

# Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 12

Level 2

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

# The First and the Last

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 14

**Scripture:** Matthew 19:13–20:16

**Memory Verse:** “But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’” (Matthew 19:14)

**Lesson Truth:** The Kingdom of heaven is such that many who are first will be last, and the last first.

## Lesson

The Kingdom of heaven is different than any kingdom on earth. Powerful people often control the kingdoms on earth. Jesus said that in the Kingdom of heaven many who are first will be last, and the last first. The Kingdom of heaven will be made of those who have the faith of a child. The humble will rule instead of the powerful. A gift of grace brings God’s people into this Kingdom.

Something wonderful happened when Jesus was teaching in Judea. Parents came and brought their children to Jesus. They asked Him to put His hands on them and bless them. The disciples scolded the people when they saw this. They thought that Jesus could not bother with little children. Then Jesus did something wonderful! He told the disciples to let the children come to Him. Jesus told them not to keep the children away from Him. He said let the children come for of such is the Kingdom of heaven!

The disciples did not understand. They thought only adults could do things to be citizen of the Kingdom. The disciples had to learn that citizenship in the Kingdom, is gift of grace. That gift of grace is given to children as well as adults. Jesus also told the disciples that whoever does not receive the Kingdom as a little child will not enter it. The Kingdom of heaven is for those who have the faith of a little child. They must have the faith to believe that God’s Kingdom is a gift of grace!

The disciples also had to learn how God fulfilled the promise of the covenant. In the covenant God promised that He would be their God forever. The gift of the Kingdom of heaven was the fulfillment of that promise. Jesus also put His hands on the children and blessed them. This was a baptism of the Lord Jesus. In this baptism the children were assured of the Kingdom of heaven. They must accept in faith the promise made in baptism.

As Jesus went to another town in Judea, a rich young man came to Him. This young man thought he had to do something to get to heaven. He did not understand that

heaven is given as gift of God's grace. He asked Jesus what he had to do have eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the commandments. Jesus knew that this young man did not understand the gift of grace. He told Jesus that he kept all the commandments and still he lacked something. Then Jesus wanted him to see how impossible it was to earn his salvation. He told the young man to sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. The young man then went away in sorrow. He was in sorrow because he was very rich. He did not want to part with his riches. The young man did not have faith to believe that the Kingdom comes as a gift.

The disciples heard Jesus talk to the young man. Then Jesus told them that it is hard for a rich man to go to heaven. The disciples knew that everyone has some riches. So, they asked Jesus, "Who then can be saved?" (Matt. 19:25). Jesus told them that it is impossible for men to save themselves, but that with God all things are possible. Once again Jesus taught that the only way into the Kingdom of heaven is by grace. You and I must believe that we can receive this gift of grace!

The apostle Peter reminded Jesus that the disciples left everything to follow Him. Jesus then promised that all those who left all to follow Him, would be rewarded. Those who obey because they believed God's promise would be given a place of honor. They will be honored as Christ directs.

Jesus then told the disciples a parable. He wanted them to understand God's grace. Jesus said a landowner went out to hire workers for his vineyard. He hired a number of workers at the beginning of the day. He agreed to pay them a certain amount. This landowner went out later in the day and hired more workers. He even hired some workers the last hour of the day. When the landowner paid the workers, he paid them all the same amount. This caused the workers who worked all day to complain. They thought they should receive more pay.

This parable helped the disciples understand. It taught them that the Kingdom of heaven is a gift of grace. God can give the same gift to those who worked a short time as to those who worked a long time. God may give His gift of grace to anyone He chooses. Do you believe that God has given you His gift of grace? Praise God that by faith His gift of grace can be ours!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "But Jesus said, 'Let the little \_\_\_\_\_ come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matt. 19:14)
2. "Now behold, one came and said to Him, 'Good \_\_\_\_\_ - what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life.'" (Matt. 19:16)

3. “The \_\_\_\_\_ said to Him, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?’” (Matt. 19:20)
4. “Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the \_\_\_\_\_ and you will have treasure in heaven, and come follow Me.’” (Matt. 19:21)
5. “Then Jesus said to His \_\_\_\_\_, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.’” (Matt. 19:23)
6. “And I say to you it is easier for a \_\_\_\_\_ to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matt. 19:24)

## Lesson 2

# Looking for Fruit

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 15

**Scripture:** Matthew 21:18-46

**Memory Verse:** “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.” (Matthew 21:43)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord cursed the fig tree because it did not bear fruit. We also live under a curse because we do not bear fruit. Yet, Jesus took our curse on Himself so we can be fruitful.

### Lesson

Jesus used a fruitless fig tree to teach His disciples about bearing the fruit of faith. He also used parables about two sons and about wicked vinedressers to teach the chief priests and elders. You and I will learn that Jesus took our curse upon Himself so we can bear the fruit of faith.

The Lord Jesus taught in the temple in Jerusalem. He continued to teach in the temple even though He knew the people would turn against Him. Each night He would go out to Bethany to lodge. In the morning He would return to Jerusalem. One morning as He made His way to Jerusalem, He saw a fig tree. Jesus was hungry, so He wanted to eat some figs from this tree. The tree had leaves, which was sign that there should have been figs on the tree. Yet when Jesus went to find some figs, the tree was had no fruit. When Jesus saw that it had no fruit, He cursed the tree. He commanded that it never again bear fruit. The Bible tells us that immediately the tree shriveled up.

The disciples were amazed that the tree shriveled so quickly. Jesus then used this occasion to teach His disciples about the fruit of faith. He told them that if they had faith, they could do much greater things than shrivel a fig tree. They could command a mountain to be cast into the sea. The curse on the fig tree also reminded the disciples that a life that does not bear the fruit is also cursed. Still the Lord promised that whatever things they asked in prayer, believing, they would receive. This was the promise that Jesus took our curse upon Himself. Because He took our curse, we can bear the fruit of faith.

After Jesus taught the disciples, he went to the temple. When He came into the temple the chief priests and the elders came to Him with a question. They really did not want to be taught about God’s Kingdom. Instead, they wanted to find some reason to accuse Jesus. They asked Him, by what authority He taught and did



miracles. Jesus knew their wicked hearts. So, He asked them, by what authority did John baptize the people? Did his authority come from heaven or was it from men? The chief priests and elders were stumped. They knew that if they said his authority came from heaven; Jesus would question why they didn't believe him. On the other hand, if they said his authority came from men the people would rise up. The people thought John was a great prophet. Jesus knew their hearts were closed to the truth of God's grace. Is your heart open to the truth of God's gift of faith through grace?

