is impossible to give it up.

Verse 26, "*out of measure*": Exceedingly.

Verse 27, "*impossible, but not with God*": Covetousness and the love of money is one of man's greatest weaknesses. Within himself man is a helpless captive, and he is not able to rise above it. But, with the help of the great Almighty Creator, anyone who wants to overcome this terrible bondage can do so.

Luke 12:20, "*thy soul shall be required of thee*": In speaking of death in Ecclesiastes 12:7, it says: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Every man will have to give an account of what he has done with the soul that God gave him. This man had wasted his God-given life and breath on material wealth and increase, feeding it with fleshly gratification of earthly vanities. Now he is called to give an account to God for it all. It is evident that he died that very night and never got to fulfill the longing and desire of his heart. So it will be with all who make this world their God.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The first part of our lesson is from Mark's account of Christ's dealings with a man of wealth, who he said came

running to Jesus and kneeled to Him. Matthew's account in 19:20 says he was a young man. And Luke's account in 18:18 says that he was a ruler, which means that he was one of the top men in rank and power. Luke also says that he was very rich. Matthew and Mark worded it that he had "great possessions." So he was a rich young ruler and he came running to Jesus. This indicates that he was very interested and anxious to ask Jesus about what he needed to do to inherit eternal life.

The young man seemed very interested and responded to Christ's word of keeping the commandments of God with the report that he had kept them from his youth up. It was good that he had done so. But Jesus looked on the young man's soul in divine love and told him the truth. One thing he lacked. To obtain what Christ had to give he would have to partake of the sacrifice that Christ made. He must crucify self and his love for earthly riches by giving up all to follow Him who gave all to save him.

Then in our scripture text from Luke 12 we have some more of Christ's warning against the love of money. In the verses preceding, it says that one of the company asked Jesus to speak to his brother about dividing the inheritance with him. After reproving the man for asking Him, Jesus spoke to those with Him to take heed and beware of covetousness. In the parable about the rich man He illustrated how deceptive and destructive the love of earthly wealth was. It is a warning we should take serious heed to. If we refuse to give up earthly wealth we will without fail lose it all, but if we are willing to deny it and give all to God, we will gain true riches forever.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did the rich young ruler desire to know from Jesus?
2. What was the first thing Jesus told him to do?
3. What was the one thing that the young man lacked?
4. What did Jesus say about a rich man entering in?
5. Is it possible for us to be covetous and still inherit eternal life?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Let us notice what Jesus said, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus

modified His statement saying, "How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" It is not altogether having riches that will keep a person out of God's kingdom. It is the trusting in those riches that keeps a person outside. And we might add: "How hard it is for those who have riches to keep from trusting in them!" It is possible, but it takes a discipline and self denial and an obedient spirit to God that very few are willing to have. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Often when reading this passage about the rich young ruler who came to Jesus, our focus becomes centered on what he was instructed to do with his wealth. The enemy of our souls would like to keep people fearfully occupied with their own wealth. He knows that while they are afraid of what will happen to them in their future, they will not be able to joyfully obey the Master's bidding. But if we could only catch a glimpse of what it means to gain Christ, then we will be more like the Apostle Paul who said, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ," Philippians 3:8.

Christ is the most precious treasure—He will be by our side to make a way for us when the money is all gone. Then there are those times that money cannot provide for our real needs anyway—health, happiness and joy—these things come from God. Certainly money cannot help us when we cross the river of death, but Christ can.

What God has allowed us to possess, freely use it to bless others and further His kingdom in the earth, and we will find that they have been stored in our heavenly Home to bless us in ways we never imagined. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey



### **CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH FOR MANKIND**

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

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.

Hebrews 5:7 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;

Philippians 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.

**MEMORY VERSE:** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ, in obedience to God's will for Him, allowed Himself to suffer and be killed by being hung upon a cross as a sacrifice and offering to atone for the sins of mankind, that all who believe in Him can be forgiven and saved from eternal damnation.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

Hebrews 2:9, "*made a little lower than the angels*": Made less than the angels for a short space of time. "*taste*": Experience and suffer.

