

**The Ministry of
the Lord Jesus-
Jesus Meets
All Man's Needs**

JESUS MEETS ALL MAN'S NEEDS

I. Jesus' Birth as the God-Man

- A. Born of a virgin (without a human father), He was a man - Luke 1:31
- B. Conceived of the Holy Spirit, He was God - Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35
- C. His name Jesus means He is the Savior to save us from our sins - Matt. 1:21, 25; Luke 1:31; 2:11, 21
- D. His name Emmanuel means God is with us to live in us - Matt. 1:23

II. Jesus' Childhood and Youth

- A. Blessed by Simeon in the Temple - Luke 2:22-35
- B. Recognized as the Redeemer by Anna - Luke 2:36-39
- C. Growing up in the grace of God - Luke 2:40
- D. Caring for His heavenly Father's business yet being subject to His earthly parents - Luke 2:41-52

III. Jesus' Baptism and Temptation

- A. John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus' coming
 - 1. warning the people of the coming wrath and telling them to repent of their sins and be baptized - Matt. 3:1-12
 - 2. telling people Jesus was "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" - John 1:29
- B. John baptized Jesus "to fulfill all righteousness," that is to show that Jesus buries all the old things and begins something new on the earth - Matt. 3:13-15
- C. God the Father approves His Son by pouring the Holy Spirit (as a dove) upon Him for His ministry - Matt. 3:16-17
- D. Satan comes to test Him, but Jesus passes the test - Matt. 4:1-11

Note: POINTS IN ALL CAPS ARE THE CRUCIAL POINTS FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS

IV. Jesus' Ministry

- A. Blessing the children - Mark 10:13-16
 - 1. Jesus wanted all the children to come to Him
 - 2. Jesus was displeased when the disciples kept the children away
 - 3. Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them
 - 4. **WE ARE ALL CHILDREN AND NEED TO COME TO JESUS SO HE CAN BLESS US**
- B. Healing the sick - Matt. 8:16-17; 15:30-31; Luke 6:17-19
 - 1. Healing Peter's mother-in-law of a fever - Luke 4:38-39
 - 2. Healing the lepers - Luke 5:12-15; 17:11-19
 - 3. Healing the blind man - Luke 18:35-43
 - 4. Healing the dying one - Luke 7:1-10
 - 5. **WE ARE ALL SICK AND DYING AND NEED JESUS TO HEAL US**

- C. Casting out demons - Mark 1:32-33; 3:10-11
 - 1. A man in the synagogue - Luke 4:33-37
 - 2. Legion of demons - Luke 8:26-39
 - 3. A man's son - Luke 9:37-43
 - 4. **ONLY JESUS CAN OVERCOME THE POWER OF SATAN IN THE DEMONS**
- D. Forgiving the sinners
 - 1. A paralyzed man - Luke 5:17-26
 - 2. A sinful woman - Luke 7:36-50
 - 3. Jesus come to call sinners to repentance so they may be forgiven - Luke 5:27-32
 - 4. **WE ARE ALL SINNERS AND NEED JESUS TO FORGIVE OUR SINS** - Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:9-10
- E. Raising the dead
 - 1. The dead son - Luke 7:11-17
 - 2. The dead girl - Luke 8:40-42, 49-56
 - 3. Lazarus - John 11:1-46
 - 4. **WE ARE ALL DEAD AND NEED JESUS TO GIVE US LIFE** - John 10:10b; 11:25

- V. His Crucifixion - Isa. 53; Luke 22:39-46
 - A. Betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, and forsaken by all the disciples - Matt. 26:14-16, 47-50, 55-56; Luke 22:54-62
 - B. Examined by the Jews' religion and the Romans' law, and found sinless - Mark 14:53-65; Luke 23:1-25
 - C. Suffering cruel treatment - Matt. 26:67-68; 27:26-31, 39-44; John 19:31-37; Isa. 53:5-8
 - D. Crucified between two thieves - Mark 15:27-28, 32b
 - E. Taking our place - 1 Peter 3:18
 - F. Bearing our sins - 1 Peter 2:24
 - G. Forsaken by God - Luke 23:44-45; Matt. 27:45-46, 50
 - H. Receiving our punishment - Isa. 53:4-6
 - I. **WE MUST BELIEVE AND RECEIVE THIS SAVIOR** - John 3:16; 1:12

*Note: For the details, see the chronology of events entitled
 "JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION IN THE FOUR GOSPELS"*

