

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 14
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

All of Life Is a Miracle

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 39

Scripture: Mark 7:31–8:26

Memory Verse: “And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’” (Mark 7:33-34)

Lesson Truth: Christ teaches us that life is a miracle and that we live by miracles.

Lesson

Not only did the Lord Jesus show that He was a light to the Gentiles, but He also showed that life is a miracle. He opened the ears and loosened the tongue of a man from Decapolis. Jesus fed four thousand people with seven loaves and a few fish, and He opened the eyes of a blind man at Bethsaida. These were a few of His miracles that we will consider in this lesson. As Jesus multiplied bread, He also warned His disciples to beware of the leaven of Herod and the Pharisees.

Christ Jesus was not yet ready to return to the land of Galilee. It was necessary for the people in Galilee to have a strong desire for Jesus’ return, so instead of going back to Galilee He went back to the land of the Gadarenes in the area of Decapolis. This was the region where the people had asked Him to leave because their pigs were destroyed. Now when these people saw Jesus, they brought Him a man who was deaf and mute, and asked Him to heal the man. It appeared that they wanted to test Jesus to see if He had some mystical power that could heal this man. Of course, Jesus would not bring healing under these circumstances because His healing was done to glorify God and not to impress men.

For that reason, Jesus took the man aside, where any healing would not be a spectacle. Away from the crowd, Jesus put His fingers into the man’s ears, and He touched his tongue with saliva on His fingertips. Then Jesus sighed as he looked up to heaven to indicate that healing came from the Father and that it came in answer to prayer. Healing was not some mystical power, but truly an act of God’s grace. Jesus then commanded that the man’s ears and tongue be opened and immediately they were loosed. The man could not only hear well, but he could also speak plainly. Although Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone about the man’s healing, the people could not keep quiet. In astonishment they exclaimed, “He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak” (Mark 7:37). Still, sadly, many of the people believed that Jesus healed by some mystical power. They did not believe that it was an act of God’s eternal grace.

Following the healing of the man at Decapolis, Jesus was again surrounded by a huge crowd of people. For three days the crowd followed Jesus until they were famished. As Jesus looked at the crowd, He had compassion on them because they hadn’t eaten all the time that they were with Him. He told the disciples that He could not send them away hungry because they would faint on the way home. The disciples immediately protested that they surely did not have enough food to feed them. Jesus then asked how many loaves the disciples had and was told that they had seven small loaves.

The Lord then commanded the people to sit on the ground. As the crowd watched, He took the seven loaves, gave thanks to the Father, and broke them. Then He told His disciples to distribute the loaves to the people. Amazingly, four thousand people were fed, and seven baskets of leftovers were picked up. The wonder of this miracle is that it demonstrated clearly that Christ Jesus is the Word of Grace. He has the power over all things and causes the grain to grow in the fields. Feeding the four thousand was only one example of His miraculous grace. Still many people who had been fed did not understand God’s eternal grace in Christ Jesus. Only if God works faith in our hearts can we understand the miracle of His grace!

Lesson 2

Transfigured

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 40

Scripture: Mark 9:2-13

Memory Verse: “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.” (Mark 9:2-3)

Lesson Truth: By His obedience in humiliation, Christ obtained glory.

Lesson

The transfiguration of Christ Jesus gives us an account of His struggles in prayer about the prospect of His suffering. As He prayed to remain obedient to the Father’s will, He was given a glimpse of the glory that would follow His suffering. In the presence of the disciples His appearance was completely changed to show His exaltation not only for Himself but also for His people. Because He was willing to be obedient to the Father and enter the state of humiliation for His people, they must listen to Him.

As the tension grew between Jesus and the Jewish leaders, He became more conscious of the suffering He would have to endure. In order to help the disciples better understand the necessity of His suffering, He withdrew with them to the region of Caesarea Philippi. Jesus told them plainly that He would be delivered up to die, but He also told them that He would rise from the dead. Although the disciples did not understand Him, Jesus continued to prepare them for what was to come. He took three of His disciples up on a high mountain where He could commune with the Father in prayer. Jesus pleaded for strength to remain obedient to the Father’s will as his suffering drew nearer. His prayer was heard as he became one with the Father.

There on the mountain in the presence of His three disciples His appearance changed completely. As He was transfigured before them, His face shone like the sun and his clothes became even whiter than snow. For just this moment the Lord Jesus was given a glimpse of the glory that would be His when his suffering and death for His people was complete. For this moment Jesus was above all suffering. This gave Him strength for the grief and sorrow that was coming.

The electrifying news for us is that His transfiguration gives us a glimpse of the transfiguration into glory that awaits all His people. It was evident that He was glorified as the head of His people when suddenly He was no longer alone. In the light of His shining countenance the disciple saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. Both Moses and Elijah had been sent by God to lead and teach His covenant people. Now as covenant leaders they were witnesses to Christ’s transfiguration. They saw Jesus as the head of the covenant that God made with His people. As the Covenant Head, He was given a glimpse of the glory that awaited not only Him, but also His people. For the moment of the transfiguration Jesus was lifted above the guilt of our sins that He had taken upon Himself. For that moment He had communion with two men who lived by faith in His atoning work and were now in heaven. Sadly, the disciples did not understand that this moment of glory was only temporary.

