

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 15

Level 3

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

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

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

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

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

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

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

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

Lesson 1

Christ the Lord

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

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Memory Verse: “And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them: ‘Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people.’” (Luke 2:9-10)

Lesson Truth: The angel announced to the shepherds that a Savior was born who was Christ the Lord.

Lesson

Christ Jesus was born as Lord. As Lord He was born in Bethlehem the city of David. This was the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to Israel and David its king. He was born of the Virgin Mary, taking on human flesh. Angels proclaimed His birth and gave glory to God in the highest. Shepherds hurried to see Him and spread the news of the birth of Christ as Lord.

The prophet Micah prophesied that the One who would be the ruler in Israel would be born in Bethlehem. This was the city of David. As a fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to David this is where Jesus had to be born. Luke helps us understand how the birth of the Redeemer occurred in Bethlehem even though His parents did not live there. God’s plans and the fulfillment of His covenant promises could not be hindered by the location of Joseph and Mary.

The means that God used to bring Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem was amazing. God planted in the heart of Caesar Augustus a desire to have all the citizens of the Roman Empire registered. This registration was to be done for tax purposes and called for the father of each household to go to the city of his ancestors. For this reason, Joseph had to go to Bethlehem because he was of the house and line of David. As Joseph made ready to go to Bethlehem, he was afraid to leave Mary behind because it was nearly time for her child to be born. So, they traveled to Bethlehem together from Nazareth in Galilee.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, the city was crowded with people who had come to register. There were so many people that inn was full, leaving no place for Joseph and Mary to lodge. After searching in vain for a place to stay they finally found a place in a stable along with the animals. Joseph and Mary may have wondered if God had forgotten the angel’s announcement to them. Why would God limit the lodging for the mother of the Redeemer to a stable? Yet that was precisely the place that God wanted His Son to be born. After He was born, Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. Joseph and Mary must have been beside themselves with joy to know that the child that had been promised was born. They knew that his name was Jesus and that He was the Redeemer. Yet they must have wondered why He was born in such a humble place. However, the stable was only a prophecy of the suffering and death that Jesus would endure in Gethsemane and on the cross. It is breathtaking to know that the Son of God became flesh. We must believe that He

became flesh to atone for the sins of His people! Because of His atonement for our sins, we can share in His holiness and became sons of God.

God chose to announce the birth of His Son, not to kings and rulers, but to shepherds. Out in the hills around Bethlehem a number of shepherds were tending their flocks when an angel appeared to them. The angel shone with the glory of God, which also enveloped the shepherds. The shepherd's first response was fear. But the angel assured them that they had nothing to fear because he was bringing them good tidings of great joy. These good tidings and this joy would be to all people. These are also our good tidings and our joy. Why the joy? "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). The angel also told the shepherds that they would find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. This would be sign of the truth of the angel's message.

Then suddenly a whole choir of angels joined in praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14). The angels sang of the harmony between God, glorified in the heavens, and men, sharing in God's grace and peace. The shepherds must have been filled with joy at such an announcement. They immediately hurried to Bethlehem to see the things that had come to pass. They were not disappointed because they found Joseph and Mary with the Son of God just as the angel had said. They were so filled with joy at this unspeakable gift that they told everyone who would listen that God had brought salvation. Mary also saw the miracle of salvation brought by her little child. Still she did not yet understand that her Son would suffer and die for the sins of His people. But Mary did believe. We must also believe that the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. He was born to suffer and die to set us free!

Questions

1. Who was governor of Syria when the decree went out that the world should be registered? (Luke 2:2)
2. From where did Joseph come when he went to Bethlehem to register? (Luke 2:4)
3. Why did Joseph register in the city of Bethlehem? (Luke 2:4b)

Lesson 2

The Consolation of Israel

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

Scripture: Luke 2:21-39

Memory Verse: “For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:30-32)

Lesson Truth: Both Simeon and Anna recognized Christ Jesus as the Consolation of Israel.

Lesson

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary exercised the rites of circumcision and presentation at the temple for Him. Both of these rites indicate that Jesus was willing to submit to being under the law even though He was the Son of God. Simeon recognized Him as the Consolation of Israel and the One who would cause both the rising and falling of many in Israel. Anna professed that He was the Lord!

When Jesus was born, the people of Israel were hardly looking for the Messiah. They still talked about the Old Testament promise of a coming Messiah, but they were not really searching. However, there were a few believers who were waiting in eager expectation for the Messiah. God used the faithfulness and obedience of Joseph and Mary to introduce the Messiah to these believers. Joseph and Mary knew the laws of Moses and were ready to live in obedience to these laws with their newborn Son. When He was eight days old His parents took Him to be circumcised according to the Law. At that time He was given the name Jesus, which meant Savior, just as the angel Gabriel had instructed. But why did they have Him circumcised when they knew that He was the perfect Son of God? The sign of circumcision meant putting to death the sin in Him and He had no sin. Still Jesus received this sign to show that He would bear the sins of His people. This Old Testament rite pointed to the suffering he would endure for believers on the cross.

