

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

*What does it Mean  
to be  
Lost or Saved?*

- 1 -- Reasons Why People are Lost.
- 2 -- What it Means to be Lost.
- 3 -- Who Cares if I am Lost?
- 4 -- Why Become a Christian?
- 5 -- God's Delight in Saving the Lost.
- 6 -- What Must I do to be Saved?

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Lesson One

## **"What It Means To Be Lost?"**

(Matt. 25:24-30)

A preacher was called to the bedside of a dying friend. The man made this request:

*"I want you to preach my funeral; and, I want you to tell those who are there that I am lost and in torment. Tell them that I knew the truth of what I had to do for 25 years and would not obey God; and that I still would not, even when I knew that I was dying. Tell them how I allowed my heart to become so hardened that I would not repent and obey God. And finally, warn those who are there of the grave danger of putting off obedience until it is too late, and their hearts become too hardened."*

Jesus told of a man in a similar situation to this in Luke 16:19-31. He was a rich man (no name given). He, too, did not take the time to seriously consider what he should do to be right with God. When he died, Jesus said that he was in "Hades," being in torment and pleading for mercy for himself. But it was too late for him. Then, he requested that someone be sent back to earth to warn his brothers not to come to this place of torment.

Jesus said that He came **"to save that which was lost!"** (Matt. 18:11). It is obvious that to be lost is the opposite of that which is saved. From the story above, it would seem to indicate that a "lost person" is one who is not "obedient" to God or one that is not right with God. If he dies in this condition, he will be punished for such. Look at the following passages and see if you get this idea:

**Luke 13:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 10:28** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 9:43-44** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rev. 20:15** \_\_\_\_\_

These and many other passages are trying to convince people that they are in a "lost" condition and need to be "saved!" Why? So they will not go to the place of punishment after death. Those who are saved and remain in a saved condition until they die will not go to a place of punishment.

**TO BE LOST MEANS:**

**"I have a good reason to be Fearful!"**

**Read Matt. 25:24-25**

- 1) He was "afraid."
- 2) Fear is a legitimate emotion that warns us of dangers ahead and urges us to avoid them. It encourages us to be cautious, sober-minded, and serious about important things.
- 3) Why was he fearful? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Did he excuse himself of his responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Matt. 5:1-12**

- 1) Does Jesus indicate that the "fearful" are blessed? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The blessed are those who have the right attitude and actions before God!
- 3) What does Jesus tell those who are persecuted to do? \_\_\_\_\_

"Fear" is often an indication of guilt! Those who would be free of fear and guilt need to be faithfully serving God. Calm assurance comes from being right with God—living up to His expectations!

**TO BE LOST MEANS:**

**"I Have Failed in My Purpose for Being Here!"**

**Read Matt. 25:26-27**

- 1) What was the job given to the "one talent" man? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Did he fail or succeed in his job or purpose? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Did he know what was expected of him? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What did Jesus call him? \_\_\_\_\_

What about our purpose for being here? Such is no accident of Chance! Man was created and designed by God and placed on earth for a purpose. What does God say that purpose is?

**Eccl. 12:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 10:31** \_\_\_\_\_

Does this mean that we are to serve, obey, and glorified God as He has directed us? \_\_\_\_\_

Are we concerned? \_\_\_\_\_

If we are not fulfilling our purpose, what could God rightfully call us? \_\_\_\_\_

Do the following statements apply to us?

- \_\_\_ I am busy getting what I want.
- \_\_\_ I am busy with things that do not really count for eternity.
- \_\_\_ I am trading my soul for a "mess of pottage" like Esau.
- \_\_\_ I will lose the most valuable possession I have—my soul.

**TO BE LOST MEANS:**

**"I will disappoint the God Who Created Me"**

**Read Matt. 25:28-29**

- 1) The master of these servants trusted them and entrusted them with his possessions.
- 2) He only expected what was just and right.
- 3) Did the master rejoice over the "one talent" man's disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_

How has God shown His love and trust in us? (Jn. 3:16) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What has God entrusted to our hands? \_\_\_\_\_

How have we treated God's trust in us? \_\_\_\_\_

Have we brought Joy or Rejoicing.....or disappointment? \_\_\_\_\_

What about our family, loved ones, friends and neighbors, have we disappointed them? \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE LOST MEANS:**

**"I will be punished for all eternity"**

**Read Matt. 25:30**

- 1) Is this punishment a place of tormenting or annihilation? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Does this apply to us, as well? \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Thess. 1:7-9** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rev. 20:15** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

Just like the "one talent" man, we face a choice in this life. We can decide to remain in a lost condition or do something about it. God ***"is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*** (2 Pet. 3:9).