Peter spoke for the disciples when he suggested that they build tents of worship for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Even though that is the fellowship that awaits God’s covenant people it will not happen until earth is redeemed. The disciples had to live by faith and not by sight. The disciples did not receive a direct answer to Peter’s suggestion, but instead a cloud overshadowed the whole group. Then a voice came out of the cloud saying: “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” (Mark 9:7). These words from the Father gave Jesus the strength to go ahead with His suffering and death to atone for the sins of His people. The Father’s

Lesson 3

Fighters for Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 41

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

Memory Verse: “Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” (Mark 9:17-18)

Lesson Truth: Christ and His Church are fighters for life.

Lesson

Christ Jesus, along with believers, are fighters for life. Jesus led the disciples in a fight for life immediately after He came down from the mountain following His transfiguration. He saw the weakness of the disciple’s faith and the hostility toward faith of the Jewish leaders and their followers. This was evident in the taunting of the Scribes’ and the disciples’ inability to cast a demon from an epileptic boy. Jesus then declared that only faith, developed from prayer and fasting, could remove such a demon.

The scene that greeted Jesus, along with Peter, James, and John, as they came down mountain following His transfiguration was disappointing. They saw a large crowd gathered around the disciples that had remained in the valley. Among the crowd were scribes who were arguing with the disciples. Jesus knew that the scribes were attacking the disciple’s faith because they had been unable to cast out a demon. Before the disciples could share with Jesus what was going on a man from the crowd spoke up. He told Jesus that he had a son who was subject to getting seizures. His seizures were so severe that they would throw the boy on the ground and cause him to foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth, and become rigid. But even more disappointing to Jesus was the man’s announcement that he asked the disciples to cast out this demon and they couldn’t do it. Jesus knew that the disciples were defeated by the unbelief of the crowd around them.

Think of the grief this unbelief caused Jesus. He had just recently been transfigured so that His appearance changed, and He was shown the glory that would be His after His resurrection. Now He was surrounded by faithlessness and unbelief. No wonder He lashed out against the crowd of unbelievers saying, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?” (Mark 9:19). Jesus was not suggesting that He wanted to give up His work of redemption. Rather He wanted the people to know that before He would heal the boy it was necessary to expose their unbelief. Jesus then asked the father to bring his son. As they did so the evil spirit threw him into a convulsion causing him to foam at the mouth.

When Jesus inquired how long the boy had these seizures, He was told that they were there from his early childhood. The father also told Jesus how the evil spirit tried to destroy the boy in fire or water. Finally, he pleaded with Jesus for mercy. But his plea was filled with doubt as he said, “If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us!” (Mark 9:22). Jesus immediately rejected any limitation to His power to heal when He answered, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23).

Then the father recognized his unbelief and cried out in tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24). Christ Jesus had looked on this man with His grace and brought him to faith. Still the man knew that he needed continued grace, so he asked the Lord to help him in his struggle against unbelief. In the meantime, the crowd was eager to see a miracle. As they pressed around Jesus, He knew that their desire for a miracle interfered with faith. Still, He rebuked the deaf and dumb spirit and told it to come out of the boy. In this way the Lord Jesus brought the devil’s destruction to light. Satan had been defeated by the faith that Jesus caused to live in the boy’s father. The devil has been crushed under Jesus’ feet. He no longer has

power over those who belong to Christ Jesus. He is the fighter for life who set life free from the kingdom of death.

After the boy was freed from the deaf and dumb spirit, the disciples asked Jesus privately why they were unable to cast it out. Jesus pointed out that the faith of the disciples was not able to overcome the unbelief that was present in the crowd. He told them that if they wanted to be strong in their fight against the devil and his angels, they would have to fast and pray. Through fasting and prayer, they would see their own weakness and learn to rely completely on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also by fasting and prayer that we can be fighters for life with the Christ Jesus our Lord!

Questions

1. Who was disputing with the disciples when Jesus came from the mountain? (Mark 9:14)
2. How did the people react when they saw Jesus? (Mark 9:15)
3. What did the man from the crowd tell Jesus about his son? (Mark 9:17-18a)
4. What was the result when the man asked the disciples to cast a demon out of his son? (Mark 9:18b)
5. How did Jesus characterize the people surrounding the man and his son? (Mark 9:19)

6. What did the deaf and dumb spirit do to the boy to try to destroy him? (Mark 9:22)

7. According to Jesus statement what is possible to him who believes? (Mark 9:23)

8. What did Jesus say was required to cast out this kind of evil spirit? (Mark 9:29)

Lesson 4

He Came to Serve

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 42

Scripture: Mark 10:32-45

Memory Verse: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:5-7)

Lesson Truth: The Son of Man came to serve.

Lesson

Christ Jesus demonstrated how He fought for life when He healed the boy after He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration. Now He told His disciples again that He was going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die as a sacrifice for the sins of His people. He also instructed His disciples about their call to be servants when He saw their love mixed with selfishness. As Jesus submitted to the Father, He became the servant of all, which was the model He instructed His disciples to follow.

The Lord Jesus continued to teach in Galilee as well as across the Jordan River. However, He knew it was time to go up to Jerusalem where He would be delivered into the hands of His enemies. As He and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem, He took them aside and told them plainly what was going to happen. He told them that He would be betrayed into the hands of the chief priests and scribes. They would condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Roman authorities that would crucify Him. Jesus knew that He would be mocked and scourged yet He went to Jerusalem anyway.

