

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 15

Level 2

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

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

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

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

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

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

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

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

Lesson 1
Christ the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 51

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Memory Verse: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. He was born to be Lord of all things.

Lesson

Do you know what a lord is? A lord is a master. The angel announced to the shepherds that Jesus was the Savior. He told them that this Savior was Christ the Lord. He also told them that Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem, the city of David. It had to be that way to fulfill God’s covenant promise. The Lord was born of the Holy Spirit. But He was also born of Mary as a human baby. Angels sang praises at His birth giving glory to God in the highest. And shepherds came to adore Christ the Lord.

It is amazing that Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem. The prophet Micah had said that was the place where He would be born. And God had promised David that he would have a Son to sit on his throne forever. To be sure God is a covenant-keeping God. He would surely keep His promise that His Son would be born in the city of David. But how could this happen since Joseph and Mary did not live in Bethlehem? It happened because God caused the heart of Caesar Augustus to want to register his people. Luke tells us that Caesar made it a law that everyone had to register in the town of their fathers. Because of this law Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to register. He was of the house and line of David.

Joseph took Mary along when he went to register. He may have been afraid to leave her at home because her baby was about to be born. Sadly, when Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay. The Inn was full, so they looked for another place to rest. The only place they could find was a stable where the animals were kept. So, this is where Joseph and Mary had to stay while they were in Bethlehem. As they rested in the stable, the time came for Mary to deliver her baby. Luke tells us that she brought forth her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. Joseph and Mary were most likely very excited and filled with joy.

They knew what the angel Gabriel had told them. He told them that Mary would have a Son and that she would call His name Jesus. The Son that Mary wrapped in swaddling clothes was the Son of God.

God then sent an angel to announce the birth of Mary's Son. He did not send this angel to kings or rulers but to shepherds. These shepherds were watching their flocks at night when the angel came. The angel was shining with the brightness of God's glory. This made the shepherds afraid. But the angel told them not to be afraid for he came with good tidings. These tidings were filled with joy for all people. Do you know what the tidings were? The angel said, "There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Mary and Joseph may have wondered why God's Son was born in such a humble place. They still had to learn that the humble stable pointed to Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. By His suffering and death, He paid for the sins of His people.

The angel also gave the shepherds a sign that what he said was true. He told them they would find Mary's baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Just then a host of angels came to praise God. They said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14). Not only was the birth of Christ as Lord a joy to men, but also to the angels in heaven. The angels praised God for His grace in Christ Jesus. We must also praise God for His grace as He gives us the faith to believe.

As soon as the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. They wanted to see what had come to pass. They were filled with joy when they found Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child. It was just as the angel had said it would be. They came to adore the Son of God who had been born to Mary. After they had seen Him, they shared the news of His birth with everyone they saw. Mary knew that she had given birth to Christ the Lord. Yet she did not yet understand that He would suffer and die. Still, Mary believed that He was her Lord. Let us thank God for showing us His grace in giving us a Savior. May God's grace teach us to believe that He is Christ the Lord!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from _____ that all the world should be registered." (Luke 2:1)

2. "Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea to the city of _____ which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David." (Luke 2:4)

3. "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in _____ clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

4. "Now there were in the same country _____ living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." (Luke 2:8)

5. "Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good _____ of great joy which will be to all people.'" (Luke 2:10)

6. "For to you is born this day in the city of David a _____ who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Lesson 2

The Consolation of Israel

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 52

Scripture: Luke 2:21-39

Memory Verse: “The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” (Isaiah 52:10)

Lesson Truth: Simeon saw Christ Jesus in the temple. He knew Jesus was the Consolation of Israel.

Lesson

Luke in his gospel tells us about the just and devout man Simeon. He said that Simeon was looking for the Consolation of Israel. The Consolation of Israel was the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though He was God’s Son, His parents did for Him the things required by the law. He was circumcised and He was presented to God as a firstborn son.

Most of the people of Israel were not waiting for the Messiah with eager expectation. They knew the prophets said that He was coming. But they were not eagerly waiting. Still there were a few devout believers who looked for Him every day. Two of those believers were Simeon and Anna who waited at the temple. God used the faithfulness of Joseph and Mary to introduce Jesus to these two believers. When Jesus was eight days old, they took Him to be circumcised. At that time, they officially gave Him the name Jesus just as the angel, Gabriel, said they should. Remember circumcision was the sign of putting sin to death. Why did the Son of God receive this sign? He received this sign only to show that He carried the sins of His people. This sign pointed to the suffering that He would endure on the cross. Jesus was not only willing to be born of a human mother, but He also submitted to the rules of the Law.

Joseph and Mary also took Jesus to the temple when He was forty days old. They did this to fulfill the law that said every firstborn son had to be presented to God. When God gave the Law to Moses, He said that every firstborn son would be His. They were chosen to serve God as priests. But because of the sins of the people at Sinai the firstborn sons were rejected as priests. Instead, God chose the tribe of Levi for the priesthood. Still God said that each firstborn son had to be presented to the Lord. When they were forty days old, they had to be redeemed from priestly service with turtledoves or pigeons. Jesus also had to be redeemed because He too was rejected from the

priesthood. Thankfully He earned the right to become both the priest and sacrificial lamb. Jesus fulfilled the law of priestly service.

Simeon was a devout believer who waited eagerly for the Messiah. The Holy Spirit helped him to know that the Messiah was the Consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. When Joseph and Mary presented Jesus to God at the temple, Simeon knew He was the Messiah. He took the infant Jesus into his arms and blessed God. Simeon confessed that he did not fear death because his eyes had seen God's salvation. This salvation, he proclaimed, was for all people. It was a light that would be revealed to the Gentiles and was the glory of Israel. The revelation of God's grace to Simeon caused Joseph and Mary to marvel.