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- \_\_\_ 1. The rich man was sent to "Hades" because he was not rich towards God.
- \_\_\_ 2. A lost person is not necessarily a disobedient person.
- \_\_\_ 3. To Perish is the same thing as being punished.
- \_\_\_ 4. A Lake of Fire is referred to as the "second" death.
- \_\_\_ 5. If a person is lost, that means that he needs to be saved.
- \_\_\_ 6. God has shown His trust in us by entrusting into our care money and possessions.
- \_\_\_ 7. We can disappoint one another, as well as God, when we do not do what is rightfully expected of us.
- \_\_\_ 8. One possible reason for being afraid is knowing that we deserve to be punished.
- \_\_\_ 9. God has not directly told us what our purpose is for being on this earth.
- \_\_\_ 10. The one-talent man was "lost" because he was lazy and unprofitable.

**Lesson Two**

**"Reasons Why People are Lost"**

(Matt. 25:41-46)

The above verses state that the devil and his angels are going to be punished with everlasting punishment....but also disobedient people will be punished as well. Who would want to go to such a place??? And yet, Jesus is clearly saying that people will go there! This is sad enough! But there is something sadder! He states in Matthew 7:13-14 that many will go there, but only few will be saved and go to Heaven!

Do you believe what Jesus said? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you believe in Everlasting Punishment? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you believe that only few will be saved? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why is it that so many will be lost forever? \_\_\_\_\_

I read about a survey made up from 76 corporations. The questionnaire was interested in knowing why people lost their jobs? There were 16 basic reasons that were pinpointed in the survey. The sad thing about the results of the survey was....90% of the people lost their job—not because of inability—but, because of something they could have done something about! In this study, I would like for us to look briefly at 5 of these reasons and compare them to Scripture teaching.

**CARLESSNESS**

These workers were indifferent and negligence of doing their job correctly. They really didn't care about their company or employer. They wanted the money, but were not willing to do "an honest day's work for an honest day's pay!" Look at the two passages below and see the comparison spiritually!

**Matt. 25:41-43** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Matt. 25:24-30** \_\_\_\_\_

Were they attentive to God's instructions? \_\_\_\_\_  
Were they negligent of duties & responsibilities? \_\_\_\_\_  
Were they insensible to people's needs? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was the condemnation of the Laodicean Church (Rev. 3:15) \_\_\_\_\_  
What should be our actions in God's service? (2 Pet. 1:10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NON-COOPERATION**

When people are of one mind and one heart and have a common purpose, there is no end to what they can do. God gave recognition to this fact when He spoke about the people who wanted to build a tower that reached unto the heavens (Gen. 11:1-9).

Is it wrong for people to be of one mind and heart? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was wrong with these people that caused God to take action to stop their efforts? \_\_\_\_\_

Non-cooperation is indicated when people do not pull together or do not cooperate with one another or with management. An employee that will not work with others can create "havoc" in a job situation. No wonder he would be fired!

Spiritually, the same problem can be seen in congregations of God's people. They either work together or they are pulled apart. You have people who are determined to go their own way and not with the group. You have people who are constantly cross-ways with the leadership of the church. They do not share in the "family" concept of the church; nor do they accept the "one" body with many members working together to accomplish God's purposes. They are not concerned about adding their part to the unity, harmony, and togetherness of the church.

What have such people forgotten? (1 Cor. 3:9) \_\_\_\_\_

What command are they ignoring? (Phil. 1:27) \_\_\_\_\_

**LAZINESS**

Such a person cannot be depended upon to do his job. He likes to loaf, talk too much, and does like to work. He is an indolent person, procrastinator, and lethargic.

