

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 13

Level 4

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: “And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” (Mark 1:10-11)

Lesson Truth: Christ appears as King.

Lesson

The Gospel of Mark begins by presenting Christ Jesus as King. He is King of the Kingdom of God, which is a Kingdom of grace. In contrast to the kings of the earth who rule to serve themselves, Christ Jesus rules for the benefit of His people. God sent John the Baptist as the herald to announce the coming of the King. He preached the necessity of repentance and forgiveness as the way to citizenship in that Kingdom.

Mark addressed his gospel to gentile Christians, especially Romans. For that reason, Mark began his gospel by introducing Jesus as the King of a Kingdom. The idea of someone ruling, as a king, was something the Romans understood. They thought that the emperor was the king who would serve as their redeemer. But in the Kingdom of God, the emperor could not be a redeemer because he was a slave to sin himself. The King that Mark introduced was not a slave to sin, but He was free from sin and ruled in the name of God. A herald is someone who announced the arrival of a king. John the Baptist was sent by God to be the herald to announce the coming of Christ as King.

Already in the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah, God told His people that John would be the messenger who would prepare the way for Christ the King. He would be the voice in the wilderness who called the people to prepare the way for the Lord and to make His paths straight. The King who was coming was a spiritual King who wanted to reign in the hearts of men. For that reason, John called for the people to repent of their sins. As a sign of repentance, they had to be baptized in the Jordan River. This baptism was an example of how the “old man” of sin died in the water of baptism and the “new man” immersed. The “new man” lived in the confidence that his sins were forgiven through the grace of Christ the King. Great crowds came to hear John preach at the Jordan River. By listening to John and by being baptized they acknowledged that they were sinners and that they believed that God forgave their sins.

John did not preach to call attention to himself but faithfully pointed to Christ the King. He told the people plainly: “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose” (Mark 1:7). John also pointed to the spiritual nature of the Kingdom that Christ served as King. He told the people that while he baptized with water, the Lord would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, a man had to be anointed with oil in order to officially become a king. Christ Jesus came to John at the Jordan River to be baptized, and there He was anointed, not with oil but with the Holy Spirit. As Jesus came up out of the water of the Jordan River, He saw the heavens open and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove. Then He heard a voice from heaven saying: “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” That was the anointing of Christ Jesus as King by the Holy Spirit. With that statement, God the Father indicated that His Son was the King who would free the lives of His people from the dominion of sin. It was through His Son, the King, that God would show His great love!

After the Holy Spirit anointed Christ Jesus, He was led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. The King would have to conquer Satan, the enemy of God, if He was going to be victorious in His work of redemption. For forty days the King was with the wild beasts in the wilderness, being tempted by Satan. But He was faithful to His anointing and withstood all Satan’s attacks and broke the power of the evil one.

Our King, the Lord Jesus Christ, was victorious over Satan. Now we can live in the confidence that even though we may struggle against the temptations of the evil one, Satan and his army have been defeated. For those who believe in the King of Kings, the victory is certain!

Questions

1. Mark declares that Christ is whose Son? (Mark 1:1)
2. According to the prophets who would go before the face of the King? (Mark 1:2)
3. Where would the voice cry for people to prepare the way? (Mark 1:3)
4. What did the people from Judea and Jerusalem do at the Jordan River? (Mark 1:5)
5. How was John clothed and what did he eat? (Mark 1:6)
6. John would baptize with water. What would Christ baptize with? (Mark 1:8)

7. What did Jesus see as he came up from the water of the Jordan River? (Mark 1:10)

8. What did the voice from heaven declare about Jesus? (Mark 1:11)

Lesson 2

The Holy One of God

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

Scripture: Mark 1:14-39

Memory Verse: “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying: ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’” (Mark 1:14-15)

Lesson Truth: As the Holy One of God, the Christ lays claim to life.

Lesson

John the Baptist had preached the need for repentance and baptism. Later John was put in prison because he rebuked Herod for unlawfully marrying his brother’s wife. After John was put in prison Jesus began His public ministry. As he began His public ministry, He gathered His disciples and showed His power over an unclean spirit. He also brought a blessing to the house of Simon Peter. As Jesus worked to preach the gospel and heal the sick, He needed to remain in communion with the Father. He remained in communion by going out early in the morning to a solitary place to pray.

As Jesus began His public ministry, He wanted to have a band of disciples to help Him in His ministry and to be in training. As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two fishermen casting their nets into the sea. These men were Simon and his brother Andrew. Jesus called out to them, with the voice of authority, to follow Him. He told them that He would help them become fishers of men. It was an honor to be called and equipped by the Lord Jesus to do His work. Along with this calling was a tremendous test, because they had to forsake everything to follow Him. Jesus also called James and John the sons of Zebedee in the same way. A testimony to the grace of the Lord Jesus in their lives was that they immediately left their fishing nets and followed Him.

Jesus and His disciples then traveled to Capernaum on the Sabbath Day and went into the synagogue to teach and preach. The people noticed immediately that He taught as One who had authority and not as the scribes. As He was teaching, a man possessed by an evil spirit challenged Jesus and asked that the Lord would leave him alone. He addressed Jesus as a Nazarene and asked if he had come to destroy evil spirits. Then this evil spirit gave a testimony out of his demon possession that he knew who Jesus was. He said: “I know who You are ---the Holy One of God” (Mark 1:24). Of course, Jesus would not let him alone because Satan has no power against the Lord of all the earth. So, Jesus rebuked this evil spirit and told him to be quiet and to come out of the man. After the spirit convulsed the man, he came out as Jesus had commanded him. That Christ Jesus could command an evil spirit to do His bidding amazed the people in the synagogue. They questioned what this was that He had the authority to command evil spirits, and they obeyed Him. Still, they did not see what really happened. The people did not understand that they too were under Satan’s power and needed to be set free by the Lord Jesus. We must pray that the Lord Jesus will set us free from Satan’s power!