Simeon blessed Jesus' parents and said that Mary's Son would cause the rising and falling of many in Israel. He would be a sign that would be spoken against. This devout man of God saw that Jesus would become a blessing to some; at the same time, He would be a curse to others. Some would respond to the Savior with faith and love and others with unbelief and hate. Because of this Mary would suffer when she saw the people reject her Son. Her soul would be pierced, but by faith she would be restored.

At the time when Joseph and Mary were at the temple with Jesus, Anna arrived. Anna was also one of the believers who looked for the Consolation of Israel. She served God with fasting and prayers night and day. God also visited Anna with His grace. When she saw Jesus, she gave thanks to God. Anna knew that the infant Jesus was the Messiah. After Anna had seen the Lord, she told all those who were looking for the Redeemer. God showed the Redeemer to the believers who were looking for the Consolation of Israel. But the joy of His arrival even faded among the believers. When Jesus began His public ministry no one seemed to know Him. Even today the world is not looking for the Consolation of Israel. But our Lord overcomes the world! Are you ready to receive the message of salvation?

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the _____, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb." (Luke 2:21)

2. “Now when the days of her purification according to the Law of _____ were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.” (Luke 2:22)

3. “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was _____ and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” (Luke 2:25)

4. “And it had been revealed to him by the _____ that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” (Luke 2:26)

5. “Now there was one _____ a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher.” (Luke 2:36a)

6. And coming in that instant she gave _____ to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who looked for the redemption in Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:38)

Lesson 3

In His Father's Work

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 53

Scripture: Luke 2:40-52

Memory Verse: “And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” (Luke 2:40)

Lesson Truth: At an early age Christ Jesus knew He had to do His Father's work.

Lesson

Joseph and Mary knew they had a special Son. But they did not know that His Father's work began when he was a boy. Joseph and Mary saw Him become strong in spirit. They would learn that even as a boy He was aware of the work He was called to do. Jesus lived under His parent's authority even though He knew that He was the Redeemer.

Jesus' parents had presented Him to God at the temple. Both Simeon and Anna had rejoiced to see the Redeemer. Now Joseph and Mary took Jesus back to Nazareth in Galilee. There they watched Him grow to become a lad who was strong in spirit. It must have been a joy for them to see that Jesus was filled with wisdom. They could also see that the grace of God was upon Him. But they still did not realize that His Father had called Him to do His work. They would learn about Jesus' call to do His Father's work when they went to the Passover Feast.

The Jewish law of the Passover said that twelve-year-old boys should attend the feast. So, Jesus traveled with His parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem to attend the Passover Feast. They traveled with a group of relatives and acquaintances. Most likely Jesus had gone with His parents to the Passover before. But this was the first time when custom said that He must attend. Because He was twelve and participated in the feast, His parents allowed Him some freedom. He was free to go to the temple without Joseph and Mary. This presented a problem after the feast as Jesus' parents started for home.

At the close of the Passover Feast Joseph and Mary joined their relatives to travel home. They did not realize that Jesus was not in the group of travelers. They assumed that He would surely be in the company of relatives as they journeyed home. The company had traveled a whole day before Joseph and Mary went to look for Jesus. Imagine their fears when they could not find Him, They immediately returned to Jerusalem searching for

Jesus on the way. They must have searched for Him in many different places because it was three days before they found Him. Mary and Joseph were very anxious and afraid as they looked for their Son.

Jesus' parents were surprised to find Him in the temple. It was even more surprising to find Him discussing things with the teachers of the law. "All those who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and His answers" (Luke 2:47). His parents were also amazed at what they heard. But Mary scolded Him, asking, "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have sought You anxiously" (Luke 2:48).

Upon hearing this scolding Jesus had to correct His parents. They should have known that He walked in the ways of His Father in heaven. He would never do things to hurt them. They worried about Jesus because they did not understand that He had to do His Father's work. Jesus asked Joseph and Mary: "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). Sadly, Jesus' parents did not yet understand the things He spoke to them. But Jesus was fully aware of the work the Father called Him to do. He had heard the teachings of the scribes and He knew that they did not see God's grace. Later Jesus would experience strong opposition from the scribes.

Now that Jesus was aware of the work His Father called him to do; would He leave His parents? The truth is He continued to live under their authority. The Redeemer was willing to be obedient to Joseph and Mary. By being obedient to them He was also obedient to His Father. The astounding truth is that by His obedience He atoned for our disobedience! Mary did not yet understand the things that Jesus said. But she did remember and kept His words in her heart. Mary also saw that her Son increased in wisdom and in stature. She could see that God's favor was upon Him and that the people of Nazareth respected Him. Jesus' parents would learn that their Son was always busy in His Father's work!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And the _____ grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." (Luke 2:40)
2. "His parents went to _____ every year at the Feast of the Passover." (Luke 2:41)

3. “And when He was _____ year old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.” (Luke 2:42)

4. “When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy _____ lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and Mary did not know it.” (Luke 2:43)

5. “So when they did not find Him, they returned to _____ seeking Him.” (Luke 2:45)

6. “And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My _____ business?’” (Luke 2:49)

Lesson 4
Exodus

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 54

Scripture: Luke 3:1-20

Memory Verse: “And he went into all the regions around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” (Luke 3:3)

Lesson Truth: John the Baptist helped the people get ready for the Messiah to come.

Lesson

Exodus means to leave or depart. Moses led the exodus of the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt. Today we want to learn about another exodus. This is the exodus led by John the Baptist. He led the people away from thinking they could save themselves. Their bondage was self-righteousness. The people had to know that they needed a Savior. So, John called on them to repent.

The son named John, born to Zacharias and Elizabeth, was now thirty years old. His father prophesied that he would go before the face of the Lord. He would make the way ready for the coming of Christ Jesus. John spent his time in the area around the Jordan River. Now it was time for him to get the people ready to meet Jesus. They had to turn away from a trust in themselves. The Lord Jesus saves His people by His grace. They are not saved by keeping rules of the Jewish leaders. So, John called the people to repent. He was the voice that was crying in the wilderness. This is the voice that Isaiah said was coming. John urged the people to make ready for the coming of the King.

