

# Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 16

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  
**Security**

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 64

**Scripture:** Luke 12:13-21

**Memory Verse:** “And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” (Luke 12:15)

**Lesson Truth:** God’s people are safe. They are safe because their security is in God’s grace.

**Lesson**

What makes you feel safe and unafraid? Jesus told the people that being rich toward God would make them feel safe. He told the people about being secure because a man asked about an inheritance. This man thought he would feel safe if he had possessions. Jesus said that to trust in possessions is foolish. Trusting in God is the only real security in this life and in the life to come.

One day when Jesus was teaching the crowds in Judea a man asked Him a favor. He knew that Jesus was a teacher and that people listened to Him. So, he asked Jesus to use His authority to correct his brother. He said to Jesus since you are a teacher; make my brother divide the inheritance with me. It wasn’t wrong for the man to want part of the inheritance. But Jesus knew what was in his heart. He knew that the man loved possessions. He knew that the man thought he would be secure if he had money and possessions. Jesus also knew that He was not on earth to be a judge of such things. He was on earth to tell people the good news of the gospel.

Jesus answered the man by asking a question. He asked: “Who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” (Luke 12:14). Jesus was only saying that He did not come to do what the government does. So, instead of talking about the man’s inheritance, Jesus talked about covetousness. To covet means to want things that someone else has. It means to put your trust in money or possessions. Jesus warned that life is not made secure or safe by things we possess. He then shared a parable to show that there is no security in having possessions. Jesus wanted the man to know that an inheritance would not make him safe or secure.

The parable Jesus shared was about a well to do farmer. This farmer harvested a huge crop. His crop was so huge that he did not have barns big enough to store it all. So, the farmer decided to tear down his old barns and build bigger ones. It wasn’t really wrong to build big enough barns to store his crop. But this man had the wrong

attitude. He said to his own soul, “Soul you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:19). Sadly, this farmer trusted in his big crop. He thought his wealth would make him safe and secure.

In the parable Jesus said that God called the farmer a fool. He was a fool because he trusted in his big crop and not in God. God said to the farmer this very night his soul was called for. This was the very night that he would die. When he died who would own his big barns full of grain? This was Jesus’ way of telling the people that they could not feel secure because they had a lot of possessions.

Then the Lord Jesus made the truth of His parable clear. He said that anyone who collects treasure for himself is like that farmer. The farmer did not have anything when he died because he trusted in his possessions. Only those who are rich toward God will be safe when they die.

Isn’t that a wonderful parable? Because Jesus loved us He wanted us to know how we could be secure. Our security cannot come from having a lot of money. It cannot come from owning many things. The only way for us to be secure is to be rich toward God. Have you asked God for His grace so you can be rich toward Him?

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “Then one of the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my \_\_\_\_\_ to divide the inheritance with me.” (Luke 12:13)
2. “And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of \_\_\_\_\_ for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” (Luke 12:15)
3. “Then He spoke a \_\_\_\_\_ to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.” (Luke 12:16)
4. “So he said, I will do this: I will pull down my \_\_\_\_\_ and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.” (Luke 12:18)
5. “And I will say to my soul, “Soul you have many \_\_\_\_\_ laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” (Luke 12:19)

6. “But God said to him, ‘\_\_\_\_\_! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:20-21)

## The Disclosure of Life's Need

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 65

**Scripture:** Luke 13:1-17

**Memory Verse:** “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”  
(Luke 5:32)

**Lesson Truth:** Jesus showed the people life's greatest need. That need is to be set free from sin and Satan.

### Lesson

The people in Judea had a wrong idea about sin and suffering. They thought that disasters fell on people who were the worst sinners. But Jesus taught that disasters come because of everyone's sins. He also taught that sometimes God puts off punishment for sins. Jesus said that the people's greatest need was to be set free from sin and Satan. God's grace sets His people free.

Jesus was teaching people in the land of Judea. As He was teaching, a group came to tell Him about Pilate's crime. Pilate killed some Galileans and mixed their blood with the blood of animals. The animals were the ones that had been sacrificed. Do you know why they told Jesus about this crime? They thought that God allowed Pilate to kill these Galileans because they were so sinful. This was a wrong idea. Jesus had to correct this self-righteous idea.

He asked the group, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” (Luke 13:2). Jesus answered His own question. He said it was not because they were more sinful than others. He told this group that unless they repented of their sins they would also perish. Jesus wanted them to know that God shows his anger against all sin. God sent his judgments on His people because they rejected His covenant. They were judged because they refused to listen to John the Baptist's call to repent. The death of the Galileans was a sign of God's anger against all sin.

Jesus then added another example. He asked about the eighteen people that were killed at Siloam. Were these people crushed when the tower fell because they were worse sinners than others at Jerusalem? Again, Jesus answered His own question. He said no, it wasn't because they were worse sinners. It was because of God's judgments against all sins. The Lord then warned that unless they repented, they too would perish.



We must remember Jesus' words when people die in storms, or accidents, or illness. They did not die because they were worse sinners than others. They died because of God's judgments against all sin. The Lord also told the people a parable. He told them about a man that planted a fig tree. Each year for three years he looked for fruit on his tree. Sadly, it never bore any fruit. The man then told his gardener to cut the tree down. But the gardener asked if he could tend it and fertilize it for another year. Then if it still didn't bear fruit, it could be cut down. That was the way God put off the judgment against Israel. For three years they did not listen to the words of John the Baptist and Jesus. Yet, God put off His judgment.

