

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 13

Level 3

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson.
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.

Lesson 1

Christ as King

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 27

Scripture: Mark 1:1-13

Memory Verse: “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit anointed Christ Jesus as King.

Lesson

The Gospel of Mark was written to encourage Roman, Gentile Christians. The Roman Christians were suffering by the terrible persecutions of the emperor, Nero. The Romans understood the power and authority of a king. So, it was fitting for Mark to begin his gospel by introducing Christ Jesus as King. Mark told about Jesus’ baptism and His anointing by the Holy Spirit.

Mark began the story of the good news of the Christ by telling the Roman Christians that Jesus was the One that Isaiah the prophet told about. He reminded these Christians that there would be a messenger to urge the people to prepare the way for the King. This messenger was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to make straight paths for the King to ride on. Mark did not keep these Christians in suspense as to who this messenger was, but told them that it was John the Baptist. He told them that John came baptizing in the wilderness and that he came preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

The story in Mark’s gospel tells us that the message and appearance of John were so striking that all the land of Judea and those from Jerusalem went out to see him. Not only did they go out to see John because they were curious, but they were also baptized in the Jordan River. Even more exciting, they confessed their sins before they were baptized. John was dressed in a garment of camel’s hair and ate locusts and wild honey. But his wild appearance did not prevent him from proclaiming that the King was coming. John told about the coming King in his own way. He said that One was coming after him whose sandal strap he was not worthy to stoop down and untie. Then John made a comparison between his work and the work of the King. He told the people that he surely did baptize with water, but the King would come, and He would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. John knew that Jesus could give the people a new heart through the forgiveness of their sins. He would do this through the Holy Spirit.

Then a most remarkable thing happened. Jesus also went out to the wilderness to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. John did not feel worthy to baptize the King, in fact, he said that the King should baptize him. But Jesus told John that this should be done to fulfill all righteousness. When Jesus came up from the water after His baptism He was anointed in a remarkable way. In Old Testament times, a king was anointed with oil to show that he was appointed to the position of king. Jesus was also anointed but not with oil. As he came out of the water, He saw the heavens open and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended on Him. Even more, He heard a voice from heaven that said, “You

are My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11). This was the way the Father in heaven was saying that Christ Jesus was the King. This King would be victorious over sin and death and hell. God the Father showed His love by anointing His King to redeem His people.

What battles would the anointed king have to fight to redeem His people? After The Father declared that Jesus was His Son, the Spirit brought Him into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. For forty days Jesus lived with the wild beasts and Satan was allowed to tempt Him. Through all of Satan’s temptations, the King was faithful to His anointing. He was truly the King would not yield to temptation. Because He did not yield, He gained the victory over sin for His people. His people today still have to struggle against the temptations of Satan, but victory is assured. It is assured because the anointed King stood the test!

Questions

1. What was the messenger called to do for the coming King? (Mark 1:2)
2. What baptism did John preach? (Mark 1:4)
3. In addition to being baptized what did the people do at the Jordan River? (Mark 1:5)
4. What did John say about the One who would come after him? (Mark 1:7)

5. Who came from Nazareth of Galilee to be baptized by John? (Mark 1:9)

6. Who descended on Jesus like a dove? (Mark 1:10)

7. Where did the Spirit drive Jesus after he had been anointed? (Mark 1:12)

8. How long was Jesus in the wilderness to be tempted by Satan? (Mark 1:13)

Lesson 2

The Holy One of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 28

Scripture: Mark 1:14-39

Memory Verse: “And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’” (Mark 1:16-17)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus laid claim to life because He was recognized as the Holy One of God.

Lesson

After John the Baptist was put into prison, Jesus began His public ministry. The Gospel of Mark relates how Jesus, at the beginning of His public ministry, called His disciples. Mark also related the stories of Jesus casting out an unclean spirit and healing Simon’s mother-in-law. Jesus received the strength He needed for His public ministry by communing with the Father early in the morning.

King Herod imprisoned John the Baptist for telling him it was wrong to live with his brother’s wife. However, Jesus continued with the same message John had preached. He told the people that the Kingdom of God was at hand urging them to repent and believe the gospel. As Jesus preached the need for repentance, He walked beside the Sea of Galilee. While He walked, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. When He saw them, He asked them to leave their nets and follow Him, and He would help them become fishers of men. Simon and Andrew knew it was an honor to be called by Jesus to do his work, but it was also a great test for them. It was a test because Jesus asked them to leave everything behind in order to do His work. In the same way, Jesus called James and John the sons of Zebedee to leave everything and follow Him. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ was evident in their lives as these men left their occupations to follow Jesus and do His work. Although you and I are called in a different way, we must realize that the Word of the King claims our whole lives just as it did the disciples’ lives.