They had to make a highway for the Son of God as King. Such a highway needed every valley to be filled and every mountain graded down. All the crooked places needed to be made straight. And the rough places needed to be made smooth. Only this highway had to be made in the hearts of God’s people. They had to make their hearts ready for Jesus to come. The only way they could do this was to be sorry for their sins. They had to know that only the grace of Jesus could save them. When the Lord came, all flesh would see His salvation. This meant salvation was for Jew and Gentile as well as slave and free.

Sadly, it was a difficult time for John to preach. Neither the political leaders nor the religious leaders wanted to hear John’s message. The Romans and their governors didn’t know anything about the promised Redeemer. And the high priests hated the good

news that God in His grace would redeem His people. But crowds of people went out to hear John preach and to be baptized. He warned the people to show that they had repented. John told them not to think they were saved because Abraham was their father. God could make children for Abraham from stones. Sorrow for their sins would be the fruit of repentance. The people then asked John what they had to do.

They thought He might tell them to live in the desert like he did. But John did not tell them to change their way to make a living. Instead, he told them to change their heart. If someone had two coats, John said they should give one to a person who had none. The tax collectors were not told to quit collecting taxes. Rather they were told to be honest and only collect what was due. The soldiers were told to be content with their wages and not to accuse anyone falsely.

John's teaching made some people think that he was the Messiah. But he reminded them that he was not worthy to fasten the sandal strap of the Messiah. His baptism was only a sign of God's grace in His covenant. The Messiah would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John also warned that the Messiah would come as a farmer at the threshing floor. He would separate the wheat from the chaff. The wheat He would gather into His barns and the chaff He would burn with a fire that never dies. That is the way the Messiah comes. He brings His grace to believers and judgment to unbelievers.

John the Baptist was truly the voice of one crying in the wilderness. But the leaders were afraid of Him. He called on both the leaders and the common people to repent. John scolded Herod for His sin with his brother Philip's wife. For this reason Herod had him locked up in prison. John urged the people to get ready to meet the Lord. Are you and I ready for the Messiah to live in our hearts?

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And he went into the entire region around the _____, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." (Luke 3:3)
2. "As it is written in the book of the words of _____ the prophet, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.'" (Luke 3:4)

3. “And all flesh shall see the _____ of God.”
(Luke 3:6)

4. “So the _____ asked him, saying, ‘What shall we do then?’” (Luke 3:10)

5. “He answered and said to them, ‘He who has two _____, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food let him do likewise.’” (Luke 3:11)

6. “John answered, saying to all, ‘I indeed baptize you with _____; but One mightier than I is coming whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.’” (Luke 3:16)

The Lord's Anointed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 55

Scripture: Luke 3:21–4:30

Memory Verse: “And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Get behind Me, Satan!’ For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” (Luke 4:8)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit rested on Christ at His baptism indicating that He was the Lord's Anointed.

Lesson

The Holy Spirit was present in the life of the Lord Jesus. He was present at Jesus' baptism and His temptation. After Jesus had been tempted, He was led by the power of the Spirit to Galilee. In Nazareth Jesus found that the people knew Him as a wise man, but not as the Redeemer.

Something happened when John the Baptist was baptizing people in the Jordan River. The Lord Jesus also came to be baptized. At first John did not want to baptize Jesus. He said that Jesus should baptize him because He was the Savior. But Jesus reminded John that He had to be baptized. This would be the sign that He carried the sins of all believers. As John baptized Him the Lord Jesus prayed. In answer to His prayer the heaven was opened. Then a wonderful thing happened. The Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove. The dove as the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus. This was also a sign. It was the sign that Jesus was anointed to be the Redeemer. Prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil in Israel. This was the sign that God called them to do a special task. The Holy Spirit on Jesus was the sign that He was the Lord's Anointed. After the Spirit rested on Jesus a voice from heaven spoke. The voice said, “You are My beloved Son; In You I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). In this way the Father assured Jesus that He was anointed to be the Redeemer. He was well pleased that His beloved Son would be the Redeemer.

Jesus, through His ancestors, was the son of Adam, the Son of God. He began His ministry when He was about thirty years old. Early in His ministry the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. There He was tempted by the devil for forty days. The devil tried three times to get Jesus to serve His own needs or to worship him. But each time

the Spirit gave Him the strength to rely on God's Word. Jesus answered each temptation with the words, "It is written!" (see Luke 4). With God's Word, Satan was defeated!

Later Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit. The news of His return spread through the entire region. The people were amazed at the things He taught. Then one day He arrived in Nazareth. This was the town where Jesus had grown up. Because the people of Nazareth knew Jesus as a child, they were in danger of not believing that He was the Redeemer. Their unbelief was seen one day when Jesus went to the synagogue. At the synagogue He was asked to read from the book of Isaiah. Jesus found the passage from Isaiah that told of His anointing. This passage told of the Spirit of the Lord being upon Him. The Spirit was upon Him because He had been anointed to preach the gospel to the poor. He had been sent to heal the brokenhearted and to tell the captives they were free.

The people at the synagogue were curious about what Jesus read. Then they marveled at His gracious words when He said, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). But they soon forgot His gracious words when He warned them about unbelief. He told them plainly that He could not do for them the miracles He did in Capernaum. The reason was because they did not believe that He was the Redeemer. Jesus then reminded them that the children of Israel had been passed by before. Elijah had gone to the widow at Zarephath instead of to widows in Israel. Elisha healed Naaman the Syrian of his leprosy instead of lepers in Israel. These miracles were done for strangers because Israel did not believe.

These reminders made the people angry. In their anger they drove Jesus out of the city. They had in mind to take Him to a hill in Nazareth and push Him from a cliff. But then Jesus showed His majestic power. He walked through the crowd and went away. The people of Nazareth did not bow before the majesty of the Redeemer's grace. Sadly, those who do not bow before His grace will bow before His judgment. Do you believe that Christ is the Lord's Anointed? Do you believe that He was anointed to be the Redeemer?