The Lord Jesus then left the synagogue and went with His disciples to the house of Simon Peter. When they arrived at Simon’s house, they were informed that his mother-in-law was sick with a fever. We do not know if Simon’s mother-in-law looked for the coming Messiah. But we do know that Jesus took her by the hand and asked her to stand up. He awakened her faith, so the fever left her and she stood up and served Jesus and His disciples. Simon’s mother-in-law now knew Jesus as the Redeemer and as the One who could set her free, not only from a fever but also from sin. Do you know Jesus as the One who can set you free?

After the Sabbath had passed many people brought sick family members and those who were demon possessed to the door of Simon’s house. Jesus worked into the evening healing the sick and casting out

many demons. He would not allow the demons to speak because they knew who He was. This was the work that God the Father had sent Jesus to do. He fought against Satan and his demons by taking the curse upon Himself. But this made Him tired and weary. The only way that Jesus could continue without exhaustion was to stay in communion with the Father. He did this by arising early in the morning and went out to a solitary place to pray. He asked the Father for help to conquer Satan and his demons. The assurance for us is that He did win the victory over Satan, and sin and death for His people. Christ Jesus truly is the Holy One of God who claimed life for all those who believe in Him!

Questions

1. Where did Jesus go to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God? (Mark 1:14)
2. What did Jesus ask the people to do because the Kingdom of God was at hand? (Mark 1:15)
3. Who did Jesus see as He walked by the Sea of Galilee? (Mark 1:16)
4. What did Jesus promise to make the brothers to be if they followed Him? (Mark 1:17)
5. What was the people's reaction to Jesus' teaching in the synagogue? (Mark 1:22)
6. Who did the unclean spirit in the synagogue declare Jesus to be? (Mark 1:24b)

7. What did Jesus command the unclean spirit to do? (Mark 1:25)

8. How did Jesus remain in communion with the Father in heaven? (Mark 1:35)

Lesson 3

Power to Forgive Sin

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

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Memory Verse: “But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them. ‘Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, Your sins be forgiven you, or to say, Arise, take up your bed and walk?’” (Mark 2:8-9)

Lesson Truth: Christ reveals Himself as having power to forgive sins.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus continued to preach and teach in Galilee, but sadly the people did not recognize Him as the Redeemer. They saw Him as a miracle worker and a great teacher but not as the One who could forgive their sins. When Jesus saw the paralyzed man let down through the roof, He had the opportunity to reveal Himself as the Christ. The real purpose for healing the paralytic was for Jesus to show that He was the One who had the power to forgive sins. He was truly the Holy One of God.

The fame of Jesus as a miracle worker spread throughout the land of Galilee. The people crowded around Him wherever He went, causing Him to spend most of His time outside the cities. Still, after some days He did return to the city of Capernaum. Huge crowds surrounded Him at the house where he stayed. There were so many people trying to crowd into the house that four men carrying their paralyzed friend could not get in. These men were convinced that if they could get their paralyzed friend to Jesus he would be healed. But the crowd would not let them through. In desperation, the men decided to go up on the roof of the house, remove some of the tiles, and lower their friend at Jesus’ feet. The Lord Jesus was filled with joy at what these men did. Not only did He see that they truly loved their friend, but He also saw that God had given them faith. This was surely the time that the Lord Jesus should reveal the true purpose for His coming into the world. That purpose was to free men from their sins as the Redeemer!

The paralyzed man who was let down at Jesus’ feet was filled with fear. He knew that he was a sinful man and that he did not deserve to be healed. Jesus then revealed the purpose of His coming when He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you” (Mark 2:5). It was amazing that Jesus addressed him as a son. The Lord adopted him in the name of the Father and in the name of the Father He forgave his sins. Now the paralyzed man knew that he was right with the Father because his sins had been forgiven. He knew that he was healed because of the grace that God had given him and not because of his good deeds. If only the scribes who had gathered around Jesus could have seen the Lord with that kind of faith.

However, the scribes were self-righteous men who thought they could earn their salvation by keeping the Law of Moses. When they heard Jesus say, “Son, your sins are forgiven you,” they immediately concluded that Jesus was blaspheming the name of God. They questioned, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:7). The hearts of these scribes were darkened so they did not believe that Jesus had been sent by God to forgive sins. Jesus knew what was in their hearts, that they were hardened in unbelief. Still, Jesus wanted the scribes to respond in faith as well as the others. Therefore, 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). The scribes could not answer His question because of their unbelief. They could not believe that Jesus was sent by God to forgive sins. In order to take away the scribe’s excuses Jesus said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house” (Mark 2:11). In faith, the paralyzed man stood up and went home. He believed that Jesus had the power to forgive sins as well as to heal him. But the scribes continued in their unbelief. They did not believe they needed the forgiveness of their sins.

When the crowds saw what Jesus had done for the paralytic, they were amazed. Many of them glorified God saying, “We never saw anything like this!” (Mark 2:12). No doubt there were those in the crowd who believed that the Lord Jesus had come to redeem the life of believers from sin. Still, others kept their hearts far from the Lord. They did not seek forgiveness of sins or believe that Jesus had the power to forgive sins. Do you believe that the Lord Jesus has the power to forgive sins, and do you seek His forgiveness?