It is sad that the disciples did not really hear what Jesus told them. In addition to telling them that He would suffer and die He also told them that He would rise again on the third day. They did not understand the Scriptures that the Messiah would have to suffer unto death and then rise from the dead. The disciples still thought that Jesus would save His people in the way that king David did. They had to learn that only as a suffering Savior could Jesus atone for their sins.

As the disciples walked along with Jesus on the way to Jerusalem, a surprising dispute arose among them. James and John, two of the disciples that had been with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, asked for a special favor. It was clear that they did not understand the need for Jesus’ suffering. They thought that He was about to set up His Kingdom. Out of love for their Lord, they wanted to sit, one on His right and one on His left in His Kingdom. When Jesus heard their request, He asked them if they were able to drink of the cup that He had to drink. To this they replied that they were able. Jesus saw both the love and the selfishness that brought about this request. He assured them that they truly would drink the cup that He would drink. And they would also be baptized with the baptism that He would be baptized with, but He said that He could not promise them a seat on His right and His left. Those places of honor in His Kingdom are reserved for those for whom they are prepared. With this statement Jesus showed that He was ready to submit to the Father. This model of submission was also what the disciples were asked to follow!

Of course, the other ten disciples were upset when they learned about the request of James and John. They did not hesitate to show their displeasure. Now Jesus knew that all the disciples needed to be instructed in the ways of the Kingdom of God. They had to know that God’s Kingdom is not a Kingdom where people come to be served, but rather it is a Kingdom where people are taught to serve others.

Jesus then told the disciples that in His Kingdom it would be exactly opposite of the kingdoms of the earth. In the earthly kingdoms the rulers are served, but citizens in His Kingdom are servants. Jesus pointed out that anyone who wants to be first in His Kingdom must become the servant of everyone. He then assured His disciples that He was the model for such service. Jesus told them, “The Son of man did not come to

be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). As God’s people we must be willing to be the least. We must be willing to serve others for the sake of God’s Kingdom!

Questions

1. Where were Jesus and His disciples going when He told them the things that would happen? (Mark 10:32)
2. To whom would the Son of Man be betrayed? (Mark 10:33)
3. To whom would the Son of Man be delivered for execution? (Mark 10:33)
4. What kinds of shameful things would be done to Son of Man? (Mark 10:34)
5. Who came to Jesus to ask a special favor? (Mark 10:35)
6. What was the favor these men asked of Jesus? (Mark 10:37)

7. In the Kingdom of God what must one who desires to be first do? (Mark 10:43-44)

8. What did the Son of Man come to do? (Mark 10:45)

Lesson 5

The Answer to the Questions

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 43

Scripture: Mark 12:3-44

Memory Verse: “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels in heaven.’” (Mark 12:24-25)

Lesson Truth: Christ Himself is the answer to the questions.

Lesson

Christ Jesus revealed Himself in a remarkable way by answering a number of questions asked by both unbelievers and those who believed. The Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees tried to trap Jesus with their questions, while a scribe asked Jesus a question for which he sincerely wanted an answer. Jesus then instructed the people to serve the Lord in truth and not only in appearance.

The Lord Jesus had come to Jerusalem in a triumphal entry and continued to teach the people with authority. This was the week in which the enemies of the Lord would put forth every effort to discredit Him. Hatred for Jesus would become so strong in this Passion Week that the people would finally cry out: “Crucify Him! Crucify Him! One of the schemes to discredit Jesus came from the Pharisees and the Herodians who were sent by the chief priests. Normally these sects were enemies, but in their hatred for Jesus they got together to ask a question that they were certain would trap Him.

The question, the leaders sent the Pharisees and Herodians to ask Jesus, was designed to trap Him. This was their question: “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” (Mark 12:14). Even though they approached Jesus with flattery about being someone who taught the truth, Jesus knew their evil intentions. They were certain that if He answered that it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar the people would rise up against Him because they hated the Romans. On the other hand, if He said it was not lawful to pay taxes to Caesar the Romans would arrest Him for insurrection. Jesus knew that they were hypocrites and angrily asked them to bring a Roman coin. When they brought the coin, Jesus asked them whose image was on the coin. When they answered that it was Caesar’s, Jesus exposed their hypocrisy by telling them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17). Certainly, the house of David, through the promised Messiah, would govern God’s people. With a penitent heart they were to give God what belonged to God by confessing their sins. Then they would be able to accept the Romans as a part of God’s plan for them. Jesus did not get caught in their trap, but used even His answers to reveal that He was the Christ.

Following the Pharisees and the Herodians, some Sadducees came with a question to trap Jesus. The Sadducees did not believe there would be a resurrection. So, they asked a question that referred to the Law of Moses about brothers raising children for a brother who had died. They made up a question about a woman who married seven brothers, each one following the other according to the Law of Moses. Yet none of them produced children to carry on the name of his brother. Then they asked Jesus whose wife this woman would be at the resurrection. They were also certain that they had trapped Jesus into admitting that there was no resurrection. But Jesus also revealed the truth to the Sadducees by telling them that in the resurrection there is no marriage, but God’s people will be like the angels in heaven.