- VI. His Burial and Resurrection
 - A. Buried in a rich man's tomb - Matt. 27:57-; John 19:38-42
 - B. Looked for by the ones who loved Him - Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1-2; Luke 23:55-24:2; John 20:1
 - C. Conquering Satan, death, and Hades - Col. 2:12-15; Heb. 2:14b-15; Acts 2:24
 - D. Rising from the dead - Matt. 28:5-10; Mark 16:5-9; Luke 24:3-12; John 20:2-18
 - E. **WE MUST CONFESS WITH OUR MOUTH AND BELIEVE IN OUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD AND WE WILL BE SAVED** - Rom. 10:9-10

VII. Jesus' Promise, Commission and Ascension

- A. Appearing to His disciples for 40 days - Acts 1:3**
- B. Breathing into His disciples the Spirit of life - John 20:22**
- C. Promising the disciples the Spirit of power - Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8a**
- D. Telling His disciples to be witnesses in the whole earth - Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8B**
- E. Ascending to the Father and pouring out the Spirit - Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9; 2:1-4, 14-21, 32-33**
- F. WE MUST REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED AND RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE SAVED FROM THIS CROOKED GENERATION AND BE ADDED TO THE CHURCH - Acts 2:37-41**

VIII. His Coming Again - Acts 1:11

- A. To take His bride to the wedding feast - Matt. 25:6; Eph. 5:25b-27; Rev. 19:7-9**
- B. To reward His faithful servants and punish the unfaithful ones - 1 Cor. 6:13-15; Matt. 24:44-51; 25:14-30**
- C. To rule as the King over the earth - Matt. 16:27a; 25:31, 34; Rev. 1:5; 11:15**
- D. To judge the living and the dead - Acts 10:42; 1 Peter 4:5; Matt. 16:27; 25:31-34, 41, 46; Rev. 20:11-15**
- E. WE NEED TO BE READY WHEN THE LORD COMES - Matt. 24:42, 44; 25:13; Luke 12:40**

JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION IN THE FOUR GOSPELS

TIME	CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
EVENING	The plotting of the rulers and the bargain of Judas	26:1-5, 14-16	14:1-2, 10-11	22:1-6	11:45-53, 57
	The disciples preparing the Passover	26:17-20	14:12-17	22:7-18	13:1
	Jesus warning of His betrayal	26:21-25	14:18-21	22:21-23	13:2, 21-26
	Satan entering into Judas and immediately his going out				13:27-31
	Jesus establishing the Lord's Table	26:26-30a	14:22-26a	22:19-20	
	Jesus warning His disciples and Peter	26:31-35	14:27-31	22:31-34	13:36-38
NIGHT	Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane with the disciples	26:30b, 36-46	14:26b, 32-42	22:39-46	18:1
	Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss	26:47-50	14:43-45	22:47-48	18:2-9
	The crowd coming, Jesus arrested, the disciples fleeing	26:50-56	14:46-52	22:49-53	18:10-12
	Jesus being brought to Annas			22:54a	18:13-14, 19-24
	Jesus being brought before Caiaphas	26:57-58	14:53-54		
	Jesus being judged by the Sanhedrin	26:59-66	14:55-64		
	Jesus being beaten, spit upon, and mocked by His enemies	26:67-68	14:65	22:63-65	
	Jesus being denied by Peter	26:69-75	14:66-72	22:54b-62	18:15-18, 25-27
	Jesus being condemned to death by the Sanhedrin	27:1		22:66-71	
	Jesus being turned over to Pilate by the Sanhedrin	27:2	15:1	23:1	18:28
MORNING	Judas hanging himself (cf. Acts 1:18-19)	27:3-10			
	Jesus being judged by Pilate who finds no fault in Him	27:11-14	15:2-5	23:2-5	18:29-38
	Pilate sending Jesus to Herod			23:6-7	
	Herod despising and mocking Jesus and sending Him back to Pilate			23:8-12	
	Pilate yielding to the mob, condemning Jesus, releasing Barabbas	27:15-23	15:6-15	23:13-25	18:38-40; 19:4-16
	Pilate washing his hands before the crowd	27:24-25			
	Jesus suffering persecution being scourged, mocked, and spit upon	27:26-30	15:15-19		19:1-3
	Jesus being led away to Golgotha to be crucified	27:31-34	15:20-23, 25	23:26-32	19:16-17
	The soldiers casting lots for His garments	27:35-36	15:24	23:34	19:23-24
	The inscription on the cross	27:37	15:26	23:38	19:19-22
9 AM	Jesus being crucified between two robbers	27:38	15:27	23:33	19:18
	Jesus saying "Father forgive them"			23:34	
	The Jews mocking Jesus	27:39-44	15:29-32	23:35-37	
	Jesus saying to the thief "today you shall be with me in Paradise"			23:39-43	
	Jesus saying to His mother "Woman behold your son"				19:25-27