Questions

1. What happened when Jesus entered a house in Capernaum? (Mark 2:2)
2. Who was carried by four men to see Jesus? (Mark 2:3)
3. Why were the men not able to get the man to Jesus? (Mark 2:4)
4. What did the men do to get the man into Jesus’ presence? (Mark 2:4)
5. What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man when He saw his faith? (Mark 2:5)
6. What was the scribe’s reaction to Jesus’ words? (Mark 2:7)

7. What question did Jesus ask the scribes? (Mark 2:9)

8. What did Jesus want the scribes to know? (Mark 2:10)

Lesson 4

Lord of the Sabbath

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

Scripture: Mark 2:23–3:6

Memory Verse: “And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”” (Mark 2:27-28)

Lesson Truth: The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

Lesson

The scribes and Pharisees continued to resist the Lord Jesus Christ and everything He taught. The scribes had taken exception to Jesus telling the paralytic that his sins were forgiven because they did not believe that Jesus was God. Shortly after this incident, the Pharisees saw Jesus’ disciples shuck some grain as they walked through a grain field on the Sabbath. They also saw Jesus heal a man’s withered hand on the Sabbath. These Pharisees accused Jesus of doing things that were not lawful on the Sabbath Day.

The view that the scribes and Pharisees had of the Sabbath collided with what Jesus taught about keeping the Sabbath Day holy. It happened one Sabbath Day when Jesus and His disciples were walking through the grain fields. The Lord’s disciples picked some heads of grain as they were walking. They removed the hulls and ate them. When the scribes and Pharisees saw the disciples eat these few kernels of grain, they thought they caught the Lord and His disciples breaking the fourth commandment. Immediately they confronted Jesus with their accusation by asking why His disciples did what was not lawful on the Sabbath Day. Then Jesus had to deal with their mistaken idea of the meaning of the fourth commandment.

The fourth commandment commands God’s people to remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. This commandment was meant to free people so they could worship the Lord. God gave His people the fourth commandment so that they would be allowed to lay aside their daily work and would have time for worship. It was not meant to be a heavy duty of restrictions, the way a slave is assigned tasks. At the same time, it is true that if we reject the Lord Jesus, the Law becomes a curse to us. But that is what Jesus came to do. He came to remove the curse of the Law by atoning for our sins. In this way, He made the Law to be a blessing for our lives again. The Law shows us the will of the heavenly Father and the way in which we should live in obedience to Him. But the scribes and Pharisees had made the Law a list of rigid rules that took away all the freedom of keeping the Law because we love God.

For that reason, Jesus confronted them about their restrictive laws. He asked them if they had never read about David eating the showbread from God’s house when he and his men were hungry. David and his men ate this showbread even though the Law said it was only for the priests. In this way, Christ Jesus pointed out that the Law was meant to give mankind the freedom to serve the Lord and not to restrict. Then Jesus added the instruction that served as a rebuke to the Pharisees. He told them that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. For that reason, He could say, “Therefore, the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:28). In this way, the Lord was able to make the Sabbath a blessing for His disciples.

The words of Jesus to the Pharisees should have ended the discussion about the Law and the Sabbath, but it didn’t. As Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath to worship, He saw a man with a withered hand. As soon as He saw the man, He knew that He would heal him, but He also knew that the Pharisees were watching Him. They were watching to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath Day. They were ready to accuse Him again if He healed this man, since they considered the act of healing to be working on the Sabbath Day. Jesus perceived their thoughts and asked the man with the withered hand to step forward. When the man had stepped forward, He asked the Pharisees; “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to

do evil, to save life or to kill?” (Mark 3:4). The Pharisees refused to answer because any answer would condemn them.

Jesus then looked at the Pharisees with anger. He was grieved at their hard hearts and because they so openly opposed the grace of God. He said to the man with the withered hand, “Stretch out your hand” (Mark 3:5). How could the man stretch out a hand that was withered? But He believed the Lord Jesus, and because he believed, he was able to stretch his hand out. Right at that moment, his hand was restored. But the Pharisees were not convinced by this miracle. Instead, they went out and plotted with the Herodians, who were usually their enemies, how they might put Jesus to death. Such is the reaction to the Lord of Lords. Either men believe Him or they want to destroy Him. That is why the leaders could get the chosen people to cry out, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” (Mark 15:13-14). Do you believe the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath and your Lord?

Questions

1. On what special day were Jesus and His disciples going through the grain fields? (Mark 2:23)
2. What did Jesus disciples do that the Pharisees thought was wrong to do on the Sabbath? (Mark 2:23-24)
3. When speaking with the Pharisees, which king of Israel did Jesus say had done something unlawful? (Mark 2:25-26)
4. According to Jesus for whom was the Sabbath made? (Mark 2:27)
5. What was wrong with the man that Jesus saw in the synagogue? (Mark 3:1)

6. Why did the Pharisees watch Jesus closely when He entered the synagogue? (Mark 3:2)

7. What question did Jesus ask the Pharisees before he healed the man's hand? (Mark 3:4)

8. Why was Jesus grieved, and why did He look at the Pharisees with anger? (Mark 3:5)

Lesson 5

Not Known

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

Scripture: Mark 3:7-35

Memory Verse: “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.” (Mark 3:28-29)

Lesson Truth: Christ, driven by the Holy Spirit, is not acknowledged.

Lesson

After the controversy with the Pharisees about the laws governing the Sabbath Day, Jesus had another controversy about just who He was. His friends thought that He was beside Himself because He worked without adequate rest and food. At the same time, His enemies accused Him of being possessed by demons. In response to these inaccurate views, Jesus made it known that He worked by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Jesus assured the people that all sins could be forgiven the repentant sinner. But He warned His listeners that anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit couldn't be forgiven.