There was another rite that had to be kept according to the Law. Forty days after the birth of a firstborn son, this son had to be presented and redeemed at the temple. In the Law that God had given to Moses He claimed each firstborn son in every family as a priest. This was a high honor for every family. But sadly because of the sins of the people at Mount Sinai they lost this honor. The Lord then said that He claimed the tribe of Levi as priests in the place of each firstborn son. Still each firstborn son had to be brought to the temple to be presented to the Lord. He had to be redeemed with the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or pigeons. Forty days after Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary took Him to the temple to present Him to the Lord. For Jesus, this rite showed that according to the Law He was also rejected as a priest just as the other firstborn sons. But by His sacrifice He would earn the right to offer Himself in place of the firstborn to atone for the sins of His people. In that way he became the sacrificial lamb and the priest at the same time. His sacrifice would remove the demands of the Law, and God’s people would worship in spirit and in truth!

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 he said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?’ But they did not understand the statement He spoke to them.” (Luke 2:49-50)

Lesson Truth: When Jesus was twelve, He told His parents that He had to be about His Father’s business.

Lesson

As a lad of twelve years, Jesus showed that He was in communion with the Father. He informed His parents that He had to be about His Father’s business. Early in life He became strong in spirit and was filled with wisdom. Yet, Jesus was willing to live under the authority of Joseph and Mary.

After Simeon and Anna both recognized Jesus as the Redeemer, His parents took Him back to Galilee. They went to live in the town of Nazareth from which they had come. As Jesus was growing up in Nazareth, He became strong in spirit and was filled with wisdom. It was evident that the grace of God was upon Him. Jesus was a lad who lived in daily communion with His Father in heaven. It must have been difficult for Him to see all the sins around Him when he was able to live as the sinless One. It is likely that His parents shared with Him the truth of God’s covenant with His people. He also learned to know the Scriptures as he heard priests read from them at the synagogue. Even as a child He knew that He was the Redeemer who was to die for the sins of His people. Sometimes we think that Jesus endured His suffering at the end of His life when He was arrested and crucified. But the truth is that He suffered all through His life. He suffered when He lived as the sinless One among sinful people.

At twelve years old, Jesus reached the age when the Law said He had to go to Jerusalem to observe the Passover Feast. Jesus was willing to be obedient to that Law so that He might free His people from the bondage of the Law. In order to keep the custom of the Passover, Jesus went with Joseph and Mary to Jerusalem. They traveled to Jerusalem with a group of law-abiding Jews from Galilee. When they arrived at Jerusalem, Jesus’ parents allowed Him some freedom to walk about on His own. They no doubt expected that He would observe the Passover as a responsible young man. For that reason, they did not miss Him when the feast ended, and they started for home with the group from Galilee. They thought that He was in the group somewhere, so they traveled a day’s journey before they went to look for Him. Imagine the fear Joseph and Mary experienced when they were unable to find Jesus in the group.

Jesus’ parents left the group immediately and returned to Jerusalem to look for their Son. They most likely searched many places because it was three days before they found Him in the temple. Imagine Joseph and Mary’s surprise to find their twelve-year-old Son discussing with the teachers of the Law. He not only listened to them, but He also asked them questions. Jesus showed so much wisdom and insight that all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and His answers.

Lesson 4

Exodus

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

Scripture: Luke 3:1-20

Memory Verse: “John answered, saying to all, ‘I indeed baptize you with water; 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)

Lesson Truth: John the Baptist led the people in an exodus from the bondage self-righteousness to freedom in God’s grace

Lesson

John the Baptist brought an electrifying message to the children of Israel. He came as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah; as the voice of one crying in the wilderness. This voice would declare that all flesh would see the glory of the Lord. The people would be urged to abandon their self-righteous hopes and rely on God’s grace. John called for repentance from sin because the Mighty One was coming. Still John knew that the political and religious leaders would seek to destroy him.

Luke was inspired to point out who was politically in charge of Israel at the time John the Baptist began his ministry. Tiberius Caesar ruled in Rome with Pontius Pilate, Herod, and Philip governors of Judea, Galilee, and Iturea. In addition, Caiaphas and Annas were the high priests. Luke mentions all these political and religious leaders to help us understand the necessity of an exodus from the sins of self-righteousness to a life in God’s grace. Just as Moses led the Israelites in an exodus from bondage in Egypt, so John the Baptist would lead the people from the bondage of self-righteousness. John, the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, was now thirty years old and ready to begin his ministry. He was living in the wilderness in the region of the Jordan River. Out there in the wilderness John began calling for the people to repent and be baptized.