In spite of their closed hearts Jesus wanted to teach the leaders of Israel. He told them a parable about two sons. A father told his first son to work in his vineyard. The son refused and told his father he would not dress his vines. Later this son felt sorry that he refused and went to do the work his father asked him to do. The father also asked the second son to work in his vineyard. The second son assured his father that he would surely go to work as in his fields. Yet, he did not go to his father's vineyard as he promised. Jesus then asked, "Which of the two did the will of his father?" (Matt. 21:31). The chief priests and elders answered that it was the first son. The Lord then told the chief priests and elders clearly that this parable was for them. He said that the tax collectors and harlots would enter the kingdom of God before the elders. The fruit of faith is seen what we do, not what we say. We need more than lip service.

Jesus then told the chief priests and elders another parable. He told them about a landowner who hired vine dressers to take care of his vineyard. He wanted them to bring in the crop at the right season. But the vinedressers were wicked and killed the servants who were sent to gather the fruit. They even killed the owner's son when he sent him to gather the fruit. Jesus then asked what the owner would do with the wicked vinedressers. The chief priests and elders answered that the owner would destroy them. Again, this parable was directed at the chief priests and elders. Jesus said the kingdom of God would be taken away from them. It would be given to a nation that would bear fruit. The Lord sent His son to ask Israel to believe in the grace He offered to His people. Sadly, the leaders of Israel refused this grace. There would be others who would not refuse but would accept His grace by faith.

The Lord then quoted from Psalm 118 to teach them the truth of God's Kingdom. Psalm 118 prophesied that the stone, which the builders rejected, would become the cornerstone. Jesus wanted the elders to know that He was the One who would be rejected. But because of His rejection; He would take the curse of our rejection upon Himself. Then by grace His people would be able to produce the fruits of faith. The rejected stone would destroy those who refused this grace. The leaders of Israel did not submit to this Word of grace. Are you ready to trust His grace so you can produce the fruit of faith?

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “And seeing a \_\_\_\_\_ tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves.” (Matt. 21:19a)
2. “And He said to it, ‘Let no \_\_\_\_\_ grow on you ever again.’ Immediately the fig tree withered away.” (Matt. 21:19b)
3. “So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, if you have \_\_\_\_\_ and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain,’ ‘Be removed and cast into the sea, it will be done.’” (Matt. 21:21)
4. “But \_\_\_\_\_ answered and said to them, ‘I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I also will tell you by what authority I do these things.’” (Matt. 21:24)
5. “The baptism of \_\_\_\_\_ where was it from? From heaven or from men?” (Matt. 21:25a)
6. “Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that \_\_\_\_\_ and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.’” (Matt. 21:31b)

## Calling and Election

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 16

**Scripture:** Matthew 22:1-14

**Memory Verse:** “So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.” (Matthew 22:10)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord both calls and chooses people to be citizens in the Kingdom of God.

### Lesson

It is wonderful to know that Jesus calls people to part of God’s Kingdom. He also chooses the ones who are part of that Kingdom. This is wonderful because we know that Jesus can choose us. Jesus taught the chief priests and elders about His call. He also taught them about the way that He chooses people to be part of God’s Kingdom. Jesus used a parable to teach the chief priests and elders. A parable is an everyday story that has a spiritual meaning.

Jesus told the elders about a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. After everything was prepared the king sent his servants to call the guests. They told all the guests who were invited to come to the wedding. Then a sad thing happened. The guests who had been invited did not want to come. So, the king sent out more servants. He told these servants to tell the invited guests how he had prepared. He said they should remind them that the oxen and cattle were killed and made ready. Still the invited guests did not want to come to the wedding feast.

The invited guests made light of the king’s invitation. They did not understand what an honor it was to be invited. They were so proud that they thought they could accept or reject the king’s invitation. These guests did not understand that the call to the wedding was from God. Their hearts were hard, so they continued with their farm work. Some of the guests even killed the king’s servants. In the parable, people had received an invitation to the wedding feast. But they did not come to the feast when the servants called. They did not come because they were not worthy to be at the wedding feast. And they were not worthy because they were not clothed with the garment of Christ’s grace. Only those who are covered with the gift of God’s grace will be guests at the king’s wedding feast.

Jesus continued His story by telling how furious the king was that his servants were killed. He sent out his armies to destroy the murderers. The armies also burned up

their city. These invited guests did not understand the need for God's grace. They scorned the invitation of the king. Such guests are not worthy to sit at the king's table.

But the king could not have a wedding feast without guests. To make sure that there were guests, he told his servants to go out to the highways and bring in strangers. The servants did this and brought in enough people to fill the wedding hall with guests. These strangers were filled with wonder that they should be invited to the king's feast. They could not imagine that they were worthy of this great honor. The people from the highways knew that it was only because the king chose them that they were guests.

After the guests were all seated the king came to the feast. He looked over the strangers who were guests at his feast. Immediately he saw one stranger who was not wearing a wedding garment. This stranger did not understand that every wedding guest had to be clothed with the garment of the king's grace. Without the garment of grace no one can be a guest at the king's wedding feast.

The king then commanded his servants to bind this stranger hand and foot. He told the servants to cast him into outer darkness. In this darkness there would also be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Jesus then made clear the message of His parable. He said that many would be called but few would be chosen. His message was for the chief priests and elders. They had to know that only those who are clothed in the garment of grace are saved. Proud people will not be part of God's kingdom. Being a leader in Israel would not earn salvation. Only those who are covered with grace will be at the feast!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "The kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son." (Matt. 22:2)
2. "Again, he sent out other \_\_\_\_\_, saying. "Tell those who are invited, See I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." (Matt. 22:4)
3. "But they made \_\_\_\_\_ of it, and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business." (Matt. 22:5)

4. “Then he said to his servants, “The \_\_\_\_\_ is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.” (Matt. 22:8)
5. ““Therefore go into the \_\_\_\_\_, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.” (Matt. 22:9)
6. “But when the king came in to see the \_\_\_\_\_, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.” (Matt. 22:11)

## For the Bridegroom's Sake

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 17

**Scripture:** Matthew 25:1-13

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 24:36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord told His disciples a parable about waiting for the return of the Bridegroom.

### Lesson

The title of our lesson is, “For the Bridegroom’s Sake.” This story is about ten young girls who were invited to a wedding feast. This story is one of the parables that Jesus told. He told this parable to His disciples. Jesus wanted His disciples to be ready when He returns to earth. He wanted them to be ready to honor the Bridegroom.