There was a terrific commotion as Jesus and His disciples went to the seaside to bring His message of redemption and healing. The commotion arose from the crowds that followed Him. The people came from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, Tyre, Sidon, and from beyond the Jordan River. They pressed so close to see Jesus that the Lord told the disciples to have a boat ready if He had to escape. No wonder the people wanted to get close to Jesus because He healed them of their afflictions. He also cast out many evil spirits who strangely fell down when they saw Jesus and cried out, “You are the Son of God” (Mark 3:11). The Lord warned these spirits sternly that they should not make Him known. He was to be revealed as the Son of God but not by Satan. Jesus wanted people to know Him through His word.

The crowds became so aggressive that Jesus went up to the mountains. From there He called the people to whom He was ready to minister. Then He appointed twelve apostles to assist Him in His ministry. He gave them power to heal the sick and to cast out demons. The twelve were to be with Him to learn about the Kingdom of grace and to minister in His name. Judas Iscariot was with this group even though he later rejected the Kingdom of grace. Woe to those who reject the gospel of grace!

As Jesus continued to minister, the crowds became so intense that He and His disciples did not take time to eat. His friends heard about this and went to rescue Him from the demands of the sick and demon-possessed. They felt the situation was so out of control that they suggested that Jesus might be out of His mind. They could not understand what Jesus was doing because He did not want to be a king to liberate Israel from Rome. He did not seek out a position of honor like the scribes, and still, He ministered to the public. Even His friends did not understand that Jesus was inspired by the Holy Spirit to do His work.

The scribes, however, came with a different view. They saw the miraculous healing that He did and also that He cast out demons. How could they account for these miracles? The scribes refused to believe that Jesus was the Redeemer, so what could they say? In their rejection of the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, they said that He cast out demons in the name of the prince of demons. Jesus looked at the scribes with compassion and tried to reason with them. He asked how could Satan cast out Satan? Then Jesus reminded them that a house divided against itself, could not stand. Then Jesus gave the scribes a stern warning that their view was a blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. He told them that mankind can be forgiven for every other sin, but that anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit is subject to eternal condemnation.

In another attempt to rescue Jesus from the crowds, His friends reminded Him that His mother and brothers were outdoors, wanting to see Him. The Lord responded strangely by asking, “Who is My mother,

or My brothers?” (Mark 3:33). But this response was intended to teach the people that anyone who does the will of God the Father is His brother and sister and mother. The crowds who followed Jesus did not know who He was. They did not understand that the Holy Spirit inspired Him. The question for us is: Do we know that Jesus is our Redeemer and Lord who was inspired by the Holy Spirit?

Questions

1. Where did the crowd that followed Jesus come from? (Mark 3:7-8)
2. Why did the people press around Jesus to touch Him? (Mark 3:10)
3. Who did the unclean spirits declare Jesus to be? (Mark 3:11)
4. How many apostles did Jesus appoint to preach? (Mark 3:14)
5. When Jesus did not have time to eat, what did His people say could be troubling Him? (Mark 3:20-21)
6. In whose name did the scribes say that Jesus cast out demons? (Mark 3:22)

7. According to Jesus, who is subject to eternal condemnation? (Mark 3:29)

8. Who are the brothers, sisters, and mother of Jesus? (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: “Also He said to them, ‘Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.’” (Mark 4:21-22)

Lesson Truth: The mystery of the Kingdom of heaven has to be revealed.

Lesson

The Kingdom of heaven is a mystery to the world, but this mystery has been revealed to those who are in Christ Jesus by faith. In order to make the mystery of the Kingdom of heaven known to those who believed, Jesus spoke to them in parables. He told them that the Kingdom of heaven is like a candle, or like seeds that grow by themselves. Jesus also compared the Kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed.

Christ Jesus came to reveal the mystery of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom was not meant to remain a mystery. In order to reveal this mystery, the Lord spoke to the people in parables. A parable is an everyday truth that has a spiritual meaning. In the parable about a light under a basket, Jesus wanted the people to know that the Kingdom of heaven was not supposed to remain a mystery. For that reason, He asked the question in the parable, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed?” (Mark 4:21). The obvious answer is no. The reason to bring a lamp is to put it on a stand so that everyone in the house will be able to see. In Christ Jesus, the grace of the Kingdom of God has appeared as a light in this world. Jesus as the Light of the World came to make known the Kingdom of heaven to His people. He told them that there was not anything that should be kept secret, but that everything would be made known.

The sad truth, however, is that the Kingdom of heaven does remain a mystery to the flesh. The people of the world cannot understand the Kingdom of grace. For that reason, Jesus told the people to be careful what they listened to because, with the measure they used, it would be measured to them. This was the Lord’s warning that if they listened in faith and believed, they would increasingly understand the mystery of the Kingdom. But if they hardened their hearts even the knowledge they seemed to have would be taken away. Jesus then revealed another mystery of the Kingdom. He said that whoever has faith, to him more would be given, but to those who do not have faith even what he has would be taken away.

Another parable Jesus used to teach the people about the mystery of the Kingdom was the parable of growing seed. Just as we do not know what makes a seed grow after the farmer has planted it, so also, we do not know how faith grows in a human heart. After the farmer plants his seed, it grows as he works by day and sleeps at night. Without the farmer doing anything, he first sees the blade then the head, and finally the grain ready for harvest. In just that same way the seed of faith grows in the human heart of those who hear the gospel. By His miracle God causes the seed of faith to grow and we see the fruit of faith.

Jesus then asked, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God?” (Mark 4:30). He then answered His own question by saying the Kingdom could be compared to a mustard seed. From just a tiny seed a huge mustard plant grows so that even the birds can rest in its branches. That is the way the Kingdom of God grows from a tiny seed of faith planted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Because God awakens the power in the seed of faith, it can become a source of power that conquers the world. The power of the seed of faith is going to redeem the nations and bring them back to God.