Verse 10, "*became him*": Was fitting and necessary for Him (God). "*for whom and by whom*": This is God Almighty Who created all things for His pleasure. "*in bringing many sons unto glory*": In saving souls from sin and death to eternal life and peace. "*captain*": Chief leader. "*make perfect*": Bring to full accomplishment and success. "*through sufferings*": By the way of hardship, distress, and pain.

Verse 14, "*took part of the same*": Did partake of and bear the same state of life. "*through death*": By suffering as mortals suffered. "*destroy him that had the power of death*": Because Jesus did no sin He had the power to overcome death and the one who brought that death upon mankind.

Verse 15, "*through fear of death*": Under the sentence of eternal destruction were afraid to die. "*subject to bondage*": Condemned and without hope.

Verse 16, "*took not on angels*": Did not become as angels. "*seed of Abraham*": Human kind.

Verse 17, "*it behoved him*": He ought by all means. "*to God*": Concerning God.

Verse 18, "*succour*": Give assistance and help.

Hebrews 5:7, "*able to save him from death*": God had the power to bring Christ up from the dead. "*was heard in that he feared*": God heard Christ's prayers and tears because of His faithfulness and godly submission to Him.

Verse 8, "*learned he obedience*": Gained understanding through what He experienced.



Philippians 2:6, "*in the form of God*": In the eternal realm with God. "*thought it not robbery to be equal with God*": Did not count equality with God to be held on to.

Verse 7, "*made himself of no reputation*": Emptied Himself.

Verse 8, "*in fashion as a man*": In the same kind of body that other men have.

Verse 10, "*under the earth*": Not yet born.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

For our lesson today we have from the writings of the Apostle Paul the sacrificial death of our loving Lord and Savior and what it means to us who are His followers. Our first scripture is part of Paul's application of the prophecy of Christ from Psalm 8. We had in Lesson 8 for November 22 Christ quoting from verse 2 of this same Psalm concerning the children singing praises to Jesus, much to the displeasure of the chief priests and scribes. Jesus said, "Have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." And now Paul applies verses 4-6 directly to Christ. On the surface this Psalm would seem to be speaking of man in the first creation, but let us remember that, because of his fall into sin, man lost the dominion of earth. And that is why Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, applies this as a prophecy of Jesus Christ, the second Adam.

He stresses in verse 8 that, though all things were put in subjection under Christ's dominion and power, "now we see not yet all things put under him." "But", as our lesson declares, "we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour." This implies that all things would be subdued to Christ later, that is, at His second coming. Then Paul went on to explain what Christ accomplished through His death. And he brings it out farther in Hebrews 5:7-9 about the obedience of Christ in suffering death, and becoming thereby the author of our eternal salvation. And then in Philippians 2:5-11 Paul so beautifully brings out what God accomplished in Christ because of His obedience to the death of the cross.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. For what purpose did Christ become lower than the angels?

2. What did Christ accomplish through His death?
3. Why did Christ have to be obedient to the death of the cross?
4. In being tempted what was Jesus given power to do for us?
5. What was the reward that God gave Jesus for His obedience?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The submission of our Lord Jesus Christ to the will of God, which meant the cruel death of the cross, was accomplished as an example for us to follow. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." This means for us to have the same purpose and be determined in heart just as our Lord Jesus was. Jesus did not seek to save His physical life. He knew full well that He came into the world for the purpose of laying down His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. He came from above, from being in the "form of God," existing with God from the beginning. But He was willing to relinquish that high and lofty position to condescend to human level and the form of a servant in the likeness of men.