Jesus then taught the people about their greatest need. He was in the synagogue one day when He saw a woman with an infirmity. She had this spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. Jesus knew what her greatest need was. It was to be set free from sin and the power of Satan. So, Jesus said to her: "Woman you are loosed from your infirmity" (Luke 13:12). Then He laid His hands on her and she was made well. This woman glorified God for being set free. But the ruler of the synagogue was upset. He was upset because the woman was healed on the Sabbath Day. Jesus now had to teach the ruler of the synagogue.

He first of all said that he was a hypocrite. He was a hypocrite because he allowed animals to be set free on the Sabbath Day, but not this woman. Jesus asked why this daughter of Abraham could not be set free just like the animals. The Sabbath Day was a wonderful day to free this woman. She had been bound by the power of Satan for eighteen years. The Sabbath was a marvelous day to set her free from the power of sin and Satan! When Jesus set this woman free, He also showed us life's need. Our need is the same as this woman's. It is to be set free from the power of sin and Satan. The power of God's grace can set us free!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "There were present at that season some who told Him about the \_\_\_\_\_ whose blood Pilate mingled with their sacrifices." (Luke 13:1)
2. "And \_\_\_\_\_ answered and said to them. 'Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things?'" (Luke 13:2)
3. "I tell you, no; but unless you \_\_\_\_\_ you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

4. “And behold there was a \_\_\_\_\_ who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and she was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.” (Luke 13:11)
  
5. “But when \_\_\_\_\_ saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, ‘Woman you are loosed from your infirmity.’” (Luke 13:12)
  
6. “And when He said these things all His \_\_\_\_\_ were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.” (Luke 13:17)

Lesson 3  
**Spirit and Life**

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 66

**Scripture:** Luke 14:1-14

**Memory Verse:** “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)

**Lesson Truth:** Jesus showed the guiding principle of His Kingdom. That principle is to foster a spirit of restoration, love, and service.

### **Lesson**

The story in Luke 14 is about Jesus visiting a Pharisee at his home. At that home, Jesus showed the rule or law of His Kingdom. That rule is to show a spirit of restoration and love. The rule of His Kingdom tells us to serve with a humble spirit. The rule of God’s Kingdom is the opposite of the rule of the Pharisees. The rule of the Pharisees was self-serving pride.

Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem. At this time, He was across the Jordan River in Perea. The Pharisees in Perea made a plan to catch Jesus breaking the Law. They thought it was against the Law of God to heal people on the Sabbath Day. Do you know how they planned to catch Jesus? One of the important Pharisees invited Jesus for dinner on the Sabbath. Many of the Pharisees were going to be there. They also brought a man to dinner that had dropsy. The Pharisees knew that Jesus had a spirit of compassion for sick people. So, they planned to watch and see if He would heal this man on the Sabbath Day. Even though Jesus knew their evil plan He went to the Pharisee’s house.

As soon as he came to the Pharisee’s house, He saw the man with dropsy. So, Jesus asked the Pharisees if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath Day. This question showed them that He knew their plan. But the Pharisees didn’t say a thing. So, Jesus reached out and healed the man of his dropsy. Then He sent him away. This man believed that Jesus was the Redeemer. He did not belong in the house with the unbelieving Pharisees.

Jesus knew that the Pharisees thought He had broken God’s Law. So, He asked them a question. He asked if they would not pull their donkey or ox out of pit if they fell in on the Sabbath. Again, the Pharisees didn’t say anything. They didn’t say anything because they did not know about the spirit of restoration and love. They only knew the spirit of slavery to the Law.

But Jesus had more to say to the Pharisees. In His love He would show them the law or rule of His Kingdom. The Lord noticed that the Pharisees took the best seats when they came for dinner. They all felt they deserved the best seat. But Jesus said that is not the way it is in His Kingdom. His Kingdom would be like a wedding feast. At this feast people would take the lowest seat. Then when the host came, they would be asked to move to a better seat. Jesus said the law or rule of His Kingdom is a humble spirit. “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11).

The Lord Jesus then continued to teach the Pharisees. He wanted them to know how to practice true hospitality. That would be the rule of hospitality in His Kingdom. He told them that according to that rule they should not invite rich neighbors or friends and relatives to dinner. Instead, they should invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind. This would show the true spirit of hospitality.

Christ Jesus showed His grace as He taught the Pharisees. He taught them about the rule or law of His Kingdom. That law is to show a spirit of love and restoration. It is to show a humble spirit of hospitality. Sadly, the Pharisees rejected Jesus’ teaching. They did not believe that He was the Redeemer. Do you believe that Jesus is your Redeemer? If you do, His grace will give you a spirit of love and humble service.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the \_\_\_\_\_ to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely.” (Luke 14:1)
2. “And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had \_\_\_\_\_.” (Luke 14:2)
3. “And Jesus, answering, spoke to the \_\_\_\_\_ and Pharisees, saying, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’” (Luke 14:3)
4. “When you are invited by anyone to a \_\_\_\_\_ feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him.” (Luke 14:8)

5. “For whoever exalts himself will be \_\_\_\_\_  
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)
  
6. “But when you give a \_\_\_\_\_, invite the poor, the  
maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay  
you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14:13-14)

## The Tie to the Lost

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 67

**Scripture:** Luke 15

**Memory Verse:** “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” (Luke 15:7)

**Lesson Truth:** There is a tie between God and the lost. This tie is there because of God’s covenant.

### Lesson

The Pharisees and scribes thought that they deserved God’s favor. They believed that they kept the Law of God. They didn’t want anything to do with sinners. The Pharisees were sure that Jesus could not be the Messiah because He talked to tax collectors and sinners. But Jesus knew their proud hearts. He knew that only His grace could save people. So, Jesus shared some parables with the Pharisees and scribes. One was about a shepherd and a lost sheep. Another was about a woman and a lost coin. And still another about a father and a lost son. Each of these parables showed how God is tied to lost sinners.