Jesus was with His disciples about a week before He was tried and crucified. They still did not understand that the Kingdom of God was spiritual. As they were leaving the temple the disciples pointed out the temple building. They thought that God was with them in the temple. God had been with His people in the tabernacle. The disciples forgot that the people of Israel rejected the God of Abraham. Jesus then told them that not one stone of the temple would be left upon another. The temple would be completely destroyed. This was the sign that God no longer lived among the nation of Israel.

After Jesus told the disciples about the temple, He went to the Mount of Olives. Then the disciples came to Him and asked when these things would be. They wanted to know when the temple would be destroyed. But they also wanted to know when Jesus would return. They wanted to know about the end of time. Jesus then told His disciples about wars and troubles that will come. Jesus said there would be signs they could watch for, to tell that the end was near. But Jesus made them aware that no one knows the day or the hour of His return. Not even the angels know the day. Only the Father in heaven knows the day that Jesus will return. But Jesus wanted them to be ready. He wanted them to be eager to honor the Bridegroom. So, Jesus told the story of the ten young girls.

Jesus said that ten young girls were invited to a wedding feast. They were to go with their lamps to light the way for the bridegroom. Early in the story Jesus said that five of the girls were wise and five were foolish. The wise girls took extra oil for their lamps. But the foolish girls took only their lamps. Then all ten girls did something

sad. They all fell asleep while they waited for the bridegroom. None of them were ready and watching. At just the right hour they heard the cry that bridegroom was coming.

Immediately all ten rushed to light their lamps. But the lamps of the foolish girls just sputtered. They ran out of oil while they waited for the bridegroom. These girls begged the wise girls for some of their oil. But the wise girls said they had just enough for their own lamps. They told the foolish girls to go to the store to buy oil. The foolish girls then left to buy oil.

While the foolish girls were away the bridegroom came. The wise girls were able to light his way to the wedding feast. They were also allowed to join the wedding feast. Then a sad thing happened. The foolish girls returned. They found the door to the wedding feast locked. They called out, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" (Matt. 25:11). But the Lord answered, "I do not know you" (Matt. 25:12). Isn't it sad that the foolish girls could not get into the wedding feast? It is sad because the wedding feast is God's Kingdom!

Jesus then ended His story about the ten girls with a warning. He warned His disciples to watch. Jesus did not want His disciples to be like the foolish virgins. He wanted them to be ready when the Bridegroom comes. The Lord wanted the disciples to be ready to honor the Bridegroom. The Bridegroom is the Lord Jesus. He is worthy to be honored by those who watch and wait! The warning to the disciples is also our warning. We too must watch! We do not know the day or the hour in which the Son of Man is coming! Are you ready and watching? Are you ready to honor the Bridegroom?

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Then the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom." (Matt. 25:1)
2. "Now five of them were \_\_\_\_\_ and five were foolish." (Matt. 25:2)
3. "Those who were \_\_\_\_\_ took their lamps and took no oil with them." (Matt. 25:3)
4. "And at midnight a cry was heard, 'Behold the \_\_\_\_\_ is coming, go out to meet him!'" (Matt. 25:6)

5. “Afterward the other virgins came also saying, ‘\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, open to us!’” (Matt. 25:11)
  
6. “Watch therefore, for you know neither the \_\_\_\_\_ nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” (Matt. 25:13)



## The Master's Goods

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 18

**Scripture:** Matthew 25:14-30

**Memory Verse:** “His lord said to him, ‘Well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” (Matthew 25:23)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord is worthy of the honor to have us work with the talents He has given us.

### Lesson

The Lord Jesus wants His people to have the right attitude toward Him. He taught this in the parable of the wise and foolish girls. He also wants His people to have the right attitude toward the talents He gives them. He taught this in today's lesson on the parable of the talents. The Lord is worthy to have us honor Him by using His gifts. We honor Him by using His gifts to build His Kingdom.

Jesus again taught His disciples by using a parable. This time He said the kingdom of heaven was like a traveling man. This man was rich and wanted to travel to a far country. Before he left, he called his servants to him. He wanted to put them in charge of his goods. With real wisdom he gave them his goods according to their ability. He gave five talents to the first servant. To the second servant he gave two talents and only one talent to the third servant. He then left on his journey.

The story of the parable continues by telling how the servants used the master's goods. The first servant traded with the five talents he had been given. In his trading he gained five more talents. The second also traded with his two talents. He was able to gain two more talents. However, the third servant had a different attitude. He would not use his master's goods. This servant thought his master wanted to take advantage of him. He would not honor his master by using his goods. So, he dug a hole in the ground and hid his one talent. He would give his master only what he received.

After a long time, the master returned from his travels. He once again called his servants to him. This time he wanted to settle accounts with them. He wanted to know what his servants had done with the talents he had given them. The first and second servants told their master about the gains they made. They had both doubled their talents. The master responded with words of praise. He said they had done well as faithful servants. They had been faithful over a few things. For that reason, he

would make them rulers over many things. But there was more! He said that they could enter into the joy of their lord!

Then it was time for the third servant to give account. He accused his master of being a hard man. He said he knew that his master would reap where he did not sow. He would gather from where he had not scattered seed. He explained that out of fear he hid his one talent in the ground. Then he gave his master the one talent he had received. His master answered him sternly. He said he was a wicked and lazy servant. The master said the least he should have done with his one talent is bring it to the bank. Then the master could have earned interest on this talent.

Then the master did something unusual. He told his servants to take the one talent away from the lazy servant. What were they to do with it? They were to give it to the servant who had ten talents. Jesus wanted His disciples to know how things work in His Kingdom. In that kingdom, to those who have much, more will be given. And to those who have little, that little will be taken away. The master then commanded that the lazy servant be thrown into outer darkness.

From this parable we learn what our attitude must be toward the gifts the Lord gives us. These gifts are both our abilities and our possessions. The Lord is honored when we use these gifts to build His Kingdom. We must know that we are the Lord's servants. It is an honor for His servants to use the Master's goods! Are you ready to use the talents God has given to you for His Kingdom?

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "For the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ is like a man traveling to a far country." (Matt. 25:14a)
2. "And to one he gave \_\_\_\_\_ talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his ability." (Matt. 25:15a)
3. "Then the one who had received the \_\_\_\_\_ talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents." (Matt. 25:16)
4. "His \_\_\_\_\_ said to him, 'Well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.'" (Matt. 25:21a)

5. “Therefore take the \_\_\_\_\_ from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.” (Matt. 25:28)
  
6. “For to \_\_\_\_\_ who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance.” (Matt. 25:29a)

## Ready to Be Sacrificed

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 19

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:1-16

**Memory Verse:** “Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.” (Matthew 26:13)

**Lesson Truth:** The love of the Lord Jesus was in control even when He suffered and died.

### Lesson

The love of Jesus controls everything. His love controlled the events that led to His suffering and death. Jesus’ love controlled the actions of the chief priests and elders. Because Jesus was ready to be sacrificed, He allowed the elders to plot His death. Jesus’ love for Mary prompted Judas to betray Him.

