

The Study of the
GOSPEL
OF
JOHN
(#4)

13 Lessons

Produced by:
PAUL E. CANTRELL

2006

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PAUL E. CANTRELL
84 Northview Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

pecantrell@juno.com

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Lesson One

“I Am the Vine”

(John 15:1-8)

INTRODUCTION

1. This is the last of the Great claims of Jesus using “I am.....”
 - a) “I am the life of the world”
 - b) “I am the light of the world”
 - c) “I am the bread of life”
 - d) “I am the door into the sheepfold”
 - e) “I am the good shepherd”
 - f) “I am the resurrection and the life”
 - g) “I am the way, the truth, and the life”
 - h) And now: I am the true vine.”
2. Jesus used something basic to our existence to help teach spiritual truths.
 - a) The vine was common among the people of Israel in particular.
 - b) Its wood was practically valueless for heating and cooking purposes.
 - c) But, its fruitfulness was unusual—fruit often weighed more than the vine itself.
3. This imagery was designed to:
 - a) Re-assure His Apostles of His continued close relationship with them.
 - b) And therefore of their fruitfulness as His followers.

DISCUSSION

I. THE PHYSICAL TO ILLUSTRATE THE SPIRITUAL (15:1-2)

A. The True Vine

- 1) Israel was the old vine that God had used among the nations.
- 2) But they merely foreshadowed the True Vine that was to come to bless all nations.
- 3) The vine is the means of life to the branches in order to bear fruit.
- 4) Jesus is the source of life and fruitfulness.

B. The Husbandman.

- 1) The Father is the owner of the vineyard and the vine.
- 2) He has planted it and cultivates it to be productive.
- 3) He rejoices when He sees its fruitfulness.

C. The Branches.

- 1) Christians, children of God (Gal. 3:26-27).
- 2) The branch derives his life from his connection with the vine.
- 3) He stresses the close union between Himself and His followers.
- 4) There are two kinds of branches: fruitful & unfruitful.

II. PURPOSE OF BRANCHES IS TO BEAR FRUIT (15:2-7)

A. Things necessary in order to bear fruit.

- 1) Mutual abiding (4).
 - a) God and redeemed man are brought together in close union.

- b) It is a decision that both must make—God and man.
 - God must want union with man and make such possible.
 - Man must also want this union and do what God requires to have it.
- c) God requires that we abide in Christ—in His teachings.
- d) He requires that we let Christ come in and abide with us.
- 2) The branch cannot bear fruit without connection with Christ (4-5).
 - a) No connection—no life—no fruit.
 - b) It is not possible to bear fruit spiritually without being connected to Christ (Phil. 3:14).
 - c) In Him, we bear “fruit,” “more fruit,” “much fruit.”
 - d) Good heart: “some 30, some 60, and some 100-fold.”
 - e) The branch fulfills its purpose for being in Christ—bears fruit!
- 3) What kind of fruit?
 - a) Fruit “brings forth after its kind.” (other Christians).
 - b) “Fruit of the Spirit”—Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”
 - c) Brings about the perfecting, completing, maturing of our character (2 Pet. 1:5-11).
- 4) The need for purging (2-3, 6).
 - a) Fruitlessness comes from turning from Christ.
 - We no longer abide in Him.
 - We are cast forth and burned up.
 - b) Purging is necessary at times in order to be more productive.
 - The purging process is by the Word of God (Heb. 4:12).
 - The more we learn and put into practice—more productive.

B. The blessing promised to those who abide in the vine and bear fruit (7).

- 1) He gives us what we ask for in prayer.
 - a) Does this infer that the unfruitful will not be heard?
- 2) There are conditions to answered prayers:
 - a) Abide in Christ—continuation concept.
 - As long as we are obedient believers.
 - We not only believe the truth, but follow it (Jn. 8:31-32).
 - b) Jesus’ Words must abide in us—continuation concept.
 - As long as we believe His word, it abides in us.
 - As long as I allow it to regulate my life, it abides in me (1 Pet. 3:12).
 - c) Prayer is a privilege & a blessing of the obedient believer!
- 3) The disobedient, unfruitful person is cut off.
 - a) The cause of the severance is the unfruitful disciple.
 - b) The blame & responsibility is his.
 - c) He suffers a terrible consequence—he is cast into the fire and burned.

III. THE OUTCOME OF FRUIT BEARING (15:8)

A. God is glorified.

- 1) This is our purpose as a people (Eph. 3:21).

- 2) A productive vineyard:
 - a) Satisfies the husbandman;
 - b) Brings praise to the one attending it
 - c) Phil. 1:11; Matt. 5:16
- 3) Fruit-bearing and God's glory are inseparable.
- 4) It displays God's power, grace, mercy, and love for mankind.

B. It shows we are true disciples.

- 1) John 8:31—Disciples do the bidding of their Lord.
- 2) They go forth and make more disciples (Mark 16:15-16).

CONCLUSION

1. If you are not in union with the vine (Christ)—let it be formed at once!
2. If you are fruitless as a Christian—repent and began bearing fruit as your mission requires.
3. If you are bearing fruit—be open and willing for the Lord to prune you so you can bear more fruit.

Lesson Two

“Love versus Hate”

(John 15:9-27)

INTRODUCTION

1. The time is the night of Jesus’ betrayal by Judas to the soldiers from the Religious leaders.
 - a) They had finished with the Passover Meal.
 - b) Jesus had instituted the observance of the Lord’s Supper for His new people.
 - c) He had pointed out that He was going to be betrayed by one of the 12.
 - d) Judas had left the group to go do “his thing!”
 - e) Jesus was trying to prepare His disciples for His leaving them.
2. He had just finished in the previous lesson assuring them of His abiding with them.
3. Now, He wants to assure them of His love for them, but to warn them that the world would not love them.

DISCUSSION**I. THE CONCEPT OF LOVE (15:9-17)*****A. The Assurance of love (9)***

- 1) God is love (1 Jn. 4:8).
- 2) Thus, love originated with God.
- 3) But this love has been shown by the Father towards His Son.
- 4) And the Son has shown it to His Apostles.

B. The Challenge—to continue in this love (10-11)

- 1) Jesus showed His love for His Father by keeping His commandments.
- 2) If we abide in Jesus’ love, we will be keeping His commandments also.
- 3) Those who do not keep His commandments obviously do not love the Father or the Son.
- 4) Our obedience is a proof of our love to both.
- 5) Such loving obedience brings joy.
 - a) Jesus experienced that joy in His obedience (Heb. 12:2).
 - b) Being obedient should not be grievous (1 Jn. 5:3).

C. The importance of this love (12)

- 1) It is the one great commandment (Matt. 22:36-40).
 - a) It not only sums up the Law of God (Matt. 22:40).
 - b) It is the fulfilling the Law of God (Rom. 13:8).
- 2) Our love for one another is to be copied after Jesus’ love for us (Jn. 13:35).

D. The love of Jesus demonstrated (13-15)

- 1) There is no greater love than what Jesus demonstrated towards mankind (Jn. 3:16).
- 2) Love, if real, has to be demonstrated!
- 3) It cannot be kept contained within (1 Jn. 3:18).
- 4) Jesus showed his love & friendship for us by dying for us.
- 5) We show our friendship & love to Him by keeping His commandments.

E. Love makes friends.

- 1) Jesus showed his love for us by calling us friends.

- 2) We are servants, but more, we are Jesus' friends—if we keep His commands.
- 3) Friendship is an intimate relationship—we reveal all things to each other.
- 4) They have a special place in our affections.
- 5) We confide in our friends.
- 6) There is a dignity connected in friendship with Jesus.

F. The outcome of loving obedience (16-17)

- 1) Love for Jesus is reflected in our love to one another.
- 2) The outcome of Jesus' love to His disciples:
 - a) He chose them to be special Apostles;
 - b) He called on them to go forth and bear fruit in His name;
 - c) He promised to answer their petitions in regards to carrying out His will.

II. THE CONCEPT OF HATE (15:18-27)

A. As you serve me—don't be surprise that the world will hate you (18-20).

- 1) Love is the new characteristic of the church.
- 2) The world will not understand this—it is different from their outlook.
 - a) The world's outlook is a selfish love.
 - b) They love those that love them.
 - c) They only love the "loveable."
- 3) But Christians are to love all men—reverence, regard, desire their good—whether friend or enemy.
 - a) Jesus calls us out of the world—to live differently.
 - b) Our lives will become a judgment upon the world.
 - c) As long as we live like them—they have no problem with us.
 - d) But when we live differently—the separation begins.
 - e) One of the indications of discipleship is—the world will hate us.
- 4) If the world hated Jesus, they will also hate His disciples.
 - a) Jesus was talking about Religious people hating Him & His disciples as well.
 - b) The servant is no different from His Master in this regard.
 - c) So, be prepared—be consoled.
 - d) Don't expect the world to treat you any different than it treated me.
- 5) There is a bright spot, however:
 - a) Those in the world that did hear Jesus and became His followers.
 - b) These will also follow your teachings from me as well.

B. To hate Jesus is to hate His Father who sent Him (21-25).

- 1) The world hated Jesus because they did not recognize who He was.
 - a) If they had known the Father, they would have known Jesus.
 - b) The world misrepresents God, His Word, and His character.
- 2) Jesus came to reveal the Father to them.
 - a) They had every opportunity to learn, but chose to reject Him.
 - b) They were without excuse for their rejection.
 - Jesus had spoken the Words of the Father.
 - He had laid claims to Deity & substantiated them with miracles.
 - c) They sealed their own doom by their rejection.

- 3) Instead of loving the Father and His son, they hated them both.
- 4) Jesus' revelation didn't fit with their ideas.
 - a) His great works did not avail with them.
 - b) They hated Him without a just cause.
 - c) Their hatred was foretold in Scripture.
 - d) Their great opportunities made their sin the worse!

III. THE PROMISE OF THE COMFORTER TO COME (15:26-27)

A. He repeats His promise of the sending of the Holy Spirit to help them.

- 1) To face a hostile world without the help of God would be hard.
- 2) Their job was to take the Gospel of Christ to a world in rebellion to God.
- 3) That world would hate them.
- 4) But God's Holy Spirit of Truth would be there to help them through it all.

B. He again emphasizes the Holy Spirit's work:

- 1) He comes from the Father like I came from the Father.
 - a) They are part of one another.
 - b) Their closeness is emphasized.
- 2) He shall testify of Me.
 - a) He will give you all the information and help you need to preach My Word.
 - b) He will fully reveal Jesus to you Apostles—and they to the world.
- 3) They will bear witness of Jesus because:
 - a) They had been with Him from the beginning.
 - b) They had observed Him, his teachings, His life, and His great miracles.
 - c) They also would be witnesses of His death, burial, and resurrection.
- 4) They would provide the evidences for the world to base their faith in Jesus on.

CONCLUSION

1. God's promise of His presence with His children should be believed.
2. He is with us, He cares for us, He protects us, He gives us the help and the strength that we need to be victorious over sin and this hostile world.
3. He assures us that it is the loving and obedient disciple that will triumph.

Lesson Three

“The Necessity of Jesus’ Leaving” (John 16:1-15)

INTRODUCTION

1. Chapters 13-17 record the activities and teachings of Jesus to His close disciples on the night of His betrayal.
 - a) He has emphasized the perfect union between Himself and His disciples.
 - b) He has stated plainly that they were His friends.
 - c) But He also tried to prepare them for facing a hostile world when they go out preaching.
 - d) They are pictured as soldiers in a spiritual battle for the souls of men and women.
2. But in order for God’s Plan of Redemption to be completed, He had to leave them!
 - a) And the Holy Spirit cannot come until He finishes His work of Redemption by dying on the cross.
 - b) He will not leave them without a comforter, a helper!