Luke also pointed out that the prophet Isaiah told about John’s coming years before. He said that there would be the voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. With dramatic words Isaiah predicted the coming of the King. The coming of this royalty would demand that a highway be built for His arrival. Every valley would need to be filled and every mountain and hill needed to be graded down. The curves in the highway needed to be made straight and the all the rough places had to be smoothed. This was Isaiah’s poetic way of saying that everything in people’s lives that hindered the coming of the Lord had to be removed. Sins had to be confessed and removed by faith in the Lord’s grace. Then all flesh would see the salvation of God. This would include young and old, slave and free, and Jew and Gentile.

Crowds of people came out to see and hear John the Baptist. He baptized many of them in the waters of the Jordan River. As John baptized the people, he urged them to bear fruit worthy of repentance. He warned them not to have a false confidence that they would be saved because they were descendants of Abraham. John told them that God could create children of Abraham from the stones near the Jordan. What they needed was to repent of their sins. The Messiah that was at hand would

look for the fruit of repentance. If that fruit could not be found the Messiah's ax would cut down such a tree and destroy it.

In response to this clear message of bearing fruit of repentance or be destroyed, the people asked John what they had to do. They seemed to expect that John would tell them to isolate themselves from the world. But that is not what he told them. John told them to remain involved in their everyday life. But they should change their attitude to an attitude of caring. If any one of them had two coats they should be ready to share with someone who had none. The tax collectors were not told to quit collecting taxes, but they were told to be honest and only collect what was due. The soldiers could continue to be soldiers, but they were to be contented with their wages and not accuse anyone falsely.

When the people heard this clear message from John they asked if he might be the Messiah. To any such suggestion, John pointed out that he baptized only with water. But the Mighty One who would follow him would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John's baptism was only a sign of God's grace in His covenant. But the baptism of the Messiah would give them grace through the Holy Spirit. He would baptize with fire that purifies men from sin. The Messiah would be so much greater than John that John would not be worthy to untie His sandal strap. The Messiah's coming would cause the people to be separated like the wheat is separated from the chaff. The Messiah would bring grace or judgment. In the meantime, the political and religious leaders hated John. In preparing the people for the coming of the Lord, John rebuked Herod for his sins. This rebuke prompted Herod to put him in prison. Are we ready to join John's exodus from the sin of self-righteousness to a life in God's grace?

Questions

1. In what year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar did John begin to preach? (Luke 3:1)
2. What did John preach in the region around the Jordan? (Luke 3:3)
3. According to Isaiah where was the voice of one crying? (Luke 3:4)

Lesson 5

The Lord's Anointed

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

Scripture: Luke 3:21–4:30

Memory Verse: “And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’ But Jesus answered him, saying, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” (Luke 4:3-4)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit descended on Christ Jesus in the form of a dove anointing Him for office.

Lesson

The anointing of Jesus for the office of Redeemer took place at the time of His baptism by John. The Holy Spirit was present in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism. The Holy Spirit also accompanied the Lord when He was tempted in the wilderness and when He returned to Galilee. The prophet Isaiah prophesied years earlier that the Holy Spirit would be upon the Lord Jesus because He was anointed to be the Redeemer.

A spectacular event took place when John the Baptist was baptizing people in the Jordan River. Christ Jesus joined the crowd of people to be baptized by John. At first John protested that he was not worthy to baptize the Lord. But Jesus insisted that it had to be done to fulfill all righteousness. He had to submit to the sign of washing away sins in order to show that he carried the sins of His people. As Jesus was being baptized the heaven opened in answer to His prayer. From the opened heavens the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and rested on Jesus. The Holy Spirit resting on Jesus indicated that he was anointed for the office of Redeemer. In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil as a sign that the Holy Spirit would qualify them for their office. In this way Christ Jesus was anointed to do the work of redemption. The Father in heaven confirmed this anointing when He spoke, saying, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). God the Father was pleased to Have His Son anointed to be the Redeemer.

As Jesus returned from baptism at the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. For forty days Jesus remained in the wilderness all the while being tempted by the devil. His first task as the Anointed Redeemer was to defeat the great enemy, Satan. Three times Satan tempted the Lord Jesus to rely on His power as the Son of God to take care of His physical needs and to worship the devil. Each time the Holy Spirit gave Jesus the strength to trust God's Word and to tell Satan he would live by that Word.

The Spirit then led the Lord Jesus to Galilee and to His hometown of Nazareth. He preached in the various towns, including Nazareth, in a way that they had never heard. He taught that it was God's grace that reached out to His people to make them heirs of the kingdom. It was not the things that they did to earn favor with God that brought salvation. It was at Nazareth that Jesus saw the danger of the people praising him for His teaching and still not believing that He was the Redeemer. This danger became evident when He visited the synagogue at Nazareth and was given the book of Isaiah

Lesson 6

Fisher of Men

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

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Memory Verse: “Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.” (Matt. 4:19-20)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus, the Fisher of Men, showed His grace in the miracle of the catch of fish. He then called His disciples to be fishers of men.