The Lord Jesus taught the people about using the Master’s goods. He used a parable to urge His people to be ready for His return. After He finished with these teachings He talked to His disciples about His death. Jesus reminded the disciples that the Passover was only two days away. He then told them that during the Passover Feast He would be crucified.

Something amazing happened! The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders also talked about Jesus’ death. They met together at the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest. At this meeting they plotted to kill Jesus. Do you know what they decided? They decided that they could not take Jesus and kill Him during the Passover. These leaders said it would cause an uproar if they took Jesus during the Passover. But the chief priests and elders were not in control. The love of Jesus was in control!

Christ Jesus was ready to die for His people. He was ready to show His love by paying for the sins of His people. Jesus would sacrifice Himself on the cross. Since the love of Jesus was in control this had to happen during the Passover. The Passover was a feast to remember that the angel of death passed over Israelite homes. This happened when the children of Israel left Egypt. The angel of death passed over every home that had the blood of the Passover lamb sprinkled on the doorframe. The first born of every home that did not have blood on the doorframe died. Jesus was ready to die during the Passover feast because He is the true Passover Lamb. Because of His blood, the curse of God will pass by those who believe. It was the love of Jesus and not the plot of the elders that decided when He would die.

The love of Jesus also prompted Judas to offer to betray Him. This is what happened. Jesus was at Bethany at the home of Simon. As he was dining with Simon, Mary came with some expensive oil. She poured this expensive oil perfume on Jesus' head and feet. When the disciples saw her do this, they became angry. They said that Mary should have sold this expensive oil and given the money to the poor.

Then Jesus scolded the disciples. He told them not to trouble Mary. Jesus told them that Mary did a good thing for Him. He also pointed out that Mary understood something that the disciples did not understand. Mary knew that Jesus loved her. She also understood that He had to suffer and die for her sins. That is why Jesus said that Mary had anointed His body for burial. The Lord reminded the disciples that they would always have poor people to help. But they would not always the honor of preparing Christ for His sacrifice. Jesus then said that wherever the gospel is preached, people would hear about Mary. It was Christ Jesus who awakened this love in Mary!

Mary's deed also prompted Judas. He was so upset by this loving deed of Mary that he went to the chief priests. He offered to deliver Jesus into their hands for a price. The chief priests said they would pay him thirty pieces of silver. Judas then planned a way to betray Jesus for the pieces of silver. Jesus was ready to be sacrificed. It was the love of Jesus that controlled the events of His death.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "You know that after two days is the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." (Matt. 26:2)
2. "Then the chief priests, the scribes and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas." (Matt. 26:3)
3. "But they said, 'Not during the \_\_\_\_\_, lest there be an uproar among the people.'" (Matt. 26:5)
4. "And when Jesus was in \_\_\_\_\_ at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as he sat at the table." (Matt. 26:6-7)

5. “But when the \_\_\_\_\_ saw it, they were indignant, saying, ‘Why this waste?’” (Matt. 26:8)
  
6. “For in \_\_\_\_\_ this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.” (Matt. 26:12)

## The New Testament in His Blood

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 20

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:17-29

**Memory Verse:** “Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.” (Jeremiah 31:31)

**Lesson Truth:** The disciples could be assured of their faith because God is faithful to His covenant.

### Lesson

This lesson tells about a painful message Jesus shared with His disciples. It also tells about a joyful message He shared with them. The painful message was about the man who would betray Jesus. And the joyful message was about the blood of Jesus and the new covenant.

It was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This feast was also known as the Passover Feast. We should remember that the Passover first happened in Egypt. It happened when the angel of death passed over homes that had blood on the doorframes. It happened the night that the children of Israel left Egypt. This was the night that many firstborn children in Egypt died. Every home that did not have blood on the doorframes lost a child. The blood on the doorframes was from the Passover lamb. Each year the children of Israel remembered the Passover with a feast.

This first day of the feast Jesus’ disciples asked Him a question. They asked Him where they should prepare the Passover meal. Jesus told them to go into the city and find a certain man. He told them to tell the man: “The Teacher says, ‘My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples’” (Matt. 26:18). The man likely believed that Jesus was the Christ. So, he allowed them to prepare the Passover meal at his house. The disciples did not know that Jesus was the true Passover Lamb. They did not realize that Jesus would shed His blood. The disciples had to learn that the angel of death would pass by God’s chosen ones because of Jesus’ shed blood.

When the Passover meal was ready Jesus sat at the table with His disciples. He was filled with love for them. Jesus wanted them to know that He was going to die for them. He wanted to assure them that His Spirit would be with them forever. Then all of a sudden Jesus shocked the disciples. He said that one of them would betray

Him. Just think a disciple would be unfaithful to his Lord! This made all the disciples feel uncertain. If one of the twelve could betray Him, who could they depend on? The Lord Jesus had to remove any hope they had in themselves. They had to know that all their assurance and hope could only be found in the faithfulness of God. God is faithful to His covenant! Because the disciples were unsure each one asked: “Lord, Is it I?” (Matt. 26:22). Then Jesus said it was the one who dipped his hand with him in the dish. The Lord warned that it would be better if this man had never been born. Judas then asked the Lord, “Rabbi, is it I?” (Matt. 22:25). Jesus wanted Judas to understand that He knew who he was. The Lord knew all about his plan but did not try to prevent it. The Redeemer would give Himself freely for His own. Judas was now marked as a betrayer and traitor. .

Jesus now shared with the other disciples His message of joy. He took bread and blessed it and broke it. Then He did something that would help the disciples put their trust in God alone. He gave them the bread to eat saying it was His body. He also took the cup and asked them all to drink from it. He said: “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28). In that way Jesus showed that He was the true Passover Lamb. The angel of eternal death will pass over all those who are sprinkled with His blood. No longer are the promises of the covenant made sure by the blood of bulls and goats. Now there is a new covenant. The promises of this new covenant are made sure by the blood of the Lord Jesus. This is the new testament in His blood! Today we remember the broken body and shed blood of the Lord with a sacrament. It is called the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

The Lord Jesus now led His disciples out to the Mount of Olives. He knew that Judas would betray Him. Jesus also knew that he would be taken prisoner. He was ready to suffer and die to take away our sins. But the disciples were not ready. The Lord knew this so He told them that they would all stumble because of Him. It would happen just as the prophet said that it would. Zechariah said that God would strike the Shepherd and then the sheep would be scattered. The disciples still did not understand that God would redeem His people by the blood of the Lamb. Jesus assured them that He would finish the work of redemption. He told them that after he was raised from the dead, He would go before them into Galilee.