Jesus was teaching in the cities of Perea. A number of tax collectors and sinners came to hear Him. When the Pharisees saw this, they complained about Jesus. They thought it was bad that Jesus had anything to do with sinners. So, Jesus spoke a parable to them. He asked them what a shepherd would do if he lost one of his hundred sheep? Wouldn’t he leave the ninety-nine to look for the one that was lost? Then when he found the lost one, he would rejoice. He would call his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him. Jesus said that is the way it is in heaven. There is rejoicing over one sinner who repents. There is even more rejoicing than over ninety-nine persons who need no repentance. This parable showed how God keeps a tie to sinners because of His covenant.

The Lord Jesus then shared another parable. This parable was about a woman who lost one of her ten coins. He asked, “Wouldn’t this woman get a lamp to look for her lost coin?” Wouldn’t she sweep her house to search for her lost coin? She would search until she found it. Then she would ask her friends to rejoice with her. They would rejoice because her lost coin was found. Again, Jesus made His message clear. He said that the angels rejoice over one sinner who repents. The Messiah came to welcome repentant sinners. He did not come for those who believe they are righteous in themselves.

Because of His grace, Jesus shared still another parable. He wanted to show how valuable a repentant sinner is in God's sight. This parable was about a father that had two sons. The oldest son worked with his father without any problems. But the younger son wanted to be on his own. He asked his father to give him his share of the inheritance. When he had his inheritance, he left for a far country. There he lived a sinful life and spent all his money. Then a famine came to the country where the younger son was living. He had no food or money. The only work he could find was to feed pigs for a farmer. He became so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' feed. Then the younger son began to think. He thought about his father's house. He remembered how his father cared for his servants.

The younger son decided to go to his father. He said that he would confess his sins. He would tell his father that he was not worthy to be called a son. He would ask his father if he could be a servant. Then Jesus made clear how God welcomes sinners who repent. The father saw his son a long way off as he returned home. He ran right out to meet him because his heart still loved the lost son. The father threw his arms around his son and kissed him. Then he told the servants to put a robe on his son and to prepare a feast. There would be rejoicing because his son who had been dead was alive again.

Soon after, the oldest son returned from the fields. He asked the servants what the feast was about. They told him that his brother had returned. This made the older son very angry. He would not join the feast or rejoice with his father. So, the father went out and talked to his older son. He told him about his father's love. He said that it was right to rejoice because his brother who had been dead was alive again. His brother who had been lost was found. This is the way the Father in heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents. Because of His covenant, God is always ready to show His love to a sinner who repents. That is God's tie to the lost.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Then all the tax collectors and the \_\_\_\_\_ drew near to hear Him." (Luke 15:1)
2. "And the \_\_\_\_\_ and scribes complained, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'" (Luke 15:2)
3. "What man of you, having a hundred \_\_\_\_\_ if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4)

4. "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in \_\_\_\_\_ over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:7)
  
5. "And he arose and came to his \_\_\_\_\_. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him." (Luke 15:20)
  
6. "It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your \_\_\_\_\_ was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32)



## Building the Eternal Community of the Saints

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 68

**Scripture:** Luke 16:1-13

**Memory Verse:** “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)

**Lesson Truth:** Jesus taught His disciples to use all their possessions to bring believers into God’s Kingdom. These believers are the eternal community of the saints.

### Lesson

Do you know what it means to build an eternal community of saints? It means to tell people the gospel. Through the good news of the gospel, they will become followers of Jesus. And followers of Jesus are the eternal community of the saints. Jesus shared a parable with His disciples about an unjust manager. The disciples could learn from this unjust manager. They could learn to use all their money and possessions to share the gospel of Jesus.

Jesus told the parable of the lost son to the Pharisees. This parable showed the Pharisees how much compassion God has for lost sinners. Now Jesus told His disciples a parable. This parable was about a rich man who hired a manager to take care of his business. This manager was a dishonest cheater. He took things that did not belong to him. So, the rich man talked to his manager. He asked him to say what he had done with his master’s goods. He also told the manager that he could no longer work for him. Then the manager wondered what he would do if he did not have a job. He knew that he wasn’t able to do hard work and he didn’t want to beg. So, he made shrewd plan.

This was his plan: He would talk to all the people who owed his master money or goods. He made all their debts smaller. He told a man that owed one hundred measures of oil that only had to pay for fifty. He told another man that he only had to pay for eighty of his hundred measures of wheat. In this way the unjust manager made friends. Then when he no longer had a job, these friends would help him. In the parable, Jesus said that the rich man commended the unjust manager. He did not commend him for being dishonest. He commended him for thinking about his future.

This was the way that Jesus told His disciples to make friends. They should follow the example of the unjust manager. They should use their money and possessions to

make friends. The friends that Jesus wanted them to make were friends of the gospel. He wanted them to help people believe that Jesus is the Redeemer. This was the way they would build the community of the saints.

In this parable Jesus made it clear that it didn't matter how much money they had. They had to make sure to use what they had to spread the gospel. Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is also faithful in much" (Luke 16:10). He also warned about not being faithful in using their money. If they could not be trusted with money; who would trust them with true riches? Who would trust them with the gospel?