DISCUSSION**I. THE REASON JESUS WAS TELLING THEM THESE THINGS (16:1-4)*****A. They were going to go forth into a hostile world (1).***

- 1) He did not want them to be taken by surprise.
- 2) Jesus knew the disciples would be scattered at His death (Matt. 26:31).
- 3) But He also knew that upon His resurrection, they would be together again.
- 4) So, He was preparing them for what they would face in the future.

B. The Dangers are Real! (2).

- 1) Their own countrymen would put them out of the synagogue.
 - a) Such was done during Jesus’ public ministry (Jn. 12:42-43).
 - b) More than a religious punishment—it was social ostracizing.
 - c) They were cut off from the nation and its privileges.
- 2) They will even kill you, thinking they do God’s service.
 - a) Saul of Tarsus was involved in this very thing (Acts 26:9-11).
 - b) He said that he did it ignorantly in unbelief (1 Tim. 1:13).
 - c) But he did it in all good conscience—thinking he served God (Acts 23:1).
 - d) It is possible to be sincere, but terribly misguided! Wrong!
- 3) Why do they persecute? (3)
 - a) They do not know the Father, nor Jesus (Jn. 17:3).
 - b) “Know” in the sense of intimate knowledge—relationship.
 - c) Not wrong knowledge, but true knowledge—to truly know God and His nature.

C. The reason for telling them these things now (4).

- 1) To prepare them for trials that were ahead of them.
- 2) To give evidence of His Deity.
- 3) While He was with them, He bore the brunt of the world’s hatred.
- 4) Soon, they would have to face it without Him being there.

II. HE AGAIN DEALS WITH HIS LEAVING THEM (16:5-7)***A. Sorrow had filled their hearts over these things (5-6)***

- 1) They had looked to Jesus for direction, help, and purpose for their lives.
- 2) Now He was leaving them.
- 3) They became absorb in their own losses and fail to see the brighter side.
- 4) When we look on the dark side, our hearts are full of anguish & sorrow.
- 5) They were not even asking Him where He was going.

B. But Jesus knew that He had to go the way the Father had appointed Him.

- 1) It involved His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
- 2) Jesus saw His leaving as going back to the Father.
- 3) He could see over the terrible agony to the desirable things.
- 4) The Apostles needed to grasp this concept and be joyful for Him also.

C. "It is expedient that I go" (7)

- 1) Listen to me—I am telling you the truth!
- 2) It is necessary for you that I go away.
 - a) Jesus' leaving would leave a great vacuum.
 - b) But they did not realize the great value of His leaving to them & to the world.
- 3) They had to lose Jesus being with them on earth, so they could gain him as the Divine Redeemer of mankind.

D. "If I don't go, the Holy Spirit cannot come."

- 1) Jesus' work had to be completed before the holy Spirit could begin his work.
- 2) It seems a 3-fold plan:
 - a) The Father planned the Scheme of Redemption;
 - b) The Son executed those plans by becoming man's redeemer;
 - c) Then, the Holy Spirit would come to reveal and confirm the message of hope to mankind.
- 3) So, when Jesus went back to the Father, he would send the Holy Spirit back to them (Acts 2:33).

III. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE WORLD (16:8-11)***A. The world:***

- 1) Those people who are not in spiritual relationship with the Father.
- 2) They may be or not be religious, but they are not right with God.
- 3) They need His message of salvation.

B. He will reprove the world of their sinfulness.

- 1) He will make the world conscious of their disobedience to God.
- 2) He will make them aware that they were open to condemnation of conscience and the Law of God.
- 3) And in particular—He will show them their greatest sin of unbelief.
 - a) For one to reject Christ is to turn down his only chance of heaven.
 - b) The sin of unbelief is man's condemning sin.

C. He will reprove the world of righteousness.

- 1) To let men know that their only hope of righteousness is through Christ.
- 2) Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension back to the Father made righteousness possible for mankind.

- 3) The world crucified Him as a malefactor—sinner.
- 4) His resurrection and ascension back to the Father showed His sinlessness.
- 5) And made obvious the unrighteousness of the world.

D. He will reprove the world of judgment.

- 1) Acts 17:31—“***Because He has appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He has ordained; whereof He has given assurance unto all men, in that He has raised Him from the dead.***”
- 2) Jesus’ resurrection gave Him power over death and hades.
- 3) He dealt Satan a deathblow in his resurrection from the dead.
- 4) Satan was judged—it is now only a matter of carrying out the sentence.
- 5) And the sinful world has also been judged in its prince (Satan).

IV. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE APOSTLES (16:12-15)

A. Jesus had more to tell the Apostles.

- 1) But they were not able to grasp all of it—it takes time.
- 2) Later, when the Holy Spirit comes, He will teach you all you need to know.
- 3) He will serve as your guide.

B. He will guide you into all truth.

- 1) That truth will be given in its completeness.
- 2) It will be a perfect revelation—no need for latter day revelations.
- 3) Reason for the warnings: Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19

C. He will speak only what is given to Him.

- 1) As with Jesus, He spoke only what the Father gave him to speak.
- 2) Now, the Holy Spirit will speak only that which I will give to Him.
- 3) His words will be My words—the words of the Father.

D. He will show you things to come.

- 1) He will lift the veil of the future for you.
- 2) He will make known to you what lies ahead of you and the church.

E. He will glorify Christ.

- 1) The Holy Spirit would not be a 2nd redeemer—only one—that is Christ!
- 2) Christ’s work of redemption will be glorified by the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Christ will be exalted to be head over the church and give a name that is above all others.
- 4) The Spirit will fully reveal Christ—so that He can dominate our minds, hearts, and lives.
- 5) His purpose was not to teach about Himself, but Jesus.

CONCLUSION

1. We need to see the absolute unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. These verses show the work of the tri-personal God in heaven—in perfect harmony.
3. The Holy Spirit would lead the Apostles into all Truth—no further revelation will be needed.

Lesson Four

“The Disciples’ Sorrow and Joy”

(John 16:16-33)

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus’ betrayal by Judas to the soldiers was just a short time away.
2. He was trying to prepare the disciples for what was ahead—their trials as He underwent death.
3. This brought sorrow to their hearts.
4. he then turns and gives them reasons for joy out of sorrow.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS FORETELLS HIS DEATH AGAIN (16:16-22)*****A. The statement (16).***

- 1) His death would be accomplished before sundown the next day.
- 2) They would no longer have Jesus with them in the flesh.
- 3) But after His resurrection, he would be with them for a short time.
- 4) And then, go back to His Father.

B. The Puzzlement on the part of the Disciples (17-18)

- 1) They could not seem to grasp what He was telling them.
- 2) They could not reconcile this with their pre-conceived ideas.
 - a) If He was going to be King over an earthly Kingdom, then why go away?
 - b) If He was not going to be King over such, then why return?

C. Jesus’ statement of contrast (19-22).

- 1) The world shall rejoice at Jesus’ leaving!
 - a) Because they got their way—He was put to death—stopped!
 - b) They would roll a stone over His tomb and make it sure, setting a watch over it.
 - c) The Pharisees would rejoice because they would not again hear that other men’s righteousness exceeded theirs.
 - d) The Sadducees would rejoice because this troublesome person who spoke about the unseen and eternal things will be heard no more.
 - e) The hierarchy of the Jewish Religion can rejoice because there will be longer a threat of the Romans taking away their place and their nation.
 - f) The world will praise the deed of blood, but their rejoicing will be only for a little while.
- 2) The disciples would be sorrowful.
 - a) They would weep and lament—shed tears of separation.
 - b) And, Jesus did not seem to be discouraged or disappointed at this.
 - c) Nor, at the fact that they would be scattered.
 - d) He was happy with their progress.
 - e) He knew that their defection was not a problem—He knew the outcome.
- 3) Their sorrow would be turned into Joy.

- a) Process—Death, Separation, Resurrection, Appearances, and Ascend to the Father.
- b) It would not be like Lazarus—he was resurrected to die again.
- c) But Jesus would ascend to His Father and be glorified.
- d) His resurrection and appearances would reassure them.
- 4) Illustrated:
 - a) It is like a woman ready to be delivered of a child.
 - b) The pain and fear that she must endure in sorrow.
 - c) But after the birth—the joy of the new child takes away the sorrow.
- 5) Their joy will be permanent.
 - a) No one can take away that joy from you.
 - b) It will be there forever.

II. THE BLESSING OF PRAYER EMPHASIZED AGAIN (16:23-27)

A. “In that day you shall ask Me nothing.”

- 1) During Jesus’ ministry, the disciples continually asked Jesus to help them with better understanding.
- 2) He was always there—He could be depended upon.
- 3) Now, He will leave them—and go back to His Father.
- 4) To whom do they turn now?

B. “Whatever you shall ask the Father in My name.”

- 1) Jesus is now presenting Himself as their Mediator between the Father and themselves.
- 2) They need to turn to the Father and ask their petitions.
- 3) But, they were to ask in Jesus’ name!

C. “He will give it you.”

- 1) The encouragement to ask!
- 2) The assurance of an answer!

D. Reasons for the encouragement to ask of the Father in Jesus’ name.

- 1) That your joy may be full.
 - a) Not only the joy of seeing Jesus against after His resurrection.
 - b) But the joy of knowing He is at the right hand of the Father carrying our petitions to Him for us.
- 2) Knowing that the Father loves them just like Jesus did.
 - a) Jesus is trying to bond His disciples to the Father, like they were to Him.
 - b) Reasons for this special love of the Father:
 - Because they loved Jesus—His beloved Son—and showed it by their following Him.
 - Because they believed that Jesus came out from the Father.
 - c) Jesus’ great work was to reconcile lost mankind to the Father.
 - d) Jesus will not have to plead with the Father to love them—He already does.

III. THE ASSURANCE OF A BETTER UNDERSTANDING SOON (16:25, 28-30)

A. For some reason Jesus’ message was not in the plainest language.

- 1) He spoke to them in Proverbs.
- 2) Or in “Dark sayings”—Things that have to be thought upon and in time have an understanding.
- 3) Jesus continually pointed out to them—you will understand later.
- 4) Then, you will understand clearly about the Father and Myself.

B. He now sums up his Mission:

- 1) I came forth from the Father.
 - a) He emphasizes His pre-fleshly state (Jn. 1:1)
 - b) He emphasizes the Oneness of He and the Father.
 - c) This is the language of equals.
- 2) I came into the world.
 - a) The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14).
 - b) His incarnation—“God with us.” (Matt. 1:23).
 - c) From glory, purity and life....
 - d) To a place of shame, sin, sorrow and death!
 - e) He came as an Ambassador—on an important mission.
 - f) The reconciliation of sinful man to a holy God.
- 3) I leave the world.
 - a) His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
 - b) His stay was not long in the world, but long enough to accomplish His great mission—“*It is finished.*”
- 4) And go to the Father.
 - a) He knew that His leaving the Father was conditioned upon his return to the Father.
 - b) He looked to this with great anticipation!