The new testament in Jesus’ blood is the new covenant that is made sure with His blood. God is faithful to His covenant. He sent the Lord Jesus to shed His blood for the remission of our sins. We can be sure of our faith because God is faithful to His covenant.



## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “And He said, ‘Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The \_\_\_\_\_ says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.’” (Matt. 26:18)
2. “Now when they were eating, He said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will \_\_\_\_\_ Me.’” (Matt. 26:21)
3. “And when they were eating, \_\_\_\_\_ took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat, this is My body.’” (Matt. 26:26)
4. “Then He took the \_\_\_\_\_ and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you.’” (Matt. 26:27)
5. “For this is My blood of the new \_\_\_\_\_ which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (Matt. 26:28)
6. “I will strike the \_\_\_\_\_ and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.” (Matt. 26:31b)

## The Faithful Witness

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 21

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:57-75

**Memory Verse:** “Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death.” (Matthew 26:59)

**Lesson Truth:** The suffering of the Lord Jesus for His people included being rejected as the Christ.

### Lesson

The Lord Jesus was taken prisoner after Judas betrayed Him. He was led before the council of chief priests and elders. They had to decide if Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. The council thought He was a pretender who claimed to be the Son of God. They wanted witnesses to accuse Him. The law stated that if two witnesses agreed the accusation was true. Do you know what the council of elders did? They looked for false witnesses to accuse Jesus. They did this because they wanted to put Jesus to death. But they could not find two witnesses who agreed.

Why did the council of elders want to put Jesus to death? The reason is because He said all men need God’s grace. Jesus told the people that God’s Kingdom is a Kingdom of grace. He also said that He was the One who brought God’s grace. Jesus said that He brought God’s grace because He was the Christ. Jesus told the people that He was the One sent by God. The council did not believe that Jesus was the Christ. They did not believe that God had sent Him! That is why the elders had many false witnesses speak against Him. They wanted to find a reason to put Him to death. At last, two false witnesses came to accuse Jesus. They said Jesus claimed He could destroy God’s temple and rebuild it in three days. These witnesses were false because that is not what Jesus said. He had said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). They did not understand that Jesus was talking about His body. The people did not understand that Jesus body was God’s temple. It was God’s temple because that was where God lived. If they put Jesus to death, they would destroy God’s temple. Nor did they realize that Jesus was telling them that He would rise after three days.

Jesus gave the elders and the people a wonderful promise. He promised that He would rise from the dead. He promised that He would pour out His Spirit upon His people. God would then live in the hearts of His people. That is the way the Lord would raise up the temple! But the people did not understand. They did not understand because they did not want to understand. If the Lord sent His Spirit to

live in their hearts, then their lives would have to be holy. The people were not ready to submit to this holiness. It is only by the gift of faith that God's people can understand Jesus' words.

The high priest asked Jesus why He didn't answer those who accused Him. But Jesus remained silent! His silence showed that He was willing to suffer. In His suffering he paid for the hatred that was spoken against Him. Now the high priest insisted that Jesus say something. He told Him that he put Him under oath before God. The high priest said, "Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" (Matt. 26:63). This was a sad moment! The high priest wanted Jesus to say he was the Christ. He wanted the Lord to say this only that he might accuse Him. Jesus answered the high priest under oath. He replied, "It is as you as you said" (Matt. 26:64). Jesus was the faithful witness and told us clearly that He was the Son of God. But the people through their leaders rejected Him! They rejected the grace of God that comes in Christ Jesus!

The joy of this lesson is that Jesus suffered for those who rejected His grace. That is why He suffered in silence and was willing to die. Jesus then warned the chief priests and elders. He told them, that following this they would see the Son of Man at the right hand of God. He also said they would see Him return on the clouds of heaven. It happened just as Jesus said it would. He was raised from the dead. Following His resurrection, He poured out His Spirit. Then His followers told every nation about the grace of God in Christ Jesus. This warning should have helped the high priest know that Jesus was the Christ. Instead, he tore his clothes and said that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy. The other council members agreed with him and said the Lord should die. Then they spit on Jesus and hit Him. The grace of God was firmly rejected! We should be very thankful that Jesus suffered and paid for that awful sin. That was the way the temple of God was destroyed. But Jesus suffered in silence that He might raise up what they destroyed.

The Lord Jesus was the faithful witness. He testified that He was the Christ, the Son of God. But even as He testified one of His own disciples denied Him. Three times over, Peter told the people in the courtyard that he did not know Jesus. After the third time Peter heard the rooster crow. Then he remembered Jesus words: "Before the rooster crows you will deny Me three times" (Matt. 26:75). Peter went out and wept bitterly. Because he repented, he was forgiven. He came to know the Son of God as his Redeemer!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Now the \_\_\_\_\_, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death." (Matt. 26:59)

2. “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and to build it in three days.’” (Matt. 26:61)
  
3. “And the \_\_\_\_\_ arose and said to Him, ‘Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?’” (Matt. 26:62)
  
4. “But \_\_\_\_\_ kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, ‘I put You under oath by the living God; Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!’” (Matt. 26:63)
  
5. “\_\_\_\_\_ said to him, ‘It is as you said.’” (Matt. 26:64a)
  
6. “Then the \_\_\_\_\_ tore his clothes, saying. ‘He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look now you have heard His blasphemy! (Matt. 26:65)

## Like Clay in the Potter's Hands

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 22

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:1-10

**Memory Verse:** “But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.’” (Matthew 27:6)

**Lesson Truth:** Our life is made new in Christ, just like a potter makes a new vessel from a broken one.

### Lesson

The story from Scripture today is about the Lord Jesus before the Sanhedrin. This story includes the actions of Judas returning the thirty pieces of silver and taking his own life. The chief priests paid Judas thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus. Years before Zechariah prophesied that this would be the price for Jesus. He also prophesied that the elders would buy the potter's field with these pieces of silver. Jeremiah told about God's power to make people and nations to His glory. God can do with people and nations just like a potter can do with clay. He can make an ugly vessel into a vessel of honor!

The morning after Jesus was arrested the chief priests and elders had a meeting. They tried to find a reason to put Jesus to death. Because the Romans ruled the country, the chief priests and elders were not allowed to put anyone to death. The elders had to send Jesus to Pontius Pilate the Roman governor. Pilate would have to order Jesus' death. What could the elders accuse Jesus of doing? What would cause Pilate to believe He should die? They knew that Pilate would not care that Jesus said that He was the Son of God. The elders decided to tell Pilate that Jesus said that He was the king of the Jews. This would trouble Pilate because the Romans did not want the Jews to have their own king.