Jesus then added a warning about the use of money or possessions. He said there is danger for people who do not use their money to spread the gospel. They begin to love their money and to serve it. But Jesus said it is impossible to serve two masters. God's people cannot serve God and money. They find that they will be loyal to the one or the other. And they will despise the one they are not loyal to. This is also our instruction. We must use everything we own to build God's Kingdom. This is a kingdom that exists now and in the future. It is the eternal community of the saints.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "He also said to His \_\_\_\_\_: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought against him that this man was wasting his goods.'" (Luke 16:1)
2. "Then the \_\_\_\_\_ said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.'" (Luke 16:3)
3. "So he called everyone of his masters \_\_\_\_\_ to him, and said to the first. 'How much do you owe my master?' (Luke 16:5)
4. "And he said a \_\_\_\_\_ measures of oil. So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'" (Luke 16:6)

5. “Therefore if you have not been \_\_\_\_\_ in unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches.” (Luke 16:11)
  
6. “No servant can serve two \_\_\_\_\_; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Luke 16:13)

## Lesson 6

# The Truly Rich Man

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 69

**Scripture:** Luke 16:19-31

**Memory Verse:** “Abraham said to him, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.”” (Luke 16:29)

**Lesson Truth:** Jesus taught a parable about a rich man and Lazarus, a poor man. From this parable we learn that only believers have eternal riches.

## Lesson

What does it mean to be rich? The parables found in Luke 16 help us understand riches. In these parables Jesus warned that it is impossible to serve God and mammon. In spite of His warnings, Jesus knew that the Pharisees loved money. They made fun of Jesus when He said they could not serve two masters. The Pharisees made themselves look good before men. But Jesus warned that God knew their hearts. In His grace the Lord then shared another parable. This parable was about a rich man and a poor man. The rich man thought he was entitled to all his possessions. While the poor man knew that he lived by grace. Jesus did not name the rich man. But the poor man was given the name, Lazarus. Those who are rich toward God, He knows by name.

In this parable there was a rich man clothed in purple and fine linen. He ate the best food money could buy. He was not a bad man that did wicked things. But he thought that he earned the right to have the best. He forgot that everything he possessed was a gift from God. There was also a poor man named Lazarus in the parable. Each day Lazarus was laid at the rich man’s gate to beg. He was filled with sores that the dogs licked. The only thing he wanted was some crumbs from the rich man’s table. He knew that he lived completely by God’s grace.

The parable then tells us that both Lazarus and the rich man died. Angels carried Lazarus to rest in Abraham’s bosom in heaven. Sadly, the rich man was sent to the torments of hell. From his place of torment, the rich man saw Lazarus in Abraham’s bosom. So, he called out to Abraham and asked him to send Lazarus. He wanted Lazarus to dip his finger into water to cool his tongue. He complained of the torments of the flame in which he lived. But Abraham could not do as the rich man requested. He reminded him of all the things he enjoyed in life. These were the things that he thought that he was entitled to. He also reminded him of the suffering that Lazarus endured at his gate. But now Lazarus was comforted while the rich man was tormented. Even more, Abraham said there was a great gulf fixed between

heaven and hell. A gulf so great that no one could cross it. So, Lazarus could not come to cool his tongue. Communion between the saved and the lost is impossible.

Then the rich man begged Abraham for another favor. He asked that Lazarus be sent to warn his brothers. He wanted his five brothers to have a different attitude toward their possessions. He wanted them to understand that everything they owned came from God and that they should use all they owned to build God's Kingdom. They should use their possessions to help the poor and needy. The rich man did not want his brothers to live in the torment in which he was living.

Again, Abraham refused the rich man's request. He reminded him that his brothers had Moses and the prophets. Both Moses and the prophets told people how to use their possessions. They should have listened to those warnings. But the rich man begged again. He said if someone came from the dead his brothers would listen. Abraham then told him this was not true. If they did not listen to Moses and the prophets, they would not listen to someone from the dead.

Jesus shared this parable to teach men how to use their possessions. The surest way for us to learn these lessons is to listen to God's Word. We too have Moses and the prophets. They tell us again and again that we live by God's grace. All that we own belongs to God. He allows us to use our possessions to build His Kingdom. When we believe His Word, we are truly rich.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "There was a certain \_\_\_\_\_ who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fare sumptuously every day." (Luke 16:19)
2. "But there was a certain beggar named \_\_\_\_\_ full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table." (Luke 16:20-21a)
3. "So it was the that the \_\_\_\_\_ died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. (Luke 16:22a)
4. "The rich man also \_\_\_\_\_ and was buried. And being in the torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." (Luke 16:22b-23)

5. “And besides all this, between us and you there is a great \_\_\_\_\_ fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.” (Luke 16:26)
  
6. “But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear \_\_\_\_\_ and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’” (Luke 16:31)

## The Fear of the Lord

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 70

**Scripture:** Luke 17:1-19

**Memory Verse:** “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained a brother.” (Matt. 18:15)

**Lesson Truth:** God is all-powerful. By faith we can do all things because God is all-powerful.

### Lesson

Jesus warned His disciples about hurting fellow believers. He said it would be better not to live than to hurt another believer. The Lord told His disciples that the power of faith comes from God. God’s people, who know the power of faith, are humble. They understand that God is the power in their faith. They know that with God’s power anything is possible. Jesus also helped them understand that true faith is thankful.

As Jesus was making His way toward Jerusalem, He continued to teach. He warned the Pharisees about setting their hearts on riches. Now He talked to His disciples about the way believers must live. He said that believers would surely do things to make others stumble. But He warned that there would be woe to anyone who caused others to stumble. Jesus said it would be better if someone hung a millstone around their neck and they were drowned. Drowning in that manner would be better than causing a fellow believer to stumble.

Jesus wanted believers to care one another. They were to care enough to warn a brother if he fell into temptation. If a brother sinned against a brother, they had to care enough to ask him to repent. They also had to be ready to forgive if he repented. If he fell into the same sin again and repented again, they must be ready to forgive. They should be so ready to forgive that they would forgive seven times a day if he repented. When the disciples heard this, they asked Jesus to increase their faith.