C. The Disciples’ response.

- 1) “You speak plainly now.”
 - a) They were happy they could grasp something.
 - b) They was grasping more of an overview of His mission, but not fully yet.
- 2) “We are sure you know all things.”
 - a) You know the hearts of men—the secrets of their hearts.
 - b) You know the questions before they are asked.
- 3) “We believe you came forth from God.”
 - a) They did not say “and plan to go back to the Father.”
 - b) This was still not clear to them.
 - c) They did believe He came forth from the Father, however.
 - d) Your whole ministry and message is from God.

IV. JESUS’ ENCOURAGEMENT TO THEM FOR THE DARK HOURS AHEAD (16:31-33)

A. “You think you believe?”

- 1) They did believe, but it was not complete and strong enough yet.
- 2) It was genuine belief, but needed more maturity.
- 3) Trials would test their faith to see if it were real (1 Jn. 5:4).
- 4) We must not judge one’s faith too quick:

- a) The disciples' faith weakened when tested as foretold.
- b) But they came back stronger than ever!!

B. "Shortly, you will be scattered"

- 1) Not because of a lack of love.
- 2) But from a want of intelligent and courageous faith (that they later had).
- 3) Because they did not fully understand, they did not know what to do.
- 4) And...the fear of the world still had to be conquered yet.

C. "Shall leave Me alone"

- 1) Alone to face the mock trials and humiliation by wicked men.
- 2) Alone to face the horribleness of the crucifixion.

D. "Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me."

- 1) This assurance of the Father's presence had been with Jesus all the way.
- 2) And now, that presence was sorely needed.
- 3) And even when Jesus cried: "**My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?**"
 - a) It was necessary for Jesus to experience what it was like to be away from God...for that is the eternal punishment of sin!
 - b) He drank the cup that no one else could drink—nor help Him with!

E. The reasons for telling them these terrible things ahead of time.

- 1) It was not to discourage them, but prepare them—tribulations will come.
- 2) To assure them that He knew the future.
- 3) He was going to leave them with:
 - a) Words of encouragement, peace, and assurance.
 - b) Not words of criticism and condemnation.
 - c) But words of confidence, comfort and love.
- 4) And the great assurance that He had overcome the world—an accomplished fact.
- 5) His victory was their assurance of victory also.
- 6) It was a victory over:
 - a) The world's temptations;
 - b) The bitterness of internal treachery;
 - c) The vast sum of human ingratitude.
- 7) He still fulfilled His mission in spite of the world's efforts to stop Him.

CONCLUSION

1. We say we believe in Jesus! Do we really?
2. Are we sincere—is our faith genuine?
3. Can our faith pass the test of trials, tribulations, persecutions, and even death?
4. Jesus wants to strengthen our faith—if we will let Him!

Lesson Five

“The Lord’s Prayer”

(John 17:1-26)

INTRODUCTION

1. This is the TRUE Lord’s Prayer. (The other was a means of teaching how to pray).
2. Some important points about this prayer:
 - a) It was possibly prayed in the Apostles hearing (Jn. 18:1).
 - b) In the things that Jesus prayed about.
 - c) It is filled with love and loyalty.
 - d) It is showing the clear blending of the human Jesus with the Divine Son of God.
 - e) Shows the ease and assurance with which Jesus approached His Father.
3. Easily divided into three sections:
 - a) His prayer concerning Himself;
 - b) His prayer for His Apostles;
 - c) His prayer for future Believers.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS’ PRAYER FOR HIMSELF (17:1-5)*****A. “Glorify thy Son” (1-4).***

- 1) “Father”—an affectionate term used throughout.
- 2) “the hour is come”—the time of His death is at hand, and the resulting consequences to come.
- 3) “Glorify thy Son”
 - a) The path of Jesus’ glory was his death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and glorification.
 - b) Eph. 1:20-23
- 4) “That thy Son also may glorify thee”
 - a) He had been given power over all flesh (Matt. 28:18).
 - b) An exalted position.
 - c) So He could give eternal life to those whom the Father gave Him.
 - The power to forgive sins comes from His death.
 - Eternal life—special relationship with the Father—stresses the quality of existence.
 - It is given to those who know the Father and the Son.
 - Eternal life begins with the correct knowledge of God.
 - 1—Comes from Jesus’ true picture of God.
 - 2—Not idols, not polytheism.
 - 3—But, the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - Correct knowledge of Jesus Christ in that relationship.
 - 1—Jesus (Savior) made Salvation possible.
 - 2—Christ (the Anointed One of God) sent from the Father.
 - Ignorance of the true God and Jesus Christ leaves men in sin.
- 6) Jesus had glorified the Father on earth.
 - a) He has not only revealed Him correctly to mankind;

- b) But, He has upheld His Name, His Authority over mankind.
- 7) He had also finished the work given Him to do on earth.
 - a) Spoken of as an accomplished fact....
 - b) Because all was in readiness to be completed within three days.

B. With what kind of Glory is Jesus praying for? (5)

- 1) "With thine own self"
 - a) In fellowship with the Father.
 - b) A special relationship that had been suspended for a time.
 - c) He is soon to be re-united again with the Father...perfect state of union.
- 2) "With the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
 - a) Jesus' pre-existence.
 - b) That glorified state that He left to come to earth.

II. JESUS' PRAYER FOR HIS APOSTLES (17:6-19)

A. Facts stated about the Apostles that serve as groundwork of His petition for them (6-8).

- 1) "I have manifested thy Name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world."
 - a) He had made known to them the True Nature and Being of God: the Father.
 - b) This had been accomplished satisfactorily.
- 2) Identity of these men:
 - a) God gave them to Jesus for His disciples—The how is not stated here.
 - b) They were taken out of the world—from Satan's hold.
 - c) They were yours by ownership.
 - d) You have given them to me to have.
 - e) The how is now given—"They have kept thy word."
 - They believed in Jesus and became followers.
 - They answered the call of the Word of God.
- 3) "They have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee."
 - a) They have carefully been taught for 3 ½ years—God's Truth.
 - b) They have freely accepted all.
 - c) And they knew that My message came from you, Father.
- 4) He repeats:
 - a) I have given them the words which you gave Me.
 - b) They have received them.
 - c) They know of a truth I came out from you.
 - d) They believe that I was sent by you.
 - e) They were convinced of all of these things.
 - f) It was shown by following Jesus all the way!

B. His Petition for His Apostles (9-11)

- 1) He is praying for his Apostles now, not the world.
 - a) They were uppermost on His mind at this time.
 - b) Everything depended upon them being faithful to their mission.
- 2) Identity of the Apostles again emphasized:
 - a) They are they which the Father gave to Jesus.

- b) They were His to give—giving honor & glory to the Father.
- c) But, what is the Father's is also the Son's—equality.
- d) "I am glorified in them."
 - Because the Apostles believed—Jesus was glorified!
 - They gave glory by following Him.
- 3) Reason for His petition for them:
 - a) Jesus was soon to leave this world—stated as an accomplished fact.
 - b) But the Apostles would still be in the world to face its hostility.
 - c) "I am coming to you for glorification."
- 4) 1st Petition: "Keep them through thine own Name"
 - a) Guard them, keep them safe from the world's pull.]
 - b) Through thine Name—the Name Jesus had revealed to them—Father.
 - c) Jesus had called them into the Father's Name—they must be kept in it.
- 5) 2nd Petition: "That they may be one, as we are"
 - a) At the Passover—they were still squabbling over who would be the greatest in the Kingdom.
 - b) Jesus washed their feet—helping them to understand.
 - c) He prays that they will be as One person—loving, working together in harmony.
 - d) To have the kind of harmony that exists between the Father & the Son.
 - e) Unity is important:
 - For growth spiritually and numerically.
 - For getting people to listen to the message of redemption.
 - f) It is hindered by:
 - Carnal pride of men.
 - Selfish interests.
 - Unwillingness to let God's Word be the guide.
 - g) They have been called out of the world to be united as one in Christ.

C. He prays for their faithfulness (12-16).

- 1) During Jesus' earthly ministry:
 - a) He had called 12 men to be special followers.
 - b) He had taught them, strengthened them.
 - c) So that none were lost, except Judas, who chose condemnation.
 - d) This shows that the human will determines if we stay or go.
- 2) 3rd Petition: "That they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves."
 - a) That the same JOY I have knowing what lies ahead.
 - b) That they might come to have this same JOY in themselves.
 - c) They needed to fully understand Jesus' need for leaving them.
- 3) Reasons why the world will hate the Apostles mentioned again.
 - a) Jesus' words they had received, and come out of the world.
 - b) So, the world hates them since they are no longer in the world.
- 4) 4th Petition: "Don't take them out of the world, but keep them from evil."
 - a) The purpose of Jesus' training them was to stay in the world and affect it.
 - b) Also, God is glorified in His people who overcome the world.
 - c) Only refuge from evil—stay in God's Name—His Word.

d) It will help to overcome persecutions of the world.

D. He prays for their sanctification (17-19).

- 1) 5th Petition: “Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth.”
 - a) Sanctify, consecrate, set them apart unto holy service.
 - b) It is God’s truth that:
 - Calls us out of the world to be separated from the world.
 - Cleanses us from the filth of the world.
 - Sets us apart unto holy service to God.
 - c) As long as we stay in the Word of God, we are protected from evil.
- 2) The similarity of Jesus and His Apostles:
 - a) As Jesus was sent into the world by the Father with a mission....
 - b) So, now Jesus sends these Apostles into the world with a mission!
 - c) They had the Authority of God behind their mission, as Jesus did.
 - d) And as Jesus consecrated Himself to fulfill His mission.....
 - e) So, the Apostles needed to consecrate themselves to their mission!

III. JESUS’ PRAYER FOR ALL BELIEVERS (17:20-26)

A. He states clearly for whom He was praying (20).

- 1) Those that would believe on Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.
- 2) A belief that would come through the preaching of the Gospel (Rom. 10:17).
- 3) People become believers by obedience to the Word of God.

B. 1st Petition: “That they all May be One” (21-23)

- 1) Same emphasis concerning the Apostles—both is critical to God’s Plan.
- 2) There will be many members—but only one body (church).
- 3) Unity and harmony of those that make up the Body of Christ is critical.
- 4) Like the unity of the Father and the Son.
- 5) So that they may be One in us.
- 6) Oneness with one another determines if we are in union with the Father & Son.
- 7) 2 John 9.
- 8) Reason why oneness is important:
 - a) That the world may believe that thou has sent me.
 - b) The Apostles believed this—so all believers should—so others will.
- 9) Jesus had given them glory for a reason:
 - a) It was glory which the Father gave to Jesus.
 - b) He passes it on to these Apostles to share in the great Redemption story.
 - c) It was a special place of honor to the Apostles.
 - d) Reason:
 - That they may be one.
 - That they may be perfected or completely unified as one.
 - The same way that Jesus and the Father are in complete harmony.
- 10) Again stresses importance of this oneness:
 - a) That the world may know that thou hast sent me—believe as the Apostles believed.
 - b) That the world will be convinced that the Father loves them as He loved Jesus.

C. 2nd Petition: “That believers can be with Christ where He is” (24)

- 1) He stated this as though He was already in Heaven.
- 2) Those whom the Father gives to Jesus...believers, follows!
- 3) Reason:
 - a) So they can behold the glory that Jesus has with the Father.
 - b) Jesus’ glory was only partially seen here (Jn. 1:14).
 - c) Transfiguration help to illustrate—but far short of the glory He has now.
- 4) This glory was given to Jesus by the Father upon His ascension.
- 5) This glory is seen in the love that the Father has for His Son.