Now with His band of disciples in training with Him, Jesus went to Capernaum. At Capernaum, He entered the synagogue to teach and preach the gospel of repentance. When the people heard Him, they were astonished at His words because He taught as One who had authority and not as the scribes. But the people were going to see His authority in His commands as well as His words. There was a man in the synagogue that had an unclean spirit. In fact, a demon possessed him. When this demon saw Jesus, he cried out asking Jesus to let him alone. Then he said something remarkable. He told Jesus that he knew who He was. He said Jesus was from Nazareth and even more the He was the Holy One of God. Just think, this demon knew that Jesus wanted to bring all of life back into the service of the Holy God.

Satan’s fear could be heard in the words of the demon that addressed Jesus when he asked if Jesus had come to destroy them. Jesus then rebuked the unclean spirit, telling him to be quiet and to come out of the man. Imagine how amazed the people were when they saw the demon convulse the man and then come out. They questioned each other by asking, “What is this? With authority He

Lesson 3

Power to Forgive Sin

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 29

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Memory Verse: “But that you may know that the Son of Man has the power on earth to forgive sins.” He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” (Mark 2:10-11)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus showed that He was the Son of God who had the power to forgive sins.

Lesson

As Jesus continued to preach and heal people in Galilee, He confronted the unbelief of the scribes. The crowds of people that followed Jesus were amazed at the things He taught and at the miracles He performed. But they did not recognize Him as the Mediator and Redeemer. Jesus used the occasion of healing a paralyzed man to make known that He was the Redeemer who had the power to forgive sins.

Crowds of people followed the Lord Jesus wherever He went in Galilee to hear His words and to be healed. He spent much of His time in the countryside to avoid the crowds. However, after several days He decided to return to Capernaum to preach the word to them. Soon the people learned where Jesus was staying, and they flocked to be near Him. So many came to be near Jesus that they filled the house where He stayed and crowded around the doorway. The crowds were so thick that no one could get through.

This was the situation when four men came carrying their friend who was paralyzed. They wanted to see Jesus but could not get through the crowds. They were convinced that if they could get their friend to Jesus, He would be able to heal him. Because they could not get through the crowds, they decided to take their friend onto the roof of the house, remove some tiles, and let him down at Jesus’ feet. When Jesus saw the paralyzed man, He knew that he was afraid because of his sins. He also knew that this man and his friends had great faith. That is why Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven you” (Mark 2:5). Just think, this man, who knew that he was a sinner, was addressed as a son. Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven, even before He healed his paralyzed body. Jesus used this opportunity to inform the people that He was more than a teacher and miracle worker. He was the Redeemer who had the power to forgive sins! What a joy must have filled the hearts of the paralyzed man and his friends when Jesus called him son and forgave His sins.

Not everyone in the crowd was filled with joy at Jesus’ words. Some scribes were in the house and immediately took offense at what Jesus said. They said to themselves that Jesus was a blasphemer who blasphemed the name of God. These scribes asked, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:7). Their darkened hearts would not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus knew what the scribes were thinking and yet He had compassion for their souls and tried to teach them the way of truth. For that reason, He asked them, “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and walk?’” (Mark 2:9). Jesus then told them plainly, ““But

that you may know that the Son of Man has the power on earth to forgive sins’—Jesus then said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, take up your bed, and go to your house.’” (Mark 2:10-11). For the moment this silenced the scribes, but they did not believe that Jesus was the Redeemer.

After Jesus told the paralyzed man to take up his bed and go home, the crowds were astonished. As the man pushed his way through the crowd the people glorified God. They said, “We never saw anything like this!” (Mark 2:12). No doubt many of the people believed that the Lord Jesus came as the Redeemer. They believed that He had the power to forgive their sins. Still others did not understand God’s Kingdom of grace and forgiveness and kept their hearts far from the Lord. Do you and I believe that Jesus is the Redeemer who has the power to forgive our sins? How grateful we must be that Jesus revealed Himself as the Redeemer!

Questions

1. To which city did Jesus return after some days? (Mark 2:1)
2. How did the people react to Jesus’ return to the city? (Mark 2:2)
3. How many men were needed to carry the paralytic to Jesus? (Mark 2:3)
4. Why did the men lower the paralytic through the roof to see Jesus? (Mark 2:4)

Lesson 4

Lord of the Sabbath

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 30

Scripture: Mark 2:23–3:6

Memory Verse: “Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 7:12)

Lesson Truth: The Sabbath was made for man because the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath.