Do you know what was sad about the elders' plot to kill Jesus? It was sad that they rejected their covenant Head. Jesus was the One who brought God's grace to His people. Now the elders rejected that grace. Years before God had promised that He would be Israel's God. This meant that Israel could be God's people. This was God's covenant promise. The elder's rejection of Jesus was a rejection of God's covenant promise. The people of Israel had rejected this promise when they served other gods. Now they rejected this promise again when they sent Jesus to Pilate.

God could have rejected Israel. But Christ Jesus was willing to suffer and to die to pay for Israel's rejection. Jesus continued to be the head of the covenant. He was

willing to suffer the punishment for His people. In that way God's people were like clay in the potter's hands. The potter can take a broken clay pot and make it into a new, beautiful pot. God allowed Jesus to be put to death so that He could arise to bring new life. You and I are also like clay in the hands of the potter. We have also rejected the Head of the covenant by our sins. God in Christ Jesus has taken our lives, marred by sin, and made us into new vessels of honor! May God help us believe in the grace that comes to us in Christ!

Judas the betrayer saw what was going to happen to Jesus. He saw that the chief priests and elders really wanted to put Jesus to death. That is why they accused Him before Pilate. Now Judas felt sorry for what he had done. He wasn't sorry in a way that he would repent. He was sorry that he would be known as a thief and a betrayer. Now Judas returned the thirty pieces of silver he had received to betray Jesus. He brought them back to the chief priests and elders. He said that he could not keep the money because Jesus was innocent. The elders said that they didn't care. They were going to have Jesus put to death even if Judas said he was innocent. Judas then threw the pieces of silver into the temple and went out and hanged himself. He wanted to escape from his from his awful deed. Instead, he fell into the hands of the living God. Judas then realized the horror of his betrayal of the Lord Jesus.

What would the chief priests and elders do with the thirty pieces of silver? This was the silver that Judas threw into the temple. The law would not allow them to add it to the temple money. It wasn't allowed because it was money paid for blood. The elders decided to use it to buy the potter's field. The potter's field would be used to bury strangers. It had to happen that way. It happened because that is what the prophet Zechariah said would happen. Years before Zechariah said they would pay thirty pieces of silver for the potter's field. That was the amount they thought was the value of Jesus.

The potter's field also helps us in our faith. This field is a sign of the power of Jesus blood. All those who are buried in the potter's field rest under the price of Jesus blood. It is a sign that all believers rest in the earth under the price of Jesus blood. By the price of His blood believers are redeemed from sin and death. Like the potter makes a new vase from a broken one, so Christ Jesus makes us new!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "When morning came, all the chief priests and \_\_\_\_\_ of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death." (Matt. 27:1)
2. "And when they had \_\_\_\_\_ Him they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor." (Matt.27:2)

3. “Then \_\_\_\_\_ His betrayer, seeing that he had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.” (Matt. 27:3)
  
4. “Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and \_\_\_\_\_ himself.” (Matt. 27:5)
  
5. “But the \_\_\_\_\_ took the silver pieces and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.’” (Matt. 27:6)
  
6. “And they consulted together and bought with them the \_\_\_\_\_ to bury strangers in.”  
(Matt. 27:7)

## Arbitrary Treatment

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 23

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:11-31

**Memory Verse:** “I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.” (Isaiah 50:6)

**Lesson Truth:** Pilate treated Jesus as guilty although He did not break any laws. He did this to satisfy the justice of God against us.

### Lesson

Awful things happened when the chief priests and elders brought Jesus to Pilate. Pilate treated Jesus as if He were guilty although He did not break any laws. The Lord Jesus was willing to suffer false charges to pay for God’s judgments against us.

The chief priests and elders brought Jesus to Pilate the Roman governor. They accused Him of saying that He was the King of the Jews. Pilate was curious about this accusation. The first question he asked Jesus was: “Are You the King of the Jews?” (Matt. 27:11). Jesus then told Pilate plainly that He was the King of the Jews. Pilate didn’t know what to do with Jesus. He had no idea what it meant to be a ruler in God’s name. Pilate thought Jesus was foolish for claiming to be a King. But he did not believe that Jesus wanted to rule in place of the Romans.

Do you know what he decided to do? He decided to allow Jesus to answer His accusers. Pilate thought that after Jesus answered His accusers, he would let Him go. Pilate was not ready to do what a judge is supposed to do. He was not ready to tell the elders that Jesus did not break any laws. He was not ready to set Jesus free. It did not work out the way Pilate wanted it to. The elders accused Jesus of many more things. They showed how much they hated Jesus. Pilate wanted Jesus to answer them and clear His name. He asked Jesus, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” But Jesus did not answer one word. He was willing to suffer for us. And Pilate refused to be responsible as a judge.

Pilate then thought of another way that he might set Jesus free. It was not a fair way for a judge to rule. He remembered that each year the Romans set a prisoner free at the Passover Feast. He decided to offer to set Jesus or Barabbas free. Pilate believed they would choose Jesus because Barabbas was a murderer. It was not fair for Pilate to treat Jesus as if He were guilty. It was not fair for Pilate to treat Jesus like a prisoner. But he did not do what was fair or just.



God then chose to warn Pilate. He did this through Pilate's wife. She came to him and told him that she had a dream about Jesus. She warned her husband not to have anything to do with Jesus. She knew that Jesus was not guilty. Pilate's wife did not ask him to do what was right. She only asked him to get rid of Jesus. Pilate did not pay attention to this warning from God. He did not do what a true judge is supposed to do. Pilate did not judge in a fair and honest way.

Pilate now asked if he should release Jesus or Barabbas. The elders had persuaded the people to ask that Barabbas be released. So, they cried out to release Barabbas, the murderer. Pilate asked, "Then what must I do with Jesus, the Christ?" The people answered, "Let Him be crucified!" (Matt. 27:22). Wasn't this terrible? The people wanted Jesus to be crucified, but He had not broken any law! All Jesus had done was to tell the people about His grace. Still, they wanted to have Him crucified.

Then Pilate did a very cowardly thing. He took a basin of water and washed his hands before the people. He told them he washed his hands to show that he was innocent of Jesus' blood. But Pilate was the Roman governor. He was responsible to treat the people that he ruled fairly. Pilate could not escape his responsibility by washing his hands.