IV. FINAL THOUGHTS (17:25-26)

A. The need to know the Father

- 1) “O righteous Father”—dependable, faithful, true to His Word.
 - a) The world has not know Him—they have false concepts.
 - b) But Jesus knew Him, for He came forth from the Father.
 - c) And believers in Christ will also know thee and that you sent Me.
- 2) “I have declared unto them your Name.”
 - a) All about the Father.
 - b) The Name represents the person!
 - c) And God’s Name will continue to be declared through the Apostles & believers to come.

B. The Results of declaring God’s Name:

- 1) It makes known God’s love for His Son.
- 2) But it also makes know God’s love for the believers.
- 3) Let’s them know that the “Spirit of Christ” will be in them.

CONCLUSION

1. We need to fully realize the closeness we have with the Father and the Son.
2. That faith is basic to this relationship.
3. The grave importance that we be one in Christ!

Lesson Six

“Jesus Betrayed and Denied”

(John 18:1-12, 15-18, 25-27)

INTRODUCTION

1. Things we will be studying about in this lesson:
 - a) Events connected with Jesus’ betrayal to the mob;
 - b) Peter’s denial of Jesus.
2. What to watch for in this lesson (and the next two as well):
 - a) Luke 22:53—**“This is your hour, and the power of darkness.”**
 - b) Shows that the power of darkness was great.
 - c) Everyone is caught up in its grasp.
 - d) The multitude of people who came to take Jesus: Soldiers, Religious leaders, and Judas
 - e) Also Peter, the Disciples flee, Pilate, Herod, etc.
 - f) Only Jesus survived the terrible ordeal spiritually—but gave in to its power physically because it was the Father’s Plan.

DISCUSSION**I. THE PLACE OF JESUS’ BETRAYAL—GETHSEMANE (18:1)*****A. Jesus and His Disciples go to the Garden of Gethsemane.***

- 1) They leave the city proper and go across the valley (Brook Kedron).
- 2) They go up to the Mount of Olives (Matt. 26:30).
- 3) They go to an enclosed garden called Gethsemane.
 - a) It was in a beautiful Garden that man lost His perfect state of bliss.
 - b) It is now in a lesser Garden that Jesus’ wins the battle for man’s redemption.

B. Activities in the Garden (Other Gospel Accounts).

- 1) He told His disciples to sit while he went and prayer (Matt. 26:36).
- 2) But He took with Him Peter, James, and John—going a little further into the Garden (Matt. 26:37).
- 3) Jesus was very sorrowful, very heavy hearted (downhearted). (Matt. 26:37).
- 4) He was sore amazed (Mk. 14:33).
- 5) He said to the three: **“My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death.”**
- 6) He asked them to wait and watch for Him as He went further to pray (Matt. 26:38).
- 7) He fell on His face and prayed (Matt. 26:39).
- 8) His Prayer:
 - a) **“That this hour might pass from him”** (Mk. 14:35).
 - b) **“Father,....take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.”**
- 9) An Angel appeared to Him to strengthen Him (Lk. 22:43).
- 10) He came to the disciples—they were asleep.
- 11) He said to Peter: **“What, could you not watch with Me one hour?”** (Matt. 26:40).

- 12) He also said: ***“Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*** (Matt. 26:41).
- 13) He went and prayed a second time and came back and found them sleeping.
- 14) He went a 3rd time to pray (Lk. 22:44).
 - a) He was in agony of spirit and prayed more earnestly.
 - b) His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
 - c) Heb. 5:7—***“He offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death.”***

II. JUDAS LEADS THE MOB TO JESUS & POINTS HIM OUT (18:2-9)

A. Judas knew the place where Jesus would be (2).

- 1) He had been there with Him often.
- 2) Lk. 21:37—***“And in the daytime He was teaching in the Temple; and at night He went out, and abode in the Mount that is called the Mount of Olives.”***

B. Judas leads the multitude to the Garden (18:3).

- 1) It was a mixed multitude (Matt. 26:47; Mk. 14:43).
 - a) Soldiers (Roman?), Officers of Chief Priests & Pharisees.
 - b) Scribes (Mk. 14:43).
 - c) Elders (Matt. 26:47).
 - d) Servants of the High Priest (Malchus) (Jn. 18:10).
- 2) They came with Lanterns, Torches, and Weapons.
- 3) It took all of them to get enough courage to do what they did.

C. Jesus goes forth to meet the crowd (4-9).

- 1) He knew what would take place.
 - a) He did not run, leave or flee.
 - b) He made no effort to resist or defend Himself.
 - c) He willingly surrendered Himself to them.
 - d) John 10:18—***“No man takes it from me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”***
- 2) “Whom seek ye?”
 - a) “Jesus of Nazareth.”
 - b) “I am He.”
 - c) Some believe that it was here that Judas killed Jesus to betray Him.
 - I have some reservation.
 - We will place it a little bit later.
- 3) The multitude reacts to Jesus’ forthright offering of Himself to them.
 - a) They went backward and fell to the ground (on their knees).
 - b) Fear, awe, fearfulness—startled!
 - c) Possible fear of what Jesus could do—miraculous powers.
- 4) Jesus waits for them to get over their fright—“Whom seek ye?”
 - a) He helped to encourage them in their evil deed to take Him.
 - b) “Jesus of Nazareth.”
 - c) “I have told you that I am He.”

D. Jesus’ request (8).

- 1) “Let these go their way.”
 - a) The mob may have intended to arrest them all.
 - b) Jesus was concerned for their safety—so much depended upon them.
- 2) To fulfill the saying: “None was lost.”

E. Judas places the betrayal kiss on Jesus (Matt. 26:48-50).

- 1) “Hail Master.”
- 2) Luke 22:48—“***Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?***”
- 3) Kissed Him to identify Him to the mob for certain.

III. PETER’S VALIANT EFFORT TO DEFEND JESUS (18:10-11)

A. The Question—“Lord, shall we smite with the sword?” (Lk. 22:49).

- 1) To prevent them from taking Jesus.
- 2) He endangered their own lives to help Him.

B. Peter struck a bold blow to put this fearful multitude to flight.

- 1) He cut off the right ear of Malchus, servant to the High Priest.
- 2) Jesus healed his ear quickly (Lk. 22:51).

C. Jesus rebukes Peter.

- 1) Peter just did not comprehend that Jesus had to die—and the reason!
- 2) And besides, this was not the way Jesus was to die—by the sword.
- 3) He spoke to Peter (Matt. 26:52-54).
- 4) “***The cup that My Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?***”
- 5) No death—no salvation!

D. Jesus rebukes the crowd (Lk. 22:52-53).

E. The disciples are scattered (Matt. 26:56).

- 1) Frightened, bewildered—they fled.
- 2) Mk. 14:51-52—This may have been John Mark!

IV. JESUS BOUND AND TAKEN AWAY (18:12)

(The next two lessons will deal with the Jewish Trials & Roman Trials of Jesus)

V. PETER’S DENIAL OF KNOWING JESUS WHILE JESUS WAS BEING TRIED BY THE JEWISH LEADERS (18:15-18, 25-27).

A. Peter and another disciple (John) followed the multitude to the High Priest’s house (15-16).

- 1) John knew the High Priest and was allowed through the door (gate) into the courtyard by the door keeper.
- 2) Peter stayed on the outside at first.
- 3) John went back out and got Peter—the maid door-keeper let him in.

B. Peter’s first denial (17-18).

- 1) John evidently got closer to hear what would happen with Jesus.
- 2) Peter stood with men around the fire in the outer court of the Palace.
- 3) A maid that let him in asked, “Are you not one of this man’s disciples?”
- 4) Peter said: “I am not.” (I know not what you say—Matt. 26:69).
- 5) The cock crew (Mark’s account states that the cock would crow twice (14:68)).

C. Peter’s second denial (25).

- 1) Another maid and others in the group joined in to state: “Are you not also one of His disciples?” (Matt. 26:71).
- 2) Peter denied it—“I am not.” (I do not know the man—Matt. 26:72).

D. Peter’s third denial (26-27).

- 1) It was about an hour later (Lk. 22:59).
- 2) A kinsman of Malchus (servant of the High Priest) said: ***“Did not I see you in the garden with Him?”***
- 3) ***“Surely you also are one of them; for your speech betrays you.”*** (Matt. 26:73)
- 4) The danger appeared great now for Peter and his courage failed him.
- 5) This time he denied with an oath and cursing: ***“I know not the man.”*** (Matt. 26:74).
- 6) The cock crew the 2nd time (Mk. 14:72).
- 7) Jesus turned and looked upon Peter (Lk. 22:61).
- 8) Peter remembered the Words of Jesus and went out and wept bitterly (Matt. 26:75).

CONCLUSION

1. The powers of darkness are great.
2. Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation.
3. Watch the company you choose to stay with (Peter was in the wrong crowd).
4. He weakened—denied the Lord by words and actions.
5. Thankfully, there is forgiveness if we repent and turn back to the Lord.
6. Oh, how thankful we all ought to be for that forgiveness!

Lesson Seven

“The Jewish Trials of Jesus”

(John 18:12-14, 19-24)

INTRODUCTION

1. Trials are fascinating for people to watch.
 - a) One of the reasons is to see if justice will be done.
 - b) The trials of Jesus were no different—it had its onlookers too to see what would happen.
2. Jesus was tried before two courts—Jewish and Roman.
 - a) The Jews wanted to put Jesus to death.
 - b) But Roman Law prohibited them carrying out the sentence.
 - c) Once the Jewish courts had pronounced the sentence of death on Jesus, they had to go before the Romans for verification and they would carry out the sentence.
3. In this lesson we will be looking at the Jewish Trials of Jesus.
 - a) Much of this information will come from the other three Gospels.
 - b) We will follow John’s Gospel as an outline.

DISCUSSION**I. TRIAL BEFORE ANNAS (18:12-14, 19-23)*****A. Clarification.***

- 1) In verse 24 in the King James Version, it leaves the impression that what John recorded had taken place before Caiaphas.
- 2) It is generally believed that a more correct reading would be that Annas now sends Jesus bound to Caiaphas after Annas had examined Him.
- 3) This would give justification for John recording the fact that Jesus was first sent to Annas.
- 4) This will be the approach we will take. (It is not that critical).

B. Who was Annas?

- 1) He had been High Priest from 7 AD to 14 AD.
- 2) He was compelled to retire by the Romans.
- 3) A son-in-law and son followed him as High Priest.
- 4) Caiaphas served as High Priest from 25 AD to 37 AD.
- 5) He was the son-in-law of Annas.

C. The influence of Annas:

- 1) He was not the officially appointed High Priest at the time of Jesus’ trials, but he was still recognized by the Jewish people as the rightful High Priest.
- 2) He was the ruling influence of the Jewish political and religious machine.
- 3) It was not unreasonable for the Jewish people to bring Him before Annas first.

D. Annas questions Jesus (19).

- 1) “About His disciples”
 - a) The extent of His following.
 - b) May have asked to embarrass Him because all had fled.
- 2) “About His doctrine”
 - a) What helped Him to have a following by the people.

b) Or, to trap Him in what He said—to have something to accuse Him of.

E. Jesus' answer (20-21).

- 1) Instead of telling him, he said: "Ask those who have heard me."
- 2) I have spoken openly (Matt. 10:27).