Lesson

The setting for the revelation that Christ Jesus was the Fisher of Men was the Lake of Gennesaret, also called the Sea of Galilee. It was at the Sea of Galilee that Jesus encountered the fishermen that He would call to be His disciples. In recognition of these men as fishermen, Jesus used the metaphor, “fishers of men,” to describe the task He was calling them to do. The Lord used this occasion to reveal His Kingdom of grace.

Jesus was spending time in the region of the Sea of Galilee. As so often happened when Jesus was in the area, the people crowded around Him to hear the Word of God. As Jesus looked for a way to escape the pressing crowd and still be able to teach them; He saw two boats anchored along the shore. He asked to sit in one of the boats so He could address the people from the water. The boat belonged to Simon, a fisherman who had heard the Lord Jesus before. He believed that Jesus was the Christ and was ready to row a few yards from shore as Jesus requested. Once again, he heard the Lord Jesus speak to the people about farmers and fields, shepherds and sheep, and fishermen and fish. Jesus used these illustrations to help the people understand the Kingdom of God’s grace. Either the people would see the Kingdom of God’s grace in the ordinary activities of life, or they would not see it at all. You and I must also understand that our whole ordinary life is a miracle of God’s grace. The Lord Jesus showed His grace and compassion for the people by teaching them with illustrations they could understand. In that way He was like a good fisherman, He fished where the fish were found in their daily occupations. He was the Fisher of men!

After Jesus had finished teaching the people, He made a surprising request from Simon. He asked Simon to go out to the deep water and once again put down his nets to catch fish. Simon immediately told the Lord Jesus that they had fished all night and hadn’t caught anything. As a fisherman by trade Simon also knew that fishing was usually much better at night than it was during the day. For that reason, it must have been a surprise for him to hear Jesus’ request. Still, Simon had seen the Lord before, and he knew that His grace controlled everything in the world. So, he responded, “At Your word I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5).

The fishermen from the other boat must have been amused by the exchange between the Lord Jesus and Simon. Would Simon really comply with such an unreasonable request? What these fishermen did not know was that this was the means that Jesus used to catch Simon. God’s grace worked in Simon’s heart so that he could respond to the word of the Lord without question. Imagine the excitement and

Lesson 7

The Apostle of Our Confession

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

Scripture: Luke 6:12-49

Memory Verse: “But I say to you who hear; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.” (Luke 6:27-28)

Lesson Truth: Christ is the Apostle of our confession. He is faithful to all who believe His Word of grace.

Lesson

The writer of the book of Hebrews asks the brethren to consider Christ Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our Confession (Heb. 3:1-2). He tells us that the Lord Jesus was faithful to the Father who appointed Him. As the faithful Apostle, Jesus appointed his own apostles to carry His message. He healed the sick and suffering, and taught His disciples what to expect as citizens of God’s kingdom.

Large crowds continued to follow Jesus as He ministered to the people in Galilee. One day Jesus knew that He had a task to do. He had to appoint men to be His apostles. He would send these men to carry His gospel message to the ends of the earth. They would be ambassadors in Jesus’ name to preach His Word with authority. He placed on these men some of the power of His authority. To prepare Himself for the task of appointing His apostles, Jesus went out on a mountain to pray. On this occasion He prayed all night. The Lord communed with God all night so that in His work He would be one with the Father. The office of apostle was so crucial to the Lord’s work that He spent all night in prayer for those He would appoint.

The next morning Jesus called His disciples together and from this group He chose twelve to be apostles. He chose them in accordance with the will of the Father. They would be the Lord’s ambassadors in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The apostles would receive the power of the Holy Spirit to carry the Lord’s message. We should notice carefully the men the Lord chose to be His apostles. Some of them were fishermen. One was a tax collector while another one was a former tax official. There was also one who was a national partisan zealot, the opposite of a tax collector. But there was one thing glorious about the appointment of each of these men. The Lord Jesus could use them as apostles if they believed in His grace and trusted His Word!

As apostles these men were called to live by faith in God’s Word. Sadly, one of them did not. Although he accepted his appointment as an apostle, he denied the Word of the Lord’s grace. He was even willing to betray the Lord Jesus into the hands of the chief priests and scribes. The actions of Judas Iscariot should warn each of us that a calling from God demands our whole being. We cannot live for ourselves and at the same time serve the Lord Jesus. After Jesus appointed the twelve as apostles He continued to minister to the multitudes. They came to be healed of their diseases and to be cleansed from unclean spirits. The crowds of people struggled to get near enough to touch Him. They knew that power went out from the Lord to heal them if they could only touch Him. Jesus usually talked to

the people He healed so that He could bring them to faith in God's grace. This time He showed them how grace would remove all sin and its results.