JESUS MEETS ALL MAN'S NEEDS

TIME	CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
NOON	Jesus being judged, forsaken by God - darkness from noon to 3 PM	27:45	15:33	23:44	
	Jesus crying "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"	27:46-47	15:34-35		
	Jesus saying "I thirst"	(27:48-49)	(15:36)		19:28-29
	Jesus saying "It is finished"				19:30
	Jesus saying "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"	(27:50)	(15:37)	23:46	
3 PM	Jesus dying, veil of the temple rent, earthquake, tombs opened	27:51-53	15:38	23:45, 48	19:30
	The centurion testifying "Truly this was God's Son"	27:54	15:39	23:47	
	The women who followed Jesus and ministered to Him, watching	27:55-56	15:40-41	23:49	19:25
	Jesus side being pierced, blood and water flowing out				19:31-37
EVENING	Joseph of Arimathea asking Pilate for the body of Jesus, burying it in his new tomb, the women watching	27:57-61	15:42-47	23:50-56	19:38-42
	The chief priests asking Pilate for guards to watch over the tomb	27:62-66			
EARLY MORNING	Two Marys at the tomb before dawn the first day of the week	28:1-5	16:1-4	24:1-3	20:1-2
	The angel declaring "He is not here for He was raised," charging the women to go quickly and tell His disciples	28:6-8	16:5-8	24:4-11	20:11-13
	Peter and John coming to the tomb, entering see the linen cloths			24:12	20:3-10
	Jesus meeting Mary Magdalene, telling her not to touch Him but to go and tell "My brothers"		16:9-11		20:14-18
	Jesus meeting the women, they hold Him by the feet and worship	28:9-10			
	Jesus appearing to Peter (cf. 1 Cor. 15:5)			24:34	
	The chief priests bribing the soldiers to lie	28:11-15			
	Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus		16:12-13	24:13-35	
	Jesus appearing to the disciples and charging them to "Go"	28:16-20	16:14-18	24:36-49	20:19-21
	Jesus breathing into them and saying "receive the Holy Spirit"				20:22-23
	Thomas doubting and Jesus appearing again				20:24-31
	Jesus feeding the disciples who went fishing				21:1-15
	Jesus charging Peter to "feed My lambs"				21:14-23
	Jesus ascending into heaven (cf. Acts 1:3-11)		16:19-20	24:50-53	
	John testifying that the record is true			21:24-25	

JESUS MEETS ALL MAN'S NEEDS

**THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS
HOW JESUS MEETS ALL MAN'S NEEDS - FIFTH GRADE**

OVERVIEW

When the children come to about the 4th-5th grade, we take the four Gospels and show how Jesus meets all man's needs. These lessons include Jesus' birth, His childhood, His baptism, His ministry.

He blessed the children and since we are all children, we need to come to Jesus so He can bless us. He fed five thousand with bread. Don't you think He could give you your daily bread? He can meet your need. He healed the sick. We are all sick so we need Jesus to heal us. Jesus cast out the demons. Only Jesus is more powerful than Satan and the demons. He forgives the sinners. We are all sinners and we need forgiveness. He raises the dead. We all need life. Man has a lot of needs such as sickness and even death. The Lord Jesus meets every need that man has. What He came to do is to meet man's needs.

We give them the facts, the story of Jesus' crucifixion in great detail. Eventually they all shed tears. This is to lead them to be saved. We also included the facts of His death, burial, resurrection, and how He accomplished salvation, which is the deepest need of man. We cover how He is going to come again. This series is quite good on the story of the Gospels.

When I had a young people's conference with the junior high and high school kids I intended to just give them a quick review of the suffering and death of the Lord in order to get some of the truth involved. I found out that they had no idea of the facts of the Bible. They did not even know the story of how the Lord was beaten. They did not know how He was judged by the different authorities. Then I got bothered. We went back and spent the whole conference just on the facts of the Lord's death. By the time it was over they were all weeping, consecrating, and repenting. This was one of the best conferences. It is important for them to know the facts of the Bible. They have to know that these are facts. This is history. We do not have to make that much application or interpretation or "spiritualizing". Just tell them the facts and say this was for you.