F. Jesus mistreated by the officer and His reply (22-23).

- 1) The officer struck Jesus and rebuked Him for speaking to the High Priest that way.
- 2) But Jesus' reply was a mild rebuke to the officer.
- 3) He does not revenge Himself.
- 4) But He did vindicate His own actions.
 - a) "If I have spoken evil (wrongfully) then point out such."
 - b) "But if I have spoken the truth, why do you strike me?"

G. Annas sends Jesus bound to Caiaphas and the Council (24; Matt. 26:57).

- 1) He was able to get nowhere with Jesus either.
- 2) Further efforts would have to be made to find a just cause for condemning Him.

II. TRIAL BEFORE CAIAPHAS AND THE COUNCIL (18:12-14, 24; Matt. 26:57, 59-68)

A. Who was Caiaphas?

- 1) He was the officially appointed High Priest (25 AD to 37 AD).
- 2) He was the son-in-law to Annas.
- 3) It was he who prophesied that one must die for the people (18:14).
- 4) He served as president of the Sanhedrin (full council of 70 leaders).

B. Frantic efforts were made to find two or more witnesses against Jesus.

- 1) They had many witnesses that came and gave their distorted statements.
- 2) But no two of them agreed with each other—or that they could use.
- 3) Finally two men came up with a statement of Jesus made three years earlier: Matt. 26:61; Mark 14:58; John 2:19-21).
- 4) The witnesses deleted, added to, or changed Jesus' words.

C. The illegal trial begins.

- 1) Illegalities:
 - a) Such trials were not allowed at night.
 - b) It was in the wrong place.
 - c) They assigned no counsel for Jesus.
 - d) They called no witnesses for His side.
 - e) They were happy to use false witnesses whom they knew were false.
 - f) etc.
- 2) The high Priest asked for Jesus' reply to the accusations.
 - a) Jesus would not answer—he held His peace.
 - b) He knew the trial was a sham of justice.
 - c) And they had their minds made up—no point to attempt to answer.
- 3) When this effort failed, the High Priest had to use another tactic.
- 4) "I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."
 - a) This was an effort to force Jesus to answer to incriminate Himself.
 - b) The Law pronounced a man guilty who would not answer (Lev. 5:1)

- c) Trying to force Jesus to witness against Himself.
- 5) Jesus admits that He is the Christ, the Son of God.
 - a) He no longer had to deal with something false.
 - b) He admitted to the truthfulness of the statement.
- 6) And then he adds:
 - a) Matt. 26:64—***“I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”***
 - b) Some suggest this has reference to the fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 7:13-14).
 - c) Others to His second coming.
- 7) Jesus sealed His doom with this admission!
 - a) They heard what they wanted to hear!
 - b) He had blasphemed—in their eyes.

D. The High Priest’s reaction to Jesus’ admission:

- 1) He rent his garment to show his consternation.
- 2) He had gotten the words that he wanted to hear that would condemn Jesus lawfully???
- 3) He had spoken blasphemy—that is no further need of witnesses.
- 4) He had condemned Himself claiming to be equal with God.
- 5) Caiaphas asked for a reaction from the chief priests, elders, and council.
- 6) All agreed—He was guilty and deserved to die.
- 7) Now, they finally had Jesus where they wanted Him.
- 8) But they had to make this sentence of death look official.

III. JESUS BEFORE THE COUNCIL OFFICIALLY (Luke 22:66-71)

A. They waited until day break.

- 1) The council was not suppose to meet until day time.
- 2) When morning arrived, they met briefly to go through their mock sentencing.

B. During the waiting period, Jesus was abused by the crowd (Matt. 26:67-68; Lk. 22:63-65).

- 1) They spit in His face to show contempt—on Him who Angels worshipped!
- 2) They struck Him time and again—on Him who had only gone about doing good.
- 3) They blindfolded Him—on Him who radiants light to mankind in darkness.
- 4) They mocked Him—whose heart was filled with love and who was willing to live among His creatures and die for them.
- 5) What a contrast:
 - a) People who were rough, brutal, violent, and noisy versus.....
 - b) One who was gentle, meek, calm, silent, and kept His dignity.
- 6) How ashamed we should be that we are a part of such fellow-creatures!

C. The Supreme Court merely rubber-stamped what had already been illegally done.

- 1) They questioned Him again to get Him to admit again what He had said.
- 2) He finally consented to admit that He was the Son of God.
- 3) The job was done—His sentence was obvious—“Cold-blooded Murder!”

D. Jesus was then taken to Pilate for Roman Trials (next lesson)

IV. WHAT HAPPENED TO JUDAS? (Matthew 27:3-10)

A. When he saw that Jesus was condemned to death:

- 1) He showed great regret of what He had helped to bring on.
- 2) He brought the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.
- 3) He stated that he had sinned and betrayed innocent blood.
- 4) He threw the money down in the Temple.

B. The Leaders' reaction:

- 1) "What is that to us."
- 2) They had what they wanted!

C. Judas goes and hangs himself (Acts 1:16-20)

- 1) He fell headlong and burst asunder.
- 2) He lost his chance of recovery.

D. The Leaders bought a field to buy strangers in.

- 1) Called "Aceldema" or "Field of Blood."
- 2) Such was a fulfillment of prophecy of Jeremiah and the Psalms.

CONCLUSION

1. As then, so even today:

- a) Jesus stands before us to be judged by us.
- b) What is our decision?
 - Is He the Christ, the Son of God?
 - Or, an Imposter that should die?
- c) Are we willing to become His follower or reject Him?
 - Jesus said that "he that is not for me is against me."
 - The decision must be made.

2. Someday, the places will be reversed.

- a) We will stand before Him in judgment.
- b) What will He have to say about us then?
- c) Will it be:
 - "Come, you blessed, and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."
 - Or, "Depart from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you."

Lesson Eight

“The Political Trials of Jesus”

(John 18:28-40; 19:1-15)

INTRODUCTION

1. After the death of Herod the Great, the Jews in Judea lost their opportunity to be governed by a king under subjection to the Romans.
 - a) Instead, they were placed under Roman Governors.
 - b) At the time of Jesus’ death, Pontius Pilate was Governor (Acts 26-36).
 - c) Appointment of Governors over territories was based on those who were in favor with the Roman Caesar and kept his favor.
2. However, the Jews in Galilee and Perea were under a King in subjection to the Romans.
 - a) His name was also Herod, but Herod Antipas, who ruled from 4 BC to 37 AD.
 - b) He was a son of Herod the Great.
3. The Trials by the Jews had ended with a pronouncement of death upon Jesus.
 - a) But, the Jews were not able to carry out the sentence legally.
 - b) They were forced to bring Jesus before the Roman Governor for him to pronounce this sentence of death and see that it was done.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS BEFORE PILATE (18:28-32)*****A. The Jews would not go inside the Judgment Hall.***

- 1) It would defile them—make them ceremonially unclean.
- 2) They would not have time to go through a ceremonial cleansing and still eat the Passover at the proper time.
- 3) They were more concerned with defilement going into a Gentile’s house than the shedding of innocent blood.

B. Pilate accommodated them—He came outside!

- 1) He stood on the platform to address the crowd.
- 2) “What is the manner of the accusation you bring against this man?”
- 3) What is your reason for bringing this man to me so early in the morning?

C. The Jews stated:

- 1) “If He were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered Him up to you.”
- 2) We have already judged Him, we don’t need to do so again.
- 3) He is worthy of death—and we need your pronouncement.
- 4) Their accusation against Jesus (Lk. 23:2):
 - a) He is perverting the nation with His teachings.
 - b) He is forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar.
 - c) He is saying He is the Christ, a King.

D. Pilate told them to go and punish Him by their Laws.

- 1) If He has broken your sacred Laws, He should be judged by that Law.
- 2) You can excommunicate Him from your synagogue.
- 3) Or, you can even scourge Him.

E. But the Jews quickly replied:

- 1) “It is not lawful for us to put any man to death.”

- 2) We have already tried him and pronounced the sentence of death.
- 3) You are the only one that can see to that.
- 4) Jesus had already foretold that He would be lifted up—crucified!

II. PILATE GOES BACK INSIDE THE JUDGMENT HALL (18:33-38a)

A. Pilate calls Jesus in to question Him.

- 1) “Are you the King of the Jews?”
 - a) What is your answer to their accusation?
 - b) This was a question Jesus could not affirm or deny and give a right impression.
- 2) “Have you come to this conclusion yourself from study, observation, or evidence; or, did others tell it about me?”
- 3) “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and chief priests have delivered to me.”
 - a) I am not a believer in the Jewish religion or their hopes.
 - b) It is your people who are calling for your death.
 - c) I have no reason on my own to suspect you of political ambitions.
- 4) “What have you done that they want to have you put to death?”
 - a) Why are they rejecting you and wanting your death?
 - b) What have you done that is worthy of such?

B. Jesus’ answer:

- 1) “My Kingdom is not of this world”—not an earthly kingdom like Rome.
- 2) “If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.”
- 3) “They would not have permitted me to have been delivered unto the Jews.
- 4) “My kingdom is not from this earth”—it originates in the hearts of men.
- 5) His kingdom was not to be advanced by temporal powers.

C. Pilate:

- 1) “Are you saying that you are a king then?”
- 2) Jesus’ answer did admit to a spiritual kingdom.
- 3) But obviously, not an earthly one that challenged Rome’s authority.

D. Jesus’ answer:

- 1) “You have rightly said I am a king.”
- 2) “My coming into this world was for this purpose.
 - a) It was more than just a birth.
 - b) He came from above to bear witness to that which is truth.
 - c) Those who love and want truth will hear what I am teaching.

E. Pilate’s reaction:

- 1) “What is truth?”
- 2) Or, was he saying: “What has truth to do with kings and a kingdom?”
- 3) Force is all he understood that made a kingdom, not some teaching.
- 4) And at this, he cut off the conversation.

III. PILATE GOES BACK OUTSIDE TO THE JEWISH MOB (18:39b)

A. He gives his sentence about Jesus to the Jews!

- 1) “I find no fault in Him.”
- 2) I can find no justifiable reason for a death sentence:

- a) From what you have said;
- b) Nor, from my examination of the man.

B. The Jews are afraid Pilate will release Him, so, they are more fierce in their accusations (Lk. 23:5-7).

- 1) “He has stirred up the people with His teachings throughout all Jewry, beginning in Galilee.”
- 2) Jesus makes no efforts to refute their accusations (Matt. 27:12-14).
- 3) Pilate is amazed at Jesus and greatly marvels.

C. The Jews mentioned that Jesus began preaching in Galilee.

- 1) Pilate asked if He was a Galilean.
- 2) When he learned that Jesus was from Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod.

D. Jesus before Herod (Luke 23:6-12).

- 1) Pilate saw a way to evade his problem with Jesus and sends him to Herod.
- 2) And since Herod was in Jerusalem (as he was) for the Passover activities, it was easy to send Him to him.
- 3) Herod had long wanted to see Jesus.
 - a) He had heard many things about Him.
 - b) He had hoped to see a miracle done by Him.
- 4) Herod questions Jesus with many words.
- 5) Jesus answered nothing.
- 6) The chief priests and scribes vehemently accuse Jesus before Herod.
- 7) But Herod saw no reason for condemning Jesus:
 - a) He had Him sent back to Pilate in mockery.
 - b) Soldiers had put a gorgeous robe on Him and mocked Him.
- 8) Pilate and Herod became friends from then on.