What did Jesus call the "one-talent" man? (Matt. 25:26, 30) \_\_\_\_\_

What admonition did the Apostle give? (1 Thess. 5:6) \_\_\_\_\_

The indolent or lazy "Christian" will never make it to Heaven!

**ABSENT WITHOUT AN ACCEPTABLE CAUSE**

This person has no real feelings of responsibility to his job or employer. As a result, he will be absent as much as he can get by with. By doing so, he puts additional stress and strain on management, but on other employees as well—to take us the slack. To have very many of such people, the company would find it hard to stay in business.

Spiritually, you have an even worse condition that exist—with people who are constantly absent at the times of assemblies, but not doing the work expected of them.

How does the Hebrew writer show this problem? (10:24-25)\_\_\_\_\_

Such people show no real concern for the church and its mission, and they cannot be counted on when needed.

Who will make it to Heaven?

**Rev. 2:10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Heb. 3:14** \_\_\_\_\_

**DISHONESTY**

Dishonest people will lie to their boss, to others, and even to themselves to get what they want. They will steal from their company, misrepresent and suppress the truth about their actions, and become the kind of people you cannot trust.

Spiritually, we can lie to fellow-Christians about why we are not more involved in the Lord's work as we should be; or, we can lie to God about our giving, the use of our time, and the use of our abilities.

What is the Christian commanded to do? (Col. 3:8)\_\_\_\_\_

What will happen to liars? (Rev. 21:8)\_\_\_\_\_

What is able to make us free? (John 8:32)\_\_\_\_\_

What must we recognize about the Word of God? (Jn. 17:17)\_\_\_\_\_

Why is honesty and truthfulness so important in the life of a Christian?

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

If we can lose our jobs because of such things as carelessness, non-cooperativeness, laziness, unfaithfulness, dishonesty, etc.; then, why can't we see that spiritually we can lose even something greater? Not only can we lose our soul (Matt. 16:26), but we may be an influence upon others to help cause them to be lost as well. Let's take seriously our work ethic—both physically and spiritually!

**QUESTIONS IN REVIEW**

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. I believe that there is punishment after death for those who disobey God.
- \_\_\_ 2. I believe that only few (in comparison to the many) will be allowed into heaven.
- \_\_\_ 3. In the Survey conducted, only 50% lost their jobs because of inability.
- \_\_\_ 4. The Laodiceans were condemned because of their lack of repentance.
- \_\_\_ 5. Non-cooperative people usually have a strong faith in God.
  
- \_\_\_ 6. Unity and harmony among God's people is a necessity for a person to be right with God.
- \_\_\_ 7. To be of one mind and heart, people have to work together.
  
- \_\_\_ 8. A procrastinator is usually a lazy person.
  
- \_\_\_ 9. Being absent without a legitimate reason is not only not being responsible, but it is being non-cooperative.
- \_\_\_ 10. A dishonest Christian is unacceptable.

Lesson Three

**"Who Cares if I am Lost?"**

(Ps. 142:1-7)

It is a pitiable sight to see a child left by itself: lonely, dejected, unloved, crying for someone, but no one seems to care whether it lives or dies. And, there are people all around, but no one seems to be interested.

Would such touch your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be the first to react? \_\_\_\_\_

David seems to have been in this type of position at one time. He had been forced to flee for his life because King Saul was trying to kill him. He eventually had to leave his own country to escape Saul's efforts. David must have felt alone, unloved, unwanted, rejected, and persecuted. He cried out: ***"I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul."*** But He was wrong.....there was still one to whom he could turn for help—GOD CARED!

I believe there is a more pitiable sight than David's! It is to envision the millions of lost souls on their way to everlasting punishment—millions upon millions—and no one seems to care! But they have rejected God and his Word, which will bring swift destruction upon their souls in the Day of Judgment. They chose the way of no hope that brought about their pitiable situation. Jesus says there are two ways that man can travel—the broad way and the narrow way (Matt. 7:13-14). All are traveling one of these two roads right now.