The Lord Jesus not only healed the people of their diseases, but He also taught them what to expect in God's kingdom. He told them that they would be blessed if they were poor, for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor. He said they would be blessed if they were hungry and thirsty for they surely would be filled. Jesus even told them that they would be blessed if men hated them, or excluded and reviled them. They would be blessed because their reward is in heaven. To understand what it's like to live in the Kingdom of God, they had to look at how the prophets were treated. Jesus went on to tell them to love their enemies and to do good things to those who hate them. Citizens of God's Kingdom were instructed to be merciful just as the Father is merciful. In practicing the compassion of the Father, they would inherit the Kingdom of God.

But Jesus also graciously warned those who live only for themselves that their end is woe. The woe for those who live for themselves is to someday go hungry and to weep. He even warned that there is real danger when all men speak well of them. It is a danger because that is what they did for false prophets. Jesus said that people who live for themselves are like the blind leading the blind. He told His listeners that there is a way to tell who a citizen of God's Kingdom is. It is the same way they could tell the kind of tree they were looking at. As we know a tree by its fruit, so also, we know a person's life by his fruit. Jesus urged the people not to call Him Lord unless they were willing to do the things that He taught them. However, if they did the things that Jesus taught, they were like a man who built his house on a rock. That house would stand! Are you willing to live by the words of the Apostle of Our Confession?

Questions

1. Who were the twelve men that Jesus chose to be His apostles? (Luke 6:14-16)
2. For what reason did the multitude of people come to Jesus? (Luke 6:17b)
3. What torments did some people experience that they went to Jesus for healing? (Luke 6:18)

Lesson 8

He Has Borne Our Grievs

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

Scripture: Luke 7:11-17

Memory Verse: “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.” (Isaiah 53:4)

Lesson Truth: Christ showed that He shared the sorrow of His people at the city of Nain.

Lesson

Christ Jesus showed His genuine sympathy for a widow that lost her son who was her sole provider. He saw that death had severed the ties of mother and son. This moved Him to compassion to take away her grief. Out of a heart that felt the grief of this mother, Jesus brought her son back to life. The people who saw this miracle, were not only seized with fear, but they also glorified God in recognition of a prophet.

The Lord Jesus continued His ministry in the province of Galilee. As He went from place to place, He demonstrated the authority of His ministry. He healed many and cast out many demons. He was the Lord who had the authority to tell His apostles that they would be fishers of men. Everywhere He went the Lord Jesus taught with authority. The events surrounding the miracle of the widow’s son took place as Jesus was near the city of Nain. Once again, His disciples were with Him and were witnesses to what Jesus saw. Near the city gate He saw mourners carrying the body of a young man in an open coffin. The tragedy was that this young man was the only son of this widow. It was even more tragic that this widow’s son had been her only means of livelihood. When Jesus saw this funeral procession and knew the circumstances, He was filled with compassion. The widow and the crowd of sympathizers were soon to see the authority of the Lord over sin and death. They would see that Jesus has the power over all things.

But Jesus did more than sympathize with the widow; He told her that there was no need to weep. He then went up to the coffin and touched it. As soon as he touched the coffin those who carried it stopped. As the coffin bearers stopped, Jesus said something to the young man that only the Redeemer could say. He said, “Young man, I say to you arise” (Luke 7:14). At the command of the Lord of heaven the young man did arise, and he began to speak. Jesus then presented this young man, who returned from the dead, to his mother. Because Jesus is the Lord, He could do more than sympathize with this widow’s grief. He could take her grief away. This was the Jesus that the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: “Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows” (Is. 53:4a). The glorious truth of Isaiah’s prophecy is that Jesus the Redeemer bears the grief and carries the sorrows of all His people.

The sad reality of bringing this widow’s son back to life was that this life was only temporary. But for the widow and her son, as well as all believers, Jesus offers eternal life. Because He is the Redeemer, He has the power over sin and death. The raising of the widow’s son was a word of prophecy from the Lord that He is the giver of life. The glorious promise to those who are in Christ Jesus is that He

will wipe every tear from their eyes. Then they will understand the purpose that Christ had for their ties on earth.

Everyone who saw the young man sit up and begin to speak was filled with a holy fear. Their fear caused them to glorify God and to exclaim that a great prophet had risen among them. They had seen the revelation of God's grace. They had seen that Jesus the Redeemer had the power over sin and death. God's grace was at work in the people's hearts, which helped them think of God and His covenant. It was because they sensed their covenant relationship to God that they said: "God has visited His people" (Luke 7:16). Many believed that Jesus was a prophet sent from God to show His grace.

The raising of the widow's son was a sign of God's grace. It was evidence that Jesus was the Messiah that Isaiah the prophet said would come. Isaiah spoke of the One who had borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Jesus showed compassion for the widow at Nain in bringing her son back to life. He showed that He did bear the grief of His people. Isaiah's plea to seek the Lord while he may be found and to call on Him while He is near should be our response.