Lesson

Once again Jesus confronted the scribes and Pharisees. This time it was about the observance of the Sabbath day. The Pharisees were looking for a chance to catch Jesus in violation of the Law so that they might accuse Him. Because their hearts were hard the scribes and Pharisees believed that Jesus was an imposter who claimed to be the Son of God. For that reason, they watched carefully to see if the Lord and His disciples would obey their man-made laws governing the Sabbath.

One Sabbath day when Jesus and His disciples were walking through the grain fields, His disciples picked some heads of grain and ate them. When the Pharisees saw what the disciples had done, they asked Jesus, “Why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” (Mark 2:24). Jesus knew that He had to confront the Pharisees about their unbiblical view of the Sabbath. He asked them if they had never read what David had done when he and his men were hungry as they came from a battle. Jesus shared with them that David went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest and ate the showbread. He ate this bread that by the Law was only for the priests, and he gave it to the men who were with him. Jesus used this example to indicate to the Pharisees that the spirit of the Law was to be kept and not just the letter of the Law!

Jesus then expanded on His instructions for the Pharisees when He told them that: “The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). Jesus really wanted the Pharisees to understand that God gave His Law in order to bless people, not to hinder them. The law concerning the Sabbath was the fourth commandment, which commanded the people to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. It was meant to set life free. God’s people would be able to lay aside all their work so that they would be free to worship and honor their Maker. The Law was not meant to be a heavy burden of rules and regulations as the Pharisees had made it. At the same time, the Law can become a curse to us if we reject the Lord. That is why Jesus came to remove the curse of the Law by atoning for the sins of His people. Jesus showed that the Sabbath is a blessing for God’s people because they have the freedom to worship and rest.

That was not the end of the disagreement about the Sabbath with the scribes and Pharisees. They followed Jesus and His disciples as they went to a synagogue to worship. When Jesus came into the synagogue, He saw a man who had a withered hand. The Lord knew that the Scribes and Pharisees were watching to see if He would heal this man on the Sabbath day. He knew that they were looking for a reason to accuse Him. Jesus decided to make a public example of healing this man on the Sabbath

Lesson 5

Not Known

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 31

Scripture: Mark 3:7-35

Memory Verse: “And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.’” (Mark 3:34-35)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus was inspired by the Holy Spirit but was not recognized as the Redeemer.

Lesson

Two things continued in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus. The people followed Him in crowds and the scribes and Pharisees resisted Him in unbelief. As the crowds followed Jesus it became evident that He was not known as the Messiah. His friends thought that He might be out of His mind, and the scribes said that He cast out demons in the name of the prince of demons. The rejection of the Lord and the Holy Spirit who inspired Him prompted Jesus to warn the people about the sin against the Holy Spirit.

The news about the miracles and words of Jesus spread through the countryside. People came from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and beyond the Jordan River, and they even came from Tyre and Sidon. There were so many people crowding to see Jesus that He withdrew to the sea. He asked His disciples to have a boat ready if it became necessary for Him to leave. People who were sick or handicapped pressed around Him so that He would touch them and heal them. In this commotion, people with unclean spirits fell at His feet and testified that they knew who Jesus was. They said, “You are the Son of God” (Mark 3:11). In response to their testimony, Jesus warned them that they should not make Him known. He was to be made known but not by Satan. The Lord wanted people to know Him by His words and works.

So many people followed Him that He went up on a mountain where He called His disciples to help Him. He appointed twelve men to be His disciples and gave them the power to heal and cast out demons. The Lord also gave the twelve the authority to preach so they could proclaim the Kingdom of grace, which sets men free. Among the twelve was Judas Iscariot who would later betray Jesus and reject the gospel of grace. Jesus equipped His disciples by His Word and Spirit to bring His message of grace! It was this Word and Spirit that Judas rejected.

Later, a crowd of people again surrounded Jesus and His disciples. The crowd was so intense that Jesus did not get a chance to eat. It was then that His friends wondered what His ministry was all about. They knew that Jesus did not want to be made a king to deliver Israel from the Romans. He did not seek any place of honor like the Scribes and Pharisees did. Still, He exhausted Himself working to heal the people and to bring them His Word. His friends did not understand that the Holy Spirit moved Him to work to exhaustion. Because they did not know who Jesus really was, they suggested that he was out of His mind and tried to take Him away. Only the Holy Spirit in their hearts would help these friends truly know Jesus.

