

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 18
Level 4

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

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

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

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

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

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

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

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

Lesson 1

Life's Joy

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 10

Scripture: John 7

Memory Verse: “Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.’” (John 7:16-17)

Lesson Truth: The Christ gives life's true joy.

Lesson

Although Jesus came to bring life's true joy, most of the people of Galilee and Judea did not recognize the joy He would bring. Instead, they were filled with unbelief and hostility. The truth of the Lordship of the Redeemer brought either joy or hate. The Feast of Tabernacles was a feast of joy when the people of Israel remembered that they lived in their own land after living in tents for forty years. As the Lord's brothers prepare to go to the feast, they showed their unbelief when they asked Jesus to show His miracles in Judea. Later, Jesus did go to Jerusalem where He taught in the temple. As He taught, the law for life became evident. That law is that either people know and love the Lord, or they hate Him and want to destroy Him. At the feast Jesus said that streams of living water would flow from the hearts of those who believe in Him. Still, the Jewish leaders thought they were sufficient in themselves and saw no need of Jesus.

The hostility against the Lord Jesus was reaching a crisis in Galilee as well as in Judea. Still, when the Lord's brothers suggested that He go to Judea for the Feast of Tabernacles, He was not ready to go. Many in Galilee were turning against Him, but in Judea the Jews sought to kill Him. The Lord's brothers showed their unbelief by urging Him to show His miracles to the world. They maintained that a true prophet would not remain secret so He should go to Judea to the Feast of Tabernacles. But Jesus informed them that His time had not yet come. It wasn't the time for Him to suffer and die for the sins of the people, so He would not go with them to the feast. The world hated Jesus because He testified that their works were evil, but His brothers hadn't embraced Jesus, so they were not hated. Still later, Jesus and His disciples did go to the feast almost in secret.

The people attending the Feast of Tabernacles talked about Jesus. They asked where He was because the people were divided about Him. Some said that He was good, and others said that He deceived the people. Still, no one dared to show any commitment to Jesus for fear of the Jews. Near the middle of the feast, Jesus went to the temple and taught. His teaching was so remarkable that the people marveled. They questioned where He had received His training that He could speak with such wisdom about the Scriptures. Jesus answered their question by declaring, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority” (John 7:16-17). In their resistance to the Lord the Jews boasted of their commitment to the Law of Moses. But Jesus reminded them that they did not obey the Law of Moses because they wanted to kill Him. Then they accused Jesus of having a demon. The law of life was evident. Either people knew Jesus and loved Him, or they hated Him and wanted to put Him to death. Some said, “Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?” (John 7:26). Others sought to take Him and kill Him. Still, no one laid a finger on Him because His time had not yet come. The Father continued to watch over Him.

The division of attitudes toward the Christ became more pronounced. Some people said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than those which this Man has done?” (John 7:31). This angered the Pharisees, and they went to the chief priests who agreed to send soldiers to take Him. Jesus then warned that they would seek Him but not find Him. They refused to acknowledge that God had sent Jesus, so when they would look for the Messiah, they would not find Him. Now on the last day of the feast the excitement grew

6. What did the people who believed in Jesus say about Him? (John 7:31)

7. What did the Pharisees and chief priests send officers to do to Jesus? (John 7:32)

8. What will flow from the hearts of those who believe in Jesus? (John 7:38)

Lesson 2

Come to Save

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 11

Scripture: John 8

Memory Verse: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.’” (John 8:28-29)

Lesson Truth: The Christ came to save our life.

Lesson

When the scribes and Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman caught in adultery, we see the purpose of His coming. He came to seek and to save those who are lost. In contrast to the Lord’s grace, we see the legalism of the Jewish authorities. When these legalistic authorities tried to trap Jesus with a question about the Law, He ignored them. As they pressed Him to respond to the requirements of the Law, He said that anyone without sin should throw the first stone to kill this woman. When no one threw a stone, Jesus said that the woman should go and not sin anymore. He had come to set sinners free!

After the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus spent the night on the Mount of Olives. Now at dawn the next morning He returned to the temple where he again taught the people. As He was busy teaching, some scribes and Pharisees dragged a woman to Jesus and placed her at His feet. They reported that they had caught this woman in the act of adultery. They reminded Jesus that the Law of Moses required stoning for anyone caught in such a sin. Now they asked what Jesus would do. They knew that Jesus had repeatedly shown that He was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Would He dare to go against the Law of Moses?

The Lord Jesus saw through the duplicity of the scribes and Pharisees immediately. He knew that they were trying to trap Him. So, He acted as if He didn’t hear them and simply wrote on the ground with His finger. It was not the Lord’s task to judge, nor would He allow them to deny His grace. He knew their hypocrisy and their evil hearts. Yet Jesus also knew that He came to make atonement for the sins that live in the hearts of all men. Jesus did not ignore the scribes and Pharisees because He didn’t know what to do. He kept silent as He suffered under the burden of such hardened hearts.

No doubt the scribes and Pharisees thought that they really had trapped Jesus. So, they continued to press Him for an answer. Imagine their chagrin when Jesus stood up and basically agreed with the Law, with one major condition. He said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first” (John 8:7). In this way, the Lord made them aware of their own sins and hypocrisy. How could the scribes and Pharisees condemn a woman for a sin when they were sinners themselves? The challenge that Jesus made had the desired effect. One by one, the accusers left until Jesus was alone with the woman. Each of the accusers was shamed into realizing that he was a sinner. However, this was not a genuine cry for the mercy of God’s grace. Only a humble confession of a contrite heart can make us right with God.

When Jesus was finally alone with the woman He asked her, “Has no one condemned you?” (John 8:10). The woman answered, “No one Lord.” Jesus then said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more” (John 8:11). In this way the Lord showed the true purpose of His coming as the Redeemer. He came to seek and to save the lost. The grace of God was showered on this woman. But the truth is that we all need that same grace because we have all sinned and fall short of glorifying God.

