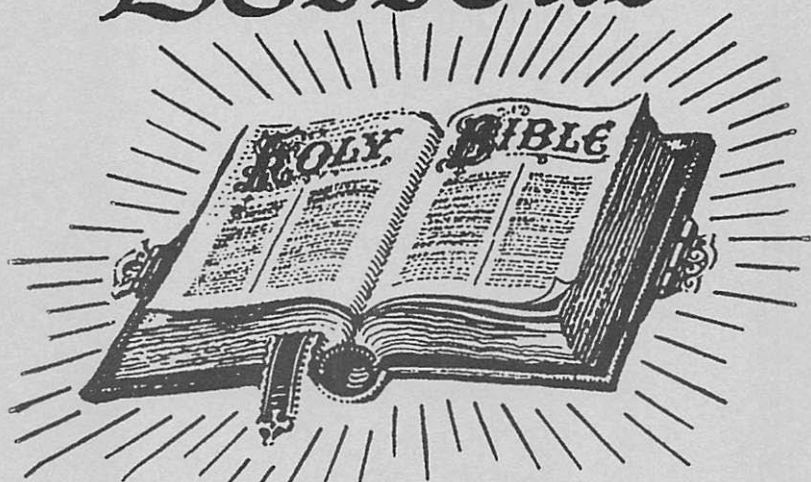


# Bible Lessons



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**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LESSON TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Jan. 2	Christ's Forty Day Fast and Temptations .....	1
9	Christ's First Two Miracles .....	5
16	More Miraculous and Wonderful Healings .....	10
23	Healing of a Bleeding Woman and Young Girl .....	15
30	Jesus Heals a Sin Sick Woman .....	19
Feb. 6	Jesus Feeds the Multitude .....	24
13	A Sad Mother .....	29
20	Christ Transfigured unto Heavenly Glory .....	34
27	Jesus Christ and Little Children .....	39
Mar. 6	Great Things the Lord Hath Done .....	44
13	Jesus Heals the Man Blind from Birth .....	49
20	Resurrected After Being Dead Four Days .....	54
27	What Jesus Christ is to us Today .....	58

**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of**  
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## **BIBLE LESSON FOR FIRST QUARTER, 2011**

### **THEME FOR THE FIRST QUARTER**

In this series of lessons we are inspired to study the various miraculous incidents that took place in the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Starting from His forty day fast and the temptations of satan we want to survey the wonderful things that Christ brought to pass through the wonderful miraculous power of His Heavenly Father. And, as we study the various wonders that He brought forth, let us remember that He is just the same today and is still able to work miracles for the benefit of all who follow Him faithfully today. He is at the right hand of God interceding for us and is still able to work in miraculous ways for the benefit of His faithful children. We pray the Lord to bless these precious lessons to the encouragement of all who study them. —Bro. Leslie Busbee



**JANUARY 2, 2011**

### **CHRIST'S FORTY DAY FAST AND TEMPTATIONS**

Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

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.

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

Luke 4:6 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 therefore 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.

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.

**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 His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be tempted to do wrong in all the same ways that we as mortals are tempted, but Christ overcame in every point and refused to bow to satan, thus making a way for us also to overcome the devil in all of his devices against us.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Luke 4:1, "*Holy Ghost*": Holy Spirit. Both words "Ghost" and "Spirit" are translated from the same Greek word "Pneuma" which means the spirit or breath of God.

Matthew 4:2, "*fasted*": Ate no food. "*an hungred*": Greatly famished and craving for food.

Verse 4, "*not live by bread alone*": Physical food is not the main supporter and preserver of life. The Word of God is the principle source of the sustaining of life.

Verse 5, "*pinnacle*": This was the top corner of a wing or section of the temple, in sight of anyone who might be in the court below.

Verse 6, "*charge*": Command or oversight.

Verse 7, "*It is written again*": Although the devil quoted scripture to Jesus, he was applying that promise of God's

protection for an act that was violating another scripture. It is wise for us to take heed to this thought. As II Timothy 2:15 states: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." The Holy Scriptures can be wrongly applied. This is why we need the help and illumination of the Holy Spirit in the use of God's Word. "*not tempt*": Do not thoroughly test, or go too far and get off balance in the use of the Scriptures. Much can be said on this subject, but it can be seen in this case how the devil sought to get Jesus to do something way out of line with God and used scripture to justify it.

Verse 8, "*all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them*": Earthly wealth, honor and glory in high positions of leadership and rule has a strong appeal to the selfish and lustful heart of man. How many vain and foolish men in history have striven for this fleeting fantasy!

Luke 4:6, "*All this power will I give thee*": Here is another of Satan's lies. Daniel 4:25 states that "...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Satan may have influence over men to get them to seek for this power and it may seem that he is giving it, but in the long run it is still the Almighty God Who gives it.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In our lesson today we have presented the triumph of our Lord and Savior over the devices and temptations of the devil. This victory was gained in a great time of stress and desires of the flesh. Jesus had passed forty days and nights with no food and He was doubtless extremely hungry. It is in these close places where we can and will be tempted also. We may not be required to go forty days without food, but there are those appetites and desires that we must keep in proper bounds, and sometimes it is a very difficult matter.

Our lesson shows that Jesus was tempted on three main points. The first was His physical appetite for food. God made man with the bodily function of taking in food for nourishment and health. But it can get out of control and cause much trouble. The second was the temptation to show off before people by jumping down from the pinnacle. This was the temptation of pride. And then the third was the attraction of worldly power and honor. These three avenues of temptation were in Eve's temptation in the beginning and they are

included in I John 2:16, "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." These also correspond to the "hand, foot, and the eye" that Jesus spoke of in Mark 9:43-47.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why does God allow us to be tempted by the devil?
2. What appetite did the devil first tempt Jesus with?
3. Why did Jesus refuse to jump off the temple pinnacle?
4. Why was Jesus not interested in the glory of earthly kingdoms?
5. Why did Jesus have to go through temptations as He did?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Paul said in I Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast away." James 1:14-15 says, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." God allows man to be tempted to disobey His Word. Adam and Eve had this temptation, as pictured in Genesis 3:1-6. Temptation is God's way of proving our faithfulness. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." We prove our love to God when we resist the temptations of this wicked world around us, and go God's way. For Jesus to be our Savior He had to face the temptations of the world, self, and the devil. He had to be tempted, as our memory verse says, in all points like we are tempted. Praise God, our Jesus overcame all the temptations He met in this mortal life and He can help us to overcome all the temptations we meet in life.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The tempter came to Jesus when He was alone, hungry and physically weak from fasting. At the most opportune time satan presented himself. The devil appealed to the immediate needs that Jesus had while questioning who Christ was and

His ability to perform such miracles. In circumstances like this the nature of man would cry out, "well, I'll show you." However, this was God manifested in the flesh and His strength of character went far beyond that of the normal man. The first man, Adam, fell in the face of temptation, but Jesus demonstrated a power that was superior to the natural man. Satan's attempts to bring Jesus down failed. When Jesus firmly quoted Scripture to the tempter, the spell of that temptation was broken and satan had to change his approach for another temptation.

Man, devoid of the power of God in His heart and life, will be as weak as Samson when the Spirit of Lord left him. But, when Christ lives in one's heart, His power will enable that one to resist temptation and stand firmly in the strength of the Lord. The strength that Jesus demonstrated while here on earth can be in our heart if we keep ourselves in the love of the Lord.

Luke 4:13 says, "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season." The devil also used others to tempt Jesus at a future time—the Jewish leaders, His own family, the people He preached to and even His own disciples. In all of these situations Jesus was true and faithful, even to the point of giving His life on the cross when He could have called twelve legions of angels to deliver Him. God's will was foremost in His life and He left this world with total victory over satan's devices. Jesus left this testimony with His disciples. "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 14:30.

The fact that Jesus was raised from the tomb by the power of God to sit at His Father's right hand is proof that Jesus never strayed from God's intended plan. The Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed against the enemy of God's people and victory, grace and deliverance is available to each one.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



**JANUARY 9, 2010**

### **CHRIST'S FIRST TWO MIRACLES**

John 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

John 4:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

49 The nobleman said unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way, thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

52 Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.



53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judea into Galilee.

**MEMORY VERSE:** This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. John 2:11.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Two miracles, performed by the supernatural power of God working through Christ Jesus at the beginning of His ministry to mankind, manifested the blessing and presence of the Almighty God to be with Him.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

John 2:2, "*wanted wine*": Were short of wine.

Verse 4, "*Woman*": Jesus addressed His mother with loving respect, as He did unto various other women, namely, the Syrophenician woman in Matthew 15:28, the Samaritan woman in John 4:21, his sorrowing mother as He hung upon the cross in John 19:26, Mary Magdalene in John 20:15, as the angels had also addressed her before in verse 13, and as Paul did to the believing Christian woman in I Corinthians 7:13. In all of these places the Greek word translated as "woman" is the same. It is not a careless disrespectful expression, but rather one of honor and loving respect. "*what have I to do with thee?*" This may seem to be an expression of reproof or disrespect that Christ made to His mother. But the real expression in the Greek text is: "What is this to you and to me?" In other words, "What does this problem have to do with us?" But we see that there was no scorn or criticism in the heart of Jesus, because right away He told the servants what to do, and the wonderful miracle took place.

Verse 6, "*after the manner of the purifying of the Jews*": For the purpose of washing their hands or any other cleansing needed. "*firkin*": A certain standard measure which is not definitely known.

Verse 8, "*Draw out*": Dip out.

Verse 9, "*ruler*": Director or overseer. It is from the same word as governor.

Verse 10, "*good wine*": That which was nutritional and delicious.