Questions

1. Who was with Jesus as he went to the city of Nain? (Luke 7:11)
2. How many sons did the widow at Nain have? (Luke 7:12)
3. What emotion did Jesus show toward the widow at Nain? (Luke 7:13)
4. What did Jesus do to the coffin of the widow's son? (Luke 7:14)

5. What did Jesus do with the widow's son after he sat up and spoke? (Luke 7:15)

6. In addition to fear how did the people respond to God? (Luke 7:16)

7. Who did the people believe had arisen among them? (Luke 7:16)

8. Who did the people believe had visited them? (Luke 7:16)

Lesson 9

Forgiveness

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

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Memory Verse: “You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.” (Luke 7:46-47)

Lesson Truth: The sinful woman who anointed Jesus’ feet with oil was forgiven much, so she loved much.

Lesson

The story from Luke 7 that took place at Simon’s house is a wonderful story about a woman showing her love to Jesus. She demonstrated her love with some extravagant oil in thankfulness for having her sins forgiven. In the presence of a self-righteous Pharisee, Jesus confirmed that the woman was forgiven.

Simon, a Pharisee, lived in Capernaum of Galilee. He wanted to find out about some of the things he heard concerning Jesus, so he invited Him to his house for dinner. Simon was not interested in seeking forgiveness for his sins or to become a disciple of Jesus. He just wanted to satisfy his curiosity. When Jesus arrived at Simon’s house, He was not shown the usual courtesy that houseguests received. His feet were not washed, and He was not formally greeted. Simon wanted Jesus to feel that it was a special favor to be invited to the house of a Pharisee. The Lord knew Simon’s attitude and his self-righteous pride, but He accepted his invitation anyway. Jesus knew that there would be an opportunity to speak of His gospel of forgiveness and grace. If only Simon would understand his need for forgiveness, he could know Jesus as His Redeemer.

As Jesus was dining with Simon another guest came to his house uninvited and unexpected. This was a woman from the city that had a bad reputation. Most everyone knew her as a sinful woman. She walked into Simon’s house with a jar of very expensive oil because she knew that Jesus was there. She had most likely heard the gospel of grace and forgiveness before and knew that she was a forgiven sinner. In response to her forgiveness this woman wanted to anoint Jesus with this expensive oil. As she stood weeping, her tears fell on Jesus’ feet. She then began to wipe His feet with her hair as she kissed them and poured her expensive oil on them. Her love for the One who could forgive her sins knew no bounds.

In the meantime, Simon was watching. He thought that surely Jesus was not a prophet. If Jesus was a prophet, He would know that this was a sinful woman, and He wouldn’t have anything to do with her. Yet, because Jesus was a prophet, He knew what Simon was thinking. So He told him a parable.

The parable was about two people who owed money to a creditor. One owed 500 coins, each worth a day’s wages and the other 50 of these coins. Because neither of them could pay their debt the creditor forgave them. Jesus then asked Simon which of the men would love the creditor more. Simon

answered that it would certainly be the one who had the most forgiven. Still, he did not realize that the parable was for him. Jesus then compared the woman and Simon in their expressions of love.

The Lord pointed out that Simon hadn't even provided water for Him, as a guest, to wash his feet. The woman, on the other hand, had washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Simon didn't greet Jesus with the customary kiss, but the woman had kissed His feet and anointed them with oil. The Lord Jesus then added His words of grace saying: "Therefore I say to you, her sins which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little" (Luke 7:47). Simon hadn't shown any love because he never desired any forgiveness. He was filled with self-righteous pride and did not realize how much he needed to be forgiven.

Jesus then assured the woman that her sins were forgiven. He told her that she could go in peace because her faith in the Redeemer had been fruitful. When the Pharisees that ate with Simon heard Jesus say the woman's sins were forgiven, they were upset. They asked, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" (Luke 7:49). These Pharisees did not recognize Jesus as the Redeemer sent from God. In their pride they were filled with doubt and unbelief. The sinful woman believed the Word of grace and her sins were forgiven. That Word of grace is available today to all who believe!

Questions

1. Who did the sinful woman from the city want to see at the Pharisee's house? (Luke 7:37)
2. With what did the woman wash Jesus' feet? (Luke 7:38)
3. With what did the woman anoint Jesus' feet? (Luke 7:38)
4. In the parable that Jesus shared with Simon what did each debtor owe? (Luke 7:41)

Lesson 10

Governed by the Kingdom

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

Scripture: Luke 9:49 –10:24

Memory Verse: “In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, ‘I thank you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.’” (Luke 10:21)

Lesson Truth: God’s Kingdom workers are under the control of the Spirit of His Kingdom.

Lesson

To be governed by something means to be managed or controlled by it. Jesus taught His disciples that the Spirit of His Kingdom must control their actions and ideas. Citizens in God’s Kingdom must see the actions of men differently than citizens of this world see them. As Jesus left Galilee to go to Jerusalem, He taught His disciples how to think like Kingdom citizens when they encountered others.