The fact that this woman was forgiven left questions regarding the Law of Moses. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. Then why did the Old Testament Law require such severe punishment for the sin of adultery? This requirement was to teach Israel the strict demands God’s righteousness. It was to

show how His judgment would come upon our sins. Our only escape from these judgments is through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Redeemer. Christ Jesus fulfilled the purpose of the Law of Moses on the cross when He atoned for our sins. That is why Jesus could say to those who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32)/ Sadly, the devil kept elders from understanding the truth about grace. Those people are doomed who do not believe the Lord’s Word of grace. Do you believe that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost by His grace?

Questions

1. Who came to Jesus bringing a woman that was caught in the act of adultery? (John 8:3)
2. According to this group what did the Law of Moses say should be done with such a sinner? (John 8:5)
3. What did Jesus pretend as He wrote on the ground? (John 8:6)
4. Who did Jesus say should throw the first stone at the sinful woman? (John 8:7)
5. What did Jesus tell the woman when she said that no one had condemned her? (John 8:11)
6. What did Jesus declare Himself to be, so believers would not walk in darkness? (John 8:12)

7. According to Jesus, what shows that believers are His disciples? (John 8:31)

8. According to the Lord's words what must we know that will set us free? (John 8:32)

Lesson 3

Come For Judgment

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 12

Scripture: John 9

Memory Verse: “And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.’” (John 9:2-3)

Lesson Truth: Through the Christ the blind receive their sight and those who see become blind.

Lesson

In John 3:17 we read, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” In today’s lesson we read John 9:39 which says, “And Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into the world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may be made blind.’” The story about the healing of the man born blind helps us understand that Jesus surely did come into the world that the world through Him might be saved. But it also helps us understand that Jesus came to judge those who refuse to believe. Jesus had to help His disciples understand that God’s judgments are not the results of a specific sin. By opening the eyes of this blind man, Jesus revealed that He could give sight to those who do not see. He also warned that He sends a judgment of blindness to those who think they see.

The hostility to the Lord Jesus continued to grow in Jerusalem. As the Jews exchanged with Jesus in the temple, they became so angry that they wanted to stone Him. But it was not yet the Lord’s time. Now as He and His disciples left the temple, they saw a blind man. This man had been blind from birth. The Lord used this occasion to help His disciples with a common misunderstanding. When they saw the blind man, they asked Jesus who had sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind. They had the mistaken idea that every disability was the result of a certain sin. But in His response to the disciples, the Lord revealed that God does not send a judgment for each specific sin. Jesus told the disciples that, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him’ (John 9:3). To be sure all the misery we see in life is the result of sin, but it is the corporate sins of mankind. Christ came to take away that guilt and remove all misery in His Kingdom. This grace of the Lord Jesus is what was displayed in healing this man.

The Lord then made some clay with saliva and put it on the blind man’s eyes. He then instructed him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. Even in this instruction, the Lord was teaching His disciples. Siloam meant sent, and by going to Siloam the man would be given his sight. In that same way, Christ Jesus was sent by the Father and from Him we receive our sight. That is the sight to know that Jesus is the Redeemer. The man went and washed at the pool of Siloam as Jesus had instructed and came back able to see. Instead of returning to Jesus to acknowledge that he recognized the Redeemer, he went home and shared his joy with his friends and family. Now these people were confronted with a miracle of the Redeemer. Would they believe that Jesus could make the blind see? Some of them said that it was not the blind man, but it was a double. But the man insisted that he was the man who had been blind from birth. So, they asked him how his eyes were opened. He told them that a man made some clay with saliva and anointed his eyes and then told him to wash at Siloam. When he washed his eyes, he received his sight. Now the friends and family brought him to the Pharisees who also asked who had given him his sight. He repeated his account of being anointed with clay and washing in the pool of Siloam.

When the Pharisees heard how the man received his sight, they were convinced that Jesus was not a man of God. In their minds He could not be a man from God because He had healed the man on the Sabbath Day. Still others asked, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” (John 9:16). So, the Pharisees asked

the man who had been blind what He thought about the one who gave him his sight. He did not hesitate to say, "He is a prophet" (John 9:17). Now the Jews questioned the honesty of the man who had been healed. They hinted that he probably never was blind. So, they called his parents and asked if this was their son who was blind and now claimed to be healed. The parents verified their son's claim. They said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind" (John 9:20). But they would not answer how he was healed because the Jews had said that anyone who said that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.

Now the Pharisees pressed the man to declare that God had healed him and not Jesus. They declared Jesus to be a sinner. At this the man professed his faith in the Lord Jesus saying, "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing" (John 9:33). Because of his words he was cast out of the synagogue. Later, when Jesus asked him if he believed in the Son of God, he responded, "Lord I believe!" (John 9:38). It was then that Jesus made it clear that He came into the world for judgment. In the economy of His kingdom, He could make the blind to see and He could make those who think they see, blind! Pray that Jesus will help us to understand our blindness to the truth of His word, and by His grace give us sight!

Questions

1. How long had the man in this story been blind? (John 9:1)
2. What question did Jesus' disciples ask about this man? (John 9:2)
3. According to Jesus who had sinned? (John 9:3)
4. What did Jesus do to heal the man of his blindness? (John 9:6-7)
5. To whom did they bring the man who had been blind? (John 9:13)

Lesson 4

The Good Shepherd

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 13

Scripture: John 10

Memory Verse: “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.” (John 10:16-17)

Lesson Truth: The Christ is the Good Shepherd.

Lesson

Jesus used two figures of speech when he referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd and as the door of the sheep. These two figures of speech are related as they both refer to sheep. One refers to a shepherd tending his sheep and the other the entrance by which a sheep enters the fold. Jesus said that His sheep listen to His voice and also that He is the door by which His sheep enter the fold. A good shepherd is willing to give his life for his sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gives His sheep eternal life.

The hostility toward Jesus increased after He healed the man who was born blind. In answer to the hostility of the Jews, Jesus spoke to them in figures of speech. He used the figures of the door of a sheepfold and also the shepherd who tends the sheep. These were figures that shepherds from Palestine could understand. But the truth is that at first, they did not understand. It was only after Jesus told them plainly that He was the Good Shepherd that they took up stones to stone Him.