Verse 11, "*glory*": Dignity, honor and power.

John 4:46, "*nobleman*": One of the king's officers.

Verse 49, "*Sir*": Translated from the same word as "Lord."

Verse 50, "*believed*": Sincerely counted as true. "*he went his way*": Turned and departed to go back to his house. He had come from Capernaum to Cana of Galilee, a distance of almost twenty miles. It was on the next day that he was met by his servants with the joyful news of his son's recovery.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today portrays the beginning of Christ's ministry to humanity. Jesus, His mother Mary, and His disciples had received an invitation to attend this marriage. Oh, how blessed it is when a young couple is united in holy matrimony with the Heavenly Father and His Holy Son in attendance! If a marriage is brought about through the leadings of the Holy Spirit we are sure that their sweet presence is not lacking.

But a problem arose. The supply of the wine that was served to the guests was coming short. Now we are confident that this was good nourishing wine, and not that which is intoxicating. It was made known to Jesus by His mother of the problem, and Jesus provided a wonderful solution. He told them what to do and the result was that the guests had plenty of good wine to partake of. By the power of the Almighty, Who calls things not as though they were, the water was changed to the finest wine. The same wonderful God Who brought Israel through the Red Sea on dry land, Who shut the mouths of the lions for Daniel, and Who brought the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace without the smell of fire on their garments, yes, this same God, as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, wrought this great miracle of turning the water into wine. Is there anything too hard for God?

We need to recognize the truth that God has control of all the earthly elements. He can change them from one thing to another, and do anything that He sees will be for our good. And the nobleman's son was healed in the same way. Jesus declared that his son would live and the man took Him at His word. These were the beginnings of a ministry to humanity that the world had never seen before. How wonderful that the Almighty God came down into human flesh to manifest His wonderful power of goodness and help for us poor afflicted storm-tossed mortals!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did God manifest His miracle working power in Christ?
2. What was the miracle that happened at the marriage?
3. What did the governor of the feast call the miracle wine?
4. How did the nobleman respond to what Jesus told him to do?
5. What effect did this miracle have upon him and his household?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

To bring about a miracle that is given by God there is usually something the person involved must do as an expression and manifestation of his or her faith. In our lesson today it shows how the servants had to fill the waterpots with water, then they had to draw it out and take it to the governor. This was an act of faith. The nobleman from Capernaum responded to Jesus' word, "Go thy way, thy son liveth." He believed it and acted on it. He had come a long distance to make his request of the Lord, and for him to turn around and head back to his home (which meant an overnight stay somewhere) was an expression of the love and confidence He had toward the Master. And the effect of it all was that he and all his household were made believers in Him.

Jesus had this kind of faith when He submitted to the Father's will and allowed Himself to be crucified on the cross. He knew that it was for the sins of the whole world that He was to be nailed to the cross of shame. It was definitely His Father's will for Christ to submit Himself to such an awful death. "Being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." He did this because of the faith He had in God Who had promised to raise Him from the dead. Yes, it takes diligent obedience and perfection submission. This sets the faith in action and will bring the glorious results that He has promised. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

When a man and woman come to be married, the best thing they can do is to invite the Lord to the wedding and earnestly seek to create an humble, worshipful atmosphere in which He will feel welcome. The anointing of God's Spirit at the

wedding will bring about a great confidence to the couple that they are in God's will.

In the lesson today, Jesus' presence at a wedding brought about a great transformation, as He changed plain water into best-quality wine. The governor of the feast unknowingly stated a great truth about God and His ways, when he said, "you have saved the good wine until the last."

God always saves the best for last! A new Christian feels that nothing could be better than the joy he experiences at the beginning. But he finds that each new experience with the Lord is better than the one before. As we are transformed from glory to glory, we know that the final, everlasting glory will be the best of all, as we are ushered into His Heavenly home.

God's presence in a marriage will also reveal this truth—as He is welcomed into the home, each passing year, even with its heartaches and trials, can be better and richer than the last. We need to be patient with God, and do exactly as He instructs us, if we are to see the end results of the change He is working in our lives and in our homes.

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**JANUARY 16, 2011**

### **MORE MIRACULOUS AND WONDERFUL HEALINGS**

Luke 7:1 Now when he (Jesus) had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 7:10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Matthew 8:14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

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

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ saves the soul from the power of sin and transgression, and He also heals and takes away all manner of sickness and disease. He performed such wonderful works of healing while He was here on earth, and He is still willing and able to heal soul and body for us today.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

Luke 7:2, "*centurion*": A Roman military officer who had the command of one hundred men. "*dear unto him*": Very valuable and precious servant to this centurion. "*ready to die*":

Very close to dying.

Verse 3, "*elders*": Those who were older and in leadership. "*beseeching*": Requesting.

Verse 4, "*besought him instantly*": Begged him earnestly. "*worthy*": Very much deserving.

Verse 5, "*synagogue*": The place where the people met to worship.

Verse 6, "*not worthy*": Not fit or qualified.

Verse 7, "*neither thought I myself worthy*": Counted not myself fit or entitled.

Verse 8, "*under authority*": Having people over me who I must obey.

Matthew 8:11, "*from the east and west*": From all over the world. Jesus was referring here to the Gentiles, nations other than Israel.

Verse 12, "*children of the kingdom*": The Jews who were supposed to be God's people. "*outer darkness*": Our Savior was referring to the realm of eternal night and punishment to be pronounced upon all who are not acceptable with God in the final judgment. "*gnashing of teeth*": Biting and grating of teeth in pain or rage.

Verse 14, "*laid*": Lying in bed.

Verse 17, "*took*": Got hold of and removed. "*infirmities*": Weakness and feebleness. "*bare our sicknesses*": Illnesses of the body lifted up, and carried away.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We have drawn the text for today's Bible Lesson from two different Scripture sources, from Luke and Matthew. Each account has something that the other does not have, so we have combined them so as to include all of the information given. Luke gives more details concerning the centurion, while Matthew adds more of what Jesus said concerning the Gentiles and the Jewish status.

There is one special word in our lesson we would like to pay particular attention to. And that is the word "worthy." Notice in Luke's account the first mention of worthiness. This was given by the elders of the Jews regarding their esteem for the Roman centurion whose servant was so near death. "He is worthy, for he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue." They appreciated what this Roman officer had done. "He is worthy." And they manifested and expressed

esteem and confidence in what they believed Jesus could do for his ailing servant. Now let us consider what the centurion expressed, as Jesus neared his house, in sending friends to the Master with the statement, "Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof." And he said farther, "Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee." Then he expressed the confidence that he had in Christ's power, "But say in a word, and my servant shall be healed." He did not count himself worthy, but he was convinced that Christ could heal without being there in person. We find in Proverbs 27:2, "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." Summing it all up, we can be assured that none of us are worthy of anything from God, but we need His help and mercy, and can have faith to believe that He will hear and answer our pleas.

Jesus was well pleased with the centurion's attitude and declared that He had not seen such faith from the people who were supposed to be God's special treasure. Here He found it in a Roman, a military man. Another precious thought is the loving concern that this centurion had for his servant. He "was dear unto him." Is that not a beautiful picture? Anyway, it all came out good, when those who were sent returned and found the servant healed.

The latter part of our lesson shows the great work Christ carried out there in Capernaum, of the healing of Peter's wife's mother and the many from the area who came for healing. "He healed all that were sick." And then Matthew quotes from Isaiah 53:4-5. The application of Christ's suffering on account of sin, as Isaiah expresses it, is applied by Matthew to include the healing of infirmities and sicknesses. And we see it fulfilled so abundantly in the blessed life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did the Jewish elders deem the centurion worthy?
2. Why did the centurion deem himself as unworthy?
3. What did Jesus so commend in the faith of this Roman?
4. What comparison did Jesus show between the Jew and the Gentile?
5. What does our lesson tell us about the healing power of Christ?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The healing of the centurion's servant helped to reveal the good will of God, working through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, toward all mankind, and not just the Jews. And Jesus in Matthew's account adds a prophecy that all mankind would be given an invitation to sit down in the kingdom of God with the faithful, but that the Jews were in danger of being cast out into outer darkness and eternal damnation. This is a serious point. As Peter stated in Acts 10:34-35, "...God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." God showed special favor and power toward the nation of Israel, but, sad to say, they dishonored and provoked God to anger. Paul said also in Romans 10: 12, "There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Think for a moment of all of the healings and miracles that Jesus performed while He was here on the earth. But there were only a few of whom He noted their great faith: The woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:22), the blind men (Matthew 9:29, Mark 10:52), the Canaanite woman with the devil possessed daughter (Matthew 15:28), the leprous man (Luke 7:50), the woman who anointed Jesus' feet (Luke 7:50) and the Roman centurion (Matthew 8:10) in our lesson today.

When Jesus was approaching the centurion's house, He was met by the centurion's friends. They told Jesus that the centurion did not feel worthy for the Lord to come into his house. The centurion was fully aware of the authority that he had over the soldiers in his care by just a command. And he was just as convinced that Jesus had power and authority over the sickness of his beloved servant. "...But say in a word, and my servant shall be healed." Jesus was impressed by this great faith: especially coming from a Roman.

It is one thing to be commended of our great faith by our peers. But it is quite another to be counted faithful by the Lord Jesus Christ. This should be the sole purpose and goal of each one of us—to be faithful (loyal, devoted, steadfast) to the Lord. The Lord is still impressed by faith in Him. In fact, He is looking for it. "...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8.

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



**JANUARY 23, 2011**

**HEALING OF A BLEEDING WOMAN AND YOUNG GIRL**

Mark 5:22 And behold there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him (Jesus), he fell at his feet,

23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and...she was healed of that plague.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

Luke 8:46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.