The Gospel of Mark tells us that Jesus continued to speak to the people in parables. We are told that He did not speak to them except in parables. The revelation of the Kingdom of God in parables was both a blessing and a judgment. Each parable revealed more and more of the Kingdom of heaven to the believers.

But to the unbelievers, it was a judgment that more and more closed the Kingdom to them because of their unbelief. Our prayer should be that the gospel of the Kingdom, taught in parables, would germinate and grow in our hearts and minds. Then the power of God's Kingdom can be revealed in us!

Questions

1. According to Jesus' parable why is a lamp brought out? (Mark 4:21)
2. What would happen to anything that had been kept secret? (Mark 4:22)
3. What would happen to those who in faith hear the words of the gospel? (Mark 4:24-25)
4. To what did Jesus liken the Kingdom of God in verse twenty-six? (Mark 4:26)
5. Does the one who scatters the seed know how it sprouts and grows? (Mark 4:27)
6. With what parable did Jesus picture the Kingdom of God? (Mark 4:30-31)

7. How great did the mustard seed become? (Mark 4:32)

8. What literary device did Jesus use to teach the people? (Mark 4:33-34)

Lesson 7

Safety

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

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Memory Verse: “But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ Then he arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.” (Mark 4:38-39)

Lesson Truth: With Christ, His own are safe in the world.

Lesson

Christ Jesus spoke to the people in parables. He used examples of a lamp, scattered seed, and a mustard seed to teach them what the Kingdom of heaven was like. Now on the same day that He taught about the Kingdom of heaven, when evening had come, He asked His disciples to take Him to the other side of the sea in a boat. As they were crossing the Sea of Galilee a windstorm came up that the Lord used to teach the disciples that He is the Lord of all things, including the wind and the waves.

The crowds had pressed around Jesus all day seeking to be healed. When the Lord was exhausted, He asked the disciples to take Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. There He would be free from the crowds and would be able to rest. After the disciples sent the people away, they took Jesus along with them in a boat to cross to the other side. Jesus was in one of a flotilla of small fishing boats where He could rest.

On that particular evening a great windstorm arose on the sea as they were crossing. This was not unusual as winds often shot out of the mountain gorges on the north and whipped up the waves. This time, however, the storm was more severe than the disciples were accustomed to. The waves became so violent that they beat into the boat causing the boat to fill with water. As the disciples struggled to keep their little boat afloat, they noticed that Jesus was asleep in the stern. When they saw Jesus asleep, they could not imagine that He could sleep while they fought the wind and the waves. Fear finally gripped them, and they awoke Jesus and asked Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38).

It was because the disciples did not understand the power of His grace and the fullness of His power over all things that their faith faltered. They did not yet understand that the Lord Jesus has power over all of nature. Their weak faith was evident in the question they asked the Lord Jesus. How could they imagine that He didn’t care if they perished? Jesus had come to the world as their Redeemer. Wouldn’t He also be concerned for their safety in a storm?

Then a most amazing thing happened. Jesus got up and with authority He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace be still!” (Mark 4:39). With these words, the wind ceased, and the sea became calm. Jesus demonstrated that He had the power over the hostility of storms and that He could rebuke this hostility. Now the disciples knew that Jesus was Lord over all things in heaven and on earth. They should have known that there wasn’t anything that could harm the believer. Still, in the weakness of their faith, they questioned if Jesus cared if they perished.

Jesus had to admonish and instruct the disciples about their weak faith. After the wind had become calm, He asked them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” (Mark 4:40). The disciples had seen the storm with violent winds at sea, which caused them to think that they might perish. But they still did not see that the world was in danger of perishing from sin and guilt. If the disciples had understood that Jesus was the Redeemer sent to save a perishing world, they could have lived without fear at sea.

When Jesus asked the disciples why they had no faith, they were filled with great fear. Only this was not a fear that they would perish, but a fear of respect and awe. They asked each other, “Who can this be, that

even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:41). The disciples were beginning to see the power of God's grace in Christ Jesus. Our faith too must grow so that we do not live in fear. Rather we must live in the confidence that Christ Jesus is Lord of all things in heaven and on earth!

Questions

1. Where did Jesus ask the disciples to take Him the evening after He preached? (Mark 4:35)
2. What caused the disciples to fear on the Sea of Galilee? (Mark 4:37)
3. Where was Jesus when the storm arose? (Mark 4:38)
4. What question did the disciples ask Jesus when they had awakened Him? (Mark 4:38)
5. What did Jesus command the sea to do? (Mark 4:39)
6. What two questions did Jesus ask the disciples? (Mark 4:40)

7. What was the disciples' reaction to the authority of Jesus? (Mark 4:41)

8. Why did the disciples question who this could be? (Mark 4:41)

Lesson 8

Binding the Strong One

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

Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

Memory Verse: “And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.’” (Mark 5:18-19)

Lesson Truth: Christ binds the strong one in order to plunder his house.

Lesson

Christ Jesus came into the world as Lord and Redeemer. In His ministry, He taught the people of Israel with authority. Jesus also healed many of their diseases and cast out many demons. The gospel account from Mark 5 tells us about Jesus entering the land of the Gadarenes. The Gadarenes were still very much under the influence and power of Satan. It was in this land that Jesus demonstrated that He has the power over Satan and his legion of demons. He could bind the strong one in order to plunder him.

When Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee, He entered the country of the Gadarenes where He encountered Satan and his legions of demons. As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a wild man met Him. This man wandered about the tombs in Gadara because he could not be bound. Each time the people tried to bind him he would break the shackles and chains and cry out among the tombs. This man had an unclean spirit, which no one was able to tame. But when Jesus came ashore an amazing thing happened!