Have you looked at the broad way lately and seen the vast throngs of people going that way? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you noticed that there are not only malicious and wicked people, but even "good" and "religious" people, fathers and mothers, young and old who have not obeyed the Gospel and are therefore lost? \_\_\_\_\_

These people not only need to be warned, but helped to turn from that way. Is there anyone who really cares? \_\_\_\_\_

Do I care if people are lost for all eternity? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anyone that really cares for the souls of these people? \_\_\_\_\_

**SOME PARENTS CARE**

Some parents do care, not only about the physical, mental, and social welfare of their children; but, they also care for the soul of their children. They have shown it by the following:

- Eph. 6:4** \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Tim. 4:12** \_\_\_\_\_
- Rom. 10:1** \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Cor. 15:33** \_\_\_\_\_
- Col. 3:21** \_\_\_\_\_
- Prov. 19:18** \_\_\_\_\_

Some do care and have shown it—but have their children seen it and appreciated it? Many of us who are studying together are blessed by godly, caring parents. How grateful we ought to be that they did care enough to do what they did.

**SOME HUSBANDS OR WIVES CARE**

Yes, even if it is not appreciated, some have tried to do what they know to do to help and encourage their mate to live right and be saved. They have shown it in the way God has told them:

- 1 Pet. 3:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Pet. 3:7** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 5:22-24** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 5:25** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 5:28** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 5:33** \_\_\_\_\_

If we have such a godly mate that really cares, we ought to be extremely grateful. Some of us may be Christians now because we have a mate who cares for our soul.

**SOME FRIENDS CARE**

We are fortunately if we have friends who love us enough and are concerned for our soul (that overcome their fears) and let us know that they are concerned for our soul. They not only let their light shine (Matt. 5:16), but they have the courage to speak up for us. It may even be possible that their godly life helped one or more of us to become children of God. There will possibly be many in heaven someday because a friend care enough.

Are we a friend to others and do we show our concern for their soul? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Prov. 27:5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prov. 27:6** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 15:15** \_\_\_\_\_

Have we reached out a helping, caring hand to others? \_\_\_\_\_

**SOME PREACHERS AND TEACHERS CARE**

It takes time and effort to learn the word of God sufficiently to effectively teach it to others. This process of teaching, learning, and teaching others is God's plan for the saving of the world.

**2 Tim. 2:2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 1:16** \_\_\_\_\_

Every sermon or lesson is hopefully a reminder that someone does care if I will be saved in the Day of Judgment. We teach all the preachers and teachers that we can prepare to take the gospel to the lost all over the world. We need men like Timothy and Titus whom Paul taught, baptized, and trained to teach others. But not only to teach, but to care for others.

**Phil. 2:20** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Cor. 8:16** \_\_\_\_\_

Inspiration says it so well:

**Rom. 10:15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Most of the saved will be there because someone cared enough to preach or teach the Word of God to them!**

**MOST IMPORTANT—GOD CARES!**

God has clearly shown that He cares for our souls! In fact, He was concerned for us even before we were born. The following tells us just how much God cares.

**Eph. 1:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 1:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Isa. 53:5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 28:18-20** \_\_\_\_\_

God not only planned for man's salvation before He created all things, but gradually began revealing His plan through the Jewish Nation. He then sent His Son to become a means of reconciliation and forgiveness of man's sins. He prepared and sent out men to preach this saving message to all mankind. He is continually pleading for our soul every time His Word is taught to those who are lost. He wants us to be saved.

**2 Peter 3:9** \_\_\_\_\_

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

There are those who do care for our soul. Let's be thankful and show it by doing what we must in order to be saved. Let's be concerned for our own soul.

### QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

#### True or False

- \_\_\_ 1. There are millions and millions of souls that are lost that need to hear the Gospel message of hope.
- \_\_\_ 2. David said that no one cared for his soul because no one offered him help in his time of need.
- \_\_\_ 3. Jesus said that there are two ways that people travel in this life.
- \_\_\_ 4. Some parents do not seem to care about the soul of their children being saved.
- \_\_\_ 5. A spouse that lives ungodly does not care for their soul nor the soul of their spouse.
- \_\_\_ 6. Submission to the headship of her husband means that she cannot teach her husband the truth.
- \_\_\_ 7. Parents show their love and concern for their children when they discipline them properly.
- \_\_\_ 8. Friendship may require strong words of correction.
- \_\_\_ 9. God showed His concern for man before He created us.
- \_\_\_ 10. God commanded the Gospel to be preached all over the world.
- \_\_\_ 11. When a person is unconcerned about their own soul's salvation, it does no good for the saved person to try to show his concern.
- \_\_\_ 12. Showing one's concern has to be done with sincerity or his efforts will be in vain.