47 And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

Mark 5:34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Luke 8:51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not: she is not dead, but sleepeth.

53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

Mark 5:41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, whose hope the LORD is. Jeremiah 17:5, 7.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus miraculously and instantly healed the woman who had been bleeding for twelve years, and raised the young twelve year old girl—who was just about to die—in answer to the faith that was fervently exercised toward Him.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Mark 5:23, "*besought him greatly*": Begged him much.

Verse 24, "*thronged him*": Pressed upon him from all sides.

Verse 25, "*issue of blood*": Flow of blood.

Verse 27, "*press*": Crowd of people.

Verse 29, "*straightway*": Instantly; at once. "*plague*": Disease.

Verse 30, "*virtue*": Healing power.

Luke 8:51, "*suffered*": Allowed. "*save*": Except.

Verse 52, "*bewailed*": Beat on their breast in anguish and sorrow.

Verse 53, "*laughed to scorn*": Ridiculed and derided.

Mark 5:42, "*astonished*": Amazed and filled with wonder.

Verse 43, "*charged them straitly*": Urgently ordered them.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

What a wonderful lesson we have before us today! It shows how the faith of two different people prevailed to enable them to receive the healing from our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, that they so greatly needed and desired. We draw our lesson from a combination of the accounts given by Mark and Luke. Matthew 9:18-25 also has an account of this, but not in depth. We start in Mark's Gospel that tells us how Jesus had passed over the Sea of Galilee after healing the man with the legion of devils. Much people were gathered unto Him, and He was nigh unto the sea. It was here that Jairus, one of the leaders at the place of worship, approached Jesus and fell at His feet in great anguish, urgently entreating the Master concerning his twelve year old daughter who was at the point of death. Jesus readily consented to go with him and the throng of people pressed Him on every side.

As they slowly moved along, suddenly Jesus stopped and turned around, asking "Who touched me?" Of course, the disciples wondered how Jesus could say that with all the people pressing around Him. But Jesus had felt healing power go out of His body. And, sure enough, a poor woman who had been afflicted with blood flowing from her body for twelve years came forward to tell Jesus of the wonderful healing she had just received. Oh, how wonderful to be touched by the Great Physician! Just think of it! For twelve years she had borne this awful affliction. But her faith caused her to press through the crowd and reach out and touch the hem of Christ's garment.

About that time someone stepped forward with the news that Jairus need not trouble the Master, as his daughter had died. But Jesus assured them that she would still be made whole. Upon arriving at the house of Jairus they found a crowd of mourners. But Jesus went in with Peter, James and John and the parents, and the precious daughter was raised from death to life again. The faith of Jairus was rewarded and how precious his daughter was to him as never before!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How did Jairus express the confidence he had in Jesus?
2. How did the afflicted woman express her confidence?

3. By what power did these wonderful miracles take place?
4. Does Jesus still today heal afflicted bodies as He did then?
5. What does our Memory Verse say about trusting in man?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Both of the people who received the healing of Jesus in our lesson today had heard of the fame of Jesus and His power to heal, and the burden of their need drew them to seek after His healing touch. Jairus's only child, a twelve year old daughter, was dying, and he believed that Jesus could make her well. So he sought Jesus out among the pressing throng, and, falling at His feet, made his earnest plea for the healing of his child.

The woman with the issue of blood had heard of Jesus, and pressed her way through the crowd, saying in her heart that if she could but touch the border of His garment she would be made whole. God Almighty was looking down upon these two earnest seekers, and, when contact was made by the woman, the healing came right out of Christ's body into the woman's and the work was done. Oh, what a blessing this was to these people on that day!

May the Lord bless and inspire our hearts today with faith to seek the Lord and be persuaded of His power and willingness to heal our bodies in times of affliction! Our poor society is deluded with the idea that Christ does not heal today as He did back then. Many, many church people are taught that we have to go to the doctor and take his medicine for the care and healing of the body. But this is not true. Jesus is at the right hand of God in the eternal realm of the Spirit of Almighty God. He is interceding in our behalf, and we have the wonderful privilege to come to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find the grace and healing that we have need of. (Hebrews 4:16.) Let us be encouraged about the healing power of Christ being still available to us today. He is still the Great Physician. Pray to Him, trust in Him, obey His Word, follow after Him, love Him, worship Him and, above all, live for Him in this life. As He healed while He was here on earth, He can and will heal all who follow and trust in Him in this day. We can have faith to surmount all obstacles and oppositions of the devil. Cursed is the man who trusteth in man, and blessed is the man who trusteth in the Lord!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

How grateful we are for the compassions of Christ toward poor hurting humanity. The account of the woman with the issue of blood has been a source of inspiration to me many times through the years. There were no doubt many that touched Jesus that day without results; they were casual from being in close proximity in the press of the crowd. The disciples were astonished that He would ask such a question. However, this touch was different.

She had determined, purposed and put forth great effort. It was probably difficult for her as she quietly edged her way through the press, believing that Jesus was her help. Oh how her heart was crying out for the Savior. Perhaps her heart raced as she neared and stretched forth her hand that touched the Master. Hers was a touch of faith and the virtue flowed from the Lord into her being.

You and I are going to have to press at times also. Press through doubts, accusations, fear, cares of life, our failures, despair; all things that want to stand between us and the Savior. A song says, Touching Jesus, is all that matters, then your life will never be the same. There is only one way to touch Him, just believe when you call on His name. "Be not afraid, only believe" —your Savior. —Bro. Bob Wilson



**JANUARY 30, 2011**

### **JESUS HEALS A SIN-SICK WOMAN**

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 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:** The weight of sin upon the heart of a person, along with a realization of the price to be paid in terms of condemnation and everlasting separation from God, is enough to bring any sinner to full repentance and cause them to seek God for mercy and forgiveness with a broken and contrite heart.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

Luke 7:36, "*sat down to meat*": Reclined or leaned back.

Verse 37, "*sinner*": Just how deep and immoral a woman this was that bowed at Jesus' feet is not known, but it is

evident from her actions that she was deeply conscious of her polluted and sin-stained life. It caused her to come to Jesus in tears of repentance and actions of love and confidence in Him. She felt the weight of her sins and was taking all means of expressing her need before the Lord. "*alabaster box of ointment*": Container of perfumed oil.

Verse 38, "*behind him*": Adam Clarke says, "In taking their meals, the eastern people reclined on one side; their knees being bent to make the more room, the feet of each person were turned outwards behind him. This is the meaning of *standing behind at his feet*. "*wash*": Wet or moisten. "*kiss*": The Greek word means "fervently kiss." "*anointed*": Gently applied to the skin.

Verse 39, "*within himself*": Not spoken out loud, but in his thoughts.

Verse 40, "*answering*": Jesus by the supernatural power of God within Him detected the man's inward thoughts, and was ready with an answer for him.

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

Verse 42, "*frankly*": Freely.

Verse 47, "*loved much*": Expressed her love in bountiful measures of appreciation and devotion. "*loved little*": With some gratitude, but lacking real fervency.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We have in our lesson today an example of the genuine repentance and fervent love and worship that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly worthy of. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. But not everyone comes to the place where they can feel the shame and guilt that their transgressions against God really puts on them. It is a tendency among the creatures of humanity to be unaware of their woeful condition before God. The Almighty has taken special measures to help us to be made aware of our sins and condemned state before Him, but too many are not so impressed. Even though sin is our master and we are doomed to eternal woe if we continue in its dominion, mankind is so inclined to shrug off the conviction they ought to have and soothe their conscious otherwise.

The woman in our lesson had heard that Jesus was in the house, and she made her way in to where He was to seek the

forgiveness that she was so persuaded that He could give her. It does not say that she said a word, but her actions spoke louder than words. She was sorry for her sins and was very much persuaded that Jesus was the Savior, and she deeply loved and appreciated Him for what He was bringing to her and to humanity. In the parable that Jesus spoke she was the one who owed five hundred pence. Now the Pharisee was in a sinful state also, but he was not conscious of his true condition. Therefore he was the one who owed fifty pence. He was not such a bad fellow in his sight, but somehow he failed to really see himself as he was. And so it is with so many.

This little woman's efforts and expressions of godly sorrow and love for the Savior paid off so greatly. Christ's own words persuaded her that the gift of salvation was hers. "Thy sins are forgiven. Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." How wonderful that Jesus is still the Savior of the soul of man, and all who come to Him in the right attitude and spirit can find the Pearl of Great Price today!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why was the woman in our lesson weeping at the feet of Jesus?
2. What did Jesus see deep in her heart as she knelt there?
3. What did the Pharisee think about it all?
4. Why are so many people unaware of their true condition?
5. What must a person do today who desires salvation?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

God showed and established the guidelines of the faith that He desires and what is needed in the heart of man to enable us to take hold of His promises and believe to the saving of the soul. In Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and different ones in history are found these essential qualities of heart and mind. He established these guidelines of trust and confidence first. Then later, through Moses, God gave the Ten Commandments and other vital points of His statutes, laws, precepts and ways of holiness and righteousness. He gave this Holy Law system to help man to be aware of his sinful condition. "...By the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:20. Had He given



the law first without showing what faith and trust really is, mankind would have been helplessly condemned by the weight of their sins. So God wisely established those principles of faith and trust in His faithfulness first. In the fulfillment of faith and the knowledge of sin is found the way to salvation and hope. The woman who knelt to the Savior in our lesson today was under the great conviction of sin and condemnation, but she also had confidence and faith in the One she was humbling her heart to. The Pharisee, as were so many in Israel, was not aware of his true condition of heart. He was self-righteous and had little or no conviction of sin. Without conviction and a deep awareness of one's sinful condition, there will be no drawing to Christ. And without a sense of Christ's love and free gift of grace and mercy, a person's sense of guilt and condemnation will cause them to be in despair. Let us avail ourselves of what God has made possible to us. It will be worth all of our attention and effort to lay hold of this great salvation.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Our lesson today tells of a Pharisee who invited Jesus to come eat with Him. This was really an honor, for the Pharisees were very careful whom they ate with. They considered themselves to be the religious role models of the day and would not want to pollute themselves by eating with publicans and sinners. Perhaps Simon was curious about this teacher who went through the country preaching, healing the sick and doing good. Was He the return of Elijah or one of the prophets that the people were talking about? Would He deliver Israel from the harsh tyranny of the Romans? A dinner invitation seemed to be the right way to find out who He really was.