This wild man saw Jesus from a long way off and immediately ran to worship Him. Then the unclean spirit within this man cried out in recognition of the Lord Jesus when he asked, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?” (Mark 5:7). Again, the disciples could marvel that this unclean spirit addressed Jesus as the Son of God. But Jesus wanted people to know who He was from the truth of His Word and not by the testimony of an unclean spirit. The Lord then showed that He had the power to bind the strong one, when He commanded the demon to come out of the man. As the demons came out of the man Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” (Mark 5:9). The demon’s answer was a revelation of the power that Satan had under God’s providence. He answered, “My name is Legion, for we are many” (Mark 5:9). God had allowed this legion of demons to possess this man so that the Lord Jesus could demonstrate His power over Satan.

It then became evident that the demons were fully under the control of the Lord Jesus Christ. They begged Jesus not to send them out of the country. The demons were aware of a large herd of hogs feeding near the mountains and begged Jesus if He would allow them to enter the hogs. The demons knew what they wanted because they had every intention to destroy the hogs. If they destroyed the hogs, they also knew that the people of Gadara would hold Jesus responsible for their loss. In this way, Satan could keep his power and influence over the Gadarenes. Christ Jesus certainly knew what the demons intended to do and yet He allowed them to enter the hogs and send them plunging into the sea.

The grace of the Lord Jesus was surely at work even as He granted this request. The loss of this large herd of hogs would be a judgment against the people of this land. With this judgment Jesus wanted the people of Gadara to know that they were under the power of the evil one. They were under the curse of Satan’s rule. The grace of the Lord Jesus was at work even as He allowed the hogs to be destroyed. He wanted the Gadarenes to know the One who was able to deliver them from this curse.

Following the destruction of the hogs, we see that the Gadarenes did not know the Lord Jesus. Those who fed the hogs hurried into the city and told everyone what had happened. They not only told about the

destruction of the hogs but also about the demon-possessed man being freed from his demons. The Gadarenes then went out to see what had happened. Instead of rejoicing that the wild man was sitting there clothed and in his right mind, they begged Jesus to leave their country.

It was a tragedy that Jesus did leave the Gadarenes, but He did not completely abandon them to the kingdom of evil. The Lord Jesus insisted that the man who had been demon-possessed remain with his family and his people as a testimony to God's grace. This man was called to tell his family and friends about God's grace in Christ Jesus. The Lord did bind the strong one in order to plunder his house!

Questions

1. To which country did Jesus and His disciples come when they crossed the Sea of Galilee? (Mark 5:1)
2. What was troubling the man who met Jesus when He came out of the boat? (Mark 5:2)
3. Where was this man accustomed to living? (Mark 5:3)
4. How strong was the man with the unclean spirit? (Mark 5:3-4)
5. When the man cried out, how did he address Jesus? (Mark 5:7)

Lesson 9

The Restorer of Life

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

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Memory Verse: “But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.’” (Mark 5:33-34)

Lesson Truth: Christ reveals Himself as the Restorer of life.

Lesson

In the land of the Gadarenes Jesus demonstrated that He had the power over Satan and His demons. Now He left Gadara and went back to Galilee. When He arrived in Galilee Jesus showed that He not only had power over demons, but He was also the Restorer of life. He restored the woman who touched the hem of His garment and also the daughter of the synagogue ruler. Jesus restores life for all mankind.

When Jesus returned to Galilee a crowd of people gathered around Him. Among the crowd was a ruler of the synagogue named Jairus. Jairus fell at Jesus’ feet and begged Him to come and heal his twelve-year-old daughter who was at the point of death. Jairus believed that Jesus had some mystical power that could heal people if He came and touched them. For that reason, he begged Jesus to come to his house to lay His hands on his daughter. At this point, Jairus did not understand that Jesus was the Redeemer who would make atonement for sin and therefore had the power over sickness and death. Even though Jairus insisted that Jesus had to touch his daughter, the Lord did not hesitate to go with him. Not only would He teach Jairus that He was the Restorer of life, but He would also show that He was the Life-Giver for His people.

As Jesus began His way to Jairus’s house the crowds pressed Him on every side. Then a wonderful thing happened. A woman who had been suffering from a blood disease for twelve years pushed her way through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus’ robe. She also believed that Jesus had some mystical power that would be able to cure her disease if she could just touch His garments. But when she touched the hem of His robe Jesus stopped and asked, “Who touched My clothes?” (Mark 5:30). This seemed like a strange question because people were touching Him on all sides. But Jesus asked the question because He wanted to teach this woman that He was the Redeemer who had the power over sickness and death and could restore life.

When Jesus asked who had touched Him the woman knew that she had to admit that she was the one who longed for His healing. She fell at His feet in fear and trembling and told Him the whole truth of her twelve years of struggling against this disease. Jesus then showed that He truly was the Restorer of life when He looked at her and said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well, Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction” (Mark 5:34). Not only did the Lord give her healing from her disease, but He also gave her peace. Now she would be aware of God’s grace that is revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ. We can also know that grace!

With this delay, Jesus did not immediately get to Jairus’ house. In fact, while He was speaking to the woman a messenger came and told Jairus that his daughter had died. The messenger said that it was no use to trouble the Teacher because the young girl was no longer living. When Jesus heard the words of the messenger, He spoke to Jairus and said, “Do not be afraid, only believe” (Mark 5:36). In His love and compassion, Jesus wanted Jairus not only to believe in His power to heal but also to believe that He was the One who has power over sin and death.