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that _____ also was baptized." (Luke 3:21a)

2. “And the _____ descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’” (Luke 3:22)

3. “But Jesus answered him saying, ‘Man shall not live by _____ alone, but by every word of God.’” (Luke 4:4)

4. “And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Get behind Me, _____!’ For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” (Luke 4:8)

5. “And He was handed the book of the prophet _____. And when He had opened the book He found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me to preach the gospel to the poor.’” (Luke 4:17-18a)

6. “And He began to say to them, ‘Today this _____ is fulfilled in your hearing.’” (Luke 4:21)

Lesson 6
Fisher of Men

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 56

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Memory Verse: Luke 5:11 “So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.”

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus made Himself known as the Fisher of Men. He also called His disciples to be fishers of men.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus showed that He works His grace in men’s hearts. Using the language of a fisherman, Jesus is a Fisher of men. Jesus was a Fisher of Men when he preached to the crowds. He showed the power of His grace when He caused Simon’s net to fill with fish. The Lord used the miracle of a huge catch of fish to catch His disciples. He then called them to also be fishers of men.

Christ was spending some time in the region around the Sea of Galilee. When the people knew that He was in the area, they crowded around Him. They wanted to hear the word of God. But there were so many people that Jesus could hardly speak. When He looked around, he saw two boats tied at the lakeshore. Jesus asked permission to get into one of these boats. This boat belonged to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to push away from shore a few yards. From there He taught the people. He talked to them about the Kingdom of God’s grace. Jesus used beautiful illustrations to help them understand God’s grace. He used examples about farmers and fields as well as shepherds and sheep. Being near the Sea of Galilee He also used an illustration about fishermen and fish. By using illustrations of everyday life, the Lord was catching men. He was sent by the Father to be the Fisher of Men.

After Jesus taught the people, He asked Simon to do something amazing. He told him to go out to the deep water and let down his net. This was amazing because Simon had fished all night and did not catch anything. Why did Jesus think he could catch fish now in the morning? Good fishermen knew that the best time to catch fish was at night. But Simon knew the Lord Jesus. He knew that the Lord’s grace controlled everything. So, Simon said to Jesus, “At Your word I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5). This was the Lord’s way of catching Simon. Jesus had to see that Simon would obey His word by faith. This would show that he knew that Jesus’ words were the words of grace.

The other fishermen may have wondered about Simon letting down his net. They also knew that daytime was not a good time to fish. But imagine their surprise when they saw Simon beckon for them to come and help. Simon had let down his net and now it was full of fish. They were so full that the net was breaking. When the others came to help, they found so many fish that both boats were filled. There was a danger that the boats might sink with weight of all the fish. Even more amazing than the catch of fish was that the power of grace was made known. Now they knew that God's grace controlled all of nature. His grace also controlled the fish in the Sea of Galilee.

Simon Peter was amazed at the power of the Lord's grace. Because of God's grace Peter knew that he was in the Lord's presence. He also knew that he was a sinner who needed to be redeemed. Filled with wonder he fell down at the Lord's knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8). The power of God's grace should also fill us with amazement. It should cause us to confess our sin and our need of a Redeemer.

Jesus understood Simon Peter's fear and amazement. He told him not to be afraid because God's grace would work in his heart. He also told Peter along with the other fishermen that they would catch men. The Lord used the miracle of a huge catch of fish to call His disciples. Instead of fishing for fish they would become fishers of men. In this task they would join the Lord Jesus who is the great Fisher of men. The Lord's grace worked in their hearts. As soon as they reached land, they left their boats and followed Jesus. Have you seen the power of the Lord's grace in your everyday life? God's people who see His grace today are also called to be fishers of men!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then he got into one of the boats, which was _____ and asked him to put out a little from land. And he sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat." (Luke 5:3)
2. "When He had stopped speaking, He said to _____. 'Launch out into the deep and let down your net for a catch.'" (Luke 5:4)
3. "But _____ answered and said to Him, 'Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.'" (Luke 5:5)

4. “And when they had done this, they caught a great number of _____ and their net was breaking.” (Luke 5:6)

5. “When _____ saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’” (Luke 5:8)

6. “So when they had brought their _____ to land, they forsook all and followed Him.” (Luke 5:11)

The Apostle of Our Confession

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 57

Scripture: Luke 6:12-49

Memory Verse: “Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.” (Luke 6:21)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus is the Apostle of our confession. He is faithful to all believers.

Lesson

The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus was the Apostle of our Confession. What does that mean? It means that He was appointed by God to be the Redeemer. The Lord Jesus was faithful in doing the work He was appointed to do. He also named twelve of His disciples to be apostles. This meant that Jesus began the offices, or duties, of apostles. We still find offices in the church today. They are the offices of pastors, elders and deacons.

Do you know what an apostle is? An apostle is someone appointed to do a task. Jesus was the Apostle who was appointed to teach and redeem His people. He was faithful in doing His work. As Jesus was doing His work in Galilee large crowds followed Him. One night Jesus left the crowds to go up to the hills alone. He wanted to be by Himself to pray. This particular time Jesus prayed all night. He wanted to talk to His Father in heaven. Jesus wanted to do His work to please the Father.

This night in Galilee Jesus prayed about a special task. This task was to appoint twelve men to be apostles. He would appoint the apostles to tell the gospel story all over the world. They would also write the gospel story for believers of all time. Isn't it amazing! Jesus was appointed by God to be the Apostle to tell the things we believe. Then He appointed twelve men to be His apostles. They were appointed to be teachers for Jesus. The Father approved these teachers.

The apostles that Jesus appointed were ordinary men. Some of them were fishermen. One was a tax collector. Another one had been a tax official for the Romans. But there was something amazing about these men. Jesus could use these ordinary men if they believed His Word of grace. They had to show that they had faith in God's Word. Sadly, one of these men did not have that faith. The Lord Jesus and His Word meant nothing

to Judas Iscariot. He later betrayed Jesus into the hands of His enemies. Judas lived for himself and not for the things of the Lord. This should be a warning to us that we cannot live ourselves and also serve the Lord.