E. Pilate’s statement to the Jewish people (Lk. 23:13-16).

- 1) Your accusations that He perverts the people I find no justification for.
- 2) Neither did Herod find in Him anything worthy of death.
- 3) “I will chastise Him and release Him.”

F. Pilate reminded them of his custom to release a prisoner of their choice at this time of year (John 18:39-40; Mark. 15:6-15; Luke 23:17-19; Matt. 27:15-26).

- 1) This might give an opportunity to deal with Jesus justly.
- 2) So Pilate gave them a choice between Barabbas or Jesus.
 - a) Barabbas:
 - Guilty of insurrection, sedition against the Romans.
 - He had committed murder in the process.
 - Evidently, he was well-known among the people.
 - b) Jesus:
 - The One who claims to be the Christ, the Son of God.
- 3) Pilate knew that for envy they had delivered Him up.
- 4) Pilate’s wife sent a message to him:
 - a) “Have nothing to do with this just man.”
 - b) “For I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him.”
- 5) Meanwhile the chief priests moved the people to cry out to release Barabbas.
 - a) Matthew’s account said that they persuaded them.

- 6) Pilate then asked: “What shall I do with Him who you call king of the Jews?”
- 7) The people cried: “Crucify Him.”
- 8) Pilate: “Why, what evil has He done?”
 - a) “I find no cause of putting Him to death.”
 - b) I will chastise Him and release Him.”
- 9) The people cried the more exceedingly—crucify Him.”
- 10) They were intent on a criminal’s death for Jesus.

G. When Pilate saw that he could not persuade them to change their minds:

- 1) He released Barabbas (Lk. 23:20-25).
- 2) Then, he took a wash basin and water to wash his hands before the crowd.
- 3) He cried out: “I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see you to it!”
- 4) And the multitude cried: “His blood be on us, and on our children.”

IV. PILATE GIVES JESUS TO THE SOLDIERS TO BE BEATEN (19:1-3)

A. Jesus’ scourging:

- 1) They flayed His back until it was raw and quivering flesh—bleeding.
- 2) Some strong men have died from such a beating.
- 3) Pilate felt that this might be sufficient to satisfy these blood-thirsty Jewish leaders.
- 4) But, he was wrong—he misread their fanaticism.

B. The soldiers of the Praetorian guard mistreated Jesus also.

- 1) They put a crown of thorns on His head.
- 2) They put a purple or scarlet robe on Him.
- 3) They put a reed or scepter in His hand.
- 4) They bowed the knee to Him, crying, “Hail, King of the Jews”—mocking Him.
- 5) They smote Him continually and spit on Him to show their low regard for Him.

V. PILATE BRINGS JESUS OUT BEFORE THE JEWS AGAIN (19:4-11)

A. Pilate tries to play on the mob’s sympathy towards Jesus (4-7):

- 1) They could see the crown of thorns and the bleeding.
- 2) He was robed as a king, but humiliated worse than a slave.
- 3) “Behold, the man”—hoping to appease the mob.
- 4) Then, pronounced Him innocent again.

B. But the people only cried out the more: “Crucify Him, Crucify Him.”

- 1) Everything Pilate did seem to backfire on him.
- 2) There was no easy way out for him from this dilemma.

C. Pilate, in angry sarcasm and an inferred threat stated:

- 1) You want Him dead—you take Him and do your own bloody deed!
- 2) I find no fault to put the man to death.

D. The Jews are getting desperate—needing something to shake Pilate up.

- 1) They used the real reason for wanting Jesus dead.
- 2) “Our Law states that He should be put to death because He claims to be the Son of God.”

E. This statement got Pilate’s attention (8-11).

- 1) He took Jesus back inside to question Him about the statement.
- 2) From where do you come?

- 3) Do you claim to be the Son of God?
- 4) Is God Your Father?
- 5) Jesus did not answer him—which in reality consented to the charge.
- 6) Pilate—frustrated—reminded Jesus that he had the power of life or death.
- 7) Jesus reminded Pilate:
 - a) Yes, you have power, but it comes from above.
 - b) You could have no power against me unless it was given to you from above.
 - c) And realize—that those who have delivered me to you has the greater sin.

VI. AGAIN, PILATE TRIES TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF JESUS (19:12-15)

A. We are not told what further efforts he makes at this time.

B. The Jews make a last ditch stand to get their way.

- 1) They have to compromise their whole belief system to do it, but they did it.
- 2) They threaten Pilate indirectly.
- 3) If you let this man go, you are not a friend of Caesar; because, He is speaking against Caesar, making Himself a king.
- 4) So, Pilate's fear of losing favor with Caesar was greater than his fear of Jesus.

C. Pilate's last efforts:

- 1) "Behold your king."
- 2) The Jews reply: "Away with Him, crucify Him."
- 3) Pilate: "Shall I crucify your king?"
- 4) Jews: "We have no king but Caesar!"
- 5) Even though Pilate lost the battle to release Jesus.....
- 6) He actually won the battle with the Jews.

D. Pilate delivers Jesus up to be crucified.

- 1) The soldiers took the purple robe off.
- 2) Put back on Jesus' clothes.
- 3) Led Him out to be crucified.

CONCLUSION

1. A weak character gives in to the pressures of the mob.
2. He wanted to keep favor with the Jews to keep his job.
3. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, but would not enforce what he knew was right.
4. But all of this played into the hands of God to fulfill His plan of redemption for mankind.

Lesson Nine

“The Death and Burial of Jesus”

(John 19:16-42)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Gospel of John seems to add things that the other three Gospels leave out.
 - a) God had a purpose in mind in having four separate accounts of the life of Jesus.
 - b) It takes all four Gospels to get the complete picture.
2. In this lesson:
 - a) We have woven the four accounts into one account.
 - b) There are some questions as to exact sequence, but it will not be that critical.

DISCUSSION**I. EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CRUCIFIXION (19:16-17)*****A. Roman Law required that Jesus bear His own cross.***

- 1) It was an additional humiliation before all the people.
- 2) He carried it until He had exhausted His human strength and fell under its weight.

B. For some reason, Simon of Cyrene was compelled to bear Jesus' cross the rest of the way.

- 1) He was the father of Alexander and Rufus.
- 2) A Rufus is mentioned in Romans 16:12 as a Christian???

C. As Jesus is led through the city streets:

- 1) A great company of people are following.
- 2) The women were bewailing and lamenting over Jesus.
- 3) And Jesus turned to them and said: (Luke 23:28-31).

D. Two other malefactors (criminals) were also led out to be crucified with Jesus.***E. They all come to Calvary.***

- 1) It is also called Golgotha—the place of the skull.
- 2) Calvary is the Latin for “place of the skull.”
- 3) It was outside the city wall (Heb. 13:12-13).
- 4) Capital punishment was forbidden by Law within the city walls.
- 5) The Romans like to crucify their victims in a place easily seen and by a well-traveled road into and out of the city.
- 6) It served as a lesson to all would-be violators.

F. They offered Jesus wine (vinegar) mixed with Myrrh (a narcotic).

- 1) It was to stupefy Him in order to deal with all the pain ahead.
- 2) When they put it to His lips:
 - a) Jesus realized what it was....
 - b) He would not drink it desiring to suffer the fullness of this death.

II. EVENTS DURING THE FIRST THREE HOURS OF CRUCIFIXION (19:18-27)***A. Jesus was crucified at 9:00 AM.***

- 1) His arms were tied to the cross member.
- 2) His hands and feet were nailed to the cross piece and upright piece.

- 3) A seat rest on the upright piece was to help take away some of the weight of His body on the hands and feet.
- 4) The cross was raised upright into a hole in the ground to hold it in tack until death occurred and the body removed.
 - a) Persons would die usually within 12 hours.
 - b) But some have lasted for up to three days.
 - c) Usually, after death, the body is left on a cross for birds of prey and wild animals to eat.
- 5) There, they crucified Him:
 - a) **The Lamb of God!**
 - b) Offered as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

B. The two malefactors were crucified on either side.

- 1) They were robbers.
- 2) They were suffering what was due them for their deeds.
- 3) Prophecy was fulfilled: ***“And He was numbered among the transgressors.”*** (Isaiah 53:12).

C. The first saying of Jesus on the cross.

- 1) Looking upon those that were crucifying Him, He said: ***“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”*** (Lk. 23:34).
- 2) In spite of His great agony and shame, He showed great compassion upon His murderers.
- 3) He showed great composure and tranquility.

D. A sign was erected over Jesus’ head.

- 1) THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- 2) Pilate had it prepared in three languages: Hebrew, Roman (Latin), and Greek.
- 3) The chief priests objected to this title.
- 4) They insisted that Pilate write: “He said He was King of the Jews.”
- 5) Pilate’s answer: “What I have written, I have written.”
 - a) What I have written is what I meant to write.
 - b) I am crucifying your king.

E. The soldiers cast lots for Jesus’ garments.

- 1) Prophecy was fulfilled: “They parted my garments among them, and upon My vesture did they cast lots.” (Ps. 22:18).
- 2) His coat was seamless—they cast lots to see who would get it.

F. The mockery of the mob set in.

- 1) They railed on Him—wagging their heads (Matt. 27:39-44).
- 2) Both malefactors railed on Jesus at first, along with the mob.
- 3) Jesus was silent all this time—“Opened not His mouth against His accusers.”

G. One of the malefactors repented.

- 1) After observing and thinking about Jesus, he changed his mind.
- 2) He rebuked the other malefactor stating: “Don’t you fear God, since you are in the same condemnation.”
- 3) We are receiving the due reward of our deeds, but not this man—He has done nothing to suffer like this.
- 4) He then makes his request to Jesus: “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

5) His 2nd saying: ***“Verily I say unto you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”***

- a) He had pled for mercy and received it.
- b) An erring child of Israel, penitent, wanting to believe, received mercy.
- c) He was under the Old Covenant arrangement—not the New!
- d) The New did not go into force until after the death of Christ.

H. Some women were viewing these things at a distance.

- 1) But for some reason had moved closer to the cross.
- 2) They had ministered to Jesus’ needs in His public ministry.
- 3) They were:
 - a) His mother, Mary.
 - b) Mary, the wife of Cleopas—mother of James the Less & Joses.
 - c) Mary Magdalene.
 - d) Salome, the sister of the Mother of Jesus—the mother of James & John
(They were first cousins to Jesus).
- 4) John was also there as well with the women.
- 5) Jesus, seeing His mother and John said to them: (3rd saying): ***“Woman, behold your son; behold your mother.”***
 - a) Even though in great pain and agony, He was concerned for His widowed mother.
 - b) John was the logical one to care for her in His house (Her sister’s house).
 - c) Jesus gave a dear mother to a beloved friend.

III. DARKNESS COVERS THE LAND FOR THREE HOURS

A. From 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM.

B. Nothing given during this time that we know of.

- 1) Jesus continued to suffer.
- 2) At the end of which, His final sayings are recorded.

IV. EVENTS LEADING UP TO HIS DEATH (19:28-30)

A. At the end of the 3 hours of darkness, His 4th saying: “May God, My God, why have You forsaken me?”

- 1) He was quoting Ps. 22:1.
- 2) Jesus’ agony was more than that of His body pains.
- 3) There was anguish of His soul.
 - a) Isa. 53:11—***“When You shall make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.”***
 - b) He alone would bear the guilt of man’s sins.
 - c) God laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
 - d) He experienced the loss of the presence of God for that period of time.