The scribes and Pharisees also saw Jesus working to exhaustion healing the people and casting out demons. But their hearts were hard and they would not acknowledge that Jesus was the Redeemer. Instead, their response to Jesus' work was that He cast out demons by Beelzebub the ruler of demons. When Jesus heard this He looked at the scribes with compassion. He asked them, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" (Mark 3:23). He urged them to be reasonable by telling them that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. But the scribes persisted in their unbelief. Then Jesus gave them a stern warning about sinning against the Holy Spirit. The Lord told them that every sin of mankind will be forgiven if a sinner repents, but anyone who sins against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. The scribes could have seen when Jesus cast out demons that He was destroying the kingdom of Satan. But their refusal to see this was blaspheming the Holy Spirit. The Lord warned that anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit is subject to eternal condemnation.

In one more attempt to free Jesus from the crowds, His friends told Him that His mother and brothers wanted to see Him. Jesus responded by asking, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" (Mark 3:33). The Lord responded with that unusual response so that He could teach the people about His relationship to the Father and to all people. He said to them, "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). Our prayer should be that God will give us the grace to do His will so that we may be His brother, or sister or mother!

Questions

1. To where did Jesus withdraw with His disciples? (Mark 3:7)
2. What did Jesus ask His disciples to have ready in case the crowd should crush Him? (Mark 3:9)
3. What did Jesus sternly warn the unclean spirits not to do? (Mark 3:11-12)

4. Where did Jesus go to call those He wanted to see? (Mark 3:13)
5. What power did Jesus give to the disciples as He sent them out to preach? (Mark 3:14-15)
6. Who was the disciple that would later betray Jesus? (Mark 3:19)
7. Anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will be subject to what punishment? (Mark 3:29)
8. What relationship do we have with Jesus if we do God's will? (Mark 3:35)

Lesson 6

The Revelation of the Mystery

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 32

Scripture: Mark 4:21-34

Memory Verse: “Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.” (Mark 4:24)

Lesson Truth: The Kingdom of heaven is a mystery. The Lord revealed this mystery in parables.

Lesson

The world cannot know the mystery of the Kingdom of God. Yet the Lord Jesus Christ has made the secret of the Kingdom of God known to believers. Jesus told a parable about the necessity of making the Kingdom of God known. He also told parables about the growth and power of God’s Kingdom.

Jesus wanted the disciples to know that the secrets of the Kingdom of God were not supposed to remain hidden. In order to help them understand this, He told them a parable about a lamp. He raised the question if people would bring a lamp to hide under a basket or under a bed. Then He answered His question by suggesting that the purpose of a lamp is to be set on a stand. If it is set on a stand that the whole room may be lit so people can see. It is just that way with the Kingdom of God. God’s Kingdom was not meant to remain a secret. God wants it revealed to those who believe.

The Lord Jesus then warned the disciples to be careful about what they heard or listened to. He then explained the economy of the Kingdom. Amazingly those who listen to the gospel of the Kingdom in faith will be given more faith. While those who listen to the gospel with an unbelieving heart even what little they have will be taken away. That is why Jesus spoke in parables so that the believers would learn the mysteries of the Kingdom, while the mystery would become greater for unbelievers.

In order to help believers understand the growth of faith in their lives, Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is like a farmer planting seed. The farmer scatters his seed in the field and then goes about his work in the daytime and his rest at night. Without doing anything to his seed it begins to grow. First, the farmer sees the blade then the head, and finally the complete harvest. That is the way the Kingdom of God works in the hearts of believers. The gospel is preached sowing the seed of faith. The seed of faith then grows by God’s grace into a blade, then a head, and at last a harvest. It is the power of the Lord’s grace that causes the seed of faith to grow in the heart of a believer. Isn’t it a wonderful gift to have the mystery of the Kingdom revealed?

Christ then asked the people to what He should compare the Kingdom of God. He knew that they were acquainted with a mustard seed so He compared the Kingdom to this seed. Jesus reminded them that even though the mustard seed is very tiny, it grows to be a huge plant. It becomes a plant so huge that even the birds can rest in its branches. It is the same way with the gospel of grace. The gospel plants the tiny seed of faith in the human heart, and God’s grace gives it the power to grow into great faith. This gospel has the power to redeem all the nations of the world and bring them back to God.

The day will come when we see the power of the gospel of grace restoring heaven and earth. This was the way that the Lord Jesus revealed the mystery of the Kingdom of heaven. The revelation of this mystery was given to the believers by means of parables. Each parable that Jesus taught helped the believers understand the Kingdom of God more and more. At the same time, the parables closed the Kingdom of God more and more to the unbelievers. Because of their unbelief they could not understand the parable's message of grace. The parables became a judgment to the unbeliever.

How grateful we should be that mystery of the Kingdom of God has been revealed. Pray that the gospel of that Kingdom will grow the seed of faith in our hearts and lives!