Sadly, the disciples did not really understand faith. So, Jesus corrected them. Faith came from the power of God. If they had that faith, they could command a tree to be uprooted and planted in the sea. By faith in God’s power, they could do things that are impossible with men. With God all things are possible!

The disciples who had faith in God could do anything. For that reason, they had a never-ending task. They must always do God’s work. The disciple’s relationship to

God is like a slave and a master. A slave is always ready to do his master's work. Even if he works all day, he cannot come in from work and sit at the table. The slave must first serve his master's dinner, before he is ready to eat. Such is the duty of the slave. In the same way God's people give themselves to the work of the Lord. The calling to do His work is without limit. When we have done work for the Lord we cannot boast. We can't boast because it is our duty to do the work of the Lord. He is the ruler of all things.

True faith not only has a task, but it also responds in thanksgiving. This was evident as Jesus passed through a Samaritan village. Ten men who had leprosy met Jesus at this village. From a distance, they called out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us" (Luke 17:13). They believed that the Lord Jesus could heal them of their leprosy. But their faith did not see Him as their Redeemer. Anyone who sees Jesus as the Redeemer responds in thankfulness to the miracle of His grace.

Do you know what Jesus did when the lepers called to Him? He told them to go and show themselves to the priest. This must have amazed the lepers. Only lepers that were healed had to show themselves to the priest. So, they hurried to the priest, and as they went, they were made clean. One leper immediately returned to Jesus. With a loud voice he thanked the Lord Jesus and gave glory to God. Then Jesus asked were not ten lepers made clean? Where happened to the other nine? Did only this Samaritan return to give glory to God? Sadly, the other nine lepers were Israelites. They thought they had right to be healed. The nine lepers did not understand the curse of sin in their lives. They did not realize that only the grace of the Lord could redeem them from their sins. The nine lepers saw Jesus as a miracle worker but not as their Redeemer and Lord. Pray that God's grace may help you fear the Lord as your Redeemer!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "It is impossible that \_\_\_\_\_ should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!" (Luke 17:1)
2. "It would be better for him if a \_\_\_\_\_ were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." (Luke 17:2)
3. "Take heed to yourselves, if your \_\_\_\_\_ sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him." (Luke 17:3)



4. "So the Lord said, 'If you have faith as a \_\_\_\_\_ seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, and it would obey you.'" (Luke 17:6)
  
5. "So when He saw them, He said to them, 'Go show yourselves to the \_\_\_\_\_.' And so it was that as they went they were cleansed." (Luke 17:14)
  
6. "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, \_\_\_\_\_, and with a loud voice glorified God." (Luke 17:15)

## The Cry for Justice

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 71

**Scripture:** Luke 18:1-14

**Memory Verse:** “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’” (Luke 18:13)

**Lesson Truth:** God promised justice and grace in His covenant. We must ask God for justice according to His promise.

### Lesson

Justice means to be treated fairly. We may cry out to God for justice. We may do this because of God’s covenant. God promised in His covenant that He would send a Redeemer. So, it is fair or just, to ask Him to remember His promise. In this lesson we will look at two parables that tell us to cry for justice. One parable is about a widow and an unjust judge. The other is about a Pharisee and a tax collector. From these parables we learn that we must always pray with a humble heart. We can be sure that God will answer our prayers if we call on Him day and night. He will answer us because of His covenant. In His covenant God promised us His grace. We may ask Him to remember His promises!

Jesus taught the people about the coming of God’s Kingdom. He said that the world would not expect Jesus when He returned. People would be living just like they did in the days of Noah or the days of Lot. They would be eating and drinking and having weddings. Then Jesus would return. He then shared a parable to encourage His disciples to pray. While they waited for Jesus to return, they should continue in prayer. In this parable Jesus told of an unjust judge. This judge did not fear God and had no regard for men. But there was a widow who pleaded for justice from this unjust judge. She asked again and again for this judge to make right the wrongs that were done to her. At first the judge ignored her. But at last, he said he would give her justice. He would do this because she continued to ask and her asking made him weary. In treating the widow fairly, the judge did what a judge was supposed to do.

The Lord Jesus then told the disciples to notice the unjust judge. Even though he was unjust, he finally helped the widow because she continued to ask. Jesus then asked, wouldn’t God hear and help His people who pray to Him day and night? He also answered His question by assuring the disciples that God would answer immediately. Therefore, believers must continue to pray. Each day anew they must ask God to remember the promises of His covenant. It is because of His covenant

that He will surely answer the prayers of His people. Jesus then asked another question. He asked about the time when Jesus returns to earth. Would there be people who still believed God's covenant promises?

The next parable Jesus told to those who thought they were righteous. He told this parable to warn His people not to trust in their own righteousness. In this parable two men went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other one was a tax collector. At the temple, the Pharisee stood up and thanked God that he was not like other men. He was so proud that he thanked God that he did not cheat or commit adultery. He reminded God that he fasted two times each week. He also gave a tithe of everything he owned. He was certain that he should be part of God's Kingdom because he was so good. The tax collector was entirely different. He felt that he was a sinner. He knew that he needed God's grace in his life. The tax collector would not even raise his eyes toward heaven. Instead, he beat his breast and said: "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

Jesus ended the parable by saying that the tax collector went home justified. Sadly, the Pharisee was not justified. He remained in his sin. The tax collector knew that neither his faith nor his prayer could save him. Only God's mercy through His grace would save him. That is why he asked God for mercy. He could ask God to remember the mercy that He promised in His covenant.