After Jesus appointed His twelve apostles, He came down from the hills. Again He healed many people of their diseases. The Lord sent out many evil spirits that troubled the people. The crowds struggled to get near Jesus. They wanted to touch Him because power went out from Him. Jesus knew that they needed to be healed. He knew that evil spirits needed to be sent out of people's hearts. But Jesus also knew that the people had to be taught about the Kingdom of God.

Then the Lord Jesus told them about the Kingdom of God's grace. All sickness and sin would be overcome because of grace. The Kingdom of God belongs to those who believe the power of God's grace. Jesus told the people plainly that they would be hurt and hated in the world. But He also told them that they are blessed if they are poor or hungry. They are blessed if they weep now or are excluded. Why are they blessed? It is because their reward is in heaven. There will be a day when they will laugh and leap for joy. The Lord then gave them an example. He reminded them that the prophets were hated, but they found their joy and reward in heaven.

Jesus also warned those who live for themselves. He said the rich and well-fed and those who laugh now will mourn and weep. They will not experience the joy of God's Kingdom of grace. The Lord then told those who believe to do amazing things! He said they should love their enemies. They should do good to those who hate them. He even told them to be merciful just as the Father in heaven is merciful. How is it possible to do the things Jesus taught? It is only possible by God's grace! If we hear and believe the Lord's Word of grace, then we are like a man who built his house on a rock. A house built on the rock of God's grace will stand. It will never fall down in the storms of life.

Christ Jesus is the Apostle of our Confession! He was faithful to appoint apostles to tell the gospel story. He was faithful to tell believers what to expect in life. He was also faithful to tell them that their reward is in heaven. Pray that God's grace will call you to believe!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the _____ to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." (Luke 6:12)

2. “And when it was day, He called His _____ to Himself: and from those He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.” (Luke 6:13)

3. “And the whole _____ sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.” (Luke 6:19)

4. “Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: ‘_____ are the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 6:20)

5. “But I say to you who hear: ‘_____ your enemies, do good to those who hate you.’” (Luke 6:27)

6. “And why do you look at the speck in your _____ eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?” (Luke 6:41)

Lesson 8

He Has Borne Our Grievs

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 58

Scripture: Luke 7:11-17

Memory Verse: “When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’” (Luke 7:13)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus looked at the widow at Nain with compassion. He bore her grief. He also bears our grief.

Lesson

Grief is deep sadness caused by trouble or loss. The prophet Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would bear our grief. Jesus showed how He bore the grief of the widow at Nain. He had compassion for this widow when she lost her son. Even more Jesus took away her grief.

Jesus continued to preach and teach in Galilee. He had the authority to heal the sick and cast out demons. The Lord Jesus could set people free who were bound by sin. As He traveled through Galilee, Jesus came to the city of Nain. Many of His disciples were with Him. As Jesus neared the city gate of Nain, He saw a funeral procession. The people were carrying the body of a young man to be buried. It was a very sad funeral because this young man was the only son of a widow. He was the one who made a living for himself and his mother. The people of Nain felt sorry for this widow. A large crowd went with her to bury her son. Jesus saw this sad funeral and He had compassion for this widow.

The Lord Jesus said something to the widow that must have been hard for her to understand. He told her not to weep. But why wouldn't she weep for her only son who provided for her? Still, Jesus knew what He was going to do; so He could tell her not to weep. Jesus could do more than sympathize with the widow. He could take away her sorrow. He has authority over sin and death.

Then, Jesus walked up to the open coffin and touched it. As soon as He touched it those who carried it stopped. Imagine the surprise when the people heard Jesus talk to the dead son. Even more surprising was to hear Him say, “Young man, I say to you, arise” (Luke 7:14). The crowds who had gathered for this funeral would learn that Jesus has power over death. At the Lord's words the young man sat up and began to speak.

Then Jesus gave the son back to his mother. Now the widow and those who mourned with her knew that Jesus could take away her grief. He could do that because He atoned for sin and was victorious over death. Still the life that Jesus gave back to this young man was only temporary. The amazing truth is that Jesus is the Redeemer. For those who know Him as the Redeemer He gives them eternal life. The widow and her son would receive eternal life if they knew Jesus as the Redeemer. By raising the widow's son Jesus showed that He conquered sin and death. The joy for us is that He is also our Redeemer. The Lord Jesus won the victory over sin and death for us. Because of this our ties with loved one will never be broken.

The widow and the mourners with her were amazed when the young man came back to life. A sense of fear and wonder came over them. This fear caused them to glorify God. They realized that God had visited them with a miracle. In response they exclaimed that a prophet had risen among them! They understood that God had touched them through His covenant when they said, "God has visited His people" (Luke 7:16). The people of Nain understood that God sought out His people with grace. They believed that Jesus was a prophet sent to show God's grace to His people.

This story from God's Word is also God's revelation to us. He tells us that He has visited us with His grace and given us His Holy Spirit. Because of God's Word we can know that the Redeemer won the victory over sin and death. We can know the truth of Isaiah's prophecy that He has borne our griefs! We should respond with a prophecy from Isaiah 55:6. There he tells us to: "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near." This prophecy assures us that if we return to the Lord, He will freely forgive us!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And when He came near the gate of the city, behold a _____ was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow." (Luke 7:12a)
2. "When the Lord saw her, He had _____ on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'" (Luke 7:13)
3. "Then He came and touched the open _____ and those who carried it stood still. And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise.'" (Luke 7:14)

4. “So he who was _____ sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.” (Luke 7:15)

5. “Then _____ came upon all, and they glorified God saying, ‘A great prophet has arisen among us.’ and ‘God has visited His people.’” (Luke 7:16)

6. “And this report about Him went throughout all _____ and all the surrounding region.” (Luke 7:17)

Lesson 9
Forgiveness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 59

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Memory Verse: “Then He said to the woman. ‘Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.’”
(Luke 7:50)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus forgave the sinful woman. She loved much because much had been forgiven.