Jesus used His twelve appointed apostles to preach the gospel of the Kingdom in His name. He gave them power to do miracles and signs. Sadly, the apostles failed to submit to the Lord in all their thoughts and actions. This became evident when they began to dispute which of them would be the greatest. When Jesus became aware of their self-serving thoughts, He knew that He had to teach them how to think like Kingdom workers. Jesus told them that in God’s Kingdom, he who is least among you would become the greatest. When John heard Christ’s words, he told Him that they had seen a man casting out demons in Jesus’ name. The disciples told this man that he was not allowed to do this because he was not one of the twelve. Jesus then corrected the disciples. He told them that God’s Kingdom was not divided into little groups or sects with only one being right. They had no right to forbid the man to cast out demons. Instead, they should understand that those who are not against us are on our side.

In His journey to Jerusalem Jesus went through Samaria. As He passed through a certain village, Jesus asked His disciples to find a place for them to stay. Sadly, the Samaritans did not want to have anything to do with someone going to Jerusalem, so their doors were closed. The disciples thought this was outrageous so they asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven to consume these Samaritans. They knew that Elijah had done this at one time. But Jesus had to correct them again because they were not thinking like Kingdom workers. He told them: “The Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them” (Luke 9:56). Surely, God will judge those who reject His love, but not because a Samaritan dislikes a Jew.

Now a man came to Jesus offering to go with Him wherever He went. This seemed like a gracious offer, but Jesus knew that the man did not understand what it meant to be a disciple. He told him, “Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head” (Luke 9:58). A worker in God’s Kingdom must realize that he is a homeless stranger on the earth. When Jesus asked another man to follow Him the man had an excuse. He wanted to wait until his father died so he could bury him. Still another man wanted to bid farewell to those in his house

Lesson 11

My Neighbor

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

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Memory Verse: “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.” (Luke 10:33-34)

Lesson Truth: It is by faith that we know God places people in our lives to be our neighbors.

Lesson

The scribes and Pharisees opposed Jesus everywhere He went. They taught the people that keeping the Law could earn them eternal life. The gospel that Jesus proclaimed was entirely different. He taught the people that it is by grace that we inherit eternal life. Because of this opposition, a scribe stood up to test Jesus with a difficult question. The question he asked and the response that Jesus gave prompted them to consider the summary of the Law. The Lord then taught him what it meant to love God and neighbor.

As Jesus was teaching the people what it meant to be governed by the Spirit of the Kingdom, a scribe asked Him a question. He asked, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25). This scribe wasn’t really interested to know the truth from the Redeemer. He asked the question to see if he could catch Jesus teaching something different than the tradition of the scribes. He knew that Jesus taught that people receive the gift of eternal life by grace. The scribes taught that people earn eternal life by keeping the Law. This scribe wanted to hear Jesus talk about grace so he could accuse Him. But Jesus knew the scribe’s thoughts, so he answered with a question of His own. He asked: “What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?” (Luke 10:26). The scribe gave a beautiful answer by summarizing the Law. He told Jesus the Law said we must love God with all of our being, and we must love our neighbor. The Lord commended him for his answer and then told him that if he did as the summary of the Law commanded, he would live.

Imagine how surprised the scribe was because that is exactly what the scribe’s taught. Still, deep in his heart the scribe knew that he could not keep the Law perfectly. It seemed that Jesus was taunting him by saying you are right. Why don’t you try to fulfill the Law as the summary commands? The Lord knew that it is only by grace that that we can live in communion with God according to His will. It is faith in God’s grace and not merit in trying to keep the Law that gives us the promise of eternal life.

The scribe knew that he wasn’t able to trap Jesus, but he still wanted to justify himself. He questioned how he could keep the Law of loving his neighbor if he didn’t know who his neighbor was. So, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29). Again, Jesus surprised the scribe by telling him a story instead of giving him a list of people who were his neighbors. The story was a parable about a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Thieves attacked this man and stripped him of his clothes. They let him lie by the wayside with serious injuries. Soon a priest came that way and saw the injured man, but he didn’t want anything to do with him. So, he walked around him. Later a Levite

came by and saw the injured man, but he also walked around him. Then, a Samaritan came by and when he saw the injured man, he had compassion. He poured oil on his wounds and carried him on his donkey to an inn. He paid for the man's care at the inn and even paid in advance for his continued care. The Samaritan told the innkeeper to care for the man until he was well and if there were additional expenses, he would pay him later. Jesus then asked the scribe, "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among thieves?" (Luke 10:36). The scribe could only give one answer; it was the one who showed mercy. At that response Jesus told him to go and do likewise.

From Jesus' parable, the scribe should have known that no human being could always be that merciful. He should have understood that only the gift of God's grace could help him practice that kind of mercy. We must also pray for the grace to know Christ Jesus, the Merciful One. By His grace we will also understand that everyone whom God places in our path is our neighbor!