B. The crowd around the cross reacts to these words.

- 1) They cried: “This man is calling for Elias (Elijah).”
- 2) His 4th saying: ***“I thirst.”***
- 3) Prophecy fulfilled: (Ps. 64:21).

4) One in the crowd ran, took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put on a reed, and gave it to Jesus.

5) They said: "Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

C. 6th saying: "It is finished!"

1) Everything had been accomplished that He was sent to do to redeem mankind.

2) The great victory had been won.

3) He received the vinegar and bowed His head and gave up his spirit, saying:
"Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit." (7th saying).

4) The world's debt for sin has been paid.

5) The righteous judgment of God against sin has been upheld in the death of His Son.

6) And the sin of humanity has been forever branded with an eternal curse that required such a death.

7) But by this death the world could be set free—reconciled back to God!

V. EVENTS AFTER THE DEATH OF JESUS (19:31-42)

A. *Sometime during the previous events or at the time of His death:*

1) The Veil of the Temple was rent asunder...Signifying man's access into heaven has been made possible.

2) An earthquake occurred—rocks were rent asunder.

3) Graves were opened in that area—stones rolled away from entrances.

4) Some of the bodies of the saints arose (after the resurrection of Jesus) and went into the Holy City and appeared to many (possibly to those that would know them).

B. *Sundown was soon to come.*

1) The leaders were concerned:

a) The Day of Preparation was soon to begin (also a Sabbath).

b) The Jews did not want bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath.

c) They asked Pilate to have their legs broken to hasten their death.

2) The command was given.

a) The two malefactors' legs were broken to hasten their death.

b) But Jesus was already dead.

c) A soldier speared Jesus in the side to make sure.

d) Blood and water flowed forth.

3) Thus fulfilling the prophecy:

a) A bone would not be broken.

b) They looked on Him who they pierced.

C. *Reactions recorded:*

1) The Centurion in charge of the soldiers:

a) Seeing the 3 hours of darkness, earthquake, rending of the rocks....

b) Seeing Jesus and His handling of all of this....

c) Caused awe and fear and a statement: "Surely this man was the Son of God."

d) Luke's account states: "A righteous man."

2) The people who witnessed all of these things:

a) They smote their breasts (showing fear and awe in what had happened).

b) And returned to their homes.

D. The burial of Jesus.

- 1) It was accomplished by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (both rulers among the Jews.
- 2) Joseph boldly went in and asked for the body of Jesus.
- 3) Before he had only been a secret follower of Jesus.
- 4) To his credit, he did not agree with the council's decision.
- 5) It was said of him:
 - a) He was a good and just man.
 - b) He was waiting for the kingdom of God to come.
- 6) But for fear of the Jews, he was not an open disciple.
- 7) Pilate granted the petition.
- 8) Nicodemus helped Joseph—also brought 100 pounds of spices for burial.
- 9) They laid Him in the new tomb of Joseph's in a garden close by.
- 10) They did it hurriedly—not done as it should have.
- 11) The women (Mary Magdalene and Mary, wife of Cleopas) watched where He was laid.

E. The leaders had remembered that Jesus promised to rise the third day—so:

- 1) They went to Pilate asking for the tomb to be sealed and guards placed around it for at least 3 days.
- 2) They said: "This would make Jesus a liar that all could see."
- 3) This would also prevent His apostles from taking His body at night and claiming that He had been raised from the dead.
- 4) Pilate said: "Make it as sure as you can."

CONCLUSION

1. Isa. 53:4-12
2. Thus, God's great plan of redemption has been accomplished.
3. Man can now be fully set free from the penalty of His sin.
4. He died willingly that we might be set free.
5. Have you come to Jesus for the cleansing of your soul?

Lesson Ten

“The Challenge of the Empty Tomb”

(John 20:1-10)

INTRODUCTION

1. The awful day of Jesus’ cruel death had ended with his burial.
 - a) He was laid in the new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.
 - b) A huge stone was rolled over the mouth of the tomb.
 - c) A guard of soldiers was placed at the tomb to be sure no mischief was done.
2. The Sabbath day had begun and all retired to their places.
3. Early on the first day of the week:
 - a) Some women went to the tomb with spices to finish the burial.
 - b) The guards could help to open up the tomb for them to do so.
 - c) But when they arrived:
 - The tomb was empty;
 - The guards were gone;
 - The stone had been rolled away.
 - An earthquake had occurred.
 - An angel had come down and moved the stone from its place.
 - He sat upon the stone.
 - His countenance was like lightning—his raiment as white as snow.
4. The effect on the guards!
 - a) Out of great fear, they shook and became as dead men.
 - b) When they were able to get their wits together—they went and told the chief priest what had happened.
 - c) The chief priests & elders agreed to bribe the soldiers into lying—paying them sufficient money to do so.
 - d) The lie—*“The disciples had stolen the body while they slept.”*
 - e) The leaders realized what a bad position the soldiers would be in if Pilate found out they were sleeping.
 - They persuaded the soldiers that they would speak to Pilate if he learned of what they had said.
 - So, Money bribed them to lie about the body of Jesus.
5. The effect on the women!
 - a) Mary Magdalene (and the other women) went into the empty tomb.
 - b) The other women were: Mary (wife of Cleopas), Salome, Joanna, & Others.
 - c) They saw two men in shining garments inside the tomb.
 - d) They bowed down before them to the ground, being afraid.
 - e) The angels spoke:
 - ***“Fear not, you seek Jesus, which was crucified.”***
 - ***“Why do you seek the living among the dead?”***
 - ***“He is not here, but is risen.”***
 - Don’t you remember how He foretold of his death and His resurrection on the 3rd day?

- And they remembered!
 - ***“Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”***
- f) The women went with fear and great joy to tell the disciples—Peter & John in particular.
 - g) At first, they were reluctant to believe the women.
6. But then decided to go to the tomb to see for themselves.
 - a) They saw that the tomb was empty.
 - b) They saw the burial clothes and the handkerchief that had been placed over Jesus’ head.
 - c) John said that he believed Jesus had been raised!
 7. Thus, begins the story of the most marvellous event in human history—The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
 8. The empty tomb:
 - a) Was certainly a challenge to these first disciples.
 - b) But, it also stands as an eternal challenge for all men to deal with it.
 - c) To those who believe—it opens the door of hope of eternal life with God.
 - d) To those who do not—they have no hope—except in this world!
 9. The empty tomb of Jesus becomes a vital form of evidence to believe in the Resurrection from the dead!

DISCUSSION

I. THE WITNESS OF THE EMPTY TOMB:

A. Foretelling of the empty tomb of Jesus by David in the O.T.!

- 1) Ps. 16:8-10
 - a) At first, it seems that David is talking about himself.
 - b) But the last phrase gets your attention: ***“Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see(undergo) corruption.”***
 - c) Whoever the Psalmists had reference to:
 - His soul would not be left in Sheol or Hades (place of departed spirits after death).
 - His flesh would not see (undergo) corruption.
 - His body would be raised up to life again.
 - His tomb would become empty!
- 2) The apostle Peter quotes this passage & makes application in Acts 2:29-31.
 - a) He points out that David was buried—His tomb is still there!
 - b) David could not have been talking about himself.
 - c) So, as a prophet, he was foretelling of the resurrection of the Christ.

B. Foretelling of the empty tomb by Christ Himself!

- 1) John 2:19-22
- 2) Luke 9:22—***“The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”***
- 3) Matt. 20:18-20
- 4) Christ is clearly saying—my tomb will be empty the 3rd day!
- 5) And it was—just like He had said!

II. IF JESUS WAS NOT RAISED, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODY?

A. Did the Gardener remove it?

- 1) Jn. 20:15—“*Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, ‘Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’*”
- 2) In reality, there was no gardener—This was Jesus!
- 3) One man could not have removed the stone anyway—especially with the guards there also.

B. *Did the disciples come and steal Jesus’ dead body?*

- 1) This was what the soldiers were bribed to say. (Matt. 28:11-15)
- 2) But this idea has many problems:
 - a) How could they know the disciples stole the body, if they were asleep?
 - b) If they did steal Jesus’ body, and lied about it—what was their purpose for doing so?
 - c) If they fled at His arrest for fear, where did they get the courage to steal His body under the guard of the Romans?

C. *Did the enemies of Jesus steal his dead body?*

- 1) They wanted it to remain in the tomb to prove Jesus was a liar!
- 2) If they had taken the body—why didn’t they produce it later to show that Jesus really was not raised up?

D. *We believe the tomb was empty:*

- 1) Because Jesus was raised—just like He said He would be.
- 2) Just like David, as a prophet, foretold a 1000 years earlier.

III. WHAT DOES JESUS’ RESURRECTION MEAN TO US?

A. *It is the ultimate proof of the Deity of Jesus!*

- 1) Rom. 1:4—“*And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*”

B. *It is the basis of our own hope of a resurrection.*

- 1) 1 Pet. 1:3-4

C. *Its the reason for our observing the 1st day of the week as a special time of worship.*

- 1) Jesus arose early on the 1st day of the week. (Mk. 16:9)
- 2) Our special worship—Lord’s Supper, Giving—on 1st day of week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- 3) The Lord has not commanded us to remember it once a year, but every week!

D. *And, it is man’s assurance that there will be a judgment day.*

- 1) Acts 17:30-31

CONCLUSION

1. To the honest inquirer—the empty tomb must be dealt with!
2. Good friend, what about you—have you dealt with it?
3. If Jesus is the risen Son of God—What should be our reaction to this fact?

Lesson Eleven

“By Many Infallible Proofs”

(John 20:19-21:14)

INTRODUCTION

1. Acts 1:1-3
 - a) Jesus showed Himself to be alive (raised from the dead).
 - b) To His chosen Apostles (and others).
 - c) During a period of some 40 days—by many infallible proofs!
2. Convincing the Apostles seemed to have been no easy task.
 - a) When the women brought the news that the tomb was empty—the Apostles did not believe them.
 - b) Even when Peter and John went to check and saw for themselves, they still did not understand that Jesus was raised.
 - c) When the Lord appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women and they reported it to the Apostles, they still didn’t believe.
3. The appearances that we will be looking at now are mostly to the Apostles:
 - a) To thoroughly convince them of His resurrection;
 - b) And to prepare them for the great work of proclaiming His Gospel to the whole world.

DISCUSSIONI. PRELIMINARY APPEARANCES (20:11-18)**A. Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene (20:11-18)**

- 1) She went and told the disciples that Jesus was raised.
- 2) Mark 16:11—“*And they, when they had heard that He was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.*”

B. Jesus next appearance was to the women (Matt. 28:9-10).

- 1) When they saw Him they fell at His feet and worshipped.
- 2) Jesus told them: “*Be not afraid: go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.*”

C. His third appearance was to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13-35).

- 1) Who were they?
 - a) One was Cleopas (Lk. 24:18)
 - b) The other is not specifically named, but possibly inferred:
 - 1 Cor. 15:5—“*Seen of Cephas*”
 - Lk. 24:34—“*The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon.*”
- 2) These two men were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus (6 miles).
- 3) They were talking about the events that had occurred:
 - a) The events in connection with the empty tomb.
 - b) What the women had said about the empty tomb.
 - c) What the Angel had told them about Jesus being raised.
 - d) That Peter and John had gone to check on the stories of the women.
 - e) But they did not see the risen Christ that the women told about.