The Kingdom of God will be different than kingdoms on earth. Jesus said that those who exalt themselves would be made humble. And those who humble themselves will be exalted. Aren't these wonderful parables? They tell us to keep on praying day after day. As we pray, we may ask God to remember the promises of His covenant. We know we can be justified by God's grace and mercy.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Then He spoke a \_\_\_\_\_ to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart." (Luke 18:1)
2. "There was in a certain city a \_\_\_\_\_ who did not fear God nor regard man." (Luke 18:2)
3. "Now there was a \_\_\_\_\_ in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'" (Luke 18:3)

4. “And shall God not avenge His own \_\_\_\_\_ who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?” (Luke 18:7)
  
5. “And He spoke this parable to some who trusted in \_\_\_\_\_ that they were righteous, and despised others.” (Luke 18:9)
  
6. “And the \_\_\_\_\_ standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’” (Luke 18:13)

## To Receive the Kingdom

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 72

**Scripture:** Luke 18:31–19:27

**Memory Verse:** “And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.’” (Luke 19:5)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus made His way to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Through His suffering and death He received His Kingdom.

### Lesson

Jesus received the Kingdom through His suffering and death. He told His disciples about the suffering He would experience at Jerusalem. Sadly, they did not understand what He told them. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus showed the Joy of His Kingdom. He healed a blind man and brought salvation to a tax collector. In the Lord’s Kingdom, faithfulness will be rewarded, and unfaithfulness punished.

Slowly Jesus and His disciples were making their way to Jerusalem. He took the disciples aside and warned them about the things that would occur there. Jesus said that all the things the prophets said about Jesus’ suffering would happen. The Gentiles would mock Him and insult Him. They would spit on Him and scourge Him. Finally, they would put Him to death. But Jesus not only told them about His suffering and death, He also said that He would rise again. Sadly, the disciples did not understand what He told them. They did not understand that Jesus would receive His Kingdom through suffering and death. Through His suffering and death, Jesus had to fulfill all righteousness. Then His Kingdom of grace would be ready for all who believe.

Jesus showed the joy of His Kingdom of grace as He came near Jericho. A large crowd followed Him, and a blind beggar sat by the roadside. When the beggar heard the noise of the crowd, he asked what it was. The people told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. When the beggar heard that, he cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Luke 18:38). The people tried to quiet him, but he called even more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Luke 18:39). Then Jesus stopped and told the people to bring the blind man to Him. He then asked, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man answered, “Lord that I may receive my sight” (Luke 18:41). Jesus saw the faith that the Father had given to this man. So, He said to him, “Receive you sight; your faith has made you well” (Luke 18:42). As the King, Jesus was able to give this man his sight. The man who had been blind

then followed Jesus and glorified God. Even the crowd of people that saw this miracle praised God. The people could see that the King in His Kingdom restored life.

As Jesus entered the city of Jericho, He encountered another man. This man was Zacchaeus a tax collector. He had a reputation of being dishonest in collecting taxes. Zacchaeus was also very rich. But he wanted to see Jesus and could not because he was very short. So, Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed into a sycamore tree where he could see Jesus. Think of how he must have felt when Jesus stopped underneath the tree and talked to him.

He told Zacchaeus to, “come down for today I must stay at your house” (Luke 19:5). It was then that we become aware of God’s grace in the life of Zacchaeus. He hurried to come down from the sycamore tree and welcomed Jesus to his house. He told Jesus that he would give half of all his wealth to the poor. He even offered to pay back four times the amount of taxes to anyone he cheated. Jesus then said something that amazed the Jews. He said, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham” (Luke 19:9). Then Jesus added the truth about His Kingdom of grace. He said, “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). He seeks and saves the lost because of His covenant. This is the covenant that God made with Abraham. By faith Zacchaeus was a son of Abraham.

As Jesus neared Jerusalem he knew that the disciples thought he would quickly set up His Kingdom. In order to correct this mistake, Jesus shared a parable. This parable was about a nobleman who traveled to a distant country. At this distant country he would receive his kingdom. He gave each of his ten servants a mina. The nobleman told them to do his business with the money he provided. When he returned, he asked the servants to give account of what they had done. One servant told the nobleman that he increased his money ten times. Another said he increased his five times. But a third servant returned the coin the nobleman had given him. The first two servants were praised for being good stewards. Because they were faithful, they were given additional authority. But the third servant was admonished and even the coin that he saved was taken from him.

The parable is similar to Jesus as He is in heaven following His resurrection. When He returns, He will reward the faithful and punish those who have been unfaithful. He commanded that His enemies be destroyed. They are the ones who do not want the Lord to reign in His Kingdom of grace.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “Then Jesus took the \_\_\_\_\_ aside and said to them, “Behold we are going up to Jerusalem and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.” (Luke 18:31)
2. “For He will be delivered to the \_\_\_\_\_ and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon.” (Luke 18:32)
3. “Then it happened, as He was coming near \_\_\_\_\_ that a certain blind man sat by the road begging.” (Luke 18:35)
4. “And he cried out saying \_\_\_\_\_, Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Luke 18:38)
5. “So he ran ahead and climbed up into a \_\_\_\_\_ tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.” (Luke 19:4)
6. “And Jesus said to him, “Today \_\_\_\_\_ has come to this house, because he is also a son of Abraham.” (Luke 19:9)

## Israel's King

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 73

**Scripture:** Luke 19:28-48

**Memory Verse:** “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 118:26)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. As He rode a multitude of His disciples claimed Him as Israel's King.

### Lesson

The Lord Jesus is Israel's King. A number of times the people wanted to crown Him as King. Jesus would not allow that to happen. He would not allow it because they wanted an earthly King. They wanted a king like David. The people did not understand that Jesus' Kingdom was a heavenly Kingdom. Still this time Jesus would come into Jerusalem as the King. He would come with the people singing songs of praise to Israel's King. But Jesus wept when he saw Jerusalem. He wept because the people did not understand the nature of His Kingdom. Nor did they understand the holiness of the Lord's house.