The first illustration that Jesus used was about someone who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs in some other way. Such a person is a thief and a robber. At the same time, the one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The sheep hear the voice of the shepherd because he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. It is the shepherd that the sheep will follow because they know his voice. The sheep will flee from a stranger because they do not know his voice. Jesus then claimed that He was the door by which the sheep enter the fold. He insisted that all who came before Him and tried to make claims about the kingdom were thieves and robbers. They were men who were motivated by self-interest and in the process hindered the sheep. They were men who tried to lead the people away from Jesus just as a thief leads the sheep away from the shepherd.

To add credibility to His claim that He was the Good Shepherd, Jesus told of the sacrifice a shepherd will make for his sheep. The shepherd is willing to give his life for his sheep to save them from the harm of wolves. But an imposter or a hired man will run for his life when a wolf comes, and the sheep will scatter. Jesus then told of being the Good Shepherd in an eternal sense when He said that the Father knew Him. Not only did the Father know Him, but He also knew the Father. Even more He said the He laid down His life for His sheep. Because He lay down His life for His sheep, the Father loved Him. The Lord's giving of His life for His sheep was voluntary. No one took His life. He gave it freely, for He had the power to lay it down or to take it up. Still, Jesus did as the Father commanded.

The Lord then added some wonderful news about the gospel. He said that He had other sheep that were not of this fold. This was His way of saying that salvation was for Jews and Gentiles alike. There were Gentiles that would hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and would become part of the one flock.

When the Jews heard His claim to be the Good Shepherd there was a division among them. Some of them said He had a demon and was mad. They asked why anyone should listen to Him. Others said that these were not the words of someone who had a demon. How could someone who had a demon open the eyes of the blind? They were all confronted with claims and the love of the Good Shepherd. Some would

Lesson 5

The Resurrection and the Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 14

Scripture: John 11

Memory Verse: “Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said: ‘Father I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.’” (John 11:41-42)

Lesson Truth: The Christ is the resurrection and the life.

Lesson

In response to Martha’s confession that she believed her brother would rise at the resurrection, Jesus said that He was the Resurrection and the Life. He told His disciples that Lazarus was allowed to die so that God’s glory might be revealed. When the disciples cowered in fear about going back to Jerusalem, Jesus assured them that those who walk in the day will not stumble. The Lord could declare that He who believed in Him would never die. He then showed His victory over death by calling Lazarus to come from the grave. The story of raising Lazarus from the dead concludes with the Sanhedrin determined to put Jesus to death. In planning to kill Jesus the high priest was allowed to speak prophetically without realizing it when he said, “It is expedient for us that one man should die for the people” (John 11:50).

After the Jews in Jerusalem showed a militant hostility to Jesus, He and His disciples spent time in the area where John the Baptist had preached. While they were there, they received the notice that Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, was very sick. They no doubt thought that Jesus would come immediately because He had a close relationship with this brother and his sisters. However, when Jesus received this message, He said something amazing that showed that He knew what He was going to do. He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (John 11:4). The Lord then purposely postponed going to Bethany for two more days. He knew that He was going to work one of His greatest miracles in the shadows of Jerusalem. This miracle would crystallize the determination of the Sanhedrin to put Jesus to death.

Two days after Jesus received the message about Lazarus’ illness, He said to His disciples that He wanted to return to Judea. The disciples cringed when they heard this and reminded Jesus that it was in Judea that the people sought to stone Him. Jesus pointed out that He was walking in the way of the Father, and nothing would happen to Him until the Father’s appointed time. He talked about there being twelve hours in a day, and that those who walk in the daylight will not stumble. The Lord also talked to His disciples about Lazarus. He told them that Lazarus was asleep. When the disciples misunderstood what He said He told them plainly that Lazarus was dead. He added that He was glad that He had not been there, because He would do something to help them believe. Then as Jesus set out to go to Bethany, Thomas said to the other disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him” (John 11:16). The Lord in His grace would show His disciples that He had the power over death because He lived in communion with the Father.

When Jesus and His disciples reached Bethany, they were informed that Lazarus died and had been in the tomb four days. Martha met Jesus and said, “Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died” (John 11:21). Jesus then assured Martha that her brother would rise again. Martha responded in faith that she believed in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus then said something incredible for all believers! He said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:25-26). The Lord then went to the tomb of Lazarus and against the protest of Martha had them roll away the stone covering the tomb. He called in a loud voice, “Lazarus come forth!” (John 11:43). And this dead man came forth wrapped in grave clothes. Jesus showed that He had the power over death.

Many of the Jews who saw this miracle now believed in Jesus. This brought a crisis to the members of the Sanhedrin who were concerned for their positions of authority. In their hastily called meeting, they discussed what could be done because this miracle would cause all the people to believe in Jesus. The high priest, Caiaphas, out of his hatred and animosity for Jesus, then spoke prophetically. He said, "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish" (John 11:49-50). Although the high priest did not believe, the Holy Spirit permitted Him to make a prophetic statement. At this meeting of the Sanhedrin, it was determined that Jesus must die. All they had to do was decide how and when, and Judas would help them with their plan.

Believers can take comfort in knowing that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. And that whoever believes in Him shall never die. Do you believe this?

Questions

1. Who was the brother of Mary and Martha that was sick? (John 11:1)
2. According to Jesus this sickness was not unto death, but what was its purpose? (John 11:4)
3. Why were the disciples afraid to have Jesus return to Judea? (John 11:7-8)
4. When Jesus came to Bethany how long had Lazarus been in the tomb? (John 11:17)
5. What did Martha confess about the last day? (John 11:24)

Lesson 6

The Reproducing Kernel of Wheat

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 15

Scripture: John 12:20-33

Memory Verse: “But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much grain.” (John 12:23-24)

Lesson Truth: The Christ is like the fruit-bearing of wheat.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus explained the necessity of His death by using the illustration of a kernel of wheat dying so it can produce grain. Jesus used this illustration in response to some Greeks who wanted to see Him. This illustration pointed out the law of God’s Kingdom. In God’s Kingdom it is necessary to die like a kernel of wheat in order to produce fruit. Christ’s asked that the Father be glorified instead of asking to be saved from the death of the cross. Jesus then signified that He would be lifted up on a cross to die, and the fruit of His crucifixion would be to draw all men to Himself.