**Lesson Four**

**"Why Become a Christian?"**

(Acts 26:19-28)

As our children grow up in our homes and as they attend the Bible Classes and Worship assemblies of the church, it is a natural thing for them to see the need to become a Christian. However, it is important for them to realize that they do not become a Christian just because their parents are Christians. Becoming a Christian is an individual and personal matter. We must be convicted and have our own belief of the truth and become a Christian in sincerity. It is a commitment to let Jesus become the Lord of our Life...all of our life! Because of these things, it is not something one does lightly. In this lesson, we want to look at two questions that should be dealt with by everyone wanting to become a Christian.

**WHAT HINDERS ME FROM  
OBEYING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?**

The need for obeying the gospel should be evident from the two passages below:

**2 Thess. 1:7-9** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gal. 3:1** \_\_\_\_\_

What are some things that can hinder me or that I can allow to hinder me from obeying the Gospel in order to become a Christian?

**1. Not being old enough!** Babies are not lost, nor do they need to be saved! We become responsible before God when we are old enough to understand and make a commitment to serve God sincerely.

What must be done before one can come to God? (John 6:44-45) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This hindrance is the only one beyond our control!

**2. A Lack of Understanding!** It is important that we not only be taught, but that we understand the message from God.

**Matt. 13:14-15** \_\_\_\_\_

We have a control over this. If we are not willing to be taught, we can't

come to a knowledge of truth. If we are not interested, we will not be able to understand God's message (1 Cor. 2:14-15).

**3. The Desire to Indulge in Wrong activities.** A person must understand that when he becomes a Christian he must quit those activities that are wrong—put them away!

**Eph. 4:22-23** \_\_\_\_\_

If a person loves "wrong-doing" more than living right, he is not ready to become a Christian.

**John 3:19-20** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. The Desire to Run with the Wrong Crowd.** They want to run with the "in" crowd. They don't want to be left out of being with the group. They know that they cannot be a committed Christian and participate with the wrong crowd.

**1 Cor. 15:33** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Cor. 6:14-18** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Having a Hard Heart!** Such people will not allow their hearts to gladly receive the word that can save their soul.

**Matt. 13:15** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Because of Persecution.** Christians will face persecution in some form or another if he is sincerely striving to live as he should. Some will not become a Christian because they know this.

**2 Tim. 3:12** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 5:10-12** \_\_\_\_\_

Other reasons could be given, but these should be sufficient to show why many do not become a Christian. In view of these things, why should a person want to become a Christian?

**REASONS FOR BECOMING A CHRISTIAN**

**1. Out of Obligation to our Creator.** He gave us existence and we owe Him homage and obedience.

**Eccl. 12:1** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Because He can Guide us in the Best Way to Live.** God's Word is the greatest source of Wisdom to be found. It not only is the best place to turn to find happiness and contentment, but it will help us to avoid the terrible pitfalls of sin and the terrible addictions that bring shame, harm, and hurt.

**Prov. 3:5-8** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gal. 6:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. For our own Welfare.** What Jesus offers us is for our benefit in every way. He offers us what our soul needs.

**Matt. 11:28-30** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 5:1** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Acts 2:38** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. In order to avoid everlasting punishment (Hell).** Three thousand Jews on the Day of Pentecost gladly received his word and were baptized into Christ. Why? So they could have the forgiveness or remission of their sins! What is so important about this? They will escape the just punishment for those sins!

**Matt. 25:46** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Acts 2:38** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Because to do so is answering a call to a Higher Way of Living.** The Apostle Paul turned from the Jewish Religion to Christ because Christ extended a higher calling. To become a Christian and live that life is the greatest calling to man. It is God's call to higher ground, to a greater life, a greater influence, and a greater fruitfulness for good. It is a life that leads to eternal life with God. There is nothing insignificant or shabby about this call. It is really a call to glory!