The scene at Jairus’ house was emotional as the professional mourners wept at the death of this young girl. Jesus then said something that the people could not understand. He asked, “Why make this commotion

and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping” (Mark 5:39). In response to this, the people ridiculed Him. Then Jesus sent everyone out of the house except the girl’s parents and three of His disciples. Then the Restorer of life took the girl by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cumi.” This meant, “Little girl, I say to you arise” (Mark 5:41). Immediately the girl woke up from the sleep of death and walked about the room. The people were overcome with amazement that Jesus could call a child back from death. This was a testimony that He is the Redeemer, and by faith in Him our lives will be restored for all eternity.

Questions

1. Who was the ruler of the synagogue that fell at Jesus’ feet? (Mark 5:22)
2. What request did the ruler of the synagogue have for Jesus? (Mark 5:23)
3. What did the woman with the blood disease believe would happen if she touched Jesus clothes? (Mark 5:28)
4. What did Jesus ask when He knew that power had gone from Him? (Mark 5:30)
5. According to Jesus what had made the woman well? (Mark 5:34)
6. What did the messenger from Jairus’ house tell him about his daughter? (Mark 5:35)

Lesson 10

The Lord from Heaven

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

Scripture: Mark 6:7-32

Memory Verse: “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts.” (Mark 6:7-8)

Lesson Truth: Christ reveals Himself as the Lord from Heaven.

Lesson

When Christ Jesus healed the sick and preached the Kingdom of God, He revealed that he was the Lord from heaven. He was both God and man who, with authority, sent out His disciples in pairs to do His work. The tragedy in Galilee was that the people did not recognize Him as the Lord from heaven.

The crowds of people continued to gather around Jesus looking for healing from their diseases. They seemed to follow Him as a magician who could make sick people well, but they did not believe that He was the Lord from heaven. They were so pronounced in their lack of faith that Mark records that Jesus marveled at their unbelief. Still, He continued to teach in their villages and large crowds gathered to hear Him. Jesus then decided to expand His ministry to the Israelites by sending out His disciples in pairs to preach the gospel of repentance and to heal the sick. The Lord even gave the disciples power over unclean spirits. They were sent out under the authority of the Lord from heaven and as such, they had to go out in faith. They were instructed not to take any provisions along on their journey except a staff. They were not to take a bag, or bread, no money, and only one pair of sandals and one tunic. They were to go in the name of Jesus!

The disciples were to declare that the Kingdom of God was at hand. At each village, they entered they were to find a home in which to stay and were remain in that house until they left the village. The disciples were told that whoever received them received the King Himself. However, if any village did not receive them, they were instructed to shake the dust from their feet as a testimony against them. These instructions were accompanied by an ominous message of judgment. The Lord said that it would be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day judgment than for that village. That is still the message of the Kingdom of God today. It is an unimaginable blessing to those who believe but a terrible judgment for those who reject the Kingdom of God. In this way, the disciples brought the wonderful gospel of the saving power of God’s grace to many in Galilee.

Not only did the disciples go in pairs to bring the gospel of God’s grace, but Jesus also continued to teach, cast out demons, and heal the people. It is no wonder that the people asked just who this teacher was who came with such authority. The sad truth is that as they searched for answers to their question, they came to the wrong conclusion. They did not understand that He was God who came in the flesh. Some said that He was John the Baptist, who rose from the dead, and others said that He was Elijah or one of the prophets. They said that only a prophet who returned from the dead could do such miracles. Because of their unbelief the people could not understand that Jesus was the Son of God, sent by the Father as the Lord from heaven. It is only by faith that we can come to know Him as the Lord from heaven.

While the people were debating who Jesus really was, Herod, the country’s ruler, was convinced that He was John the Baptist. This was the Herod who had sent John to prison because he did not like it when John told him it was wrong for him to have his brother Philip’s wife. This was also the Herod who had been tricked by his illegal wife Herodias into having John executed. Herodias was so incensed by John’s admonition that she was an illegal partner to Herod that she wanted him to be killed. She managed to

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: “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 evil things come from within and defile a man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

Lesson Truth: Purity is required in the Kingdom of God

Lesson

At the time Jesus was on earth the scribes and Pharisees were leaders in the church. The more they heard of Jesus’ teaching and the more they saw of His power over sickness and Satan, the more they felt their authority was threatened. Because of this, a conflict between these leaders and the Lord Jesus continued to grow. The scribes and Pharisees began looking for any occasion that they might use to accuse Jesus. This lesson from Mark 7 indicates how they found an occasion to accuse Jesus and His disciples for not being ceremonially clean.

More and more people were following Jesus because He taught with authority, cast out demons, and healed many. As more people followed Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees felt more envious and threatened. Their hearts were hard so they would not believe that Jesus was the promised Redeemer. As a result, they began to look for ways to discredit and find fault with Him. It did not take long for these leaders to find what they thought was a violation of the law of purity. They saw the Lord’s disciples eat without washing their hands. To the scribes and Pharisees, this was a serious disregard for the ceremonial laws that God had given to Israel. However, they failed to see how they were misreading the Law. Because of this failure they could not avoid a conflict with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The scribes and Pharisees did not understand that God had given the laws concerning unclean animals to teach His people that all of creation was unclean because of sin. The ceremonial laws were supposed to help Israel understand that they were sinners so that the people would confess their sins. But instead of confessing their sins the scribes and Pharisees became proud that they followed all the rules about washing. They became obsessed with outward purity but did not think about the need for a pure heart. To illustrate how evil their hearts had become, Jesus reminded them of their practice of Corban.