Lesson

Jesus can forgive sins. He paid the debt for our sins and never remembers them. People who know their sins are forgiven love Jesus. Today we will learn of a woman who was forgiven and loved Jesus very much. We will also learn of a Pharisee who was not forgiven because he thought he did not need forgiveness. He was filled with pride.

One day a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to his house. Simon was curious about Jesus. The Lord knew that Simon wasn't a believer, but He went to his house anyway. When Jesus came to his house, Simon did not give Him water to wash His feet. He did not greet Him with a kiss or anoint Him with oil. Simon wanted to show Jesus that it was a favor to be invited to his house. Jesus could have refused to go to Simon's house. But He decided that He would show the power of His grace even if Simon did not believe.

As Jesus was at the table with Simon, a woman from the city came. She went into Simon's house with a jar of expensive oil. She knew that Jesus was there, and she wanted to anoint Him with oil. The people at Simon's house knew this woman. They knew that she was very sinful. When she saw Jesus, she stood at his feet weeping. As she cried, her tears fell on Jesus' feet. Then she wiped the tears with her hair and poured oil on Jesus' feet. This woman knew that Jesus was the Redeemer. She knew that He could forgive sins. Even more she knew that her sins had been forgiven. Now she wanted to show Jesus how much she loved Him.

Simon saw this woman pour oil on Jesus' feet. Do you know what he thought? He thought that if Jesus were really a prophet, He would know that this was a sinful woman. Then He would not have anything to do with her. Simon did not know that Jesus was

more than a prophet. He was the Redeemer. He knew what Simon was thinking. And he knew that Simon's thoughts were wicked.

Jesus then shared a parable with Simon. He told about two debtors who could not pay their debts. The one owed 500 Roman coins and the other one fifty coins. The man to whom they owed the money knew they could not pay it. So, he forgave them both. Neither of the debtors had to pay what they owed because the debt was forgiven. Then Jesus asked Simon which of the two debtors would love the man who forgave their debts the most. Simon answered the one who was forgiven the most would love the most. Jesus told him that he had given the right answer. But He knew that Simon did not understand.

The Lord Jesus then told Simon plainly what the parable meant. He asked Simon to look at the woman who had anointed His feet. He reminded him that he did not provide water for Jesus to wash His feet. But this woman washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. He reminded Simon that he did not anoint Him or greet Him with a kiss. But this woman had kissed Jesus' feet and anointed them with oil. Then Jesus told Simon that this very sinful woman's sins were forgiven. She knew that she needed the Redeemer. She had shown her love to Jesus because she knew that she was forgiven. But Simon didn't think he needed a Redeemer. He thought he was free from sin. Because he didn't need a Redeemer, he didn't show any love for Jesus.

Jesus then said to the woman: "Your sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48). When Simon and his friends heard that, they were angry. They said to one-another, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" (Luke 7:49). Sadly, they did not know Jesus as the Redeemer. They did not hear His Word as the Word of God. They did not know Him because they did not submit to Him. It was against this unbelief that Jesus showed His power of forgiveness. He showed His Word of grace to the woman who believed so He could tell her to go in peace. Jesus' Word of grace also has power to forgive our sins if we believe!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then one of the _____ asked Him to eat with him."
(Luke 7:36a)
2. "And behold, a _____ in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil." (Luke 7:37)

3. “And she began to wash His feet with her _____ and wiped them with the hairs of her head.” (Luke 7:38b)

4. “This man, if He were a _____ would know what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.” (Luke 7:39b)

5. “And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely _____ them both. Tell Me, therefore which of them will love him more?” (Luke 7:42)

6. “Then He said to the _____ ‘Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.’” (Luke 7:50)

Governed by the Kingdom

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 60

Scripture: Luke 9:49–10:24

Memory Verse: “Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”” (Luke 10:2)

Lesson Truth: The workers in God’s Kingdom are controlled by God’s Spirit.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus was building His Kingdom. That Kingdom was the Kingdom of God. Jesus called workers to work in God’s Kingdom. These workers had to be taught how to be Kingdom workers. All the thoughts and actions of Kingdom workers need to be controlled by God’s Spirit. Our lesson tells us how Jesus taught His Kingdom workers.

Jesus used His disciples to help Him teach the people in Galilee. Sadly, they still thought about themselves rather than God’s Kingdom. They talked about who was the greatest miracle worker. They forgot that Jesus gave them the power to do miracles. Jesus then took a little child before the disciples. He told them that they must become humble like a child. Jesus said that the one who is the least among them would be the greatest. That is the way they had to learn to think in God’s Kingdom.

John listened carefully to Jesus. This made him want to share an experience with Jesus. He wanted to know if the disciples did the right thing. John said they saw someone use Jesus’ name to cast out demons. They told this person that he should not cast out demons in Jesus’ name. They thought he was not allowed to do this because he was not one of the twelve disciples. But Jesus said the disciples were wrong. They did not think like workers in God’s Kingdom. Jesus said they should not discourage others from doing things in His name. He reminded them that anyone who is not against Jesus is for Him. The disciples had to learn to rejoice in what others did in Jesus’ name.

It was nearly time for Jesus to think of returning to heaven. Before He returned to heaven, He had to go to Jerusalem to suffer and die. As Jesus traveled to Jerusalem He went through Samaria. He asked His disciples to make things ready for Him in a Samaritan village. But the Samaritans did not like the Jews. The Jews looked down on them because they were mixed races. So they would not allow Jesus to come into their

village. This made the disciples upset. They asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritans. Elijah did that at one time. Again, they were not thinking like workers of God's Kingdom. So, Jesus corrected them. He said they had the wrong spirit, "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" (Luke 9:56). God will judge those who reject His love. But that is different than a Samaritan disliking a Jew.