The scene that unfolded in the Pharisee's house clearly illustrated the difference between a dry form of religion and a true experience of salvation. This poor woman had also heard of Jesus and wanted to be close to Him, for she had a load of condemnation weighing heavily upon her heart from the sinful life she had lived. This Man taught like no other man and His gracious words of truth had touched her heart. "Would He have compassion on me," She wondered? Taking her precious alabaster box of ointment and her heavy heart, she stepped softly to the feet of Jesus and began to empty them both. The

scornful look of the Pharisee, whose house she invaded, **did** not deter her quest for mercy from the Son of God.

“Oh, gift of gifts! Oh, grace of faith!

My God, how can it be  
That Thou, Who hast discerning love,  
Should'st give that gift to me!

Ah, Grace! Into unlikeliest hearts  
It is thy boast to come,  
The glory of thy light to find  
In darkest spots a home.”

Those who have truly seen the dark condition of their hearts and have poured out the burden of their souls at the feet of Jesus in humble repentance will also be blessed to hear Him say, “Thy sins are forgiven.” They will go to their house blessed. Their eyes glow with the fervency of the love they have for the Lord. Years later you may hear their testimony of God's saving mercy. The experience is always a fresh joy to their heart—Jesus is real to them, and Heaven is nearer and brighter each day.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



**FEBRUARY 6, 2011**

### **JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDE**

John 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to

them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Matthew 14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Matthew 6:26.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus made manifest His great power over the earthly elements by mightily multiplying the small amount of loaves and fishes to feed and satisfy the hunger of five thousand men, beside the women and children, and by walking on the waters of the sea as if it was dry land.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

John 6:6. "*to prove him*": To test him to see what he would say.

Verse 7. "*two hundred pennyworth*": Adam Clarke figures that this sum appears to have been more than our Lord and all His disciples were worth of this world's goods.

Verse 9. "*lad*": A little boy.

Verse 10. "*five thousand men*": Matthew 14:21 says, "five thousand men, beside the women and children." The Lord knows how many that would amount to!

Verse 11. "*as much as they would*": All that they desired.

Verse 12. "*filled*": Satisfied and not wanting any more. This might be why there was so much left over.

Verse 14. "*that prophet*": Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15 thus prophesies of Jesus: "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him shall ye hearken."

Matthew 14:22, "*straightway*": Immediately. "*constrained*": Counted it to be necessary.

Verse 24. "*contrary*": Blowing against them.

Verse 25. "*fourth watch of the night*": Between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 in the morning.

Verse 27. "*It is I*": I AM!

Verse 28. "*bid me*": Order or command me.

Verse 30. "*the wind boisterous*": It was so strong.

Verse 31. "*Wherefore didst thou doubt?*" Why did you waver? Adam Clarke has some very good comments concerning this scene: "It was by faith in the power of Christ he (Peter) was upheld; when that faith failed, by which the laws of gravitation were suspended (held up), no wonder that those laws returned to their wonted (normal) action, and that he began to sink. It was not the violence of the winds, nor the raging of the waves, which endangered his life, but his littleness of faith."

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

At the setting of the scene of our lesson this great multitude of people had followed Jesus on foot out of the cities because they saw the miracles that He did in healing the sick. Matthew tells us that Jesus had just been told about what had happened to John the Baptist, how he had been beheaded in the prison by Herod. He had gone aside into the desert, no doubt, in grief for what had happened.

This great multitude of men, women, and children caught up with Him, and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick, and it was now evening. Notice how Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread to feed all these people. He was testing Philip to show what his thoughts were. And then Andrew brought a young lad to Jesus who had five loaves and two small fishes. Can you image how small that bit of food looked in the face of that hungry crowd? It was hardly enough for one person, let alone a whole multitude of probably over ten thousand, counting the women and children also. But it was no problem for Jesus, as our lesson brings out.

John tells us that Jesus perceived that the people would come and take Him by force to make Him a king. So that was why He sought to dismiss the crowds, send the disciples to the ship, and depart up into a mountain to pray. And it sounds like the disciples had been toiling nearly all night trying to get across the sea, for it was the last part of the night when Jesus came to them, walking on the sea water. What power and authority Jesus had over the elements to be able to walk on the water like it was land! And Peter got a taste of that power, also. How wonderful that we have this same Jesus to be our Guide and Strength to enable us to walk above the storms and raging waves of life that we meet today! —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How many people were gathered together before Jesus?
2. How much food did Jesus have to work with?
3. How much was left over when everyone finished eating?
4. How was Jesus able to walk on the water?
5. What caused Peter to begin to sink in the waves?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Just as Jesus had been able to survive a forty day fast without food and water, turn the water into wine, heal at a

distance the centurion's servant, and heal all the people as He did, in our lesson we see how He was able to feed a vast multitude of men, women, and children and fully satisfy their hunger with five barley loaves of bread and two small fishes! We can see the mighty power of God working in and through Him. All things are upheld and held together by the power and authority of this great and wonderful Creator! And Jesus Christ was His beloved Son, endued with His great power, and there was nothing that was impossible with Him. This same Jesus is seated in power and glory in the eternal Heavens interceding for us down here in this world of trouble and sorrow. We can pray to Him and look to Him for whatever help we might need in life. He can still heal the afflicted and diseased body. He can save, sanctify and preserve our souls from sin and this ungodly world we live in. Oh, how we need to love, obey, worship, follow, hold fast to and let Him lead our mortal lives as we journey through this fleeting world! He can help us to walk above the sorrows, grief, troubles, heartaches, disappointments and adversities that we meet up with. He is our great High Priest and we can come boldly with confidence in prayer to Him and find grace to help in time of need.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Cheryl's life and marriage was in shambles when a friend suggested that she and her husband counsel with her pastor. As the minister shared the simple plan of salvation, Cheryl's husband began to confess his sins and received the Lord Jesus into his life. His life began to change, but Cheryl became more bitter and rebellious, until at last she felt she must either turn to Jesus or end her life. At that point, she cried out to God to save her, and transformation began in her heart and in their marriage.

In just a few years, as memories from her past overwhelmed her, she reached a point of desperation again, and knew she must have healing for those old wounds. The Lord revealed that the bitterness locked away in her heart was toward her mother, who had rejected her when she was seven. As she prayed, sharing this bitter pain with Jesus, He whispered to her, "I was there watching over you all along." This was hard for her to believe, and she felt that unknown cords from the past still held her back.

Again Cheryl began to pray, determined to resolve the issue completely. She saw a vision of herself as a pathetic little girl, standing with tear-stained cheeks, completely rejected and unloved by the one person whom she loved more than anyone else in the world. Her heart ached and sobbed as she cried, "Jesus, You said You were there, where were You?" Right then she saw Jesus wrap His arms around that little girl. "I loved you even when your mommy couldn't," He whispered to her. Later she felt prompted to share her vision with her husband, and as she described how Jesus came to that crying little girl, something in her broke, and she realized that seeing Jesus in the midst of her pain was the key to her freedom. The anger toward her mother was completely gone, and she was filled with an intense love for her. Cheryl was now free to love her husband and her children. God mended her broken heart and restored her marriage.

Jesus came, in complete command of the angry tempest, to the disciples who were in the midst of despair. He comes to us in the midst of our pain, too, and reaches out to us to save us. "Seeing Jesus in the midst of your pain is the key to your freedom."

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**FEBRUARY 13, 2011**

### **A SAD MOTHER**

Mark 7:24 And from thence he (Jesus) arose and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

25 For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

Matthew 15:22 ...saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Mark 7:27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for, it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to the dogs.

Matthew 15:27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt...

Mark 7:29 ...For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

30 And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.

33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;

34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

36 And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

37 And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. Matthew 11:5-6.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Along with the many healings and miracles that God works through Jesus Christ, His Son, there are various occasions for us to be offended in Him. But if we press over the hurt and the offence in humility and steadfast faith we can receive wonderful blessings.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Mark 7:25, "*unclean spirit*:" An impure spirit of the devil.

Matthew 15:22, "*grievously vexed with a devil*": Badly demon possessed.



Verse 23, "*besought*": Asked. "*crieth*": Cries loudly.

Verse 25, "*worshipped him*": Bowed down on her face at His feet.

Mark 7:27, "*not meet*": Not proper.

Verse 32, "*impediment in his speech*": Tongue-tied; could hardly talk.

Verse 34, "*sighed*": Groaned earnestly.

Verse 35, "*string of his tongue was loosed*": The band or obstruction on his tongue was released. This enabled him to properly form his words.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus had left the area around the Sea of Galilee and had journeyed north and west up on the Mediterranean seacoast to where the two cities of Tyre and Sidon were located. Probably desiring to be alone for prayer and supplication before His Father, Jesus found access to a house and went in, hoping that no man knew about it. But, as it so often is with someone who is really in earnest to seek and find, a poor desperate woman gained access to Him, and fell at his feet. She had a real burden and heavy heart. She had a daughter in a woeful condition of mind and body. The devil had taken advantage and was greatly troubling this poor child. This woman knew that Jesus could deliver her daughter from this great and sore trouble.