The Jewish people were ready to take responsibility for Jesus' death. They told Pilate that His blood could be on them and their children. It is sad that the people did not know what they were saying. They did not know that it is a terrible thing to be responsible for Jesus' death. Pilate listened to the people. He set the murderer Barabbas free. Then he had the soldiers beat Jesus and told them to crucify Him. The soldiers not only beat Jesus, but they also mocked Him. They put a robe on Him and a crown of thorns on His head. Then they kneeled before Him and said, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' (Matt. 27:29). After they mocked the Lord Jesus, they spit on Him and hit Him.

Jesus suffered all these things to pay for the sins of His people. He never broke a law, yet He was willing to suffer. Jesus was willing to be mocked. He was willing to do this so that He could bring the grace of God to His people! The grace of the Lord Jesus has won the victory! His grace is greater than judges and people who rule without laws!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And the \_\_\_\_\_ asked Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?'" (Matt.27:11b)

2. “Then \_\_\_\_\_ said to Him, ‘Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?’” (Matt. 27:13)
  
3. “But He answered him not one word, so that the \_\_\_\_\_ marveled greatly.” (Matt. 27:14)
  
4. “Now at the \_\_\_\_\_ the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.” (Matt. 27:15)
  
5. “The \_\_\_\_\_ answered and said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release to you?’ They said, ‘Barabbas!’” (Matt. 27:21)
  
6. “Pilate said to them, ‘What then shall I do with \_\_\_\_\_ who is called the Christ?’ They all said to him, ‘Let Him be crucified!’” (Matt. 27:22)

## Cursed by God

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 24

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:32-56

**Memory Verse:** “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?” (Psalm 22:1)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus died under God’s curse. He did this so He could purchase a blessing for us.

### Lesson

Jesus suffered the rejection of men. He was nailed to the cross where the people mocked Him. Darkness covered the land when He was separated from God in His death. And in His death Jesus suffered the curse of God the Father.

The Roman soldiers had mocked Jesus by bowing down to Him. They pretended that He was a king and said, “Hail King of the Jews!” (Matt. 27:29). Now they led Him away to be crucified. As he stumbled under the weight of the cross, they looked for someone to carry it for Him. No one offered to carry His cross because it was the sign of a curse. It was a shame for anyone to carry a cross. For that reason, the soldiers looked for a stranger to carry Jesus’ cross. When they saw Simon from Cyrene, they made him carry it. Jesus felt the shame because Simon was made to carry a cross that he hated.

Jesus was led out of the city of Jerusalem. He was to be treated as an outcast and separated from the people He loved. But sending Jesus out of the city could remind the people of the scapegoat. The scapegoat was used as a sign in the Old Testament. In a ceremony, the sins of the people were placed on the scapegoat. Then he was driven into the wilderness. In this way Jesus carried the sins of the people as He was sent out of the city. With Simon carrying the cross, the soldiers led Jesus out of Jerusalem to the hill called Golgotha. At Golgotha the soldiers offered Jesus a drink of sour wine. This wine would dim the senses of the Lord Jesus. In this way He would be ready to be crucified. But Jesus refused to drink the wine. He wanted to be fully alert when he died for the sins of His people. Then they nailed Him to the cross. He hung on the cross, rejected by both heaven and earth. Jesus suffered the curse of God against sin. Even as He hung there, the people mocked Him. They called out to Him, “If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross” (Matt. 27:40).

The nails in His hands and the hatred of the people was not Jesus' worst suffering. His worst suffering came from being rejected by God. Yet Christ Jesus was willing to be rejected by God for our sake. He took upon Himself the rejection that we deserve. As Jesus hung on the cross an amazing thing happened. At noon the sun quit shining. It remained dark for three hours. During this time Jesus suffered the worst. Jesus knew that the sun could not shine at this time. It could not shine when God rejected the covenant Head. When Jesus thought of a world without God He cried out. He said, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46). At this time Jesus felt the terrible weight of God's curse. Even when he was forsaken, Jesus called God His God. In this way Jesus destroyed the power of eternal death for us.

The people standing near the cross heard Jesus cry out. Some of them thought that He was calling for Elijah. They even ran to get a sponge filled with sour wine to press to His lips. Others said He should be left alone to see if Elijah would come to help. After Jesus suffered for hours, He finally cried out one more time. Then He gave up His spirit. He died as the One who was cursed by God! At the moment that He died the curtain in the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. This was the curtain that was used to keep the people separate from God. Now it was torn in two as a sign that God would no longer live behind a curtain. God would now live in the hearts of His people.

God showed in other ways that Jesus had removed the curse. When Jesus died the earth quaked. Graves of the saints were opened. Even bodies of saints that were dead came out of the graves. This was a sign of what will happen at the end of time. Since the curse is removed the dead will arise. God will make all things new. Then an amazing thing happened. An unbelieving centurion and his men gave a testimony. They said: "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matt. 27:54). We must show our gratitude to God that Jesus was willing to bear the curse. He bore the curse so that He might earn God's blessing for us!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And when they had come to a place called \_\_\_\_\_ that is to say, a place of a skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink." (Matt. 27:33-34a)
2. "But when He \_\_\_\_\_ it, He would not drink." (Matt. 27:34b)

3. “Then they \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet.” (Matt.27:35)
  
4. “Now from the \_\_\_\_\_ hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.” (Matt. 27:45)
  
5. “And about the ninth hour \_\_\_\_\_ cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” (Matt. 27:46)
  
6. “Then, behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” (Matt. 27:51a)

## In the Realm of the Dead

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 25

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:57-66

**Memory Verse:** “And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.” (Isaiah 53:9)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus opened the gates of death for us when He entered the realm of the dead.

### Lesson

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered agony of hell. He did this when He died on the cross and was forsaken by God. He also entered the realm of the dead. Jesus entered the realm of the dead so that He could remove the curse of death for us. Because Jesus entered the realm of the dead, He gained the victory over death for us.

When people enter the realm of the dead they are forgotten. In the realm of the dead their names also die. They are no longer remembered. That is the curse of death for those who do not believe in the Lord Jesus. But for those who believe in the Lord Jesus that curse has been removed. Their names will not be forgotten. One day they will live again. They will live again because Jesus entered the realm of the dead. They will live because He gained the victory over death. Jesus fully suffered the curse of sin. For that reason, He could break open the kingdom of death. He did this when He rose from the dead.