Then, a scribe asked Jesus which of all the commandments was the greatest or the most important. Scribes had made so many rules that this was an honest question. Jesus answered without hesitation that the first of all the commandments was: “Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first

and great commandment. And the second, like it is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself' (Mark 12:29-31). The scribe was very happy with Jesus' answer. He understood that in this way he escaped the confusion of all the rules. Still, this scribe had to learn that loving God and neighbor is also a gift of God's grace. After this, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

Jesus then showed that He was the answer not only to the questions of the people, but also to his own questions about being both the Lord and Son of David. He then told the people to serve the Lord with their heart and not just with appearance. He told about the Scribes who love to have people see them pray and also about a poor widow who gave two mites. The scribes did things for appearance while the widow worshipped God in truth from depth of her heart. Yes, Christ Jesus is the answer to the questions!

Questions

1. Who were sent to Jesus to catch Him in His words? (Mark 12:13)
2. What question did they use to trap Jesus? (Mark 12:14)
3. What question did Jesus ask when they brought Him a denarius? (Mark 12:16)
4. What answer did Jesus give to the question about paying taxes to Caesar? (Mark 12:17)
5. What eternal truth do the Sadducees deny? (Mark 12:18)

Lesson 6

Learning Obedience

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 44

Scripture: Mark 14:32-42

Memory Verse: “He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And he said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.’” (Mark 14:35-36)

Lesson Truth: From His suffering in Gethsemane, Christ learns obedience.

Lesson

In order to understand today’s lesson truth that Christ Jesus had to learn obedience, we must realize that He had to learn obedience in His human nature. He suffered as the second Adam. As the first Adam fell into sin as a human being, so Christ, the second Adam, had to live in perfect obedience as a human being. Jesus willingly went to Gethsemane to show that as a man he was obedient unto death. His suffering in the garden was similar to the examination of the sacrificial lamb by the Old Testament priest to see if it was without blemish. In that way Christ Jesus had to walk through the horror of death at Gethsemane to show that He was willing to be obedient to the Father. He was the Lamb of God without blemish!

Christ Jesus remained in Jerusalem throughout the Passion Week even though He knew that the elders had decided to put Him to death. He also knew that Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, would assist the elders in their plot by betraying Him. Jesus knew that he would have to wrestle His way through the terror of His suffering and death to show that He would be obedient to the Father. For that reason, He led His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. When they arrived at the garden, He told the disciples to wait while He went to pray. He took Peter, James, and John with Him as He walked deeper into the garden. He shared with them that His soul was exceedingly sorrowful even unto death. As He prepared to wrestle in prayer, He asked the three disciples to watch with Him.

It was then that the Lord Jesus fell on the ground and asked the Father if it were possible that He might escape this hour of suffering. Jesus was pleading with the Father, not as the Son of God at this moment, but as the son of man. He was truly human in the suffering He had to endure. What the first Adam lost by being disobedient, Christ Jesus, as a man, had to restore by being obedient. Jesus then prayed an amazing prayer by saying: “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will” (Mark 14:36). This was not a prayer or expression of unbelief, but rather a prayer of deep commitment to the will of the Father. When Jesus said “Abba” He acknowledged that the Father could do all things. He could remove the cup of suffering from the Lord Jesus. What Jesus prayed was that the Father would remove the cup of suffering only if that was in agreement with the name and the honor of the Father. Jesus did not shrink from His suffering, but prayed that the will of God for redemption would be done. His prayer showed that He had His human nature under control. His human nature would submit to the will of the Father. He was found to be without blemish just as the sacrificial lamb of the Old Testament. It was then that Jesus went to His three disciples and found them sleeping.

Jesus specifically spoke to Peter and said, “Simon are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?” (Mark 14:37). The disciples were also very human and were so overcome with sadness and despair that they were unable to pray. They were God’s children, but the weakness of the flesh had overcome them for the moment. That is why Jesus admonished them to: “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation” (Mark 14:38). Then Jesus added that He knew that in their spirits they were willing, but He also knew that in their flesh they were weak.

Lesson 7

Like a Murderer

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 45

Scripture: Mark 14:43-72

Memory Verse: “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.’” (Mark 14:48-49)

Lesson Truth: Christ is taken prisoner and condemned as a murderer.

Lesson

The account of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest shows how He was willing to surrender Himself without resistance. Even though the Jewish rulers thought that they were in charge, the Lord’s arrest occurred exactly as Scripture said it would. When He was arrested His disciples fled in confusion. They had no tricks or deceptions planned to rescue their Lord. In keeping with the prophetic word, the elders found Him deserving of death. Then to add to His suffering, His most impetuous disciple denied that he knew Him.

After Jesus struggled in prayer at Gethsemane, He woke the disciples and told them that the hour had come. The betrayer was at hand. While Jesus was still speaking, Judas the betrayer, followed by a crowd carrying swords and clubs, came into the garden. The chief priests and elders sent this small army to arrest Jesus. Likely Judas had gone to the Sanhedrin at night to tell them that there was an opportunity to arrest Jesus without attracting attention. He knew that Jesus and His disciples would spend the night at Gethsemane. Judas wasn’t sure if the disciples would resist the Lord’s arrest, so he devised a code to indicate which one was Jesus. His code was to give the Lord a kiss, making it look like he was greeting a friend. Although the disciples were not aware of his treachery, Jesus knew that Judas was a betrayer.

Sadly, Judas did not know the Lord Jesus as the Son of God. He did not know that the Son of God could overcome the army sent to arrest Him by the power of His grace. Nor did Judas know that if the Lord Jesus allowed His enemies to work out their sinful plan, He would surrender to them voluntarily. Jesus had gained the victory over the flesh. He was ready to drink the cup that the Father had given Him. So, He did not resist the soldiers who arrested Him. The Lord Jesus was ready to surrender Himself to suffering and death in order to redeem His people.