And then, after coming down that far, He submitted to go down farther and deeper, even to death, the horrible death of the cross of Calvary. This was that humiliation in which His judgment was taken away; He was denied a fair trial and the safety of a prison until people's tempers could cool down. No, all chance and consideration was denied Him. He was arrested that night, run through a mock trial through the night, sentenced, and then executed the next morning. He was the innocent victim of hatred and bitter rejection by His own people. The Jews pressured Pilate and in frustration he gave over to their wicked and murderous demands. The people who were supposed to be God's chosen people rejected Him Who was chosen of God. And Jesus submitted Himself to be thus shamefully and unfairly treated. He took it meekly and without any threatening back. But it was all for the purpose of atoning for the sins of the world. God was working behind it all to fulfill His purpose and the prophecies that had been made hundreds of years before. It appeared on the surface that man had prevailed. Jesus died and was buried and the Jews were glad. But their triumph was short lived. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Consider the words of this wonderful song by W. Owen:

O listen to our wondrous story:  
Once we dwelt among the lost,  
Yet Jesus came from heaven's glory,  
Saving us at awful cost.

Chorus:

Who saved us from eternal loss?  
Who but God's Son upon the cross!  
What did He do? He died for you!  
Where is He now? Believe it thou—  
In Heaven interceding!

No angel could our place have taken,  
Highest of the high though He.  
Nailed to the cross, despised, forsaken,  
Was One of the God-head three!

Will you surrender to this Savior?  
Now before Him humbly bow,  
You, too, shall come to know His favor,  
He will save and save you now.

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**DECEMBER 13, 2009**

### **DEAD WITH CHRIST, ALIVE WITH CHRIST**

I Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the

glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection of things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

**MEMORY VERSE:** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Because Jesus Christ laid down His life for us to atone for our sins, we also must lay down our life of sin and be a partaker of His risen life of victory and holiness.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

I Peter 1:3, "*begotten us again*": Regenerated and made us new creatures. "*lively hope*": Living hope; hope of being

resurrected to eternal life even as Christ was resurrected.

Verse 4, "*inheritance incorruptible*": Undecaying possessions. "*undefiled*": Not stained with sin, but pure and holy. "*fadeth not away*": Perpetual; never to dim or perish. "*reserved*": Guarded from failure and loss.

Verse 5, "*kept*": Guarded and protected from satan and sin. "*unto salvation*": Until Christ's coming in glory at the last day.

Romans 6:3, "*baptized into*": Made a joint-partaker of.

Verse 4, "*newness of life*": Fresh and young in spiritual awareness and joy.

Verse 5, "*planted together*": Being united and made a partaker with.

Verse 6, "*old man*": The sinful, selfish and unholy way of life. "*body of sin*": The very essence, root and substance of sin and transgression.

Verse 7, "*freed*": Justified and delivered.

Verse 10, "*died unto sin once*": Triumphed over the power of sin one time forever.

Verse 11, "*reckon*": Count and estimate.

Colossians 3:2, "*affection*": Mind, thoughts, interests and desires.

Verse 3, "*hid with Christ*": Concealed from and unrecognized by the world in communion and fellowship with Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

For our lesson today we want to study the risen life of Christ and what it means to be a partaker of that wonderful heavenly life. Jesus suffered and died for our sins, but He suffered such death so that we can also die to sin and disobedience to God and be raised up to a heavenly life of victory and peace in Him. It means so much to really pay the price and give up the sinful spirit of the world, and conform ourselves to our dear Lord.

Our first scripture text from our beloved apostle Simon Peter expresses what the resurrection of Christ from the dead made available to us.

He gives us a living hope of being with Him throughout all eternity in rejoicing and riches of fellowship and communion with Him and all of those who have believed and followed Him

down through the ages. Oh, this inheritance will be ours in that day that He comes in power and glory to judge all mankind by His Gospel! Oh, if we will set our affections on this wonderful inheritance we can be preserved in this world from its evil and be accounted worthy to share this eternal glory.