Questions

1. What did Jesus' parable about a lamp on a stand help the people understand? (Mark 4:22)
2. What did Jesus warn the people to take heed to? (Mark 4:24)
3. What will happen to those in the Kingdom of God who have faith? (Mark 4:25)
4. According to Jesus' parable what happens to the seed when the farmer sleeps at night? (Mark 4:27)
5. With what seed did Jesus compare the Kingdom of God? (Mark 4:31)

6. Which of God's creatures could rest in the shade of the grown mustard seed? (Mark 4:32)

7. What did Jesus speak to the people in parables as they were able to hear it? (Mark 4:33)

8. What did Jesus do for the disciples when they were alone? (Mark 4:34)

Lesson 7

Safety

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 33

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Memory Verse: “And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another. ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’” (Mark 4:41)

Lesson Truth: God’s people are safe in the world because Christ Jesus is Lord.

Lesson

God’s people can enjoy the comfort of knowing that Christ Jesus is the Lord of all things in heaven and on earth. Because He controls all things, God’s people are safe in His protection. The story from Mark of the events on the Sea of Galilee showed God’s people, including the disciples, that Jesus is Lord.

Crowds of people pressed around Jesus, not only to hear His words but also to receive healing. When the crowds nearly crushed Him, He would sometimes teach them sitting in a boat. This was the day that Jesus taught the people what the Kingdom of heaven was like. He used the example of a lamp, scattering seed, and a mustard seed. Now it was evening, and Jesus was very tired, so He asked the disciples to take Him to the other side of the sea where He could rest. The disciples were ready to do as Jesus requested and sent the people away. Then they got into their boats and set off across the Sea of Galilee.

Once they were well on their way across the sea, a great windstorm came up that threatened to swamp the boats. It was not unusual for windstorms to blow across the Sea of Galilee from the mountains in the north. But this storm was more violent than the disciples were accustomed to. They fought the wind and the waves with all their strength, while Jesus slept in the back of the boat. Finally, when the disciples were gripped with fear, they decided to awake the Lord. They possibly wondered how He could lay there sleeping while they were fighting for their lives. Didn’t He care if they died in this storm? That was the question they asked Jesus once He was awake, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38). It is sad that the disciples did not understand the power of His grace. They did not have the faith to believe that Jesus is Lord of all things in heaven and on earth. The disciple did not know that the Lord of all the earth could control the storms.

After Jesus awoke, He looked out over the storm and then He did something that the disciples could not grasp. He rebuked the wind and commanded the sea to be still and peaceful. What amazed the disciples was to see the winds and the sea obey His voice. Now they knew that Jesus was the Lord of all things in heaven and on earth. The disciples could have lived through the storm without fear if they had truly believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Believers are safe in this world because Christ Jesus is Lord.

Once the sea became calm, Jesus had to talk to the disciples about their fear and their lack of faith. He asked them plainly, “Why are you so fearful?” and “How is it that you have no faith?” (Mark 4:40).

By these questions, Jesus showed the disciples that they had focused on the wrong things. They had focused on the treacherous wind and the violent waves. Instead, they should have focused on the needs of the world that is in danger of perishing from sin and guilt. If the disciples had been aware of that need and knew that the Lord Jesus came to save the world, they would not have had to fear.

When Jesus asked them these questions the disciples were overcome with awe and wonder. They talked to one another and asked: “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” (Mark 4:41). Their faith was not yet complete. They still did not fully understand that all things in heaven and on earth are under the power of the Lord’s grace.

Believers today often act much like the disciples did. They focus on a problem that frightens them instead of focusing on the needs of a sinful world. Because Christ Jesus has the power to deliver His people from sin, doesn’t He have the power to deliver them from things that make them afraid? Jesus is the Lord of all the earth, who has the power to command the winds and the waves to obey Him. We should rejoice that He also has the power to forgive our sins and make us new creatures in Him!

Questions

1. With whom did Jesus get into a boat to cross to the other side of the lake? (Luke 8:22)
2. What beat into the boat causing it to fill with water? (Mark 4:37)
3. Who was in the stern of the boat asleep on a pillow? (Mark 4:38)
4. With what name did the disciples address Jesus when they asked about perishing? (Mark 4:38)

Lesson 8

Binding the Strong One

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 34

Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

Memory Verse: “When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, ‘What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.’” (Mark 5:6-7)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus plundered the house of Satan after He bound the man filled with demons.

Lesson

The story of this lesson occurred in the land of the Gadarenes on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus’ encounter with the man filled with many demons indicated the power of Satan in this land. In this story, we see the power that Christ Jesus has over Satan and his legions of demons. In spite of some display of Satan’s strength, Christ has the power to bind the strong one.