Jesus was deeply affected by the manner in which He was arrested. He asked the armed band, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me?” (Mark 14:48). He reminded them that He had taught in the temple every day and they hadn’t arrested Him. This added to the Lord’s grief that he was treated like a murderer. But He certainly knew why this had to happen. Jesus knew that Isaiah had said that He would be numbered among the transgressors. It had to happen this way to fulfill Scripture! The tragedy of His arrest was that the leaders of Israel led the people to reject the Lord’s grace as a danger to the state.

In the meantime, the disciples were crushed and confused when they saw their Lord surrender. What would become of the kingdom that He would serve as king? They did not understand that the way to His kingdom of grace was through suffering and death. The disciples were not filled with treachery that would make them fight for their Lord. At this time, they did not know the real enmity that existed between Christ and the leaders governed by Satan. Yet, the Lord Jesus controlled them by His Spirit. In addition to the disciples, there was another young man who was controlled by His Spirit. This young man apparently had rushed to Gethsemane wrapped only in a linen cloth to warn Jesus about His impending arrest. As the soldiers arrested Jesus, they also laid hold of this young man. In his fright he slid out of the linen cloth the soldiers were holding and fled home naked. This young man was also free from treachery and deceit.

Jesus then submitted to the sham of a trial before the Sanhedrin. These chief priests and elders even hired witnesses to bring false testimony against Jesus. But their lies were so confusing that they could not get the witnesses to agree. The remarkable thing was that Jesus did not defend Himself against these false witnesses. Finally in desperation the chief priests got up and asked Jesus if he was going to defend Himself. But Jesus kept silent because He was willing to suffer for the sins of His people. Then the chief priest asked Him under oath, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" (Mark 14:61). Jesus then replied that He was the Christ in whom God's grace had come to them. At this reply, the Sanhedrin decided that they didn't need any other witnesses. They ruled that He was guilty of blasphemy and deserved to die. To add to His suffering Peter denied three times that He knew the Lord Jesus. Thankfully, Peter also knew the grace of the Lord Jesus that could conquer all things! Pray that the Lord Jesus will shower us with that grace!

Questions

1. Who came from the chief priests with a great multitude to arrest Jesus? (Mark 14:43)
2. What signal did Jesus' betrayer use to identify him? (Mark 14:44)
3. What question did Jesus have for the multitude that arrested Him? (Mark 14:48)
4. What happened to the disciples when Jesus was arrested? (Mark 14:50)
5. To whom did they lead Jesus to hear testimony against Him? (Mark 14:53)

Lesson 8

Regarded as Nothing

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 46

Scripture: Mark 15:1-20

Memory Verse: “Pilate answered and said to them again, ‘What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?’ So they cried out again, ‘Crucify Him!’” (Mark 15:12-13)

Lesson Truth: The Christ is regarded as worthless.

Lesson

Jesus was treated like a condemned man even before a sentence was pronounced against Him. Think of the humiliation our Lord experienced as He was regarded as nothing. He was presented as being of less value than a murderer. It is striking that He was treated as worthless by nearly all the people involved with His trial. This included Pilate the governor, the crowd of people, the murderer Barabbas, and the soldiers. That the Son of God would offer Himself to suffer and die for the sins of mankind did not make sense to the proud minds of those who stood in judgment against Him. It makes little sense to proud minds today unless they are converted by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The chief priests, along with the scribes and elders, met late into the night questioning Jesus. They determined that He had spoken blasphemy because He said that He was the Christ. Now, early the next morning they met again and decided to bind Jesus and bring Him to the Roman governor, Pilate. This was necessary because the Jews had no authority to put anyone to death. Pilate brought Jesus into his chambers and asked Him directly if He was the King of the Jews. It was difficult for Jesus to answer that question because He certainly was the King of the Jews, but not in the way that Pilate thought of a King. For that reason, Jesus answered Pilate, “It is as you say” (Mark 15:2). Pilate did not understand the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus at all. But he was certain that Jesus was not a threat to the Roman authorities. Pilate marveled that Jesus did not defend Himself against the accusations the Jews brought against Him.

Pilate then demonstrated how little he thought of Jesus. He was willing to treat Jesus as a convicted and sentenced prisoner even though there was no proof that He had done any evil. He did this when he thought of offering Jesus as the prisoner to be released at the Passover. The custom of the Romans was to release a convict, of the Jews’ choosing, each year at the Passover Feast. Pilate thought the Jews would surely accept Jesus as the one to be released if he offered it. But this showed that he thought of Jesus as nothing. He had no desire to see that justice was done. He would simply offer Jesus as a convict although He had not been convicted. In his disregard for Jesus, Pilate gave the Jews the choice to release Jesus or Barabbas, a man who had been convicted of murder. In this way Jesus was regarded as of less value than a murderer! Tragically, Pilate did not know that the blood of Jesus would redeem all those that believe.

The people also treated Jesus as nothing. The many people He healed and the message of grace that He brought were forgotten because Jesus did not set Himself up as king. They were disappointed that He did not deliver them from the Romans. The people did not really want to be redeemed from sin and be restored to God. That is why the elders could convince them that they should ask for the release of Barabbas. When Pilate then asked them what he should do with Jesus they were ready to shout, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” (Mark 15:13-14). It truly was the way the prophet said it would be: “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3). The people wanted nothing to do with Jesus, their covenant Head.