Then we go to Paul's writings in his epistles to the Romans and the Colossians in which he vividly declares the victory we can have by dying to sin and the lusts of the flesh and living unto Christ. There is no reason for us to be any longer in the bondage of satan and sin. The old man of sin can be destroyed and we can live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. We can be ready to rise up to meet Him in that last great day when He comes with power and great glory. Praise the Lord for the victory over sin and death and the blessed hope we have in Jesus Christ our Lord!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did Christ provide for us by His death and resurrection?
2. To be dead with Christ, what do we have to die to?
3. Is it possible for us to live free from sin in this present world?
4. What must we set our minds and affections on?
5. What does it mean to be "hid with Christ in God"?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The condition of an un-regenerated person in this sinful and perverted society is surely one of shame and sadness of heart and life. And yet, the devil has ways of making a person feel like they are happy and having a good time in the pleasures of the world and the appetites of the flesh. But there is a feeling deep inside one's heart that is constantly seeking to assert itself and make the person aware that his or her life is not right and will not be fit or worthy to face God in the judgment day that is sure to come.

It is so vital for children and young people to have a chance to be taught and influenced in their hearts and minds about their Creator. I can look back through the years of my childhood and see what a great influence was exerted toward me by my parents, especially my mother, toward God and His goodness and what He was offering me. And there were also

godly people that we attended church services with who exerted a strong influence in my life. My Sunday School teacher in my early childhood had a great bearing on my heart and mind. And there were others who bore a great and bright testimony for the Lord that played a great part in influencing me to be saved. But, most of all, it was the Holy Spirit who dealt with me and made me to feel my need of being saved and living for God.

The worldly associates in school and the attraction to worldly pleasure were a great drawing to my mind. Girl friends and the allurements of the opposite sex worked strongly on me. But I thank the Lord, that I was able to come to a decision to give up the world and take up my cross and follow the Lord. It was not easy to say, "Good-bye, old world, I'm through!" But I am so glad that I came to that place and began to seek the Lord with all of my heart to be saved. I have never regretted making that decision. My heart swells with joy and thanksgiving to God for the invitation He gave to me, and that I yielded and accepted Him as my God and Saviour for all time and eternity.

Sometimes I think about what my life would have been if I had not been willing to give up as I did and to seek the Lord with my whole heart. I shudder to think about it. And I truly long and desire and pray earnestly for the young people of our day, for I know of the difficulty they face in giving up the world and self and the flesh. But to me it was worth everything I ever gave up for the stand I took for God. Oh, dear young people, be encouraged to seek the Lord and make Him the God of your life!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Jesus said in John 12:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." Naturally speaking, we all have seen new life spring forth from a seed sown in the ground. It is our expectation. How surprised we would be if a dead stalk of wheat grew up from a grain of wheat or a dead flower sprang up from a seed bulb. We plant with the hope of a new life. This demonstrates the power of God.

So it is in dying with Christ. We are raised up a new creature, with new life, able to bring forth much fruit. No more of the old flesh following after the lustful ways—but a new

creature. This is a new creation that is pure, holy, innocent, full of life and energy. It is the power of God.

### **A New Creature**

Buried with Christ, my blessed Redeemer,  
Dead to the old life of folly and sin;  
Satan may call, the world may entreat me,  
There is no voice that answers within.

Dead unto sin, alive through the Spirit,  
Risen with Him from the gloom of the grave,  
All things are new, and I am rejoicing  
In His great love, His power to save.

Sin hath no more its cruel dominion,  
Walking "in newness of life," I am free—  
Glorious life of Christ, my Redeemer,  
Which He so richly shareth with me.

Dead to the world, to voices that call me,  
Living anew, obedient but free;  
Dead to the joys that once did enthrall me—  
Yet 'tis not I, Christ liveth in me.

—T. O. Chisholm

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



**DECEMBER 20, 2009**

### **CHRIST APPEARING FOR US IN HEAVEN**

Hebrews 8: 1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

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.



16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 7:24 ...This man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

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.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Hebrews 9:24.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ is in Heaven at the right hand of God as our great High Priest, a go-between and intercessor to God on our behalf, ministering to us of His grace and power through the Holy Spirit, and soon to come and take all who are ready to live with Him in eternal glory.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Hebrews 8:1, "*the sum*": Principle and main point. "*Majesty*": The exceeding greatness in power and might.