Corban was a practice that they used to dedicate all their possessions to God. If their possessions belonged to God, they could not use them to take care of their aging parents. Still, they could use these possessions for themselves as long as they lived. Jesus pointed out this kind of practice was breaking the law because it showed that their hearts were evil. That is why the Lord quoted from Isaiah: “This people honors Me with their lips. But their hearts are far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Mark 7:6-7). Jesus insisted on purity in the Kingdom of God but not just pure hands because you washed them. Rather, He wanted the people to have pure hearts. In this way, Jesus condemned the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees and he also condemns hypocrisy in us.

Jesus now took the opportunity to teach the crowd of people who had gathered around Him the truth of the Kingdom of God. He told them that the scribes and Pharisees also misunderstood the laws about clean and unclean food. The Lord said that it is not the food that enters a person’s mouth that makes him impure, but the things in his heart make him impure. In the Lord’s Kingdom laws about unclean foods will no longer be necessary. The important thing would be to confess the impurity of their sinful hearts. That is why the Gentiles were no longer considered unclean in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.

These words of the Lord were in direct conflict with the scribes and Pharisees. Even the disciples could not understand these teachings. So He taught them one more time that evil comes from the heart and not from the food we eat. Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, and such sins. The scribes and Pharisees' conflict with the Lord would continue to grow until they incited the crowds to cry out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" (Mark 15:13-14).

Questions

1. What fault did the scribes and Pharisees find with the Lord's disciples? (Mark 7:1-2)
2. What question did the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus? (Mark 7:5)
3. What words from Isaiah did Jesus use to describe the scribes and Pharisees? (Mark 7:6b-7)
4. Whose commandments did Jesus accuse the scribes and Pharisees of rejecting? (Mark 7:9)
5. What was the practice called that dedicated possessions to God to avoid helping parents? (Mark 7:11)
6. According to Jesus what defiles a man? (Mark 7:15)

7. When Jesus entered a house, who had more questions about clean and unclean things? (Mark 7:17)

8. From where do evil thoughts, adulteries, murders and such things come from? (Mark 7:21-23)

Lesson 12

A Light to the Gentiles

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

Scripture: Mark 7:24-30

Memory Verse: “And she answered and said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.’ Then He said to her. ‘For this saying go your way, the demon has gone out from your daughter.’” (Mark 7:28-29)

Lesson Truth: Christ is a light to the Gentiles

Lesson

God appeared to His people in a covenant relationship. He promised Abraham that in his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed. God assured Isaac and Jacob that they were heirs of this covenant and that the promised Messiah would come from their seed. The lesson from Mark 7 is about a Gentile woman who had to acknowledge that God established a relationship with His people through His covenant. She had to learn that she and her daughter could receive benefits only if they acknowledged this covenant.

The scribes and Pharisees clearly demonstrated that they did not understand that purity in the Kingdom of God comes from the heart. After they showed resistance to the Lord’s teaching that evil thoughts come from the heart, Jesus decided to leave Israel go to the land of Tyre and Sidon. Jesus left Israel, giving the people a chance to reflect on His teaching. They would have to decide if He was the promised Messiah or if He was a man with an evil spirit. Jesus went to this Gentile land to get away from the people for a time. But the truth was that even in the land of Tyre and Sidon He could not remain hidden.

Jesus had hardly crossed the border into Tyre when a Gentile woman heard that He was in the area. Immediately she went to Jesus and fell at His feet. She begged Him to come and drive an unclean spirit from her young daughter. As this woman from Syro-Phoenicia continued to beg Jesus to heal her daughter a remarkable dialogue took place. This dialogue helps us understand the covenant relationship of God and His people. This woman was willing to acknowledge the covenant relationship of God and His people, Israel.

Imagine the scene as this Gentile woman begged Jesus to heal her daughter and He told her that the children have to be filled first. Jesus continued by saying something that seemed harsh. He said to her: “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs” (Mark 7:23). However, this Gentile woman was not offended. In fact, she showed that she was a recipient of the Father’s grace. In humility, she bowed before the truth of God’s election of Israel as His chosen people. She did not question Jesus’ statement that it would not be good to throw the children’s bread to the dogs. Instead, this Gentile woman told Jesus that she understood that salvation was offered, first to the Israelites who were God’s covenant people. But she also reminded Jesus that the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the children’s table.

This was a remarkable statement of the woman’s faith. God had worked in her heart when she heard about the things Jesus taught. Through God’s grace, this woman acknowledged His covenant with His people. Jesus then reached out to her and told her that because of her faith she could go home, and her daughter would be free from the demon. This woman who believed in Jesus did not insist that He come to her house. When she arrived home, she found that the demon had gone out of her daughter just as Jesus said it would. Can you imagine the rejoicing in this house as the daughter lay peacefully on her bed free from the torments of a demon!

Christ Jesus had become the light to the Gentiles. Jesus knew that the chosen people, Israel, would also have to decide who He really was. The sad truth was that when they did decide many of them rejected Him as the Messiah and Redeemer. Now Jesus knew that the prophecy that the gospel would go forth to all

nations would surely occur. Through God's grace, faith in the Lord Jesus as the Redeemer would be awakened in people from every nation and tribe and tongue. God's covenant with His chosen ones is forever sure!

Questions

1. Where did Jesus go to be alone? (Mark 7:24)
2. Was it possible for Jesus to remain hidden from the people? (Mark 7:24)
3. What problem did the woman want to ask Jesus to help her with? (Mark 7:25)
4. Where was the birthplace of this woman who sought Jesus' help? (Mark 7:26)
5. According to Jesus, who had to be filled first before a Gentile could be filled? (Mark 7:27)
6. Jesus said that it was not good to do what with the children's bread? (Mark 7:27)

7. What was the woman's answer to Jesus' comment about bread? (Mark 7:28)

8. What blessing did Jesus extend to the woman because of her faith? (Mark 7:29)