Once again the Lord withdrew after He raised Lazarus from the dead. Six days before the feast, He returned to Bethany and the following Sunday He rode into Jerusalem in a triumphal entry. The people were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (John 12:13). This made the elders in Jerusalem more resentful and bitter each day. The Pharisees came to the conclusion that that only the death of Jesus would stop the people from following Him. Then something out of the ordinary happened. Some Greeks were worshiping at the feast and wanted to see Jesus. These Greeks had not converted to Judaism, so they were not incorporated into the covenant. They had to remain in the outer court of the temple. The Greeks asked Philip of Bethsaida if he could arrange for them to see the Lord because they did not dare to address Jesus themselves. Philip was also hesitant to interrupt Jesus, so he went to Andrew and the two of them approached Jesus.

When Jesus heard about the request that came from the Greeks, He told Philip and Andrew that the hour had come that the Son of Man should be glorified. He knew by this request that the day was coming when Gentiles as well as Jews would seek the Kingdom of God. They likely came to Jesus seeking wisdom, beauty, and peace, but these things would be revealed in a much different way than they expected. Still, the law of God’s Kingdom says that a life of wisdom, beauty, and peace can only come through death. In order to explain how this law works, Jesus said it was like a grain of wheat. The farmer knows that if he wants to grow a crop of wheat, he must scatter the wheat grains in the soil. These grains must then die to produce new grain in abundance. That is the law of God’s Kingdom. “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25). God’s people must be ready to give their lives for the sake of the Kingdom because it is in death that new life is born.

The Lord knew that new life would be born from his death, yet He was troubled. He asked, “What shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour?” (John 12:27). But He knew that He came to earth to give his life. So instead of asking to be saved from death, the Lord asked that the Father would glorify His name. The Father responded with a voice from heaven that said, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again” (John 12:28).

When the crowd heard this voice from heaven they thought it had thundered. A few of them said that an angel spoke to Jesus. Jesus then assured the people that the voice did not come for His sake, but for their sakes. This voice from heaven was to help them prepare for the events that were coming. Now the Lord indicated that He was ready for death and judgment. But He was also ready to cast out Satan, the ruler of

this world. Jesus knew that by His death there would be an abundant harvest of new life. He said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself” (John 12:32). He was the kernel that would die in order to produce much fruit for His Kingdom!

Questions

1. Who were the Gentiles that came to the feast to worship? (John 12:20)
2. With whom did these Gentiles share their request to see Jesus? (John 12:21)
3. According to Jesus what hour had come? (John 12:23)
4. What must occur to a grain of wheat before it can produce more wheat? (John 12:24)
5. According to the Lord’s words what will happen to the one who loves his life? (John 12:25)
6. Instead of asking to be saved from His death, what did Jesus ask the Father? (John 12:27-28a)

7. What did the people believe the voice from heaven to be? (John 12:29)

8. What will happen when Jesus is lifted up from the earth? (John 12:32)

Lesson 7

Love to the End

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 16

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Memory Verse: “Peter said to Him, ‘You shall never wash my feet!’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.’ Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!’” (John 13:8-9)

Lesson Truth: In the foot washing the Christ reveals the full extent of His love.

Lesson

Jesus was at the Passover Feast with His disciples. He knew that His time of suffering had come and that He would depart from this world. At a time when we would think the Lord would be absorbed with the prospect of His own suffering, we read that He loved His own to the end. He was willing to show His true humility by washing the disciples’ feet. This was not only an act of courtesy to a guest, but it was also a sign of the washing away of sins. As Jesus took on the servant role in washing His disciples’ feet, He called on them to follow His example and be ready to wash one another’s feet.

The closer the Lord came to His time of suffering and death, the more He wanted to show His love for His disciples. Now on Thursday of the Passion Week He was gathered with His disciples in the upper room to eat the Passover meal. As the Lord and His disciples entered the upper room there was a jar of water and a basin there. But there was no servant to do the menial task of washing the feet when the meal participants entered. It was the custom in that day that people would bathe before they went to an occasion such as the Passover Feast. However, as they walked to the feast their feet would become dusty. Therefore, a servant would usually wash the guest’s feet as they entered.

On this occasion, no servant was there and none of the disciples were ready to assume the role of a servant. Instead of assuming the role of a servant, the disciples had argued about who was the greatest among them. Apparently, they all sat at the table with unwashed feet feeling somewhat neglected. Still, no one volunteered to do this task for the others or even to wash the Lord’s feet. It is significant that John records here that the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus knowing His betrayer also knew that the Father had given all things into His hands. He knew that He had come from God and would return to God. Now as the Redeemer and Lord who would be betrayed, He rose and took off His outer garment in preparation to be the servant.

With His outer garment removed, the Lord poured water into a basin and wrapped a towel around Himself. He then knelt and began to wash His disciple’s feet. The Lord knew how the hearts of the disciples each wanted to be the most important and that such hearts would be lost like Judas. So, He reached out in love and demonstrated the servant heart that was needed in His Kingdom. His love showed that the Lord was ready to give everything without expecting anything in return. The Lord Jesus broke the power of the sin of selfishness by this act of humiliation.

One after another Jesus washed the disciple’s feet without any of them offering to do this menial task for Him. That is until He came to Simon Peter. Peter could not stand to see the Lord doing this humble service. Still, he did not offer to do it for Him. Instead, he insisted that he would not allow the Lord to do this servant’s task for him. Jesus answered that what He was doing Peter did not understand yet, but there was a time coming when he would understand. Still Peter insisted, “You shall never wash my feet!” (John 13:8). Then Jesus told Peter that the foot washing was symbolic of his need for daily washing away of his sins. Without this washing he could not be part of the Lord Jesus. Because Peter desperately wanted to be part of the Lord, he responded by saying, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!” (John 13:9).

After the Lord completed the foot-washing task, He asked His disciples if they knew what He had done. He told them that He had set an example for them. As their Teacher and Lord, He had washed His disciples' feet. In that same way He wanted them to wash one another's feet. Jesus did not mean that they should occasionally do a good deed, but that they should learn to function as servants. By having a servant's heart, the disciples could break the power of sinful pride in the world. Jesus loved His disciples to the end. Through His love He showed them how to be humble servants. The Lord has sent His Holy Spirit so that it is also possible for us to be His servants in the world.