Later, a man told Jesus that he would follow Him wherever He went. But Jesus also had to teach that man to think like a worker in God's Kingdom. He reminded him that anyone who followed Jesus would be a homeless stranger. Jesus taught them that workers in God's Kingdom must be ready to leave everything. One man wanted to wait to bury his father before he followed Jesus. Another wanted to say farewell to his friends and family before he followed Jesus. But the Lord said that His followers must never look back. Workers in God's Kingdom are unfit if they look back at what they left behind.

Now Jesus asked seventy of his followers to preach the gospel in Judea. He wanted them to make the towns ready for the Lord. He said they would go out as lambs among wolves. This meant that the people would not treat them well. Still, it would be easier for Sodom in the Judgment than for those who rejected Jesus followers. The seventy were to remind everyone that the Kingdom of God was near.

Sadly, as the seventy workers came back to Jesus, they were excited about the wrong thing. They were excited because they could cast out demons in Jesus' name. The Lord Jesus told them that He would give them power to do many things. But this power is not what they should be excited about. Instead, they should be excited that their names were written in heaven. Jesus then gave thanks to His Father that the truth of God's Kingdom was made known to little people. God did not make these things known to those who were wise in their own eyes.

You and I must also learn to think and act like workers in God's Kingdom. We must be ready to leave everything to follow Jesus. And we must rejoice that our names are written in heaven!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "But Jesus said to him, 'Do not _____ him, for he who is not against us is on our side.'" (Luke 9:50)

2. “But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to _____.” (Luke 9:53)

3. “And when His disciples _____ and John saw this, they said, ‘Lord do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?’” (Luke 9:54)

4. “For the Son of Man did not come to _____ men’s lives but to save them.” (Luke 9:56)

5. “Then He said to them, “The _____ truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Luke 10:2)

6. “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the _____ are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20)

Lesson 11
My Neighbor

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 61

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Memory Verse: “So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among thieves? And he said, ‘He who showed mercy on him.’” (Luke 10:36-37a)

Lesson Truth: Our neighbors are all the people that God places in our lives. We know this by faith.

Lesson

The lesson today is about a discussion Jesus had with a scribe. The discussion was about the way to eternal life and about a neighbor. In this discussion Jesus made it clear that the scribe could not earn eternal life. The gift of God’s grace was his only hope for eternal life.

One day Jesus was telling the people about the glory of God’s Kingdom. He said that God made the secrets of His Kingdom known to babes. Then a scribe stood up and asked Jesus a question. He asked, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25). Sadly, he was not really interested in the true answer. The scribe just wanted to test Jesus. He wanted to find out if Jesus taught different things than the scribes taught. The Lord Jesus knew what was in this scribe’s heart. So, He asked him what was written in the law. He also asked him what he thought the law meant. The scribe knew the law. So, he told Jesus what he thought the law meant. It meant, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with your entire mind, and love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

Jesus told the scribe that he had given the right answer. Then He tried to help him understand that no one is able to keep the law that way. He told him that if he did it he would have eternal life. The scribe must have been surprised. Jesus said the same thing the scribes did. Still the scribe knew in his heart that he did not always love God more than anything. He knew that he did not always love his neighbor as he loved himself. So, he tried to avoid the truth of what Jesus said. He did this by asking: “and who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29). The scribe was really asking how he could love his neighbor if he didn’t know who he was. Again, Jesus knew what was in the scribe’s heart. So, he did not give him a list of people who could be his neighbor. Instead, he told him a parable.

The parable was about a man who traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho. Thieves stopped this man and beat him. They took all his clothes and left him half dead. It wasn't long when a priest came by. He saw the wounded man, but he didn't want to touch him. So, he walked around him. A Levite also came by, and he walked around him. Later a Samaritan came and saw the wounded man. He had compassion for him. He poured oil on the man's wounds and put bandages on them. He put the man on his donkey and brought him to an inn. There he cared for the man. The next day he told the innkeeper to help the man. He asked him to keep a record of the expenses. He then promised he would pay the cost when he returned. Now Jesus asked the scribe which of the three he thought was a neighbor to the wounded man. The scribe answered that it was the one who showed mercy.

Jesus then told the scribe to, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37a). Jesus knew that the scribe could only show that kind of mercy by God's grace. He could not do it by his own works. That was the truth of Jesus' parable. The priests and Levite did not show mercy. Keeping the law was only things that they did not do. They did not steal and kill and lie. But neither did they understand the law to love your neighbor. They did not know that it meant showing mercy. By God's grace the Samaritan showed mercy.

You and I must also remember God's Law. We must love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and we must love our neighbor as ourselves. Yet we must know by faith that only God's grace can help us keep His Law. It is faith in the grace of God, and not our good work, that is the way to eternal life.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And behold, a certain _____ stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25)
2. "He said to him, "What is written in the _____? What is your reading of it?" (Luke 10:26)
3. "So he answered and said, 'You shall love the _____ your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27)

4. “But he wanting to _____ himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” (Luke 10:29)

5. “But a certain _____ as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.” (Luke 10:33)

6. “So which of these three do you think was _____ to him who fell among the thieves? And he said, ‘He who showed mercy o him.’” (Luke 10:36-37a)

Only One Thing Is Needed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 62

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Memory Verse: “One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.” (Psalm 27:4)

Lesson Truth: Mary chose the one thing that was needed. She wanted the Word of Christ.

Lesson

Jesus told Martha that there was only one thing needed in life. That one thing was to have the Lord’s Word dwell in her. We must learn not to get lost in too many things, as Martha did. Whatever God calls us to do in life we must remain in His Word. That was the thing that Mary chose.

The Lord Jesus shared the parable of the Good Samaritan with the scribe. He wanted him to know what it meant to love God and his neighbor. Luke now tells us about an exchange that Jesus had with Martha and Mary. It happened when Jesus went to a village near Jerusalem. This was no doubt the village of Bethany. It was the place where Martha and Mary lived. As Jesus arrived at Bethany, Martha invited Him to her house. Martha shared her house with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus. It may be that some of Jesus’ disciples also stayed at Martha’s house. How many guests Martha had at her house we aren’t sure. But we are sure that Martha was very busy preparing for them. She probably wanted to have everything perfect for her guests. As Martha worked so hard to serve her guests, her sister Mary went and sat at Jesus feet. This made Martha begin to feel sorry for herself.