Pilate finally gave in to the people’s request and turned Jesus over to the soldiers to crucify Him. The soldiers also showed their contempt for Jesus as they covered Him with a purple robe and put a crown of thorns on His head. They mocked Jesus and pretended to hail Him as a king. In the eyes of the soldiers, he

6. What was the people's response when Pilate asked what he should do with Jesus? (Mark 15:13-14)

7. What did Pilate do with Jesus after he released Barabbas? (Mark 15:15)

8. How did the soldiers mock Jesus before they crucified Him? (Mark 15:17-19)

Lesson 9

Powerlessness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 47

Scripture: Mark 15:21-47

Memory Verse: “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which is translated, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” (Mark 15:34)

Lesson Truth: The Christ suffers powerlessness in death.

Lesson

The suffering that Christ Jesus willingly endured to redeem His people included being completely powerless. He voluntarily gave up all His power as the people mocked him and God abandoned Him. Jesus surrendered His power as He died and when He was buried. He became powerless in order to give His people the power to become sons of God!

The Lord Jesus already submitted to being without power in Pilate’s court as He was questioned. This continued as He was led outside the city of Jerusalem to be crucified. Being taken outside the city indicated that He was judged to be unfit for human fellowship. He was willing to suffer as a powerless victim as He was led to Golgotha. There He refused to drink the wine that was offered as a depressant. He submitted without resistance to being crucified between two murderers indicating the truth of Isaiah’s prophecy: He was numbered among the transgressors. For hours the Lord Jesus submitted willingly to this bitter suffering and shame. He suffered the shame of having a sign nailed above His head indicating the charge against Him, which said, “The King of the Jews” (Mark 15:26). This was way our Lord voluntarily gave up His power!

Jesus was also powerless as the people passed by His cross and mocked Him. Some who walked by blasphemed His name when they said: “Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself and come down from the cross!” (Mark 15:29-30). The chief priests and scribes mocked Him with the others, saying, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save” (Mark 15:31). The truth was that that Jesus was not allowed to save Himself if He was going to pay for the sins of others. He surrendered His power so He could make the grace of God available to His people. Jesus endured the mockery of those who passed by because He conquered the flesh at Gethsemane. The Lord even yielded to the ridicule of the murderers who were crucified with Him.

Still, the most excruciating forfeiture of power came when God abandoned Him. For three hours, from nine until noon, Jesus suffered on the cross as God the Father forsook Him. More than anything Jesus longed for communion with the Father, but was powerless against the Father’s rejection, which He voluntarily endured. It was on the cross that Jesus, the Light of the world, was engulfed by complete darkness. In this darkness the Lord Jesus was nearly overwhelmed with the misery and terror of enduring the depth of hell for the sins of mankind. Finally at the ninth hour He cried out in agony: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34). It was this agony and terror that Jesus endured as the powerless Son of God, as the price of our atonement. When He cried, out Jesus realized the awful consequences of sin. Because He endured these consequences, He removed the curse of sin from those who believe.

Because Jesus cried out, “Eloi, Eloi,” (Mark 15:34). the people thought that He was calling for Elijah to save Him. But Jesus was not calling Elijah. He willingly submitted to death on the cross and gave up His power to call for help. Then after Jesus cried out with a loud voice God the Father allowed Him to die. In His death He was also powerless. He yielded to the grip of temporal death as if He was held in chains. By yielding to death the Lord Jesus broke the power of His enemies. At the moment of His death the veil of

the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. This was the sign that price of sin had been paid. It was the sign that the God who had been separated from the people behind the veil was now accessible. Even a gentile, Roman Centurion, gave testimony to the Lordship of Christ when he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39).

Jesus also submitted to lying in the grave without power. A man of faith who was a member of the Sanhedrin, asked for permission to bury Jesus' body. He wrapped Jesus in fine linen and placed Him in his own new tomb. The tomb is the place where mankind is soon forgotten. Jesus also submitted without power to that judgment to fulfill the demands of God against our sins. Thankfully He did not experience deterioration in the grave, but rose from the dead. Because our Lord submitted without power to the judgments of God He triumphed over death and the grave for His people!

Questions

1. Who carried the cross for Jesus? (Mark 15:21)
2. Where did the soldiers bring Jesus to be crucified? (Mark 15:22)
3. What inscription did the soldiers hang over Jesus' head? (Mark 15:26)
4. With what words did the chief priests mock Jesus? (Mark 15:31)
5. What amazing thing happened in nature from the sixth to the ninth hour? (Mark 15:33)

Lesson 10

The Word of the King

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 48

Scripture: Mark 16:1-20

Memory Verse: “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’” (Mark 16:15-16)

Lesson Truth: The Word of the King goes forth with power, for He lives.

Lesson

Imagine the dejection on the part of Jesus’ followers as they saw His body placed in a tomb after He died on the cross. They spent the Sabbath Day grieving the loss of their Master. Now on the first day of the week when the Sabbath had ended, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James along with Salome hurried to the tomb. They brought spices to anoint Jesus’ body because they could not stay away from the tomb. As they walked along, they were concerned about the large stone that covered the entrance to the tomb. Who would roll this large stone away so they could enter? But as they neared the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away and they were able to go in.