It was an incredible scene when Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee and landed in the country of the Gadarenes. As soon as He landed a wild man who lived in the tombs of Gadara came to meet Jesus. This man was so captivated by demons that no one could bind him. Whenever they tried to tie him, he would break the chains and shackles used to restrain him. This man spent night and day in the mountains and tombs crying out and cutting himself with stones. There was no doubt that he was under Satan’s power.

Yet this wild man recognized Jesus immediately when He stepped off the boat. He saw Jesus from a distance and ran to meet Him and to worship Him. He also identified himself as a demon by asking: “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me” (Mark 5:7). He asked not to be tormented because Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of him. Jesus then asked the man his name. He answered that his name was Legion because he said they were many! This legion of demons then asked Jesus not to be sent out of the country. Satan in the legion of demons knew that he was totally in Christ’s power, and that is why he asked not to be tormented. Because the devil continued to find some satisfaction in destroying things, he asked if Jesus would send his legion into a herd of pigs feeding nearby. Jesus gave the demons permission to enter the pigs, and approximately two thousand pigs ran violently into the sea.

Christ Jesus has the power to bind the strong one and He could have bound Satan at this time, but He still allowed him some influence over life. Someday, the Lord will take the whole earth from Satan’s hand. It was for that reason that He shed His blood for the remission of sins and secured the right to break Satan’s influence. It is through faith in the Lord Jesus that we can also be free from Satan’s grip. Yet the curse of Satan’s rule still rests on this earth particularly in the hearts of unbelievers. Because of the unbelief of the Gadarenes, the judgment of the loss of two thousand pigs came upon them. The Gadarenes could have seen the judgment of God in the loss of their pigs and come to know the One who was able to deliver them from this curse. Even in the loss of the pigs the saving grace of Christ Jesus was at work.

The reaction of the Gadarenes to the loss of the pigs indicated that they were not ready to live under the grace of the Lord Jesus. The men who fed the pigs hurried into the city and related what had happened. This brought the people out to see and satisfy their curiosity. When they came to the place where Jesus was, they saw the wild, demon-possessed, man sitting quietly, clothed, and in his right mind. This should have made them happy to see this man free from the power of Satan. But instead of being happy, they were afraid. They thought that Jesus had been sent to them as a judgment, so they asked Him to leave their country. This was tragic because without Jesus in their life it *was* a judgment to them.

Yet, Jesus showed His compassion for the Gadarenes when He did not allow the man who had been demon-possessed to leave the country with Him. Instead, Jesus told him to go home to his friends and tell them the things the Lord had done for him. The man who had been restored would now become the messenger of God's grace to the people of Gadara. Later, the truth of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was brought to that country! Christ Jesus had power over Satan and his demons to plunder his house.

Questions

1. How soon after Jesus arrived in the country of the Gadarenes did the demon-possessed man meet Him? (Mark 5:2)
2. What did the demon-possessed man do with the chains and shackles used to bind him? Mark 5:4
3. What did the demon-possessed man use to cut himself? (Mark 5:5)
4. What did the demon-possessed man do when he saw Jesus from afar? (Mark 5:6)

Lesson 9

The Restorer of Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 35

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Memory Verse: “Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, ‘Talitha cumi,’ which is translated, ‘Little girl, I say to you arise.’ Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.” (Mark 5:41-42)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus made it known that He was the One who could restore life.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus demonstrated that He had the power to cast out Satan and his demons. He did this when He told the legion of demons to come out of the wild man at Gadara. Upon His return to Galilee Jesus showed that He was also the Restorer of life. He was able to heal the woman who had the issue of blood for twelve years. And He was also able to call the daughter of Jairus back to life.

Jesus had spent some time in the land of the Gadarenes. After He had cast the demons out of a wild man at Gadara, He returned to Galilee. As soon as He returned a crowd of people gathered around Him looking for healing. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, was in this crowd and as soon as he saw Jesus, he fell at His feet. Jairus believed that Jesus had some mystical power that could heal people. He did not recognize Jesus as the Redeemer who controls all things but as a miracle worker. Jairus had a twelve-year-old daughter who was very sick, so he begged Jesus to come to his house and lay His hands on his little girl. Even though Jesus knew that Jairus did not have faith in Him as the One who redeems life, He consented to go with him. The Lord would teach Jairus and his household that He was the Redeemer and the Restorer of life.