Verse 2, "*minister of the sanctuary*": One who ministers or

serves us with holy blessings and benefits. *"true tabernacle"*: Not the literal tabernacle of the Old Testament, but the spiritual habitation of God through the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22 *"pitched"*: Set up.

Hebrews 4:14, *"our profession"*: Our testimony of faith.

Verse 15, *"be touched"*: Sympathize and have like feelings. *"infirmities"*: Our mortal frailties and feebleness.

Verse 16, *"come boldly"*: Draw near with confidence.

Hebrews 7:24, *"continueth ever"*: Remains as High Priest for eternity. *"unchangeable"*: Not to be passed on to someone else.

Verse 25, *"save to the uttermost"*: Completely deliver from sin to perfect holiness.

Verse 26, *"became us"*: Was fitting for us, being everything we need. *"separate from sinners"*: Pure and undefiled by the sins of the world.

Verse 27, *"once"*: On one occasion only.

Hebrews 9:11, *"good things to come"*: Blessings that Christ brought for our eternal happiness and welfare. *"not of this building"*: Not of this mortal or earthly creation.

Verse 12, *"into the holy place"*: As the High Priest in the Old Testament entered once a year into the Most Holy Place, Christ entered into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God.

Philippians 3:20, *"conversation"*: Citizenship. Paul had just spoken of those "whose God is their belly (fleshly appetites), and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." Then, in contrast to that, he declares that our conversation, or citizenship, is in Heaven, as Colossians 3:2 puts it, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Verse 21, *"our vile body"*: The body of our corruption, that is, our mortal physical body. *"working"*: His energy or ability. *"subdue all things"*: Change our bodies from mortal to immortal.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

From the blessed sacred writings of the Apostle Paul we will study about Christ's exalted position in the Heavenly places at the right hand of God. Psalm 68: 18 and Psalm 110: 1 both prophesy about the exaltation that God gave to Christ "on high" and "at my right hand." After Christ had been obedient

unto the death of the cross and spent some time in the tomb, He was raised triumphant to life eternal, and, after being with His disciples for forty days instructing and comforting them, He went up from them and disappeared in the heavens. None of them saw with these fleeting mortal eyes what He went to, but the Scriptures reveal it so plainly. Our hearts leap with joy in the Holy Spirit as we comprehend this glorious truth of where our dear Friend and Redeemer is!

Our lesson shows what Christ is doing for us up there in the glory world. He is appearing in the presence of God on our behalf, and His Father receives His intercessions for our welfare and benefit. He is ministering to us His sanctuary, hearing our prayers, sending us messages by way of the Holy Spirit, giving us power, guidance, comfort, inspiration, revelations of truth, and whatever else we need while we tarry in this dark world of sin and sorrow. Oh, we love what Hebrews 4:16 tells us and we have been comforted many times in coming to the throne of grace, obtaining grace to help in times of need. As a beloved song says, "He lives on high, He lives on high, triumphant over sin and all its stain: He lives on high, He lives on high, some day He's coming again!"