When they entered the tomb, they saw an angel who appeared as a young man clothed in a long robe. He spoke to them and told them not to be alarmed that they did not see the body of Jesus. Then he gave them the news that has electrified believers ever since when he said, “He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him” (Mark 16:6). This was the awe-inspiring message that Jesus was no longer under the curse of death or the cross. He had conquered the sins of mankind that were the cause of His suffering and death. He was alive again and was filled with power.

The women were told to see the place where He had lain and then believe that He took up His life, never to lay it down again. They were also instructed to tell His disciples and Peter that He would go before them into Galilee. It is interesting the Peter was singled out from the other disciples and specifically mentioned by name. This was done so that Peter would understand that even though he had denied the Lord, he was not excluded from the circle of disciples because of his denial.

Jesus appeared to many people to confirm the resurrection Word, “He is risen!” that the angel had spoken. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene out of whom He had cast seven devils. She told the disciples that Jesus was alive but sadly the disciples did not believe her. Later Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus to bring them to faith in the resurrection. These believers shared the news of the resurrection with the disciples, but the disciples could not believe it. They could not yet understand that Jesus had conquered sin and death.

When the Lord appeared to the eleven disciples, He admonished them for their unbelief and the hardness of their hearts because they did not believe those who had seen Him. Still, when they received His rebuke and acknowledged His reign of grace, He gave them the command to. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). The Word that the disciples were called to bring to every creature was the Word of the King. That Word of the King could go forth with power because the King had risen from the dead. The disciples could bring that Word with the assurance that, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). Along with this assurance was also a stern warning that, “He who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Because Christ Jesus conquered death and hell when He rose from the grave, the Word of the King could go forth with power!

The resurrection was not the end for the Lord Jesus but the beginning of His exaltation. He was taken up to heaven and was seated at the right hand of the Father. There He shares in the Father’s reign of grace.

The Lord Jesus has been granted power over all His enemies. He exercises that power through the Holy Spirit, who gives strength to the Word that is preached. The Word of the Lord Jesus that is preached today continues to receive its power from the Holy Spirit. That is why people who have been imprisoned by sin can be set free to believe in the risen Lord!

Questions

1. Who went to tomb to anoint the body of Jesus? (Mark 16:1)
2. What time of the day did the women go to the tomb to anoint Jesus body? (Mark 16:2)
3. What did the women fear might prevent them from entering the tomb? (Mark 16:3)
4. Who was in the tomb when the women entered? (Mark 16:5)
5. What amazing thing did the angel proclaim about Jesus of Nazareth? (Mark 16:6)
6. To whom did Jesus first appear after His resurrection? (Mark 16:9)

7. What was the disciples' response to this woman's message that Jesus was alive? (Mark 16:11)

8. What command did Jesus give to His disciples when He appeared to them? (Mark 16:15)

Lesson 11

The Lord Is Gracious

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 49

Scripture: Luke 1:1-25, 57-80

Memory Verse: “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.” (Luke 1:68-69)

Lesson Truth: God gives proof of His grace for His people by sending the one who is to prepare the way before His face.

Lesson

The name John means the Lord is gracious. God showed His grace to His people when He announced the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias. For hundreds of years the children of Israel lived in anticipation of God’s promised Redeemer. In the story of the birth of John, the fulfillment of the promise is infinitely greater than all the anticipation. Not only was the birth of John announced but John’s mission as the forerunner of Christ Jesus was also announced. It was sad that Zacharias had to live with a sign of being unable to speak until the promise was fulfilled.

It was a gracious act of God that He chose to announce the birth of the forerunner of Jesus Christ so there would be no mistake as to His true mission. This announcement came to John’s father who was a priest of the division of Abijah. This priest, Zacharias, was married to Elizabeth who was from Aaron’s family. Zacharias and Elizabeth were godly people who had prayed often that God would give them a child. Up until this time they were not given any children and now they were both advanced in age. They had reached the conclusion that they would never have children because Elizabeth remained barren. This couple lived like many in Israel. They believed God’s promises, but it seemed that those promises would never be fulfilled.

At this time when hope for a child and hope for the promised Messiah was very dim, the angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias. According to the custom of the priests Zacharias was the priest assigned to burn incense at this time. While he was in the holy place burning incense, the angel Gabriel appeared and stood at the right side of the altar of incense. This was such a spectacular occurrence that Zacharias was filled with fear. The angel immediately assured him that there was no need to be afraid. Instead, he was told the electrifying news that he and Elizabeth would have the child they had prayed for. The child would be a son and his name was to be called John, which means the Lord is gracious. Even more, this son would turn many in Israel to the Lord their God.

He was the one who would go before the Messiah in the spirit and power of Elijah. John’s task would be to prepare the people for the coming of the Redeemer. He would be filled with the Holy Spirit and was not to drink wine or strong drink as a sign that his strength was from the Lord. The joy and salvation that came to Zacharias and Elizabeth was a glimpse of the salvation that would come to the world through the Redeemer. John would turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. All this was to make ready for the coming of the Redeemer.

Sadly, Zacharias was not ready to believe such an electrifying announcement. He could not believe that old people who were past the age having children would now have a son. Surely this was impossible! Zacharias did not understand the great miracle that God Himself was coming to earth as the Redeemer. If he had believed that great miracle, he could have believed that God would give a son to Elizabeth and him. Instead, Zacharias asked Gabriel for a sign. Because this was a request made in unbelief, Gabriel answered: “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did

not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time” (Luke 1:19-20). In his mute state Zacharias realized his sin of unbelief in God’s Word. Then by God’s grace his unbelief was replaced with faith.