You may tell them, "You do not have many needs now because your parents meet all your needs. But someday you will have a lot of needs. He will meet all your needs."

The preceding are the blending of briefly edited transcriptions of Gene Gruhler's sharings given in several localities.

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS JESUS MEETS ALL MAN'S NEEDS

INTRODUCTION

This series of lessons is intended for fifth grade children and should follow the series, "The Person and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ." By this age a rather solid understanding of the Lord's Person and ministry can be grasped by them. The first few lessons help the children to understand a few basic principles regarding salvation, such as that salvation is based on faith in Christ, not on our works (whether good or bad). The following lessons present many examples of the Lord's salvation with the view of impressing the children that the Lord is able to meet our every need if we will only come to Him. The final four lessons are intended to help in actually presenting the gospel to the children.

The indelible impression we want to impart to the children with the presentation of each lesson on the Lord's Ministry is that He is the answer to every man's need. The four gospels indeed present to us a Christ who is the fulfillment of every man's need (as illustrated in so many various cases and deepest desire.)

The questions provided at the end of the lessons bring out the more important concepts regarding each case presented. They may be asked verbally or in written form, whichever way is more suitable to the group of children.

Many of these lessons have been prepared with reference to the footnotes from the Recovery Version of the New Testament and the Life-Study messages on the four gospels, by Witness Lee; published by the Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California.

Sterling Byassee

**THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS
JESUS MEETS ALL MAN'S NEEDS**

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson One

INTRODUCTION TO THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Burden to Impart:

In this first lesson we want to impress the children that the Lord Jesus was the unique and special One sent from God. He is the "Christ," the anointed One of God, sent to solve all of man's problems and needs, the two greatest of which are sin and death. He was able to do this because He was more than just a good man, a wise teacher, or a prophet: He is the Christ, the Son of God. He came to give us life, and He does this through His Word. This is the most important matter. He did not do great signs and miracles just so that we would believe in His divine power to heal or work miracles. He worked miracles so that people would believe in He Himself, receive the life of God, be born again, and enter into God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

Facts to Teach:

1. The source of all of man's problems is sin (Rom. 5:12), and just as God had warned Adam in the garden, the result of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). However, weakness, sickness, and disease firstly come to make people miserable, to ruin and sadden man's weak and frail human life, which is finally overcome by death.

2. The Lord Jesus came to meet every man's need. He did this by serving God and ministering to those around Him. After He was baptized at thirty years of age, He carried out His earthly ministry for 3 1/2 years until he was crucified, resurrected, and ascended.

3. The chief burden in His ministry was two-fold: to give God's life to the people (John 10:10) and ultimately, to die on the cross to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

4. The Lord Jesus preached God's marvelous way of salvation to people (Heb. 2:3) and told them how they could be born of God and enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5). This was the most important aspect of His ministry to men. He came to give them life, and He gave them life by the words that He spoke (John 6:63).

5. If the people would believe in Him and believe His words they would be saved from their sins, from judgment, and from death (John 5:24). If they refused to believe in Him and rejected His words, they would die in their sins (John 8:24) and must be judged with God's wrath (John 3:36). He was the Prophet that God had long ago promised to send (Deut. 18:15), that would speak the Word of God and show us the way of salvation; we must "hear Him" (Matt. 17:5).

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson One (Continued)

6. One of the ways that people knew that Jesus was not just an ordinary preacher or teacher was by the many miracles He performed. It was obvious that He was very, very special because He did things that only God could do (things that are beyond man's ability and even defy the laws of nature, such as calming the stormy sea, walking on water, etc.). Those who were honest and sincere realized by the signs that He was indeed a "teacher sent from God" and that "God was with Him" (John 3:2).

7. As Jesus preached God's Word and taught God's way of salvation, God confirmed that it was all true by working many signs and wonders (Heb. 2:3). Although the Lord Jesus' ministry was so very short (only about 3 1/2 years) and He personally never wrote any book about His teachings, yet what He said and did was so extraordinary that even today, almost 2,000 years later, in every country of the world it is still being told and written about. More books have been written about the Lord Jesus than any other person on the earth, and more Bibles have been printed than any other book for more than forty years. Also the Bible, which reveals the Lord Jesus, has been translated into more than 1,200 languages and dialects.

8. The Gospels were written so that we might really know the Lord Jesus; might know by both what He did and by what He said. We should come to know and believe that He is the Christ (the special One appointed and sent by God into the world to accomplish His purpose) and that He is the Son of God (John 20:31).