**Phil. 3:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phil. 3:14** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phil. 3:20-21** \_\_\_\_\_

#### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

If you have not yet become a Christian, we trust this lesson may be an encouragement to you to "obey the gospel" in order to be right with God. Do not let these hindrances stand in your way. But do not forget, you must be willing to pay the price to be a Christian!

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or false

- \_\_\_ 1. Obedience to the Gospel is important, but not necessary in order to become a Christian (be saved).
- \_\_\_ 2. The Galatian Christians had turned away from what they had been taught by the Apostle.
- \_\_\_ 3. Babies can become Christians if their parents wish it.
  
- \_\_\_ 4. Understanding plays an important role in becoming a Christian.
- \_\_\_ 5. The allurements of sin is a strong reason why many do not become a Christian.
- \_\_\_ 6. A person cannot become a Christian and still associate with ungodly people.
- \_\_\_ 7. God places the responsibility upon us to stop sinning and live right.
- \_\_\_ 8. An individual determines the kind of heart he will have.
  
- \_\_\_ 9. Becoming a Christian is not a justifiable reason for being persecuted.
- \_\_\_ 10. Humans are under obligation to obey and glorify their Maker.
- \_\_\_ 11. There is no better guide on how to live than the Word of God.
- \_\_\_ 12. All that God requires of us is really for our own good.
  
- \_\_\_ 13. To avoid Hell is a legitimate reason for becoming a Christian.
- \_\_\_ 14. There is no higher calling in life than to become a Christian.
- \_\_\_ 15. We make the choice to allow things to hinder us from becoming a Christian.

**Lesson Five**

**"God's Delight in Saving the Lost"**

(Luke 15:1-7)

The opposite of "delight" could be "sadness" or even a "broken heart!" A broken heart is certainly not a desirable thing to have; and, unfortunately, the world is full of broken-hearted people. Usually connected with the idea of a broken heart is the thought of mental suffering, pain, grief, bitterness of soul, heartache, or a heavy heart. The Bible speaks of such.

**Prov. 15:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prov. 17:22** \_\_\_\_\_

People often say that Jesus died of a broken heart! Why? It is usually for two reasons at least:

1. He died too soon on the cross which suggests this possibility.
2. He was rejected and crucified by the very people He came to save!

God had tried to prepare the Jewish people for centuries for the coming of the Messiah (the anointed One of God—the Christ). Of all people, the Jewish Nation should have believed in Jesus. Only a few in comparison received Him.

**John 1:11** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 23:37** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 23:13** \_\_\_\_\_

It was not enough that they rejected Him, but they had to kill him as well. The One who came to seek and to save the lost was killed as a common criminal. If Jesus did not die of a broken heart, He would have been justified in having one (Isa. 53:3, 10-11).

Jesus came to offer healing to the broken hearted! But His healing is offered to those who are broken hearted over their rebellion against a God who loves them.

**Ps. 51:17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 5:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Isa. 61:1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ps. 147:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ps. 34:18** \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think God feels about our rejection of His wonderful offer of Salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

What does God say about our rejection?

**Ezek. 18:23** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Matt. 13:15** \_\_\_\_\_

Did Jesus die of a broken heart because of the rejection by the Jewish Nation? It certainly might seem to be a possibility. Nothing can be done about their rejection now, but what about our rejection? Will we be the one that still causes the heart of God to ache because we reject His Son?

### **GOD'S DELIGHT**

In spite of man's rejection of God's offer, He is still willing to forgive us if we will turn to Him. In fact, Jesus told about how not only God feels about a sinner who turns to God, but even the Angels in heaven as well.

**Luke 15:7** \_\_\_\_\_

The teaching about the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, and the Lost Son show how concerned God is about saving us (Luke 15:1-32).

**2 Pet. 3:9** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 5:8** \_\_\_\_\_

The reason that Jesus was willing to go to the cross and die for us was because of the JOY of the outcome.

**Heb. 12:2** \_\_\_\_\_

The Old Testament Prophets spoke to Israel the Words of God that came from a heart of love and compassion—a heart that delighted, rejoiced when sinners turn to Him.

**Ezek. 33:11** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Micah 7:18** \_\_\_\_\_

The story about the return of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) illustrates the joy in the heart of God for our turning to Him. In fact, it pictures God as One who was watching and waiting for our return. When He saw the wayward son at a distance, He ran to meet him and to embrace him.