- 4) Jesus joins them as they walked, but they were not allowed to recognize Him at first.
 - a) Cleopas tells Jesus of these happenings (Lk. 24:18-19).
 - b) Jesus rebukes them (Lk. 24:25-27)
- 5) When they arrive at the village, they constrained Jesus to tarry with them.
- 6) They sat down to eat:
 - a) Jesus blessed the bread as He had done before.
 - b) And their eyes were opened—they realized it was Jesus.
 - c) He vanished.
- 7) The two men returned immediately to Jerusalem to find the disciples.
 - a) The Apostles were together with others.
 - b) The two men told them that the Lord indeed is risen.
 - c) ***“He has appeared to Simon.”***
 - d) They rehearsed the events (Mk. 16:12-13).

II. RECORDED APPEARANCES TO CONVINCING THE APOSTLES

A. The First appearance (20:18-20, 24; Lk. 24:33, 36-43; Mk. 16:9-11; Matt. 28:9-10;).

- 1) Those present: Cleopas, Simon, the other Apostles (except Thomas), and Mary Magdalene and the other women possibly.
- 2) Time: Evening, but still called 1st day of week (Roman time).
- 3) While they were rehearsing these things, Jesus suddenly appeared in their midst.
 - a) ***“Peace be unto you.”***
 - Be calm—don’t be fearful.
 - Reason—they were terrified and afraid supposing it to be a spirit.
 - b) Jesus showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs!
 - c) It was the same body with scars.
 - d) He was visible to the eyes and solid to the touch.
 - e) He even ate food with them—broiled fish & honey (Lk. 24:41-43).
 - f) But it was a different body also:
 - He had the ability to appear suddenly.
 - Jesus was opening up to them a new world that before had been veiled.

B. The second Appearance to the Apostles (John 20:24-31).

- 1) Those present: The eleven Apostles—no mention of others.
- 2) Time: A week later—first day of week.
- 3) Since Thomas had not been present at the first appearance, the other Apostles let him know what had had missed out on.
 - a) The fellowship of the group.
 - b) The encouragement from one another.
 - c) Most of all—having an opportunity to see the risen Lord.
 - d) His reply to them:
 - I will not believe it until I see His wounded body with my own eyes.
 - And touch my hand in those wounds.
- 4) While they were gathered together:

- a) The Lord suddenly appeared in the midst of them again—as at first.
- b) **“Peace be unto you.”**
- c) He turned to Thomas and said: **“Reach hither your finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither your hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.”**
- 5) Thomas’ reaction: **“My Lord and my God!”**
 - a) It was spontaneous and with deep conviction.
 - b) He called Jesus Deity and did not reject His worship.
- 6) Jesus’ statement to Thomas:
 - a) You are convinced because you see proof (would not accept others’ words of testimony).
 - b) But blessed are those who believe based on the testimony of others.
 - c) 1 Pet. 1:8—**“Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see Him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”**
 - d) The greater blessedness is ours.
- 7) Thomas’ desire for an eye-witness seeing of Jesus is for our benefit!
- 8) And, the cruel wounds in his hands, feet and side became a means of evidence for His resurrection.
- 9) Many infallible proofs! (Jn. 20:30-31).

C. The third Appearance to the Apostles (Jn. 21:1-14).

- 1) Present: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John (sons of Zebedee), and two others (unnamed).
- 2) Time: Not sure—it was during the remaining 32 days.
- 3) Place: By the sea of Galilee (also called the Sea of Tiberias).
- 4) The disciples had been told to go back to Galilee and Jesus would appear to them.
- 5) They had gone back and were waiting.
- 6) While waiting:
 - a) Peter suggested that they go fishing.
 - b) They had fished all night and caught nothing.
 - c) In the early morning, Jesus was seen on the shore as they were coming in.
- 7) They did not recognize Jesus at first.
 - a) He called out to them: **“Children, have you any food to eat?”**
 - b) “No,” they had caught nothing.
 - c) Jesus told them to cast their net to the other side, which they did.
 - d) They caught 153 fish in their net—a huge catch.
- 8) John then recognized that the man on shore was Jesus.
 - a) The boat was about 1200 yards from shore.
 - b) John told Peter that it was Jesus.
- 9) Peter immediately put his outer garment on and swam to shore.
- 10) The others came on by boat.
- 11) When they arrived, they saw a fire and fish being cooked.
- 12) Jesus encouraged them to pull the fish on in and invited them to eat.

III. ADDITIONAL APPEARANCES

A. To the eleven disciples (Matt. 28:16-17)

- 1) They had gone back into Galilee as indicated by the last appearance above.
- 2) They were on a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.
- 3) It happened sometime during the latter part of the 40 days.

B. Over 500 brethren at one time (1 Cor. 15:6).

- 1) Possibly also in Galilee, but not positive.
- 2) Paul wrote this letter about 56 AD.
- 3) He stated that a greater part of the 500 were still alive at that time.

C. James, the Lord's brother (1 Cor. 15:7).

- 1) We have no idea where or when this occurred (possibly Galilee).
- 2) Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him up until His death.
- 3) Jesus committed His mother to John's care, not His brothers.
- 4) But Jesus appeared to a James as separate from the Apostles.
- 5) Jesus' brothers were with the Apostles in the upper room waiting in the city of Jerusalem (Acts 1:14).

D. Saul of Tarsus (1 Cor. 15:8; Acts 9:1-12; 22:6-16; 26:12-18).

- 1) On the road to Damascus.
- 2) "***Last of all***" Paul said that Jesus appeared to him.
- 3) Reason—to make him an Apostle—an eye-witness to the resurrection of Jesus.

CONCLUSION

1. We do not know if Jesus appeared to any others or even to the Apostles more.
2. We only know what is recorded by them.
3. John said that these things were recorded to furnish evidence for us to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
4. To believe—in order to have life through His Name.
5. Do you have this life in Christ?

Lesson Twelve

“Final Preparations for the Apostles” (John 21:15-25)

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus foretold of His death, burial, and resurrection to His disciples on the night of His betrayal (Matt. 26:31-32).
2. He also emphasized that after His resurrection he would meet them in Galilee.
 - a) The Angels reminded them of this (Matt. 28:5-7).
 - b) Jesus appeared to the women and told them to remind the disciples of this (Matt. 28:9-10).
3. We are not told why.
 - a) But Jesus did appear to the disciples in Galilee.
 - b) He may have appeared to above 500 disciples at one time in Galilee.
 - c) Whatever the reason was, it was evidently accomplished.
4. John did record something special about on of Jesus’ appearances.
 - a) It was the special help and encouragement that He gave to Peter.
 - b) This seems to have been a part of the final preparations before Jesus’ ascension back to the Father.

DISCUSSION**I. JESUS’ ENCOURAGEMENT TO PETER (21:15-19)*****A. This event occurred after the meal by the Sea of Galilee.***

- 1) Jesus had appeared to 7 disciples and ate with them.
- 2) Peter is singled out from among the other six by the Lord.
- 3) Peter had forcefully proclaimed that he would never deny the Lord!
 - a) Yet, when the testing time came, he weakened.
 - b) He denied the Lord three times and with an oath.
- 4) The Lord’s way of helping him deal with that was to ask him three questions.

B. The Questions:

- 1) ***“Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?”***
 - a) He had bragged before the others—now he was humbled (facing his failure).
 - b) Once humbled, he can be re-instated to a place of leadership properly.
 - c) Jesus used the Greek word for love, Agape.
 - Love varies in its quality and is determined by different words.
 - It goes from a common love of mankind to each other....
 - To a special love that God demonstrated to man.
 - d) “Agape” is considered the highest form of love for another.
 - e) Peter’s answer: ***“Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love Thee.”***
 - He humbly acknowledges that he has an affection for the Lord (Phileo).
 - And recognizes that Jesus knows this without being told by Peter.
- 2) ***“Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?”***
 - a) The question is repeated with the exception of “more than these?”

- b) Jesus again uses the Greek word “agape.”
 - c) Peter’s answer: **“Yea, Lord; thou knowest tat I love thee.”** (Phileo)
 - d) And again reminds the Lord that He knows this.
- 3) **“Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?”**
- a) This time, the Lord switches to the Greek word “Phileo.” (Affection).
 - b) Peter was grieved (hurt) that Jesus asked a third time—as though doubting him.
 - c) Peter’s answer: **“Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.”**
 - You know everything—you do not need anyone to tell you anything.
 - Peter finally was getting the message.
 - Jesus had foretold his denial, but Peter would not believe it.
 - Now, he is convinced Jesus knows all things, even the future.
 - You know, I am your friend and have affection for you.
 - But—no boasting this time!

C. Jesus’ charge to Peter: “Feed My Lambs (sheep)!”

- 1) This too is repeated three times, but with variation of words.
- 2) “Feed my Lambs” (Bosko)—to spiritually feed people the Word of God.
- 3) “Feed my sheep” (Poimane)—To shepherd—oversee—be concerned about them.
- 4) “Feed my sheep” (Bosko)—to feed.

D. Jesus foretells Peter’s death.

- 1) When you were young, you could dress yourself and go wherever you desired.
- 2) But when you are old, another will determine where you will go.
- 3) He was indicating the kind of death Peter would endure to glorify God.
- 4) 2 Pet. 1:14—**“Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has showed me.”**
- 5) It is believed that Peter had already been put to death before John wrote his Gospel.

E. Peter’s full restoration.

- 1) Jesus ended his admonition to Peter with: **“Follow me!”**
- 2) Peter had denied Jesus, but had prostrated himself with grief over such.
- 3) The Lord reassures him.

II. JOHN CORRECTS A FALSE RUMOR (21:20-25)

A. As they began to walk away:

- 1) Peter asked Jesus: “What about John? What will happen to him?”
 - a) Peter needs help again.
 - b) He has lost sight of what he ought to be doing.
- 2) Jesus said: “If I decide to allow him to live until I return, what concern is that of yours?”
 - a) “Your job is to follow me.”
 - b) Follow Jesus—leave the future in His hands!

B. A false rumor started that John would not die.

- 1) So, John points out that Jesus did not say that.

C. It was this John that wrote this Gospel.

- 1) His testimony is trustworthy.
- 2) Many other things could have been written.
- 3) But these are sufficient to bring about belief.

III. THE MARCHING ORDERS (GREAT COMMISSION) TO HIS DISCIPLES

A. Five Accounts are given:

1) Matt. 28:18-20

- a) Jesus was given all power in heaven and earth.
- b) Told apostles to go teach or make disciples of all nations of people.
- c) Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- d) Then, continuing to teach them to observe all that I have commanded.
- e) I will be with you always.

2) Mark 16:15-18

- a) Go into all the world.
- b) Preach the Gospel to every creature.
- c) He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.
- d) He that believes not shall be condemned.
- e) Signs would follow them that believe.

3) Luke 24:46-49

- a) Repentance and remission of sins to be preached in His Name among all nations.
- b) They were to begin in Jerusalem.
- c) Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to endue them with power.
- d) Wait for His coming in Jerusalem.

4) Acts 1:4-8

- a) Do not depart from Jerusalem.
- b) Wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit (Be baptized with Him in a few days).
- c) You will receive power when He comes.
- d) You will be witnesses of Me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the whole world.

B. Jesus' ascension to the Father (Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11).

C. The results briefly stated (Mk. 16:20; Lk. 24:52-53; Acts 1:12-14).

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus' work was done on earth and the Apostles prepared properly.
2. Upon the coming of the Holy Spirit, they would have the help needed to preach to all nations.
3. The world has not been the same since then!