Questions

1. What did Jesus' say the scribe had to do to inherit eternal life? (Luke 10:26)
2. What was Jesus' reaction and response to the scribe's summary of the Law? (Luke 10:28)
3. Why did the scribe ask Jesus a question about who his neighbor was? (Luke 10:29)
4. What was the condition of the man in Jesus' story when the thieves left him? (Luke 10:30)

Lesson 12

Only One Thing Is Needed

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

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Memory Verse: “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” (John 6:27)

Lesson Truth: Jesus told Martha that only one thing was needed. That one thing is to abide in Christ. Only things done out of a heart of love for Christ help us to abide in Him.

Lesson

The story of Jesus’ visit to the home of Martha and Mary helps us understand what is truly needed in our service to the Lord. Our service to the Lord must be done out of a genuine love for the Lord without excesses that distract us. Comparing with others or focusing only on what we have to offer leads to excesses and unwilling service. We then miss the one thing that is needed, to abide in Christ.

Jesus had left Galilee and now taught the people in Judea. In His exchange with a scribe, He made it clear what it meant to be the kind of neighbor referred to in the summary of the law. After that exchange, Jesus and His disciples went to the village of Bethany. At Bethany a woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. Martha shared a home with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus. It may be that some of Jesus’ disciples stayed with Him at Martha’s home. Whether there was a group of people or only a few at Martha’s house; she made herself very busy with preparations for them. As Martha made herself busy with preparations Mary sat at Jesus feet like a student listening to His wisdom.

No doubt Martha welcomed Jesus into her home out of love for her Lord. Her attitude was right when she served the Lord with gladness. But then it seems that Martha started to make her preparations to elaborate. She may have wanted everything perfect for her welcome guest. As Martha worked and fussed, she missed her sister Mary. Mary forgot about helping Martha as she sat listening to Jesus. It was then that Martha’s attitude began to change. She thought it was unfair that she did all the work in the kitchen. As Martha’s attitude changed, she lost the one thing necessary to serve the Lord. She became so upset that she complained to Jesus. Martha addressed Jesus as if He didn’t care about being fair. She had to do all the work and did not get a chance to hear Jesus’ words. At the same time Mary did none of the work and could hear all the Lord’s words. In her frustration Martha asked, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me” (Luke 10:40).

Jesus then spoke to Martha with emphasis, calling her name twice. He told her that she had made herself so anxious about her preparations that she lost the most important thing. She had lost her desire to do her tasks out of love for her Lord. Now she did them out of a sense of unwilling duty. For that reason, Jesus defended Mary’s devotion against Martha’s excessive preparations. Mary did the thing that must always remain central in life. She listened to the Redeemer for His sake.

Lesson 13

Praying to the Father

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

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Memory Verse: “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13)

Lesson Truth: God is again our Father for Jesus’ sake. Because He is our Father we may ask for our needs with boldness and confidence.

Lesson

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He showed that He had earned the right for them to call God their Father. As the Father, He placed Himself under obligation as a friend does for a friend. God took upon Himself the obligation to be a friend in the covenant He made with man. In this lesson we will learn that the Lord Jesus spent much time in prayer. We will also learn that He taught His disciples how to pray with boldness and perseverance.

One of Jesus disciples asked Him to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist taught his disciples. This request came after the disciples saw that Jesus went apart to pray. They knew that prayer was very important to the Lord Jesus. It was in prayer with the Father that He found the strength to do the work of the Redeemer. Jesus prayed to the Father as our Covenant Head. In this way He showed that God was not only His Father, but also the Father of all His people. Jesus continued to acknowledge God as His Father even when the Father forsook Him as he died on the cross for our sins. It was Jesus’ commitment to prayer that prompted the disciples to ask Him to teach them to pray.

The disciple’s request must have been a joy for the Lord Jesus. If they wanted to be taught how to pray, He would surely teach them. He then taught them a prayer that would be the model for the way they should always pray. The disciples could address God, as their Father because Jesus had earned that right for them. This model emphasized that the first priority in prayer is to hallow the name of the Father. And also, to ask for His Kingdom to come and for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. The disciples had to know that if the Father’s name was honored and His will was done; they could boldly pray for all of their other needs. They could pray for the needs of both their bodies and their souls.

In His model prayer, Jesus said the disciples could ask the Father to supply their daily bread. If they trusted the Father to supply their food, they could also ask Him to forgive their sins. In addition to having sins forgiven they could ask for the grace to forgive others and to be kept from temptation. Jesus urged His disciples to pray with confidence. They could be confident because Jesus had earned the right for them to call God their Father. The Lord then shared a parable about a friend’s request from a friend. This parable showed how a father would respond to his children. He would feel compelled to answer their request just as friend feels compelled to answer the request of a friend.