Questions

1. Before the feast of the Passover, what hour had come for Jesus? (John 13:1)
2. Into whose heart had the devil put the desire to betray Jesus? (John 13:2)
3. From where had Jesus come and to where was He going? (John 13:3)
4. What unusual thing did Jesus do as the disciples' Teacher and Lord? (John 13:5)
5. Which disciple at first would not allow Jesus to wash his feet? (John 13:8)
6. What did Jesus tell this disciple he would have no part of unless he was washed? (John 13:8b)

7. What did this disciple then want to have washed in addition to his feet? (John 13:9)

8. Because Jesus washed the disciples' feet, what should they do for one another? (John 13:14)

Lesson 8

The Rock

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 17

Scripture: John 18:1-27

Memory Verse: “Jesus answered him, ‘I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in the synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.’” (John 18:20-21)

Lesson Truth: In His suffering the Christ is the rock on which we may build.

Lesson

Jesus and His disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas knew where they were and led a squad of soldiers to arrest Jesus. However, instead of waiting for the soldiers to arrest Him, Jesus went out to meet them and surrendered willingly. As the soldiers led Jesus to the high priest, Peter followed at a distance. When he was asked if he was one of the Lord’s disciples, he denied knowing Jesus. As the high priests questioned Him, Jesus confessed that He openly spoke the truth of the Kingdom. Although Peter fell when he denied the Lord, he later repented and was restored.

The Lord knew that His hour had come. It was the time that the Father determined that He should yield to the suffering and death of His enemies. That is why Jesus went to meet Judas and the squad of soldiers when they came to arrest Him. He asked them, “Whom are you seeking?” (John 18:4). When they answered that they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth, He told them, “I am He” (John 18:6). This caused the soldiers to draw back and fall to the ground. It was evident that the soldiers had no power to arrest Jesus unless God permitted it. When they said a second time that they were looking for Jesus, He told them again that He was Jesus. He then asked that they arrest only Him and allow the disciples to go their way.

The disciples did not understand the need for the Lord to surrender to the soldiers. They did not realize that this was the time appointed by the Father for Jesus to suffer and die. Peter decided to fight to prevent Jesus from being arrested. So, he took out his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the High priest. When Jesus saw Peter’s resistance, He commanded him to put his sword back into its sheath. He indicated that He was ready to drink the cup which the Father had given Him. Now the soldiers arrested Jesus and bound Him like a criminal. They took Him to the house of Annas where Caiaphas the high priest was also present. Peter followed at a distance to see what would happen to Jesus. When they came to the courtyard outside Annas’ house Peter was first prevented from entering. Another disciple convinced the girl that was keeping the door to let him in. When Peter came in, the girl questioned if he was one of the Lord’s disciples. In response, Peter denied that he was a disciple of Jesus.

As Peter warmed himself by the fire in the courtyard, Annas and Caiaphas questioned Jesus. They asked Him about His disciples and His doctrine. They wanted to know what kind of secret doctrines He was teaching. And with whom was He conspiring to undermine the authority of the Sanhedrin and the Romans. In response to their questions Jesus did not deny that He was the Redeemer. He confessed freely that everything He taught, He taught openly in the synagogues and the temple the places where the Jews meet. He assured them that He said nothing in secret. He advised them to ask those who heard Him teach because they knew what He had said. This confession indicated that Jesus was the rock on which life was built. Only by faith in Christ the rock would Simon become Peter, which means rock.

One of the officers who heard what Jesus said struck Him with the palm of his hand and scolded Jesus saying, “Do You answer a high priest like that?” (John 18:22). Jesus then asked that he tell Him what evil thing He had said. However, if what He spoke was true, why did he strike Him? As Peter witnessed these things, he denied that he knew Jesus two more times. After his third denial, the rooster crowed, and Peter

remembered the words of Jesus. Now he understood that the Lord's warning of his denial was an act of love. This brought Peter to repentance and forgiveness. Through this suffering Christ showed Himself to be the rock on which His people may build.

Questions

1. Who did the Lord tell to put his sword into the sheath? (John 18:11)
2. What did the detachment of troops and the captain come to do? (John 18:12)
3. To whose house did the soldiers first take Jesus? (John 18:13)
4. Who was the disciple that followed Jesus to the courtyard of the high priest? (John 18:15)
5. What did the servant girl ask this disciple? (John 18:17)
6. What was this disciple's answer to the servant girl? (John 18:7)

7. What was the Lord's answer to the charge that He taught in secret? (John 18:20)

8. What did the officer do to Jesus when He answered the high priests? (John 18:22)

Lesson 9

Not of this World

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 18

Scripture: John 18:28–19:16

Memory Verse: “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’” (John 18:36)

Lesson Truth: Rejecting the Christ means rejecting the Kingdom of heaven.

Lesson

The Kingdom of our Lord is not of this world; it is a Kingdom of truth and of heaven. Jesus submitted to the indignity of a trial when He had done no wrong. He reminded the Roman governor that he had no power over Him except the power that God gave him. Jesus did not deny being a king, but said that His Kingdom was not of this world. Christ’s Kingdom has its origin in the grace of God. The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus as king and insisted that they had no king but Caesar.

Jesus went from the questioning of Annas and Caiaphas to the Jewish Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin concluded that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy, and therefore He should be put to death. They wanted Him to die by crucifixion, which was the Roman method of execution. However, Jews were not allowed to impose that kind of death sentence in a province governed by Rome. For that reason, they brought Jesus to the Praetorium, which was the palace where the Roman governor stayed when he was in Jerusalem. The Jews were so committed to keeping the letter of the Law that they did not enter the Praetorium. There may have been unleavened bread at this palace, and this would defile the Jews and prohibit them from eating the Passover. Still, they were intent on putting an innocent Man to death. The Roman governor, Pilate, accommodated them and came out to see them. He asked what accusation they brought against Jesus in order to determine if the charges were worthy of death. The Jewish leaders arrogantly replied, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you” (John 18:30). They wanted Pilate to take their word, that Jesus was worthy of death. When Pilate suggested that they try Him themselves; their real motive became evident. The Jews said that their laws did not allow them to crucify anyone. Counter to what the Jews thought, Jesus had to be crucified because that was what He prophesied would be His manner of death.