Now as Jesus was making His way to Jairus’ house, a woman in the crowd that surrounded Him delayed Him. This woman had suffered with a blood disease for twelve years. She also believed that Jesus had some mystical power to perform miracles. This woman did not yet recognize Jesus as the Messiah and Redeemer. However, she was convinced that if she could just touch the hem of His garment she would be healed. So she pressed in close to Jesus and reached out and touched the hem of His robe. Immediately her flow of blood dried up and she was healed. Then Jesus stopped and asked, “Who touched My clothes?” (Mark 5:30). To His disciples this seemed like a strange question. They reminded Jesus that people were pressing Him on every side and he asked, “Who touched Me?”

However, the woman understood His question. She knew that she had been healed, and when Jesus asked if someone had touched Him, she fell at His feet with fear and trembling. Then she told Jesus the whole truth, not only about her disease but also about her faith that He could heal her if she just touched His garment. Jesus could have allowed her to go away without talking to her, but He wanted her to know that He was more than a miracle worker. He wanted her to know that the Father had sent Him as the Redeemer, and the One who restores life for all eternity. Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction” (Mark 5:34). Jesus had given her peace as well as healing.

Lesson 10

The Lord from Heaven

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 36

Scripture: Mark 6:7-32

Memory Verse: “So they went out and preached that the people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.” (Mark 6:12-13)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus made it known that He was the Lord from heaven.

Lesson

Christ Jesus was not only the Restorer of Life, but He was also the Lord from heaven. He made this clear when He used His authority to send out His disciples two by two to urge the people to repent. As the Lord from heaven, He made it known that there were infinite blessings for those who received the message of repentance. But He also warned that there would be terrible judgment for those who reject this message.

Jesus continued to teach and heal in the Nazareth. It was in Nazareth that Jesus said that a prophet is not without honor except in his own country. He said that because the people in His hometown would not believe that the Son of Mary and Joseph could be the Redeemer. Jesus marveled at their unbelief, but still He taught from village to village. The need was so great to teach and heal the people that Jesus enlisted the help of His disciples. He called the twelve to Him and sent them out two by two to preach a message of repentance. The Lord gave them power to heal the sick and to cast out demons.

As the Lord Jesus sent out the twelve, He gave them special instructions not to take along any provisions. They were not to take any extra clothing or food, or any money. Rather they were told to expect that believers along the way would take care of them. Jesus instructed His disciples to ask for lodging at a home when they came to a village and to remain there until they left the city. The Lord from heaven also gave an awesome warning as He sent out the disciples. He told them that they were to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against any town that rejected their message. Jesus said that it would be more tolerable for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that town. The gospel of the Kingdom of God is still the same today. It is a rich comfort for those who believe, but it is also a message of judgment for those who reject it. Under Jesus’ authority, the disciples cast out demons, healed many, and taught the people that Christ was the Lord from heaven.

As the disciples preached in the land of Israel, Christ Jesus also continued to teach with authority, cast out demons, and heal many. This prompted the people to ask, “Who is this Jesus of Nazareth?” King Herod, the ruler in Judea at the time, was convinced that Jesus was really John the Baptist who rose from the dead. Other people said that He must be Elijah or one of the prophets that came back from the dead. The reason they thought this was because of the miracles that Jesus performed. These people were convinced that only a prophet could do these kinds of miracles. Yet, they refused to believe that Jesus was the Redeemer.

4. For which cities would it be more tolerable in the Day of Judgment than for a town that rejected the disciples? (Mark 6:11)

5. In addition to asking people to repent what did the disciples do in the towns of Galilee? (Mark 6:13)

6. Herod thought that Jesus was John come back to life. Who did other people think Jesus was? (Mark 6:15)

7. What did Philip's wife, Herodias, want do with John the Baptist? (Mark 6:19)

8. Describe how busy the disciples had become that Jesus asked them to come aside to rest. (Mark 6:31)

Lesson 11

Purity in the Kingdom of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 37

Scripture: Mark 7:1-23

Memory Verse: “He answered and said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’” (Mark 7:6-7)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus taught that pure hearts are required in the Kingdom of God.

Lesson

The scribes and Pharisees were afraid that the people would no longer listen to them if they followed Jesus. Because of their fear they began to look for ways that they might find fault with Jesus and His disciples. As they searched, they found that His disciples did not follow all the rules of the ceremonial Law. They accused them of not being pure according to the Law. This brought them into conflict with the Lord Jesus who taught that the purity in the Kingdom of God came from men’s hearts.

The hearts of the scribes and Pharisees were evil, so they took offense at the things that Jesus taught. In an effort to catch Jesus in a violation of the ceremonial Law, they came from Jerusalem to watch. It didn’t take long, and they noticed that Jesus’ disciples did not wash their hands before they ate. The Jews were careful to always wash before eating because they may have touched some unclean things at the market. As soon as they saw this violation, they went to Jesus. They asked Him why His disciples did not follow the traditions of the elders and ate with unwashed hands. Their question showed that they misunderstood the reason for the ceremonial laws. The ceremonial laws were supposed to help the people see that creation was unclean because of sin. That is why Jesus had to confront these leaders about their wrong view of the Law.