Hebrews 7:25 declares what He is able to do, and verse 26 declares how He is qualified to be High Priest for us. He is not like the Old Testament priesthood who had to offer sacrifices for themselves first, and then for the people. Christ made one sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and then He sat down at the right hand of God. Oh, this lesson fills my very soul with greatest joy and comfort! How wonderful, as Philippians 3:20 declares, our hopes and treasures are not on this fleeting earth that one day will melt away like wax! We are citizens of the heavenly country! Jesus is coming soon to change these old mortal shells into immortal creatures like Himself! Oh, how great is this salvation and hope that our lesson portrays! May we all be encouraged to press on to glory and be faithful to our dear Savior!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the glorious truth in our lesson today?
2. What is Christ doing at the right hand of God?
3. How was He qualified to be given this position?
4. What benefits can be ours through Him being there?
5. What can we be looking for in the future?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus accomplished the work that His Father gave Him by making one sacrifice for sins forever, and then He was exalted to the right hand of God to intercede for those who love, obey and follow Him in this world. And He is there today still doing what He has been doing since He went up over 2000 years ago. He has been "on the job" unfailingly ever since He was given that heavenly honor as the High Priest of our great salvation. Down here the world keeps churning in its strife and wickedness, unaware of what is going on and what is soon to come to pass. Money, pleasure, sex, sports, work, cares of life, entertainment, television, Internet and what-have-you keeps human kind drunk and unaware of what is really going on. What are we to do? Let us look up to Jesus and behold Him as Stephen did as he was being killed. Christ is our only hope. He is coming soon! Let us pray that we will be accounted worthy to ever be with Him! What ever it takes for us to attain to the resurrection of the dead and to meet Him in peace, it will be worth it all.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into Heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" Acts 7:55-56. Some of the scriptures note Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father. However, He stood in Stephen's behalf and gave him what he needed just when he needed it—a glimpse of the glory of God to carry him through.

Jesus is a faithful high priest to us. He is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities." He cares for us. "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." I Peter 1:13.

Let us follow Stephen's example of looking stedfastly unto the Lord with faith and expectation. Jesus can see us through anything. One verse of song says,

"I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
Ill's have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
Where is death's sting? Where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me."

—Bro. Bob Wilson

**DECEMBER 27, 2009**

**SOWING NOT TO THE FLESH, BUT TO THE SPIRIT**

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**MEMORYVERSE:** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Romans 5:13-14.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** If we want to be successful with God and attain to eternal life and the resurrection of the dead, we must absolutely live in obedience to the guidance and counsel of the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and not to the lusts and desires of the flesh.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Romans 8:1, "*condemnation*": Verdict of guilt or transgression. "*after*": in accord with.

Verse 5, "*mind*": Exercise the thoughts, desires, opinions, purposes, and dispositions.

Verse 6, "*carnally minded*": Inclining toward and following after the flesh and its lusts. "*spiritually minded*": Seeking the guidance and blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 7, "*enmity*": Opposition and hostility.

Verse 8, "*in the flesh*": Ruled by fleshly desires and feelings.

Galatians 5:16, "*Walk*": Follow and take the way of. "*not fulfil*": Not at all perform or accomplish.

Verse 17, "*cannot do the things that ye would*": Refusing to do the things that you would ordinarily do if you were obeying the fleshly feelings and desires.

Verse 19, "*works*": Things done and carried out. "*manifest*": Clearly revealed. "*Adultery, fornication*": Unrighteous sexual conduct. "*uncleanness*": Impurity and filthy thoughts and behavior. "*lasciviousness*": Indulgence of physical passions without control.

Verse 20, "*idolatry*": Devotion and worship of anything other than the true and living God. "*witchcraft*": The Greek word is "pharmakeia," medication, i.e. magic, sorcery. "*hated*": Hostility and enmity against one's fellow man. "*variance*": Fightings. "*emulations*": Jealousies. "*wrath*": Fierce anger. "*strife*": Contention and rivalry. "*seditions*": Divisions. "*heresies*": Teachings and doctrines not according to the truth of God's word.

Verse 21, "*envyings*": Ill will. "*drunkenness*": Intoxication with strong drink. "*revellings*": Loose and hilarious indulgence in pleasure and entertainment.

Verse 23, "*meekness*": Mildness in spirit, without any reaction of anger or recompense when mistreated, abused, or persecuted. "*temperance*": Self-control.

Verse 25, "*walk*": Conform; march in rank and keep step.

Galatians 6:7. "*not mocked*": Not to be laughed at or counted lightly.