We have a song in our song books that we often sing about the need for man to respond to God's gracious offer.

*"Why do you wait, dear brother, O why do you tarry so long?  
Your Savior is waiting to give you a place in His sanctified  
thong.*

*What do you hope, dear brother, to gain by a further delay?  
There's no one to save you but Jesus, there's no other way but  
His way.*

*Why do you wait, dear brother, the harvest is passing away;  
Your Savior is waiting to bless you: there's danger and death  
in delay.*

*Why not? Why not? Why not come to Him now?"*

Can you imagine this:

1. God showing His determination and delight in saving us;
2. He goes to great humility to make this possible;
3. He then pleads with men to accept His offer;
4. And then, man says:
  - a) *"I'm just not interested;"*
  - b) *"I don't have time to be concerned;"*
  - c) *"Oh, maybe someday I'll get around to doing something."*

If you had done what God has done in order to save man and men treated you like they treat God, what would be your reaction to such indifference and lack of concern? It is a good thing that God is not like us!

#### **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

If no one else cares, God cares! If people are impatient with you, just remember that God is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish! If people give up on you, remember that God is still knocking at the door of your heart, wanting to come in and take up His residence there (Rev. 3:20).

*"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17)*

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- \_\_\_ 1. The expression "broken-hearted" indicates that the person has a "heavy heart."
- \_\_\_ 2. We know for sure that Jesus died of a broken heart.
- \_\_\_ 3. Jesus said that the Father wanted to save the Jewish people but they would not let Him.
- \_\_\_ 4. Jesus came to bring healing to the broken hearted.
- \_\_\_ 5. God wants our hearts to be broken over our rebellion against Him.
- \_\_\_ 6. We can fully understand how God feels over our rejection of His Son.
- \_\_\_ 7. God also delights in the punishment of those who continue to reject his offer of forgiveness.
- \_\_\_ 8. The Angels rejoice over sinner turning to God because God has commanded them to do so.
- \_\_\_ 9. Jesus went to the Cross out of sorrow and joy.
- \_\_\_ 10. God doesn't want to punish His creatures, but He has to in order to be just.
- \_\_\_ 11. God is pictured by Jesus as "running" to embrace the sinner that is returning to Him.
- \_\_\_ 12. Man's indifference to God's offer of Salvation causes God to no longer give man an opportunity to be saved.
- \_\_\_ 13. Man is not as caring and compassionate as God.
- \_\_\_ 14. Jesus is pictured as One who stands and knocks at the door of our hearts for us to let Him in.
- \_\_\_ 15. I have no good reason for not accepting God's offer.

Lesson Six

## "What Must I Do to be Saved?"

(Acts 2:27-41)

This question was asked and answered in the Scriptures as indicated above. These people were "devout Jews" who had heard a message of condemnation, but also a message of hope. The message was one that pricked the hearts of the people that caused them to cry out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter, by inspiration of God, not only understood what they were asking, but he gave them an answer as to what they must do to be saved or forgiven. Before we look closely at the answer that Peter gave them, let's look at the reasons why all men need the forgiveness of God.

### WHY MEN NEED GOD'S MERCY

Unless man understands that he has a need of God's forgiveness, why would he seek for it? It must be an obvious fact that he recognizes and then desires to do something about. Why do we need God's mercy?

**1. Because of our wayward condition.** God has created man in His image (Gen. 1:26-27) and given him the power to choose which way he wants to walk. All men have chosen the way of disobedience to God.

**Rom. 3:18** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 3:10-11** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Isa. 53:6** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 3:23** \_\_\_\_\_  
**1 John 3:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Because of our bondage to sin.** Once that man has disobeyed God, he is in bondage to sin—that is, he cannot free himself of that sin and its consequences. He has no power to remove his sin, his guilt, nor his disobedience. He is helpless to free himself!