As Jesus made His way to Jerusalem, He gave sight to the blind man at Jericho. He brought salvation to the house of Zacchaeus. Now He was ready to enter Jerusalem. He knew that this time He must enter Jerusalem as the King. At the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples into the village to find a colt. He told them to loosen the colt and bring it to Him. Jesus told the disciples what to say if anyone asked why they were taking the colt. They were to say, “Because the Lord has need of it” (Luke 19:31). When the disciples returned with the colt, they threw their coats on it. With their coats they made a place for Jesus to sit. Then, as Jesus rode the colt, people spread garments on the roadside. This was the way the kings of Israel were introduced. Now as Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem His followers rejoiced and praised God. They sang, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:38). Their songs were much like the angels sang at Jesus' birth. Jesus was the true King of Israel. The other kings, including David and Solomon, only pointed to Jesus, the true King.

Sadly, many in the crowd did not know the true King. They did not know Jesus as their Lord and Redeemer. Some Pharisees thought it was wrong to call Jesus the King. They told Jesus to scold His disciples for calling Him King. But Jesus said it was impossible for them to keep quiet. He said that if the disciples kept quiet the



stones would cry out. The whole world had to know that Jesus was Israel's King. The Father in heaven had appointed this time to declare Jesus to be Israel's King.

Jerusalem could have rejoiced to see her King. But sadly, many in the city did not see their true salvation. As Jesus came into Jerusalem, He wept for the city. He wept because they did not know what would bring them peace. They did not recognize their Redeemer. Even on this day when their King rode into Jerusalem it was hidden from their eyes. Jerusalem would be destroyed completely. Her enemies would not leave one stone upon another. All this because Jerusalem rejected her King and Redeemer!

Jesus then entered the temple with the authority of a King. He drove out the merchants and those who changed money. As the King, He would restore the holiness of the temple. In doing so Jesus quoted from both Isaiah and Jeremiah. Jesus said, "My house is a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves." As Jesus drove out the merchants, no one dared to stop Him. He stood as Israel's King.

The Redeemer's zeal for the holiness of the Lord's house is still at work. Jesus wants to restore holiness to our hearts by atoning for our sins. Pray for God's grace in your heart and in your life. Pray for the gift of faith to recognize Jesus as Israel's King. Pray for grace to know Him as your King!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and \_\_\_\_\_ at the mountain called Olivet that He sent two of His disciples." (Luke 19:29)
2. "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a \_\_\_\_\_ tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here." (Luke 19:30)
3. "Then they brought him to \_\_\_\_\_. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him." (Luke 19:35)
4. "Then, as He was drawing near the descent of the \_\_\_\_\_, the whole multitude of disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen." (Luke 19:37)

5. "Saying: 'Blessed is the \_\_\_\_\_ who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'" (Luke 19:38)
  
6. "But, He answered and said to them. 'I tell you that if these should keep silent, the \_\_\_\_\_ would immediately cry out.'" (Luke 19:40)

## Defenseless

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 74

**Scripture:** Luke 22:35-53

**Memory Verse:** “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’” (John 4:34)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus became defenseless before His enemies. In this way He earned the right for us to carry the gospel story to the ends of the earth.

### Lesson

Jesus knew that He had to prepare His disciples for rejection after he rose from the dead. He also earned the right for them to carry the gospel story to the ends of the earth. Christ did this by becoming completely defenseless. He won the victory over His human nature in order to do the will of His Father. He submitted without defense to the betrayal of Judas. Through the Lord’s defenselessness He earned the right for us to defend His name and His Word.

The Lord Jesus came into Jerusalem on Sunday. Throughout the week Jesus taught in the temple each day. He was attacked again and again by the leaders of the Jews. On Thursday the Lord shared the last supper with His disciples. He knew this would be His last meal with them before His suffering. That is why He spent time preparing them for the rejection that would come. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that a change would come in the people’s attitudes. This change would come because Jesus was numbered with the transgressors. The people’s curiosity about Jesus would turn to rejection.

Jesus asked His disciples about the time He sent them out in Galilee. At that time, He sent them out without any provisions and without money. Jesus then asked if they lacked anything when they went out that way. They said that they did not lack anything. The people took care of all their needs. Jesus then told them that after He rose from the dead it would be different. They would need to take provisions and money. They would need to take these things because the people would reject them. The rejection that the prophets told about would come to pass. Jesus would be hated and scorned because the people thought He was a transgressor. And His disciples would also be rejected and hated.

It was sad that the disciples did not understand the things Jesus told them. They thought they would have to fight to defend Him. So, they told Jesus that they had two swords. Then Jesus replied. “It is enough” (Luke 22:38). He knew that after He

rose from the dead the disciples would learn. Still, at this time they were not to defend Him. Jesus did not want them to fight. He was going to offer Himself willingly to atone for the sins of His people. The Lord would become completely defenseless to pay for our sins.

After preparing the disciples for rejection, Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives. The disciples followed Him to the Garden of Gethsemane. At the garden, He urged the disciples to pray so they would not fall into temptation. Then Jesus went further into the garden to pray. He fell on His knees and prayed so intensely that His sweat became like drops of blood. The Lord Jesus asked, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me: nevertheless, not My will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus knew that there was no other way to atone for the sins of His people. So, He was ready to submit to the Father’s will. In submitting to the Father’s will, He paid for the sins we inherited from Adam. He paid for the sins of His people that followed Adam. He did this by gaining the victory over Himself and doing the Father’s will.