Jesus saw fit to put this woman to a test, dealing with her in a way that could be offensive if she chose to allow it. Note the first thing Jesus did in response to her request. "He answered her not a word." This kind of response to a petition can be very provoking. Then the disciples joined in: "Send her away; for she crieth after us." In other words, "She is bothering us!" Then Jesus gave her another test: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." In other words, "What I have is not for you anyway." If there were any excuse for her to give up, these sayings would have gotten to her. But, no! This woman had a need! She surmounted these offences and came and bowed low at Jesus' feet, saying, "Lord, help me!" Then Jesus gave her the final test: "It is not good and proper to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs." If there were any pride or prejudice in this woman's heart it would surface now, and the reaction would be: "Call me a dog, will he? I'll just leave this fellow alone!" But, no: this woman had a need. Notice

her humble response as Matthew 15:27 puts it: "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." She took no offence, humbled herself to be likened to a dog, but she reached for the crumbs of Christ's healing for her dear daughter.

And that did it. Christ responded with the declaration that her request was granted. And so she found it when she returned to her house; the devil was gone out, and her daughter was resting upon the bed. Oh, what a lesson we have in this! Christ, the Stone of Stumbling and Rock of Offence, as prophesied in Isaiah 8:14 and mentioned in I Peter 2:8 has been such to many down through the ages. He gave this Gentile woman several occasions to be offended, but she pressed over everyone and was able to obtain the blessing she needed. This is a vital lesson for us all! —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What condition in the heart causes one to take offence?
2. What were the things that tested this woman's faith?
3. How was she able to overcome all the occasions for offence?
4. How is Christ a Stone of Stumbling and Rock of offence today?
5. What must one do before the Lord to keep from being offended?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

In Christ's parable of the sower and the seed in Matthew 13:18-23 we find where offences took place. Jesus stated in verses 20 and 21 about the seed sown in stony places. "...The same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." Such has been the case for many souls down through the ages of time. Man in his original state of sin and transgression is proud in heart. It is the pride in man that causes him to take offence at the Gospel and the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone should take heed to this matter, for it is the downfall of so many. God's way and the way that Christ laid down for us to go is a way of humility. Think of the different ones who took offence. There was Naaman, the Syrian captain who was a leper and was sent by his king to

Israel for healing. He took offence at the instructions that Elisha sent out to him. Read about it in II Kings 5:9-14. He turned away in a rage at the thought of going down and dipping in the Jordan River. But his servants entreated him to reconsider and he did, and received healing from his leprosy.

So many in the nation of Israel, among their leaders especially, were offended at Jesus. In John 6 it tells how that after Jesus fed the multitude with the loaves and fishes, they were desirous of making Him king. But after hearing of Christ's statements about eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood (which was a spiritual expression), all of the group were offended and went back and followed Him no more. So it was with many of that day. But the little woman in our lesson today overcame all the occasions of being offended and pressed her way to obtaining the blessing she was seeking. May it be that way with us today! —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Listen to an old and beautiful story of how one Christian dreamed that she saw three others at prayer. As they knelt, the Master drew near to them. As He approached the first of the three, He bent over her in tenderness and grace, and with smiles full of radiant love He spoke to her in accents of pure, sweet music.

Leaving her, He came to the next, but only placed His hand upon her bowed head, and gave her one look of loving approval.

The third woman He passed almost abruptly, without stopping for a word or glance. The woman in her dream said to herself, "How greatly He must love the first one, to the second He gave His approval, but none of the special demonstrations of love He gave the first; and the third must have grieved Him deeply, for He gave her no word at all and not even a passing look.

"I wonder what she has done, and why He made so much difference between them?" As she tried to account for the action of her Lord, He Himself stood by her and said: "O woman? How wrongly hast thou interpreted Me. The first kneeling woman needs all the weight of My tenderness and care to keep her feet in My narrow way. She needs My love, thought and help every moment of the day. Without it she would fail and fall.

"The second has stronger faith and deeper love, and I can trust her to trust Me however things may go and whatever people do.

The third, whom I seemed not to notice, and even to neglect, has faith and love of the finest quality, and her I am training by quick and drastic processes for the highest and holiest service.

"She knows Me so intimately, and trusts Me so utterly, that she is independent of words or looks or any outward intimation of My approval. She is not dismayed nor discouraged by any circumstances through which I arrange that she shall pass; she trusts Me when sense and reason and every finer instinct of the natural heart would rebel—because she knows that I am working in her for eternity, and that what I do, though she knows not the explanation now, she will understand hereafter.

"I am silent in My love because I love beyond the power of words to express, or of human hearts to understand, and also for your sakes that you may learn to love and trust Me in Spirit-taught, spontaneous response to My love, without the spur of anything outward to call it forth."

The silences of Jesus are as eloquent as His speech and may be a sign, not of His disapproval, but of His approval and of a deep purpose of blessing for you.

—*Streams In The Desert*

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



**FEBRUARY 20, 2011**

### **CHRIST TRANSFIGURED UNTO HEAVENLY GLORY**

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, (to pray, Luke 9:28)

2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light (shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them, Mark 9:3; glistening, Luke 9:29).

3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with them.

Luke 9:31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Matthew 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Mark 9:6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

Luke 9:34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

Matthew 17:5 ...And behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

Mark 9:8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

9 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

10 And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 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. Hebrews 2:9.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God Almighty made manifest in His Son the glory of Heaven in view of His disciples; and in this wonderful showing of Christ's majestic splendor, two ancient men of God communed with Jesus concerning what He was about to suffer and accomplish at Jerusalem.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

Matthew 17:2, "*transfigured*": Changed or transformed from the mortal state to the heavenly.

Mark 9:3, "fuller": One who works with cloth.

Luke 9:29, "altered": Changed, made different. "glistening": Exceeding bright and dazzling.

Luke 9:31, "in glory": In the eternal world. "his decease": The death that Christ would suffer for the sins of the world. "accomplish": Fulfill and bring to pass.

Matthew 17:4, "tabernacles": Tents.

Mark 9:6, "wist not": Did not know. "sore afraid": Very fearful.

Luke 9:34, "as they entered into the cloud": As the cloud enveloped around them.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus had been in Galilee for some time where He had taught many and performed many miraculous healings and wonders in their behalf. Then our Savior had traveled up north and west to the seacoast where the mother of the demon-possessed daughter had come to Him for her healing. After this Jesus came back to the Sea of Galilee where He met another great multitude, who brought many needing healing and He healed them. It was that great mass of people, numbering four thousand beside women and children, that He fed with seven loaves and fishes and gathered up seven baskets of the leftovers. Then Jesus came north from there up to Caesarea Philippi where He began to show unto His disciples of His soon coming trip to Jerusalem and the things that were to come to pass there.

And, while in that area, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him up to a high mountain to pray. It is not for sure what mountain this was. But, as Luke relates, it was while He was in prayer that the glory of God began to shine from His face and raiment. Oh, what a beautiful and glorious scene this was! And then, how wonderful that two long departed saints came on the scene, conversing with the Master! Both Moses and Elijah were men of God, and were speaking with Christ of the awful death He was to soon suffer at Jerusalem. And Peter, being one of the "eye witnesses of His majesty," spoke of it in II Peter 1:17. "For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

They heard that voice from Heaven and beheld the brightness of the glory of their Lord. They are witnesses that God has

given to us of this glorious scene. Let us be assured and comforted in our faith and confidence in this blessed Redeemer, who did in the days that followed give His life as a ransom for our sins. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What took place on the mountain while Jesus was in prayer?
2. Who appeared and was talking with Jesus in this scene?
3. What were they talking to Jesus about?
4. What did Peter want to do regarding what they had seen?
5. What did Jesus charge the disciples to not do?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The scene that is pictured in our lesson has a very great and important message for us today. Jesus is shown conversing with two men who lived hundreds of years before our Savior's time on earth. The earthly life of Moses was during the 13<sup>th</sup> century before Christ and Elijah's life was during the 9<sup>th</sup> century before Christ. And yet, here they were appearing in the glory of God speaking with Christ concerning the death He was to die shortly. These two prophets knew exactly what Christ's death was for. They knew that He was giving His life for the sins of mankind. Moses had prophesied of Jesus as recorded in Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and was thus quoted by Peter in Acts 3:22-23 and by Stephen in Acts 7:37. We do not have any recorded prophecies of Jesus spoken by Elijah, but we do have in Malachi 4:5-6 the prophecy of John the Baptist labeled as Elijah the prophet whom God would send before the coming of the Lord Jesus. And we have also the words of the angel to Zacharias foretelling the birth of John and how he would turn many of Israel to the Lord, going before Him in the spirit and power of Elias. Luke 1:16-17. So we see that both Moses and Elias were prominent means of the foretelling of Christ. And here they were in the transfiguration of Christ speaking with Him of His soon coming death and crucifixion.