The Jewish leaders then shared with Pilate the accusation they brought against Him. They said that He claimed to be the King of the Jews. Upon hearing this Pilate brought Jesus into the Praetorium and asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” (John 18:33). Jesus responded by asking Pilate if this was really a question he had or if someone suggested it to him. Pilate then became defensive and told Jesus that His own people and chief priest accused Him. Jesus then shared the truth with Pilate. He told Him that His Kingdom was not of this world. If His Kingdom were of this world His servants would fight to deliver Him from the Jews. But since His Kingdom is a heavenly Kingdom, His servants did not fight. When Pilate asked if He really was a king; Jesus answered that He was. He came into the world to usher in the Kingdom of truth and everyone who is of the truth, believes that the Lord Jesus is the King of Kings. Pilate then asked, “What is truth?” (John 18:38).

After this encounter, Pilate went out and told the Jews that he could find no fault in Jesus. He then tried to escape making a judgment by offering to free Jesus as the criminal to be freed as a Passover custom. But the Jews cried out that Barabbas should be released rather than Jesus. So, Pilate treated Jesus as a convicted criminal and had Him scourged. He allowed the soldiers to put a purple robe on Him and a crown of thorns on His head. This was done to mock His claim to be the King of the Jews. Pilate brought Jesus in this mock attire to face the crowd. When the people saw Him, they cried out with a frenzy! “Crucify Him! Crucify

Him!” (John 19:6). The Jews then informed Pilate that Jesus said that He was the Son of God. This made Pilate afraid, so he once again addressed Jesus and asked Him where He was from. Jesus did not respond to this question. Pilate told Jesus that he had the power to either crucify or release Him. Jesus then informed Pilate that he had no power except that which God had given to him.

Because Pilate never knew about God’s covenant relationship with His people and Caiaphas did, Jesus said Caiaphas had committed the grater sin. Pilate then tried to find a way to release Jesus. But the people shouted that if he released Jesus, he was not a friend of Caesar. Because it was the day of preparation for the Passover, Pilate brought Jesus out again and said to the people, “Behold your King!” (John 19:14). At this suggestion their emotions again erupted in a cry of vengeance saying, Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” (John 19:15). Pilate asked, “Shall I crucify your King?” (John 19:15) The chief priests then answered for the people that they had no king but Caesar! With this choice they rejected Christ Jesus. But rejecting the Christ meant that they also rejected the Kingdom of heaven. Are you a citizen of the Lord’s Kingdom, the Kingdom that is not of this world?

Questions

1. After Jesus was questioned by Annas and Caiaphas, where did the Sanhedrin take Him? (John 18:28)
2. What question did Pilate ask as he went out to those who brought Jesus? (John 18:29)
3. Why did the Jews want Pilate to judge Jesus instead of judging Him themselves? (John 18:31)
4. According to Jesus’ words what is true about His Kingdom? (John 18:36)
5. Whom did the people want to be released instead of Jesus? (John 18:40)

Lesson 10

The Love Offering

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 19

Scripture: John 19:17-42

Memory Verse: “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.” (John 19:28-29)

Lesson Truth: Christ brings His love offering.

Lesson

The gospel of John describes the love offering Christ brought when He suffered and died on the cross. In His suffering, the Scripture was fulfilled that said the soldiers would cast lots for His garments. It was fulfilled when He said, “I thirst!” (John 19:28). It was also fulfilled when the soldiers saw that it wasn’t necessary to break the Lord’s legs and when they pierced His side. Jesus showed His love for His mother when He told her to look at John as her son, and He told John to look at Mary as his mother. The Lord’s love was evident in the lives of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, two hidden disciples, when they came to bury His body.

After the chief priests rejected the Lord Jesus by insisting that they had no king but Caesar, Pilate delivered Him to be crucified. The soldiers took Him out to a place called Golgotha, where they crucified Him between two thieves. Pilate printed the title, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews,” in three languages and posted it over His cross (John 19:19). This irritated the Jews, so they asked Pilate to change the sign to read, “He said I am the King of the Jews” (John 19:21). But Pilate was also irritated because he was forced to convict Christ, so he responded, “What I have written, I have written” (John 19:22). Then, in the presence of the dying Jesus, the soldiers cast lots for His clothing. This was a fulfillment of the Scripture from Psalm 22 that says, “They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots” (John 19:24). Jesus showed His love by being willing to suffer in order to purchase the right to have His people love Him.

The scene of the Lord’s mother at the cross is a touching scene of sorrow and grief. Yet even as Jesus suffered, He brought consolation to His mother. He knew that His thirty-three-year relationship with His mother was ending, but He provided for her in a unique way. He saw the disciple John whom Jesus loved standing there and said to his mother, “Woman behold your son!” He then addressed John and said, “Behold your mother!” (John 19:26-27). The Lord forgot His own suffering in order to place His mother in John’s care. Jesus earned the right to establish eternal, spiritual relationships that can never be broken.

Everything prophesied concerning the earthly life of Jesus had been accomplished. Now that the Scripture might be fulfilled in this also, Jesus said, “I thirst!” (John 19:28). The soldiers offered Him a sour wine, which was different from the drugged wine that He had refused earlier. He refused the drugged wine because He wanted to be fully conscious in His suffering. But He did take a sip of this wine to relieve the incredible thirst that accompanies crucifixion. After Jesus had taken a sip of this wine from the sponge on the hyssop, He said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). Jesus fulfilled every command of His Father and every prophecy of Scripture. As He voluntarily died, His exclamation that it was finished was not a cry of exhaustion, but of completion. He had done everything required to pay the awful penalty for sin.