Verse 8. "*corruption*": Ruin, destruction.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

For our final lesson in this series of studies of our Lord Jesus Christ we are inspired from the writings of the Apostle Paul to consider the wonderful truth that Jesus gave to us in His teachings and in the example of His life on earth. It is that of being delivered from the power and influence of fleshly earthly things and raised up to real spiritual life and awareness. This is what Jesus desires mankind to be brought into completely. Christ's burden and thrust of His teachings points us to the realities and blessedness of spiritual values. His word to Nicodemus about the spiritual birth, His message to the woman at the well about the spiritual water of life, His truth expressed in John 6 about the spiritual bread of life, spiritual eyesight and hearing, the hearts of men as ground for the growth of spiritual seed, a spiritual resurrection, spiritual sheep, spiritual treasures: all of these point us to spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Him.

From Romans 8 we draw plain teachings of the vanity of living to the flesh and the blessing of living to the Spirit. Paul had, in the preceding 7<sup>th</sup> chapter, brought out how the flesh overpowered him under the law of Moses, and showed him his weakness and need of a Higher Power, which he found in Christ. Then to the Galatians Paul directed the same message, and was very plain in bringing out what is the works of the flesh and the wonderful fruit of the Spirit that one can have in his life. Our closing scripture in Galatians 6:7-9 is so full of warning about reaping what we sow. He was directing these thoughts to some who were holding on to physical circumci-

sion, and he labeled such as fleshly and of no avail. Each one of us should take this as an individual warning. It is the difference in eternal life and eternal death. If we want to live and really live we must be changed from the bondage of the flesh to the glorious liberty of the Spirit of God!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the things Paul labeled as works of the flesh?
2. What will be the result of doing these things?
3. What did he say was the fruit of the Spirit?
4. Who can give us power to live to the Spirit?
5. What will be our end if we live to the flesh?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Mankind is a twofold creature. We are made up of flesh and spirit. Our flesh has appetites and desires, feelings and ideas, likes and dislikes. Our spirit comes from God Who created us. God is a Spirit, and we make real contact with Him in our spirit, our inner man. We grow up in life greatly dominated and influenced by our flesh and the earthly realm in which we live. God permitted it to be this way, but He desires that we turn from the flesh and the material things of life to seek for things of His Spirit. People have done it and we have many testimonies from those who have sought the things of the Spirit of God and found them to their great joy and happiness. What a blessed experience is found when the spirit of man makes contact with the Spirit of His Maker! He or she is lifted up from the flesh and its bodily appetites and feelings and temptations into a sweet realm of inward joy and satisfaction. One is still a human being and in a fleshly body, but he has found a reality of spiritual life in seeking God in prayer and study of His Word and having it opened up to his mind and understanding with such comfort and sweet inward peace. Oh, the joy and richness of fellowship with one's Maker in being united with Him in one blessed Spirit! He still has fleshly appetites but the Spirit of God helps to bring them under control. It gives strength and comfort to help as the outer man



perishes. But Jesus said that the way to this is strait and narrow and few there be that find it! (Matthew 7:14.) What a treasure and pleasure it is to those who do find it!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

God has established certain universal laws of physics that affect all of us. The familiar expression, "What goes up must come down," is a simplified explanation of the law of gravity in action that we often see demonstrated around us. There are other laws God has established that are just as sure as these physical laws, such as, the appointment of death and judgment for mankind.

One principle that may be noted in our lesson today is the law of sowing and reaping. While it is easy for one to understand this concerning seeds and plants, it is harder for some to realize that God has also established it concerning our actions. "...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." This passage in Galatians goes on to say if we sow to the flesh we will reap corruption, but if we sow to the Spirit we shall reap life everlasting.

When a farmer plants a crop, he often studies to determine which variety of grain is best suited for his climate and soil conditions before he goes to the expense and effort of planting it. Since our lives are also subject to the law of sowing and reaping, we should be careful about our actions and deeds for their fruit will surely return to us again.

The seed that we sow to the flesh will not provide us with life everlasting. To reap this wonderful fruit, one must sow to the Spirit. It is precious to see Saints who have spent their lives sowing to the Spirit come near the close of their earthly sojourn with a bright beautiful future before them. The joys of Heaven await them and their life has really only begun. May we all give more consideration to our need of sowing to the Spirit for this will bring us the great blessings that will endure eternally.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



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