Just as the sufferings and death of Christ and the glory that was to follow was a very prominent truth brought out by the prophets, whom Peter said had "enquired and searched

diligently...searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify," even so this is a wonderful truth for us to cherish and hold fast to in these latter days of time. It is our only hope. Our world today is in turmoil and disorder with so many disheartening things coming and going. Sin and strife and pride and lust rule the hearts of mankind. The love of money, which is labeled by I Timothy 6: 10 as the root of all evil, is ruling man's affections in this awful age. Let us not allow our souls to be contaminated with this folly and wickedness. Let us join with Moses and Elias and have our conversation to be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ. (Philippians 1:27.) And, as Paul also says in Colossians 3: 1-4, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

Thus can we share with Moses and Elias and our Lord Jesus Christ that eternal glory in the new heavens and the new earth. This world is reeling "...to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isaiah 24:20. May we live so that we can be accounted worthy to escape.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The transfiguration was a small glimpse of the glory of God that shall one day be revealed. In John 17:5 we find, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." Christ left His glory to come to this sin cursed earth, but He was soon to regain even greater glory.

The hope of the Christian is also a transfiguration into the glory of God. "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all

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sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality."

Let us hold fast to that blessed hope. There are many temptations, afflictions and difficulties to endure here below. Let us hold steady and be faithful through them all. Our journey here will soon end, that trial or temptation will soon be over. The sufferings of this present life are not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed. Let us keep the end goal in view. Revelation 3: 11 admonishes us, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

—Bro. Bob Wilson



**FEBRUARY 27, 2011**

### **JESUS CHRIST AND LITTLE CHILDREN**

Mark 9:33 And he (Jesus) came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be greatest.

35 And he sat down and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

36 And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

Matthew 18:3 And (Jesus) said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 19:13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 19:14.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** A person must be humble and innocent as a little child to enter into the kingdom of God. A little child is tenderhearted and receptive to loving care just as the soul of man must be toward God.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Mark 9:33, "*disputed among yourselves*": Argued with one another. "*by the way*": As they walked along.

Matthew 18:3, "*be converted*": Turn around and change from sin to righteousness.

Verse 6, "*offend one of these little ones*": Cause or entice an innocent person to do evil or wrong. The little ones here are those who have humbled their hearts as little children, as the Savior has said they must.

Verse 10, "*despise not*": Do not lightly esteem or have wicked thoughts against. "*their angels do always behold the face of my Father*": Adam Clarke states: "Our Lord's words give us to understand that humble-hearted, child-like disciples are objects of His peculiar (special and particular) care, and constant attention."

Matthew 19:13, "*rebuked*": Told the mothers to not bring their children to Jesus.

Mark 10:14, "*much displeased*": Very grieved and indignant. "*of such*": Of this sort.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

We have for our Bible Lesson today a great heart-warming, soul-feeding, and most vital lesson for the spiritual welfare of us all. The truth in this part of Christ's teaching strikes right at the root of the greatest hindrance to victory and success in the Christian life. As much as any one other factor in being able to overcome pride and its detriment, this lesson about being as little children is the key. We have combined the source of our scriptural text from Matthew and Mark.

Jesus had just returned from His sojourn in the north to Capernaum, and He had discerned that the disciples had been arguing as they walked along. He knew what the subject of their disputing was. And their reluctance to answer the Master's question in holding their peace shows that they sensed that Jesus was not pleased about it. So, our Lord knowing that this was a vital part of His counsel to them, sat down and called them to Him. Matthew says that they asked Jesus who was the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven. What is there about human nature that wants to be big, great, and prominent? Jesus not only had wise verbal counsel to give His disciples about this, but He was facing the humiliation and suffering that He came into the world for. And by doing so He was going to give them an example of what being a little child means. But at this point He used the vivid illustration of a living human child.

From the Old Testament come some striking truths that correspond with Christ. Isaiah 11:6 speaks about the Lord Jesus and in His kingdom the wolf dwelling with the lamb, and that "a little child shall lead them." In Isaiah 60:22 at the end of the prophecy of the people in the New Testament Church it says, "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation." Jesus said in Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." And in the epistle of I John he labeled those he was writing to as "little children" nine different times.

However we need to be balanced in this matter. Paul instructs us in I Corinthians 14:20, "Brethren, be not children in understanding; howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." Little children do not hold grudges and ill will like grown-ups do. May the Lord bless this precious lesson to our hearts.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why were the disciples disputing about who would be greatest?
2. What did Jesus use as an example of true greatness?
3. What is there about a little child most desirable to be like?
4. What do we need to do to be like a little child?
5. Who are the little ones whose angels behold God's face?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Micah 6:8 says, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" The last phrase in the Hebrew Interlinear Translation says, "Humble thyself to walk with God." The wonderful hymn in the Evening Light Songs on page 298 expresses it that way. Notice:

"1. If thou wouldst have the dear Savior from Heaven walk by thy side from the morn till the even, There is a rule that each day you must follow: Humble thyself to walk with God. REFRAIN: Humble thyself and the Lord will draw near thee, humble thyself and His presence shall cheer thee. He will not walk with the proud or the scornful, Humble thyself to walk with God. 2. Just as the Lord in the world's early ages walked and communed with the prophets and sages, He will come now if you'll meet the conditions: Humble thyself to walk with God. 3. Just as the stream finds a bed that is lowly, so Jesus walks with the pure and the holy; Cast out thy pride, and in heart-felt contrition, Humble thy self to walk with God." Johnson Oatman.

Our blessed Lord and Savior proved Himself to be humble as a little child in being submissive to the will of God to allow Himself to be unjustly murdered by the men of His day. I love the way Paul put it in Philippians 2:5-9, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." The expression "counted it not robbery

to be equal with God"—means that He did not count equality with God to be held on to—and "But made himself of no reputation" means He emptied Himself. He came down to human level and then went on farther down by humbling Himself unto death, (and not just an ordinary death) even the death of the cross. He came from the highest Heaven and went down to the lowest depth. For this cause God exalted Him to where He is now, and if we have the same mind we can share it with Him!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **"I'll Never Steal Again—If Father Kills Me for It"**

A friend of mine, seeking for objects of charity, got into the room of a tenement house. It was vacant. He saw a ladder pushed through the ceiling. Thinking that perhaps some poor creature had crept up there, he climbed the ladder, drew himself up through the hole and found himself under the rafters. There was no light but that which came through a bull's-eye in the place of a tile. Soon he saw a heap of chips and shavings, and on them a boy about ten years old.

"Boy, what are you doing there?"

"Hush! don't tell anybody—please, sir."

"What are you doing here?"

"Don't tell anybody, sir; I'm hiding."

"What are you hiding from?"

"Don't tell anybody, if you please, sir."

"Where's your mother?"

"Mother is dead."

"Where's your father?"

"Hush! don't tell him! don't tell him! but look here!" He turned himself on his face and through the rags of his jacket and shirt my friend saw the boy's flesh was bruised and the skin broken.

"Why, boy, who beat you like that?"

"Father did, sir."

"What did your father beat you like that for?" "Father got drunk sir, and beat me 'cos I wouldn't steal."

"Did you ever steal?"

"Yes, sir, I was a street thief once "

"And why don't you steal any more?"

"Please, sir, I went to the mission school, and they told me there of God and of Heaven and of Jesus and they taught me,

'Thou shalt not steal,' and I'll never steal again, if father kills me for it. But, please sir, don't tell him."

"My boy, you must not stay here; you will die. Now you wait patiently here for a little time; I'm going away to see a lady. We will get a better place for you than this."

"Thank you sir, but please, sir, would you like to hear me sing a little hymn?"

Bruised, battered, forlorn; friendless, mother-less; hiding away from an infuriated father he had a little hymn to sing.

"Yes, I will hear you sing your little hymn." He raised himself on his elbow and then sang:

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,

Look upon a little child;

Suffer me to come to Thee.

Fain would I to Thee be brought.

Gracious Lord, forbid it not;

In the Kingdom of Thy grace

Give a little child a place."

"That's the little hymn, sir; Goodbye."

The gentleman went away, came back again in less than two hours and climbed the ladder. There were the chips and there was the little boy with one hand by his side and the other tucked in his bosom underneath the little ragged shirt—dead.

—John B. Gough

*From Touching Incidents*



**MARCH 6, 2011**

### **GREAT THINGS THE LORD HATH DONE**

Luke 8:26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

Mark 5:2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Luke 8:27 ...Which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs,

Mark 5:3 And no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 Because he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

Luke 8:30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

Mark 5:11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Luke 8:34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear...

Mark 5:18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Luke 8:40 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. Mark 15:19.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Our blessed Lord Jesus delivered a poor wretched man possessed with thousands of devils and a life of shame, sorrow and despair, and made him whole, with a right mind, and sent him to proclaim to his fellow men what great things the Lord had done for him.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Luke 8:26, "*against Galilee*": On the borders of the Sea of Galilee.

Mark 5:2, "*out of the tombs*": From the graveyard.

Verse 4: "*fetters*": Bonds and shackles to restrain. "*plucked asunder*": Pulled apart and broken. "*tame*": Subdue and bring in control.

Verse 6, "*worshipped*": Bowed down on the knees before Him.

Verse 7, "*adjure*": Luke 8:28 uses the word "beseech," which means to earnestly entreat or beg.

Luke 8:30, "*Legion*": A Roman legion was 3,000 to 6,000.

Verse 31, "*into the deep*": The abyss, or bottomless pit.

Verse 12, "*besought*": Begged. "*forthwith*": Immediately. "*gave them leave*": Allowed them.

Luke 8:35, "*right mind*": Sane and sound in thought.

Mark 5:18, "*prayed*": Begged.

Verse 19, "*suffered him not*": Did not allow him.

Verse 20, "*Decapolis*": A ten-city region.