Now because it was the Preparation Day for the Sabbath the bodies of those crucified had to be removed from the cross before sunset. Even though Jews had committed a judicial murder they were intent on keeping the Ceremonial Law. Therefore, the soldiers went to break the legs of the criminals that were crucified to make sure they were dead. However, when they came to Jesus, they found that He was already

Lesson 11

The Resurrection of Love

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 20

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Memory Verse: “Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ Mary came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.” (John 20:17-18)

Lesson Truth: In the Christ love has arisen.

Lesson

The focus of this lesson is the love that Christ showed to His disciples and to Mary when he rose from the dead. Jesus drew Peter and John to Him and brought them to a new faith in the resurrected Lord. He also brought Mary Magdalene to faith in the risen Lord according to His Word.

Christ Jesus had cast seven demons from Mary Magdalene; therefore, she had a special bond with Him. Only Jesus could bind those evil spirits. Because Jesus had freed her from this demonic power, she clung to Him. Mary wanted to be in the presence of the Lord. She found assurance by being in His presence. The Lord loved Mary and sought her even after He rose from the dead. After Jesus died and was buried Mary was troubled and could not wait to go out to the tomb early in the morning on the first day of the week. It was Christ’s love that drew her to the tomb, and it was Christ’s love that would bring Mary to faith in His Word. Because of His love, she would find her assurance in the Word of the Lord rather than in His presence. The wonder of Christ’s love is that it also reaches out to us and allows us to find our assurance in the promises of His Word.

Mary was the first to arrive at the Lord’s tomb on the first day of the week. When she arrived, she saw the stone rolled away from the entrance. Her initial reaction was to hurry back to Jerusalem and tell the disciples that they had taken the Lord’s body and she did not know where they had laid Him. This prompted Peter and John to run out to the tomb to see for themselves. John arrived at the tomb ahead of Peter and when he looked into the tomb, he saw the grave clothes folded in an orderly way. It did not appear that the Lord’s grave had been desecrated. This helped John to remember that the Lord had spoken about His resurrection. Christ’s love would draw John first and later the other disciples to faith in the Word of God. Faith in the Scriptures as God’s revelation to men would give the disciples the power to witness.

John followed Peter into the tomb and when he saw the linens, he was given the grace to believe. The Lord’s love that had drawn John to believe would conquer the world. This love also gives us the grace to believe the Scriptures and the power to be His witnesses. Peter’s denial still hindered him from believing in the resurrection. But Christ’s love would also draw him to see that his sins were forgiven and that his Lord had risen from the dead. The love of Jesus not only drew Peter to believe in the resurrection, but it also liberated his entire life. Christ’s love also liberates us to believe in His resurrection.

After the disciple left the tomb, Mary stayed behind and wept. As she stooped down to look into the tomb, she saw two angels sitting there. One was at the head and the other at the feet of where Jesus had lain. Mary seemed to be unafraid of these angels as she quietly wept. When the angels asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” (John 20:13), she shared her crushed spirit. Mary had not yet been awakened to the joy of the resurrection. She responded to the angels that they had taken away her Lord, and she did not know where they laid Him. As she said this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there but was not aware that it was He. Jesus also asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” (John 20:15). Mary thought that He was the gardener, so she asked Him if He could tell her where they had put the Lord’s body. Now Jesus

reached out with love and compassion and said to her, “Mary!” (John 20:16). At the mention of her name, she recognized her Lord. She answered, “Rabboni!” (John 20:16), which means teacher.

Jesus then instructed Mary not to cling to his physical presence but to tell His disciples that He would ascend to the Father. By faith based on the Word of God, Mary Magdalene would proclaim that Christ Jesus would ascend to heaven. There He would bring His people into communion with His Father. His Father would be their Father. His God would be their God. Along with His physical resurrection the love of Jesus for His people had also arisen.

Questions

1. Who went to the tomb early on the first day of the week? (John 20:1)
2. When she found the tomb empty, to whom did she run to tell? (John 20:2)
3. Who ran to the tomb along with John? (John 20:4)
4. What was John’s response when he saw the grave clothes lying folded in the tomb? (John 20:7-8)
5. What was Mary doing as she stooped to look into the tomb? (John 20:11)
6. What question did the angels ask Mary? (John 20:13)

7. Who asked Mary the same question as the angels asked? (John 20:15)

8. What did Jesus ask Mary to tell His disciples? (John 20:17b)

Lesson 12

Christ, the Son of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 21

Scripture: John 20:19-29

Memory Verse: “Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him. ‘My Lord and My God!’” (John 20:27-28)

Lesson Truth: The revelation of the Risen One as the Christ, the Son of God.

Lesson

God’s people believe in the resurrection of the Christ because God’s Word said He would rise from the dead. His appearance on resurrection day only confirms that God’s Word is true. Today we will learn how the Lord showed Himself to His disciples on resurrection day, how He gave them His benediction and charged them with their mission in the world. We will also learn of His rebuke to Thomas for not believing until he saw the nail prints in the Lord’s hands and the sword pierced print in His side.

The record in John 20 of the resurrection of Jesus is the most stupendous revelation ever revealed to mankind. Mary Magdalene as well as the men from Emmaus had seen the Lord after He rose from the dead, and had spread the news of His resurrection. Later that day the disciples had gathered to discuss the report from Mary, which they hoped was true. The doors were shut in the place where the disciples were gathered because they were afraid of the Jews. Mary’s report seemed too good to be true. Would God raise Jesus Christ from the dead? As they sat there the disciples still did not share the victory of the resurrection and they were not prepared to fulfill their mission to tell others. Then it happened!

All of a sudden, with the doors locked, Jesus stood in the midst of the disciples and said to them; “Peace be with you” (John 20:19). The disciples should have known and believed that Jesus would rise from the dead because God’s Word said that He would. Still, they did not fully comprehend the truth of God’s Word. With a heart of compassion, the Lord Jesus showed the disciples the nail prints in His hands and the wound of the sword in His side. He did this only to confirm that the Word of God is true. By God’s grace the disciples now understood that the Lord was victorious over suffering and death. They also began to understand that the Lord’s victory over death was also their victory. Then Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you!” (John 20:21). This was much more than a wish that the disciples would have peace. Jesus, as the Lord, actually gave His peace to the disciples. He was now ready to commission them to do His work in the world.