When Martha started to think about herself; she lost the love that should have gone with her service. Preparing for guests is a beautiful service for the Lord. When it is done with love and devotion it is a service the Lord honors. But Martha began to think of what Mary should be doing. She then became upset with her sister. Because Martha’s attitude changed, she spoke harshly to the Lord. She asked Him: “Lord do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me” (Luke 10:40). When Jesus heard Martha’s words, he had to correct her. He had to help her understand that her service had to be done with the right attitude. Martha was not to fuss so much

that her service became a burden. In order to help her, Jesus told Martha the way things should be.

Jesus said: “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part” (Luke 10:41-42). He told her that this good part would not be taken away from Mary. Mary’s service to Jesus wasn’t better than Martha’s service. But Mary listened to the Lord for His sake. She found the one thing that is needed. That one thing is to remain close to Jesus. Jesus wanted Martha to know that in her service she had to remain close to Him. This is also the lesson for us. Whatever the Lord calls us to do, we must do it for Him. We must remain close to Him in every task.

What did Jesus mean when He said Mary had chosen the better part? What did it mean that this would never be taken away from her? It meant that Martha had chosen things that would be taken away. When she died, she would no longer prepare meals and guest rooms. But Mary had chosen the spiritual things. What she had chosen would last for eternity. Both Martha and Mary were disciples of the Lord Jesus. But they chose different ways to honor their Lord. Martha chose to serve the Lord with earthly things that will pass away. Mary chose to adore her Lord with heavenly, spiritual service.

You will be called to do many things in life. In everything you do, seek to be with Jesus in spirit. When we remain with the Lord Jesus in spirit it will never be taken away. Then we will be able to rejoice in the different tasks that others are called to do.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named _____ welcomed Him into her house.” (Luke 10:38)
2. “And she had a sister called _____ who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.” (Luke 10:39)
3. “But _____ was distracted with much serving.” (Luke 10:40a)

4. “And she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my _____ has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’” (Luke 10:40b)

5. “And Jesus answered and said to her. ‘_____ you are worried and troubled about many things.’” (Luke 10:41)

6. “But one thing is _____ and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:42)

Praying to the Father

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 63

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Memory Verse: “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus earned the right for us to call God our Father. Because God is our Father, we can be confident when we pray.

Lesson

Jesus was a man of prayer. He often went to a place by Himself to pray. Jesus knew that He needed to talk with His Father. His talks with His Father gave Him the strength to do His work as the Redeemer. Jesus, the Redeemer, earned the right for us to call God our Father. Because God is our Father, we can ask Him for the things we need. Jesus told the disciples they could ask for their needs of both body and soul. In His model prayer Jesus taught us to address God as, “Our Father in heaven” (Luke 11:2).

A wonderful thing happened one day after Jesus had spent time in prayer. One of His disciples said to Jesus: “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples” (Luke 11:1). It was wonderful that the disciples wanted to learn the secret to the way Jesus prayed. The Lord Jesus was ready to teach them a prayer that would be the model for all their prayers. Jesus was the Head of the covenant that God made with man. As the Head, He earned the right to have God’s people call God their Father. So, Jesus taught them to pray, saying, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Luke 11:2). The first thing the disciples had to do in prayer was to surrender to the honor of God’s name. They had to confess that God’s name is Holy!

In His model prayer Jesus taught the disciples that they could pray for all their needs. If they confessed that God’s name was Holy, they could ask for daily bread. The Lord Jesus said they could be bold in asking for food for their bodies. If they trusted God to give them their daily bread, they could also ask for things for their souls. More than anything they needed to be forgiven. So, they could ask for forgiveness, as they were given grace to forgive others. Another need for their souls was to be kept free from temptation. So, Jesus taught them to pray that they never be led into temptation. He also taught them to ask that they be delivered from the evil one. In all of these requests

they had to know that God was their Father. Jesus assured His disciples that He had obtained their right to call God their Father.

Jesus wanted to help the disciples understand what it meant that God was their Father. So, He told them a parable. In the parable a friend asked his friend for bread to feed his guest. He asked this friend because his guest came at midnight. Jesus pointed out that even though the friend made excuses, he did help. He helped because it was friend who asked. Jesus assured the disciples that God is their Father. He will help them with their needs even more than a friend. So He told them to ask the Father and it will be given to them. They should seek because He will help them find what they need. Even more they should knock, and their Father will open for them. They could pray with boldness because God is their Father.

The disciples were assured that they could ask the Father in Jesus' name. But they also needed to know that Father would give them only what they need. A father gives a child what is needed. If the child asks for bread, a father will not give him a stone. If he asks for fish or an egg, he will not give him a serpent or a scorpion. So also, the heavenly Father would surely give the disciples what they needed. At times it might seem that He had given them trouble. But the disciples would learn that these troubles would work for their good. Jesus then helped the disciples understand their greatest need. Their greatest need was to have the Holy Spirit in their heart. So, He assured them that the Father would give His Holy Spirit to those who ask. The Holy Spirit would help the disciples to live like sons!

We may also live with the assurance that God is our Father. The Lord Jesus has earned the right for us to call Him Father. So, we may boldly ask for the grace to hallow His name. We may ask that His Kingdom will surely come in our hearts and in our lives.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now it came to pass, as He was _____ in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.'" (Luke 11:1)
2. "So He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Our _____ in heaven hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'" (Luke 11:2)

3. “Give us day by day our daily _____.” (Luke 11:3)
4. “And forgive our _____ for we forgive everyone who is indebted to us, and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Luke 11:4)
5. “So I say to you, _____ and it will be given to you, seek, and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9)
6. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your _____ how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13)