**Rom. 6:16** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 6:20** \_\_\_\_\_  
**2 Peter 2:19** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 7:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Because of the threatened penalty for sin.** If sin was only a disobedient act towards God and that was the end of the matter—man would have nothing to

fear or worry about. *"It is just disobedience, which all are guilty of, and that's the way things are!"* But it is not that simple and man does have plenty to worry about. Look at what God says is the penalty of sin in our lives:

**Gen. 2:16-17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Isa. 59:1-2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 6:23** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eph. 2:1-3** \_\_\_\_\_

All men know and understand that disobedience deserves to be punished! God has given that sentence upon mankind because of their disobedience. But at the same time, He wants to save man.

There is only one hope for sinful man—forgiveness by God! Man needs redemption that will free him from the bondage of sin. But God is in a dilemma—He cannot forgive man because His Law stated that the man who sins must die! If he forgives man, then He has lied! If He lies, then He is not trustworthy. In reality, He cannot be God, because God cannot lie! What can He do???

### **FORGIVENESS THROUGH CHRIST**

The Law calls for a penalty to be paid for sin! Jesus came to die in our place and pay that penalty so God could forgive and accept us justly.

**Rom. 3:23-26** \_\_\_\_\_

God is a just and righteous God! He does not want His creatures to break His Law and neither does He break His Law. So, Jesus took our punishment, so we could be set free and God be just and uphold His Law.

This is the "good news" that God wants proclaimed to all nations of people on earth (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 1:16). He wants all to come to know His Son who made such an awesome sacrifice so man could be set free.

But we have a problem here! Man is not only a creature of responsibility, but a creature of choice! So, God had to work out a way for responsible man to choose if he wants to be pardoned!

**Matt. 11:28-30** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY**

What is it that "responsible" man must do in order for God's mercy to save Him from the penalty of sin? How does God want us to respond to his gracious offer?

**1. He wants us to believe the "good news" of salvation through Christ's death on the cross.** He is calling for his prodigal sons and daughters to believe that He really cares and wants them to come home.

**Matt. 28:18-19** \_\_\_\_\_

**Heb. 11:6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 16:15-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 10:14-15** \_\_\_\_\_

It is necessary that we believe this message because, otherwise, we would have no reason to seek after God.

**2. He wants us to repent!** He is calling on us to make a decision in our hearts that we want to be obedient to God, not disobedient. If we are unwilling to make that decision, we will only go deeper into sin. Jesus warned of the necessity of repentance.

**Luke 13:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 17:30** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 3:19** \_\_\_\_\_

Since man got into trouble by ignoring God's warnings about the penalty of disobedience, it is important that he listens to God and turns from his disobedient spirit and have an obedient spirit. This is called "***dying to sin!***" (Rom. 6:1-2). It is also called "***crucifying the old man***" (Rom. 6:6). Until this decision is made, man will continue on the path that leads to everlasting punishment.

**3. He wants us to have an obedient faith!** It is not enough to say, "*I believe the message!*" We must show that we believe it by being obedient to whatever God commands of us.

What does God require of us so that we can prove our faith to be real and genuine?

**Rom. 10:9-10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 6:16-18** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 16:15-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 2:38** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

Let's remember that God is the One who is offering pardon from the penalty of sin—not man! He has laid down plainly what He wants man to do so He can save them. Man has no right to change or short-change these requirements. To do so, is to try to take the place of God! Man either meets these conditions for forgiveness or remains in his prison of sin.

Also, let's not forget that we don't deserve to be pardoned and God will not force such upon us. We must want it, diligently seek it, and do whatever God requires to receive it by His mercy.

**QUESTIONS IN REVIEW**

**True or False**

- 1. Good people don't need God's mercy.
- 2. Man is in bondage to sin because he can't get free of it.
- 3. The threatened penalty for sin should cause man to turn to God.
- 4. Physical death is the only penalty for sin.
- 5. All men know and understand that disobedience deserves to be punished.
- 6. God is the only one that can remove the penalty of sin.
- 7. But God cannot removed this penalty in an unjust way.
- 8. Only Jesus can make it possible for God to forgive sinful man.
- 9. Jesus' death paid our penalty for us.
- 10. God always gives man a choice of which way he wants to go.
- 11. The act of baptism (immersed in water) has nothing to do with God's forgiveness of man.
- 12. Man must have an obedient faith before he can be justified before God.
- 13. Faith apart from obedience cannot save a man.
- 14. To change God's requirements is to try to take the place of God.