Jesus did not defend His disciples for their actions, but rather attacked the wrong views of the Pharisees. He told them that they really disobeyed the commands of God so they could follow the tradition of men. Jesus was very direct with the scribes and Pharisees when He told them that the prophet Isaiah talked about them years before. Isaiah had said that they were people who would honor God with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him. The prophet said it was foolish for them to worship God because they taught the commands of men as truth. Jesus then mentioned Corban as an example of how they did this.

Corban was a practice they used to dedicate their possessions to God. If their possessions were dedicated to God, they said they could not use them to help care for their aging parents. Still, they could use these possessions for their own benefit. This was a way that they could avoid doing what God’s Law commanded them to do, that is, to honor their father and mother. Jesus pointed out that the purity they were insisting the that disciples practice was only an outward purity. At the same time their practice of Corban showed that their hearts were far from God. They looked clean on the outside, but their hearts were evil.

Following His conversation with the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus called the crowd of people together. He asked them to listen carefully to His teaching about clean and unclean things. The Pharisees thought that if a person ate an unclean animal, they would be unclean. Jesus told the people that it is not what people eat that makes them unclean, but the thoughts of their hearts make them unclean.

This teaching of Jesus was completely different from what the scribes and Pharisees taught. Even the disciples did not really understand what He taught. When Jesus went into a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him About His teaching. Then Jesus asked if they also were without understanding. He said that what a person eats cannot make him evil because what he eats goes to his stomach and not to his heart. He said that it is the things that come from a person's heart that make him evil. The Lord added, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these things come from within and defile a man" (Mark 7:21-23).

The conflict between the leaders of Israel and Jesus would continue to grow until they plotted how they could put Him to death! It is still the same today. People either believe Jesus or they want to do away with Him.

Questions

1. What two groups came from Jerusalem to find fault with Jesus? (Mark 7:1)
2. What fault did these groups find with Jesus' disciples? (Mark 7:2)
3. According to Jesus what did Isaiah prophesy about the leaders of Israel? (Mark 7:6b-7)
4. What name did Jesus give to the leaders of Israel because their hearts were evil? (Mark 7:6a)

Lesson 12

A Light to the Gentiles

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 38

Scripture: Mark 7:24-30

Memory Verse: “But Jesus said to her, ‘Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.’” (Mark 7:27)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus became a light to the Gentiles even as He spoke of God’s covenant with Israel.

Lesson

Even as Jesus reached out to become a Light to the Gentiles, He spoke of God’s covenant with Israel. God had made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would be their God and they would be His people. As Jesus encountered a Syro-Phoenician woman He found it was necessary for her to accept God’s covenant with Israel before He helped her. She had to accept that in the figure of speech that Jesus used, the Israelites were the children, and the Gentiles were the dogs.

Large crowds followed Jesus as He taught and did miracles in Galilee. They followed Him only for the miracles He performed. Many of these people did not believe that He was the Messiah sent by God to reveal His grace. The scribes and the Pharisees openly turned against Him because He said that purity in God’s Kingdom comes from the heart. Because the people in Galilee did not see the real purpose for Christ’s coming to earth, He decided to leave Galilee. He crossed the border and went into the land of Tyre and Sidon. He didn’t tell anyone where He was going, hoping to escape the crowds for a time. However, the Gentile people soon learned that Jesus was in their country. It was impossible for Him to hide.

Soon after Jesus came into the Gentile country, a Greek woman learned where He was. This woman had a daughter who was demon-possessed. She hurried to find Jesus and fell at His feet. She believed that He could bring God’s grace into her life and into the life of her daughter. She begged Jesus to cast the demon out of her daughter. She knew that she really did not have a right to ask, because she was a Gentile. Yet she was also convinced that only God’s grace could overcome the devil’s power over her daughter.

The answer from Jesus to her request sounded hard. Jesus indicated that she was a Gentile woman, so He reminded her that the children had to be filled first. He told her that it would not be right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs. Jesus was saying that God’s grace was given to His people by means of His covenant. Only after God’s grace had been shown to the people of Israel, would this grace be offered to the Gentiles. Because of the covenant that God made with Abraham, Jesus referred to the Israelites as children and to the Gentiles as dogs.

Amazingly the woman understood what Jesus was saying. She was not upset that Jesus referred to the Gentiles as dogs. She accepted the truth that salvation was of the Jews. This Gentile woman knew and