Following this intense prayer, Jesus went to His disciples. Sadly, He found them sleeping. Again, he urged them to awake and rise up to pray. He knew they would be seriously tempted. While He was speaking there came a crowd of people to the garden. Leading the crowd was Judas, one of the disciples. He came up to Jesus to give Him a kiss. This was the sign he had given to chief priests to tell them which one was Jesus. The Lord then asked, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:48). Then the other disciples saw what was happening. One of them took out his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant. Amazingly, Jesus showed His grace even when they were ready to arrest Him. He touched the servant’s ear and healed it.

Jesus then asked the chief priests and elders why they came for Him with swords and clubs. He pointed out that He was in the temple every day. Why didn’t they arrest Him there? Then Jesus pointed out that this was the time God appointed for them to arrest Him. But they did not need swords or clubs because He surrendered without a fight. He became defenseless so that He could win the victory over sin. Because Jesus was defenseless, He earned the right for us to defend His Name and His Word.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “And He said to them, ‘When I sent you without money bag, \_\_\_\_\_ and sandals, did you lack anything?’ So they said. ‘Nothing.’” (Luke 22:35)

2. “For I say to you that which is \_\_\_\_\_ must still be accomplished in Me: ‘And He was numbered with the transgressors.’ For the things concerning Me have an end.” (Luke 22:37)
3. “When He came to the place, He said to them, ‘\_\_\_\_\_ that you may not enter into temptation.’” (Luke 22:40)
4. “Saying, \_\_\_\_\_ if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)
5. “Then an \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.” (Luke 22:43)
6. “When I was with you daily in the \_\_\_\_\_ you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” (Luke 22:53)

## From Pilate to Herod

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 75

**Scripture:** Luke 23:1-25

**Memory Verse:** “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus suffered for His people in being passed from Pilate to Herod. Neither Pilate nor Herod knew what to do with Him.

### Lesson

Jesus was arrested at the Garden of Gethsemane. From there they brought Him before the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the body of Jewish religious leaders. This group questioned Jesus about His teachings. Because they had a mistaken idea about the Kingdom of God, they did not understand Jesus. When He said that He was the Son of God, they became angry. The Sanhedrin was not ready to believe that God’s grace came through Jesus. Because of His claim, they said that they needed no further witnesses. He was worthy of death. The Lord suffered because His own people did not understand or accept Him. Imagine how He would suffer at the hands of the Gentiles.

The Jews were under Roman rule so they could not sentence people to death. They had to convince the Roman rulers that Jesus should die. That is why they brought Jesus before Pilate, the Roman judge. There they accused Him of perverting the nation. They told Pilate that He advised people not to pay taxes to Caesar. Even worse they said He claimed to be a King. When Pilate heard these accusations, he talked to Jesus. He asked Him directly: “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered: “It is as you say” (Luke 23:3). But Pilate did not understand Jesus at all. He knew nothing about grace or the Kingdom of God. So, he told the Jewish leaders that he could find no fault with the Lord.

This made the Jewish people even more angry. So, they brought more accusations. They said that Jesus stirred up the people from Galilee to Judea. When Pilate heard them mention Galilee, he had an idea. Herod ruled Galilee, and Herod was in Jerusalem. So, he would send Jesus to Herod. Then he would not be responsible to pass judgment on Jesus.

Herod was very happy to see Jesus. He heard about many of the miracles that Jesus did. Herod wanted to see for himself who Jesus really was. He was also afraid that

Jesus was John the Baptist who came back to life. Herod killed John when John told him it was wrong to take his brother Philip's wife. Now he wanted to question Jesus to see if He might be John. He asked Jesus many questions, but the Lord never answered. He could not tell an unbeliever who He was. Jesus makes Himself known only to those who have faith. So Herod became just as frustrated as Pilate. He did not know what to do with Jesus. He decided to mock Jesus and put Him down. Herod told his soldiers to put a robe on Jesus and mock Him as a King. Then he sent the Lord back to Pilate.

This was a dilemma for both Pilate and Herod. They could not find a reason to put Jesus to death. Yet they wanted to please the Jewish people. Because neither of them knew what to do with Jesus they became friends. They were enemies before this time. In their willingness to be unrighteous judges Pilate and Herod became friends.

Now Jesus was again in Pilate's court. What could Pilate do with this innocent Man? Three times he told the Jewish people that he could find no fault in Jesus. Pilate told them that Herod was also unable to find fault with Christ. For that reason, he offered to chastise Jesus and release Him. He would release Him to fulfill a Passover custom to release a prisoner. But this made the Jewish crowd very upset. They cried out, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas" (Luke 23:18). Just think the people wanted Barabbas, a murderer, instead of Jesus. When Pilate questioned what he should do with Jesus the people became even more hostile. They shouted: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" (Luke 23:21).

That was the suffering Jesus endured for His people. He was despised and rejected by men. Pilate sentenced Him to death even though He was innocent. Jesus suffered under the Gentiles, Pilate, and Herod. He did this so that in time the angels would rejoice, as Gentiles became part of the covenant. How grateful we should be that we too are God's covenant children!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "When the whole \_\_\_\_\_ of them arose and led Him to Pilate." (Luke 23:1)
2. "Then \_\_\_\_\_ asked Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews.' He answered him and said, 'It is as you say.'" (Luke 23:3)
3. "So Pilate said to the \_\_\_\_\_ and the crowd, 'I find no fault in this Man.'" (Luke 23:4)

4. “And as soon as he knew that He belonged to \_\_\_\_\_ jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.” (Luke 23:7)
  
5. “And they cried out at once, saying, ‘Away with this Man and release to us \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 23:18)
  
6. Pilate therefore, wishing to release \_\_\_\_\_ again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, ‘Crucify Him! Crucify Him!’” (Luke 23:20-21)