Luke 8:40, "*the people*": The people who feared and besought Jesus to depart from them were all waiting for Him when He returned after hearing and beholding the great testimony the healed man had published to them.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

We do not know anything about what brought on or caused the woeful condition that this certain man in our



lesson was in. We know that satan works where he can find a place to work, and that ignorance, error, and darkness are his chief areas of operation in the hearts of men. We also know that the world that our Savior converged upon in His visit to redeem mankind was steeped in wickedness. Jesus cast out many evil spirits in His ministry, but this man that we have described in our lesson was among the very worst. But our Lord was ready for him, and it thrills our hearts to behold how He set this prisoner of satan and sin free indeed.

Picture him now living among the graves, without clothes, uncontrollable, powered by satan to break fetters, chains, or anything used to bind him, night and day in the mountains and tombs, crying, cutting himself with stones. The account in Matthew 8:28 pictures him as two men, "exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way." It was a horrible sight. But there surely must have been a deep feeling in his sad weary heart, a desire for deliverance from such a woeful life. But here we see the great Savior facing the power of satan headlong. Here we see satan recognizing Him. The Lord Jesus gave the command to come out of the man, and satan knew that he had to obey. The great multitude of evil spirits came out and entered into a herd of two thousand pigs, and caused them all to perish in the waters. When the word got out and the people came to see what had come to pass, they saw this man sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind.

How touching to read and picture this man entreating the Lord to be permitted to stay with Him. But Jesus gave Him the counsel to go and spread the word about His healing. And how wonderful that he did just that, and no telling how many people were benefited thereby! —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. In what kind of a condition was this pitiful man in our lesson?
2. What did Jesus command the unclean spirit to do?
3. What happened when they entered the two thousand swine?
4. What did Jesus tell the delivered man to do?
5. What kind of an effect could his witness have upon the people?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Our hearts are overwhelmed as we picture this account of the Lord Jesus delivering this man with the legion of devils from their gruesome power and dominion. Perhaps as a little boy he never dreamed that he would ever get in the shape that he was in under the dominion of satan. And so it is today. When people resist the Word of God and seek for selfish lusts and pleasures, they are bringing upon them woes and sorrows that they never thought would be possible. Satan is a terrible taskmaster. He makes the ways of sin look attractive and desirable, and too many people are inclined to believe it. It is still that way today in our world. But, thank the Lord, we have a Savior, One Who can rescue and bring us out of the dominion of the devil and give us love, peace, hope and joy that will make our life happy and enjoyable. What a contrast is shown in our lesson between what this man was and what Jesus made him to be!

The more we think about this man and weigh the description of his life before and after finding the Master, the greater our understanding can be of the greatness and goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ! He is just the same today! He can still save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him. (Hebrews 7:25.) Old habits of lying, cursing, hatred, adultery, smoking, drinking, gambling, and such like can be overcome through the power of the Lord Jesus. He has ascended up to the right hand of God and is interceding for all who will seek Him and be willing to give up their ways of sin. He is still the Light of the World, the Lord and Savior for all mankind!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Go home and tell what Jesus Christ has done for you;  
Tell how He spoke deliverance for you there.  
Tell how His power took away your chains of sin,  
And set you free from darkness and despair.

When you were crying and tormented endlessly,  
Hurting yourself and all the ones you loved.  
No one could hold you, help could not be found for you,  
And day and night your restless spirit moved.

Then Jesus came; at first you were afraid of Him.  
You worshipped Him, and yet you still were bound.  
He asked your name, you knew you must confess to Him  
Each chain of sin that held you tightly 'round.

And in your nakedness, your bleeding cuts He saw.  
The stench and grime, the hurt and bitterness;  
The thousand demons—every name was known to Him—  
That satan sent to torture and oppress.

Then Jesus spoke, and demons trembled at His voice;  
His firm command the spirits must obey.  
With strength and pow'r He opened every frozen door;  
In cowering fear they turned and ran away.

Now clothed and clean, your body calm and peaceful.  
You worship Him, with mind made sound and whole.  
So go and tell your friends who may still need Him,  
That Jesus heals the sick and troubled soul.

(Could be sung to the tune, "He Looked Beyond My Fault  
and Saw My Need") —Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**MARCH 13, 2011**

### **JESUS HEALS THE MAN BLIND FROM BIRTH**

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he 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.

8 The neighbors therefore, and they which before had seen him that was blind, said, Is this not he that sat and begged?

11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received my sight.

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

14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened the eyes.

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.

17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

24 Then...they...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.

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?

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:** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Ephesians 1:18.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus opened the eyes of the man who was blind from birth, and so can He open our spiritual eyes that we may see and understand the truth of God revealed by His Holy Spirit through His precious Word.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

John 9:39. "*For judgment*": To show who is just and right. "*they which see not*": Confess their spiritual blindness. "*they which see*": Think they see. "*be made blind*": Be made aware of their blindness.

Verse 41. "*If ye were blind*": If you would sense and acknowledge your blindness. "*ye should have no sin*": You could be made to see. "*your sin remaineth*": You miss the mark.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we have the scene of another great conflict that our Lord Jesus Christ had with the religious leaders of His day. In the preceding 8<sup>th</sup> chapter we have the account of the scribes and Pharisees in bitter disagreement with the Son of God. In verse 13 the Pharisees said, "Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true." Then after Jesus had stated that the Father that sent Him bears witness of Him, the Pharisees asked, "Where is thy Father?" Then when Jesus said, "Ye shall die in your sins: whither I go ye cannot come," they said, "Will he kill himself?" Then in verses 52 and 53 they accused Him of having a devil and making Himself greater than Abraham and the prophets, saying, "Whom makest thou thyself?" And then in verse 59 they took up stones to cast at Him because He said, "Before Abraham was, I am."

So we see from this and other incidents recorded in the narration of the four Gospels that Jesus had spiritual vision of truth and the will of God that the general run of humanity and its leaders were completely in the dark about. Jesus came upon a blind man who had been without eyesight all of his life. The disciples asked Jesus who had sinned that he was born blind. Jesus declared that it was "that the works of God should be made manifest in him," and that He must work the works of Him that sent Him. Probably there were many in that area that knew about this blind man, such as his neighbors, his parents and the religious leaders. And, when he was made to see, it created quite a stir with everyone. The Pharisees were ready to throw their criticism and harsh words at Jesus, especially since He had healed the blind man on the Sabbath day. Jesus had already had conflict with these blinded, deceived men concerning this matter. He met it when He had

healed the man which had an infirmity thirty-eight years at the pool in chapter 5, and it was on the Sabbath day that time.

What can we say about this bitter conflict that these men waged against the Son of God? Well, Jesus pretty well summed it up in the last few verses of our lesson. To this we should give special consideration and heed. It is on the same level with what Jesus said in Matthew 13 concerning the parables He spoke forth. He quoted from Isaiah about people seeing, but not seeing; hearing, but not hearing; having their hearts hardened and closed lest they should see, hear, and understand and be converted and healed. And is it not the same today? Who is it that can really discern and understand the truth? It is the soul who acknowledges their darkness and their blindness and need for help and counsel who will be able to really see the light of God. Spiritual light and understanding is of far greater importance and value than physical eyesight. The Bible speaks much on this critical matter. May we all take heed and be diligent to desire and seek to "...be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Colossians 1:9.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did the Pharisees object to Jesus so strongly?
2. How did the blind man feel about his healing?
3. Why did the Pharisees cast the blind man out?
4. What kind of blindness is the worst kind we can have?
5. How can we overcome this spiritual blindness and truly see?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The blessed hymn-writer, Fanny Crosby, said in her beautiful hymn "Blessed Assurance," that "visions of rapture now burst on my sight." She was blind from childhood, but she had been enlightened by the heavenly gift of the Holy Spirit and lived to the age of 95, going home to glory in the year 1915. Spiritual vision is so valuable and precious to experience. Paul spoke about it in I Corinthians 2:7-10 like this: "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written (coming from Isaiah 64:4), Eye hath not seen, nor ear

heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth (brings to light) all things, yea, the deep things of God." How wonderful that we can have our spiritual eyes opened, as our Memory Verse says, so that we can know the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints! Physical blindness is an awful condition for one to have, but spiritual blindness and ignorance of God's kingdom, salvation, and wonderful hope is a far worse condition to be in. And that is what we are all in before we are saved and enlightened from above. Let our prayer be as in Psalm 119:18, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law!" "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Corinthians 4:18.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." John 3:19-21.

Oh, the spiritual blindness that is so prevalent in our world today! Just think of all of the things that they are 'looking' to see: They are looking for things such as the rapture, the thousand year reign, the establishment of Christ's kingdom in Jerusalem, the seven years of tribulation, the Battle of Armageddon (just to name a few). And yet, they refuse to see what is really going on in the spiritual realm. Somehow the spiritually blind do not see evil as evil anymore. They cannot comprehend that we are hurtling closer and closer to the Judgment Day, which will be the end of this old world. There is such a lack of the fear of God and it makes one wonder if people really do believe in a Heaven to gain or a hell to shun.

We should take this as a great caution that we do not lose our own spiritual vision. We need to keep our eyes on the goal and be willing to be examined by the Holy Spirit so that we may be ready for eternity.

—Sis. LaDawna Adams

**MARCH 20, 2011**

**RESURRECTED AFTER BEING DEAD FOUR DAYS**

John 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

11 ...After that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

28 Then when she had so said, she went her way, and



called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus said unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? John 11:25-26.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Although Lazarus had been dead for four days and his body had become corrupted and decayed, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and at His command, he came out of the tomb fully restored to life.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is the wonderful account of a man being raised from the dead after being four days in the tomb. This man named Lazarus was a brother to two sisters mentioned in two other incidents recorded in the New Testament. Luke 10:38-42 records our Savior's visit with Mary and Martha and how Martha was so taken up with serving, while Mary sat at Jesus' feet and heard His Word. Then the other was recorded in John 12 and in both Matthew and Mark's Gospels, in which Mary poured some precious ointment on Christ's head and how our Savior responded.