Because the Lord Jesus gave His peace to the disciples they were no longer filled with fear. Now they were ready to bring the news of the Christ and His resurrection to the world. From the authority of His own commission the Lord commissioned the disciples. He said to them: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). Even more the Lord Jesus gave the disciples the power to fulfill their commission by breathing on them and telling them to receive the Holy Spirit. Because of the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word that the disciples would bring could free mankind from their sins, or it would condemn them. As God’s people, we can rejoice that the Word the disciples carried to the ends of the earth has been preserved in the words of Scripture. For us too, through the power of the Holy Spirit, this Word can free us from our sins, or it will condemn us.

What an experience this was for the disciples to have the Word of God confirmed by the presence of Jesus through His benediction and His gift of the Holy Spirit. But sadly, Thomas was not there that evening. Even worse Thomas would not believe the other disciples when they told him that they had seen Jesus. He

still wanted to trust his own sense of touch and sight rather than the Word of God. Only the grace of the Lord Jesus could bring Thomas to believe fully and completely in God's Word.

The Lord Jesus showed Thomas this grace a week later when He again appeared to the disciples while Thomas was with them. He asked Thomas to put his fingers into His nail prints and into the wound in His side. He then rebuked Thomas by saying, "Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27). Because of the Lord's rebuke Thomas saw that Jesus did confirm the Word of God. He now understood that God's Word told of the One sent from the Father. Now Thomas was able to confess to Jesus: "My Lord and My God!" (John 20:28). Jesus then left this admonition, not only Thomas, but for all mankind: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). You and I must also confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Questions

1. Why were the doors shut where the disciples were gathered on the evening of the resurrection? (John 20:19)
2. What did Jesus say when He appeared in the midst of the disciples? (John 20:19)
3. What was the reaction of the disciples when he showed them His hands and His side? (John 20:20)
4. According to Jesus who had sent Him to do the work of redemption? (John 20:21)
5. Who were sent by Jesus to do His work in the world? (John 20:21)

Lesson 13

His Bond to this Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 22

Scripture: John 21

Memory Verse: “Peter seeing him, said to Jesus, ‘But Lord, what about this man?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.’” (John 21:21-22)

Lesson Truth: After His resurrection Christ continued to be bound to this life.

Lesson

John tells us that this is now the third time that Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. In this last chapter of the book of John, we see the bond that Jesus had to this life. Not only did the Lord appear to His disciples, but He also revealed Himself to them. He revealed that He is the Lord who can and does bless the work of His people. He revealed that He was the Lord who enticed the disciples with His love. He was the Lord who could reinstate Peter to the office of disciple and apostle. He was the Lord that demonstrated that He is the sovereign ruler over all men. He also indicated that He is the Lord who has the authority to call men to follow Him.

This third time that Jesus showed Himself to His disciples took place at the Sea of Tiberias. They had returned to Galilee to wait for Jesus because He had said that He would see them there. In his impatience Peter decided to go fishing and a number of disciples agreed to go with him. After fishing all night without catching any fish, the disciples were returning to shore. As they came near, they saw a stranger on land. This stranger called out to them and asked if they had any fish that they could share for breakfast. When they replied that they had none, the stranger told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they did this, their nets were so filled with fish that they nearly broke. When John saw what had happened, he said to Peter that the stranger was the Lord. Peter recognized that it was only the Lord who could bless the work of common fishermen in this way. So, Peter put on his outer garment and jumped into the water and made his way to shore. When the disciples drew near the shore, they saw that the Lord had a fire of coals on which He was roasting some fish. Peter acted again when the Lord asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught. He dragged the net to shore and counted 153 fish. The disciples saw what happened yet none of them dared to ask Jesus if He was truly the Lord. Still, they knew that it was only the Lord who could bring such a blessing on their labors.

When the fish had been prepared Jesus served the disciples bread and fish. He was so near to them and yet He seemed to be so far from them that none of the disciples dared to ask if He was the Lord. Who was He to them? Would they as sinful men be allowed to love the Lord who had been victorious over sin and death? He drew them with His enticing love, yet they hardly dared to accept it.

At the end of the meal Jesus showed that He not only had gained the victory over sin and death, but He also had the authority to reinstate Peter to the office of apostle. First, He asked Peter if he loved Him more than the other disciples. Peter responded by saying that Jesus knew that he loved Him. Jesus then told Peter to feed His lambs. The Lord asked a second time if Peter loved Him. Again, Peter responded by saying, “Yes, Lord You know that I love You” (John 21:16). The Lord then told Peter to tend His sheep. “When the Lord asked Peter a third time if he loved Him, Peter was grieved. He responded with emphasis, “Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You” (John 21:17). Jesus then said to Peter, “Feed My sheep” (John 21:17). Being questioned three times was the Lord’s way of reinstating Peter as an apostle, Questioning Peter three times reminded him that he had denied the Lord three times.

Then the Lord warned Peter that when he was younger, he was allowed to live in freedom. He was allowed to go where he wanted to go. But now, in living under the command to follow Jesus, he would be taken

where he did not want to go. This was a prediction of the kind of death that Peter would die. Still, Peter was impetuous, and as he turned and saw John, he asked Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” (John 21:21). Wouldn’t he also have to follow Jesus and also die a martyr’s death? Jesus then indicated that He is the sovereign ruler of all life, by telling Peter; “If I will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me” (John 21:22). These were the ways that Jesus showed His bond to this life even after His resurrection. We must also be ready to heed Jesus’ call to follow Him.

Questions

1. Where was Jesus when He showed Himself a third time to His disciples? (John 21:1)
2. What did Simon Peter say he was going to do, that the others agreed to go with him? (John 21:3)
3. How many fish did the disciples catch throughout the night? (John 21:3b)
4. In the morning who was on the shore that the disciples did not recognize? (John 21:4)
5. What happened when the fishermen cast their nets on the other side of the boat? (John 21:6)
6. Who recognized that it was the Lord who told them to cast their nets on the other side? (John 21:7)

7. What did Peter answer the third time He was asked if he loved the Lord? (John 21:17)

8. What did Jesus answer when Peter asked Him about John's assignment? (John 21:22)