How did the burial of Jesus take place? A friend who was a believer buried Jesus. This friend was Joseph a man from Arimathea. Joseph went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. With the help of others, he went to the cross and gently took Jesus' body down. After he had taken it down, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. Then he placed the Lord's body in his own new tomb. This was a tomb that Joseph had cut out of the rocks. To these friends of Jesus, it seemed that his life was over. He had gone to the place of the dead. Would His name be forgotten? That is the judgment that is due us because of our sin. But that is not what happened to Jesus! He took our curse and paid the price of our sins. For that reason, His life would not be in vain. His friends continued to love Him even in His death. The realm of the dead would not be able to hold the Son of God. His life was not in vain. Nor will our life be in vain.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sat opposite the tomb and saw them bury Jesus. They saw Joseph roll a large stone against the door of the tomb. But this closing of the tomb was not good enough for the chief priests and the Pharisees. They went to Pilate on the Sabbath day and asked to make the tomb secure. They told Pilate that they had heard Jesus say that in three days He would rise from the dead. They said that they were afraid that His disciples would come and take His body. Then the disciples would say that He had risen from the dead. The chief priests and Pharisees wanted him to stay in the realm of the dead. They wanted Him to be forgotten. They wanted the name of Jesus to die with Him. For that reason, they asked to have the tomb sealed. They even asked that the tomb to be guarded.

Pilate told the chief priests and Pharisees to seal the tomb any way they wanted. He also told them to place soldiers to guard the tomb. Pilate said that they could make the tomb as secure as they knew how. The elders of Israel did just as Pilate permitted them to. They sealed the stone in front of the door of the tomb. They also had soldiers guard the tomb. The elders were certain that the Kingdom of grace that Jesus preached had ended. It ended because Jesus was in the realm of the dead. The elders believed people could be saved by their own righteousness. They thought that the laws of the Pharisees would save people. But all men would learn that Jesus did not stay in the realm of the dead. His Kingdom of grace did not end!

Jesus turned aside the judgment of death. His name was not forgotten! Instead, He rose from the dead and His Word and Spirit moved the world! Not long after His burial these same elders said to His disciples: "You have filled all Jerusalem with His name." (Acts 5: 28) Everyone would know that Jesus went to the realm of the dead, but He did not stay there. He suffered and died to atone for our sins. For that reason, the tomb could not keep Him. He was victorious over death. The joy for you and me is that all those who believe in Jesus will not be forgotten in death either. Because Jesus lives, we also will live! Because the life of Jesus was not in vain, neither will our life be in vain. Our names will never be forgotten!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from \_\_\_\_\_ named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus." (Matt 27:57)
2. "This man went to \_\_\_\_\_ and asked for the body of Jesus." (Matt. 27:58a)

3. “When \_\_\_\_\_ had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth.” (Matt. 27:59)
  
4. “And \_\_\_\_\_ was there and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.” (Matt. 27:61)
  
5. “Sir we remember, while He was still alive, how that \_\_\_\_\_ said, ‘After three days I will rise.’” (Matt. 27:63)
  
6. “So they went and made the \_\_\_\_\_ secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.” (Matt. 27:66)



## The One with Authority

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 26

**Scripture:** Matthew 28

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 28:6 “He is not here, for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where he lay.”

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth when he rose from the dead.

### Lesson

The lesson today is about Jesus rising from the dead. This is called His resurrection. At His resurrection Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth. This means that He has the power and the right to command or act. Do you know what Jesus does with His authority? He uses it to show the power of His grace to those who believe. This grace of Jesus sets believers free from sin and death.

Christ Jesus rose from the dead. Even though the chief priests tried to make sure this didn't happen. They sealed the large stone at the door of the tomb. Then they placed soldiers to guard Jesus' tomb. The chief priests wanted to make sure that no one could steal Jesus' body. They wanted the tomb to be the end of Jesus. More than anything they wanted the people to forget His name. The chief priests did not believe in the grace that Jesus talked about. They wanted to live by their own rules and laws.

The disciples were also afraid and didn't know what to do. Jesus was in the tomb. If this was the end of Jesus, then there was no grace. The disciples thought that life without grace was not possible. It was a long, sad Sabbath day as the disciples discussed what to do. Then on the first day of the week two women hurried out to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to anoint His body with spices. They never thought about the large stone that sealed the tomb. These women just wanted to be near Jesus' body.

As the women neared the tomb an amazing thing happened. They felt a great earthquake shake the earth. Then they saw an angel come down from heaven. This angel rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb. The angel wore clothing as white as snow and flashed like lightening. It was so unusual that the soldiers shook in fear. They acted like dead men. Then the angel spoke to the women. He told them the most astounding thing the world has ever heard. The angel told the women not to be afraid. He said that he knew they were looking for Jesus. The angel told them that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. He said that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Then he asked the women to come and see the place where Jesus had lain. This was the most astonishing message the world has ever heard! The Lord Jesus rose from the dead! He had broken the power of sin and death. His grace would reign forever!

The message of the angel was remarkable. But the women would be even more surprised. As they went to tell the disciples, Jesus met them. When they saw Jesus, they held His feet and worshiped Him. Jesus asked them to tell the disciples to go to Galilee. In Galilee, they too would see Jesus. Just think by faith in His Word, you and I can also meet Jesus.

What did the soldier guards do when they felt the earthquake? They rushed to Jerusalem to tell the chief priests. They told them about everything that happened. But the chief priests would not believe what the soldiers told them. They would not allow the Word of the Lord Jesus to be victorious. Do you know what they decided to do? They gave the soldiers a lot of money to tell a lie. They told the soldiers to say that Jesus' disciples stole His body while they were sleeping. This lie was so powerful that many people believed it. Still the grace of the Lord Jesus is more powerful than the lie. He won the victory for us over sin and death and the lie!

The disciples listened to the message of the women and went to Galilee. There they saw Jesus and worshiped Him. It was then that Jesus told them about His authority. He said: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18). He showed Himself to His disciples as the King with majesty and power. The grace of the Lord Jesus would rule over all things. Then as the King who rules over everything, Jesus gave His disciples, and all believers, a command. He said: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

The disciples were asked to serve the One who has all authority. They could serve Him because He won the victory over sin and death and hell. The joy of this lesson is that you and I have also been called to serve. We may serve the One who has all authority. We may serve the victorious One!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn \_\_\_\_\_ and the other Mary came to see the tomb." (Matt. 28:1)

2. “And behold there was a great \_\_\_\_\_ for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.” (Matt. 28:2)
  
3. “And the \_\_\_\_\_ shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.” (Matt 28:4)
  
4. “But the angel answered and said to the \_\_\_\_\_, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen as he said.’” (Matt.28:5-6a)
  
5. “And \_\_\_\_\_ came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on the earth.’” (Matt. 28:18)
  
6. “Go, therefore and make \_\_\_\_\_ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 28:19)