As it is recorded in the preceding chapter, Jesus had escaped being taken and had gone away from Jerusalem into the place where John had first baptized, and many believed on Him there. And it was there that He received word from Martha and Mary that Lazarus, their brother who Jesus loved, was sick. Jesus full well knew what was going to come, for He said that the sickness was not unto death, but for the glory of God. He knew that Lazarus was going to die, but that He would be raised from the dead. And then Christ deliberately tarried two more days before starting to go back into Judea again. This complicated things the more, for by the time He made it to Martha and Mary, Lazarus had been in the grave four days. It is much like the Lord in His dealings with those who love and trust Him. He has ways of working that go against human reasoning. This is to test and make proof of our faith and steadfastness in Him. All down through the ages He has worked in this manner.

Both Martha and Mary greeted the Master with: "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Perhaps these questions were in their minds: "Why did you not come at once?" or "Why were you so long coming?" But Jesus countered Martha with the declaration that her brother would rise again. And Martha agreed, but to her it meant that he would rise again in the resurrection at the last day. But Jesus declared that He was the resurrection, and the life. Martha responded with her belief that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

Mary was so full of weeping along with the others who were with her. This touched our Savior's heart and He wept, also. Martha's objection to opening up the tomb was human logic. She knew that after four days in the tomb her brother's body

would have progressed greatly toward corruption, and that the smell would be horrible. But Jesus knew what He was doing, and His prayer expressed confidence in God about it. And, at Christ's command, Lazarus came forth from the tomb alive and well, to the joy of his sisters and the benefit of many of the Jews who beheld the wonderful works of the Master at that time.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did Jesus tarry and not go at once to Mary and Martha?
2. Why was Jesus glad that He was not there with them?
3. Why did Martha object to opening the tomb of her brother?
4. What did Jesus say about the resurrection of the dead?
5. What was the result of the people seeing the things He did?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

God's power and Word, that created the world out of nothing, will on that last great day, mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, bring back from the dead every one who has ever lived in this time world. All back through the ages have been countless people who have lived their short sojourn on this earth. They will all be brought back to stand before God, as it states in Revelation 20:12-13. It will be no problem with the great Creator to accomplish this. Lazarus, in our lesson today, had lain in the grave four days. He had not been embalmed and fixed up like dead people are today. His body had begun its journey back to dust. But God brought him back to full life and health again. This is a great witness and testimony for us today of the great power and blessing that Christ has from God. That great day that Martha spoke about is coming soon, and it is for our good that we should be fully prepared to partake of His resurrection.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

We honor Christ as Lord of lords, King of kings, all powerful, all wise, all knowing, Savior and Creator. To have been there when Christ cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth" would have been a marvel to us all. I'm sure that was a day of great rejoicing and wonder. John 5:28-29 says, "Marvel

not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." What an hour that will be!

No less of a miracle occurs when Christ calls one forth that has been dead, bound, and stinking in trespasses and sin—to a new life in Christ. The old man of sin with his repulsive attitudes, prejudices, lusts, etc. is buried, dead, and gone; born again is new life, new desires for right, honesty, God and righteousness. "A resurrection, I confess, has taken place within my breast; I've been awakened from the dead and now I live with Christ instead." Even the angels marvel and rejoice. Oh, what love, what power, and wonder—the resurrected life of Christ.

—Bro. Bob Wilson



**MARCH 27, 2011**

### **WHAT JESUS CHRIST IS TO US TODAY**

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

13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

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.

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

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.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Romans 8:34.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The greatest service Christ ministered to us was His obedience to the death of the cross, from which God raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavens to intercede with God on our behalf.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Hebrews 13:12, "*without the gate*": Outside Jerusalem on Calvary.

Verse 13, "*without the camp*" Away from the spirit of the world. "*reproach*": Suffering and shame.

Verse 14, "*continuing*": Everlasting.

Philippians 2:6, "*to be equal with God*": Counted equality with God not to be held on to.

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

Verse 10, "*things under the earth*": Souls of men who have passed from this life.

Ephesians 4:8, "*led captivity captive*": conquered satan, sin and death. "*gave gifts*": Various functions and callings.

Verse 9, "*descended first into the lower parts of the earth*": Suffering of death on the cross.

Verse 10, "*fill all things*": Be Lord of all.

Hebrews 4:14, "*our profession*": Testimony and witness.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

For our final lesson in this series of studies on the works of our precious and wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ the Son of God, we are inspired to set forth from the Apostle Paul's statements concerning Christ's greatest work: the laying down of His earthly life for our redemption, and the resurrection from the dead to His exalted position at the right hand of God. This giving of Himself to the horrible death on the cross was the will of His Heavenly Father. It was an atonement price for our redemption from the consequence of our sins. The Father's will, and rich reward for His obedience in giving of Himself, was the resurrection to eternal life and glory plus His ascension to the right Hand of God to intercede for all who would believe in Him. Truly this accomplishment was the greatest service that the Lord Jesus rendered to us. And, along with all the other wonderful miracles, healings and deliverances that He wrought while in this mortal flesh, it makes manifest His great love for us. As we view all of these things that we have covered in this series of lessons our hearts are filled with thanksgiving and gladness, and, above all, love and affection for Him. Though we have not seen Him with these fleeting earthly eyes, yet believing and having Him revealed to the inner man is a far greater experience to rejoice in.

Jesus knew all the while, as He was ministering the miraculous healing to the various ones, that His greatest accomplishment would be the suffering and death He would go through. To the flesh it was very difficult to face, but to His Spirit it was a "joy set before Him," as Hebrews 12:2 says. Some of the healings were done on that trip to the north on which He was transfigured to converse with Moses and Elias in glory. From then on it was on the way back to Jerusalem to face the death of the cross. But He looked beyond it all and kept in view the eternal marriage He would have with His chosen bride, the great multitude of redeemed souls from every kindred, tongue, people and nation. Each one of the scriptures in our lesson brings that to light. "Suffering without the gate," "becoming obedient unto death," "descending into the lower parts of the earth," and "being tempted in all points like as we are" are illustrations of the route our "Man of sorrows" took for us. Oh, how we need to believe and give our all to Him! It will be worth it all in that last great day to see Him coming in glory and be a part of His beautiful holy and spotless Bride! —Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the joy that was set before Christ to die and suffer for?
2. What does it mean for us to go forth unto Him without the camp?
3. Why must we share with Christ the same mind that He had?
4. What were the "lower parts of the earth" Christ descended to?
5. How did His Heavenly Father reward Him for His obedience?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Satan, in His devices and cunning craftiness, has succeeded in decoying the majority of mankind away from the truth that is in Jesus. Earthly pleasures, wealth, fleshly lusts, burdens, troubles, griefs, worries, bitterness, hatred, pride, worldliness and many other factors are involved in attracting man from believing and being a partaker of the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. God has not left Himself without witness. He created the world that we live in with all of its beauty, provisions, and benefits. All you have to do is to look around you and open your eyes, that is: recognize the hand of an Almighty God everywhere! Then look at the conditions that foolish lustful man has brought about on the earth. Many of the things that people are so wrapped up in and carried away with are instruments of harm and sorrow. Yes, we can be carried away and charmed by all of these things, but what is the end of it all going to be? It is all to vanish and pass away in an instant when the King of glory makes His appearance on that great and final day!

Oh, that mortals would get their eyes opened to the unseen eternal things! All these houses, buildings, streets, roads, bridges, tools, implements, inventions, and all the other vanities that people are taken up with will one day be no more. But we will be, yes, we will all be there when the great final judgment day comes. We will stand and give an account of how we have treated this wonderful Friend that came down from Heaven to give life unto the world! How we need to awake to righteousness and cease from sin! The account we have in the Holy Scriptures of Jesus Christ is true! No matter how

many deny and disbelieve, we who have sought Him and found Him rich to our souls have not a doubt about the truth that is in Him. Yes, He is coming, and every eye shall see Him. Oh, let us open our eyes now to see Him as He is, the Savior, Lord and coming King!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In considering what Christ is to us today, my mind goes back a number of years to a dear sister who lived in Enid, OK. It was not uncommon for her to start singing the song, "If it wasn't for the Lord, tell me what would I do....He is everything to me." Sis. Brown was afflicted earlier in her life with a terminal illness and a number of doctors had given her up to die. It was then that she came to the Lord and He healed her and saved her. From that time onward she had a glowing testimony of her Lord that she was not ashamed to tell at any opportunity. Her Lord had spared her physical life and also gave her eternal life, and she was enthusiastic about serving Him—He was everything to her.

Jesus wants everyone to have a salvation that is real and vibrant. He came to this earth and gave everything for you and I to have this kind of an experience with Him. Today He sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. His love for us is true and faithful.

There are some folks who find a degree of pleasure in purchasing or obtaining a machine of some sort that is broken or not working and then fixing it. The item, which was no longer useful, then takes on a new value. Jesus has done that for many precious souls; souls who once had hearts black as coal but have now been transformed into precious diamonds that radiate the glory and handiwork of God.

Bro. B. E. Warren captured a beautiful vision of the wonderful fullness of Christ in the song, *The Rose of Sharon*: "Lord Jesus, my sweet Rose of Sharon, My Prophet, my Priest and my King, To Thee I will sing all my praises, For blessings Thy mercy doth bring. All glory and honor to Jesus, Who offered His life on the cross, To open a fountain for sinners, And purchase a world that was lost."

Jesus is still solving problems today. Don't forget to entrust yours into His gracious hands.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



## Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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