Zacharias most likely shared the message of the angel with Elizabeth. He likely shared with her the rich promise of a son he had received and also the reason why he could not speak. By the time the baby was born they had shared, in faith, the great news of their expected son. Now they truly believed that God could do all things. That is why friends and relatives were gathered with Zacharias and Elizabeth on the eighth day when their son was to be circumcised and given a name. These well-meaning people wanted to name him Zacharias after his father, but Elizabeth said he would be called John. When the group protested that no one in the family had that name they made signs to his father and asked him what his name should be. Zacharias then wrote on a tablet that his name is John, which means the Lord is gracious. Immediately Zacharias could speak because he showed that he accepted the Word of God concerning the work his son was called to do. He then prophesied that John would prepare the way for the Lord Jesus Christ who would come to grant forgiveness of sins and peace to mankind. The grace of the Lord brought Zacharias to faith!

Questions

1. Who was the wife of Zacharias the priest? (Luke 1:5)
2. Who appeared to Zacharias as he was burning incense at the temple? (Luke 1:11)
3. What answer to prayer did the angel announce to Zacharias? (Luke 1:13)
4. Who would be filled with the Spirit, even from his mother’s womb? (Luke 1:15)
5. What question did Zacharias ask that showed his lack of faith? (Luke 1:18)

Lesson 12

Holy Is His Name

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 50

Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

Memory Verse: “Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.’” (Luke 1:30-31)

Lesson Truth: God sanctifies Himself in the conception of the Redeemer in the flesh.

Lesson

The announcement of the coming of John the Baptist was followed with an announcement that Mary would have a Son. God, in His providence, chose to reveal His plan for the coming Redeemer to Elizabeth and Mary. Through His Spirit they both shared a prophetic message.

Six months after the angel Gabriel had appeared to Zacharias, he appeared to Mary. When Gabriel appeared to Zacharias, he told him that Elizabeth would have a son in her old age. This son would be dedicated to the Lord and would prepare the way the way for the Redeemer. Now Gabriel came to a virgin named Mary with an even more amazing announcement. Mary would give birth to the Messiah. It was amazing because God selected a young woman from Nazareth in Galilee to be the mother of the Redeemer. It was amazing because the Jews continued to look for the Messiah to come from Judea and Jerusalem, not from the despised area of Galilee. It was amazing because God selected a very common maiden who was engaged to a very common man named Joseph to be the mother of the Lord.

Gabriel addressed this maiden from Galilee as a highly favored one and one that is blessed among women. The Lord was about to grant this young woman an extraordinary gift of His grace. Gabriel told her that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Messiah. She was chosen only because of God’s good pleasure and not because she had some inherent goodness in herself. Yet Mary responded to the angel’s message in faith. This was a faith that God had worked in her heart, and she was able to see the holiness of God’s grace that would overcome her. This made her afraid until Gabriel assured her that she did not have to fear because she had found favor with God. He then helped her understand that this meant she would have a son who would be named Jesus. This Son would be great and would be known as the Son of the Highest who would occupy the throne of David whose kingdom would never end.

Even though God had worked faith in Mary’s heart, she still had a question for the angel. She asked how this could happen since she had never been with a man. It was then that Gabriel told her that the son she would bear, would be conceived by the Holy Spirit. God would perform a miracle in Mary’s body so He could bring forth His only begotten Son, the Holy One. Then as a special sign to confirm Mary’s faith, Gabriel told her that God had also worked a miracle in the life of Elizabeth and Zacharias. They would have son in their old age. This would be the sign that an even greater miracle would take place in her body! While all other children are conceived and born in sin, Mary’s child would be conceived as the Holy One.

It was then evident that God had given Mary the gift of faith. She responded in faith to a message that was beyond comprehension to the natural mind. Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). She would be the servant of the Lord so His name would be glorified.

Mary wasted no time to go to see Elizabeth to confirm that the miracle that Gabriel had told her had occurred in Zacharias and Elizabeth’s life. As soon as Elizabeth heard the greeting from Mary the babe leaped in her womb. She was then filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied that the things the angel had told Mary would surely come pass as a Word from the Lord.

Elizabeth's prophetic words also helped Mary give expression to her faith. After she heard Elizabeth's words Mary broke forth in a song of praise. Her song was also prophetic as she sang of the God who had chosen her to bring forth the Messiah. Mary knew that God in His grace had put to shame the proud expectations of men. In His grace He upholds those who are contrite in spirit in accordance with the promise He made to Abraham! Yes, God brought about the miracle of conceiving His Son in the womb of Mary through the Holy Spirit. That is why His name is Holy!

Questions

1. Who sent the angel Gabriel to speak to Mary? (Luke 1:26)
2. To whom was Mary betrothed? (Luke 1:27)
3. According to the angel, who was with Mary, that she was blessed among women? (Luke 1:28)
4. According to the angel with whom had Mary found favor? (Luke 1:30)
5. What was Mary's son to be called? (Luke 1:31)
6. Whose throne would be given to the son that Mary would conceive? (Luke 1:32)

7. How long would the son born to Mary rule over the house of Jacob? (Luke 1:33)

8. In her song, Mary said her spirit had rejoiced in whom? (Luke 1:46-47)