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON ONE

1. What are the two main problems of mankind? (Rom. 5:12)
2. What are the two main reasons Jesus came to mankind? (John 1:29; 10:10)
3. Who is the Lord Jesus (John 20:31)
4. What did the Lord Jesus come to teach us? (Heb. 2:3; John 3:5)
5. What happens to those who believe in the Lord Jesus? (John 5:24)
6. What happens to those who refuse to believe in the Lord Jesus and His words? (John 8:24; John 3:36)
7. What is one of the ways by which we may know that Jesus was truly sent from God and is the Son of God? (John 3:2; Heb. 2:3)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Two

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Burden to Impart:

Man's enjoyment, like man's life, is very short-lived, is gradually running out, and will one day end altogether. Also, this enjoyment is really not so sweet, rich, or satisfying. It is likened to "poor wine." The Lord Jesus can change our poorer, unsatisfied, and dying life (which is like tasteless water) into a rich, satisfying, eternal life (like the "best wine"). He does this when we are saved by regenerating us with God's life. He does this also whenever we open ourselves to Him and let Him come in and change our present "death" into "life."

Memory Verse: "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10b).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 2:1-11]

1. Jesus began His ministry in Cana of Galilee (show on map).
2. The first sign that Jesus did when beginning His ministry shows us the principle and the meaning behind all the other signs that He did.
3. Jesus and His disciples were all invited to a wedding in Cana.
4. A wedding is the happiest day in a person's life. After many years of growing up, learning many lessons, and becoming mature, people get married and begin a family of their own.
5. In those days when someone got married they would have a great wedding feast (usually lasting for a whole week) and invite all of their relatives and friends to come and rejoice with them.
6. Along with the food, wine was always served for the people to drink. The wine was not for them to get drunk and wild; it was given for them to drink and enjoy instead of water. (Their water was not clean and pure as ours is, and it did not have a good taste.)
7. While the feast was going on, suddenly the wine ran out! This meant that the wedding feast was over because the wine was the center and enjoyment of the feast.
8. Jesus' mother told Him the wine ran out. He seemed cold in His answer to her. This was not out of disrespect, but because now that He had begun His ministry, she must realize that He was not just her Son, to do things for her pleasure. He was the Son of God and must do His Father's will and work.
9. Jesus had the servants fill six stone waterpots with plain water (probably not very good tasting) clear up to the brim.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Two (Continued)

10. Then He told them to draw some out and take it to the master of the feast to taste it.

11. When the master of the feast tasted the water that had become wine, he was very surprised and happy. He was surprised because this wine tasted much better than the wine they were served first.

12. Although the master of the feast didn't know where that best wine came from, the servants who brought it to him knew, and the Lord's disciples realized that Jesus had miraculously changed the water into wine.

13. By doing that, the Lord expressed His Father's life and glory. (Surely He did not brag or boast about what He had done. He expressed His divine power in human humility.) His disciples began to believe on Him because of this sign.

14. Some explanations to give:

a. Although some things in our human life are enjoyable, even the most enjoyable things, like the wedding feast, will one day come to an end.

b. This is because everything related to our human life (our enjoyment, strength, health, and even our physical life), like the poor wine that ran out, is also very slowly running out. When we die, it is gone.

c. The Lord Jesus, however, did something marvelous. He changed ordinary, tasteless water into a sweet, rich, delicious wine for the people to drink and enjoy. This shows that whenever we realize our need and open ourselves up to the Lord in a real way and let Him live and work in us, He can change our "water" into "wine," our sorrow into joy, our failure into victory, our death into life.

d. The best wine is last. Even as the ruler of the feast discovered that the new wine is better than the former wine (2:9-10), so we too shall find that the life which we receive through regeneration is much better than our natural life. Our former life, symbolized by the poor wine, was greatly inferior. The Lord did not give us the best first, but last.

e. A new marriage feast begins when we are saved and it will never end. There is always joy within and there is always a marriage feast within because we have the divine wine, which is the divine life, the Lord Himself.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWO

1. In the wedding feast in Cana everything went perfectly well and there were no serious problems. True ____ False ____
2. If the Lord Jesus had not been invited to that newly married couple's wedding, they would have had a happy time anyway. True ____ False ____
3. What period of our life does the wedding in Cana symbolize?
____ a) Our birth--the beginning of our life.
____ b) The very highest and best time of our life.
____ c) Our death--the end of our life.
4. What does the poorer wine running out show us?
____ a) All enjoyment that comes from our human life will one day run out and end.
____ b) The joy of the Lord, like everything else, will one day end.
5. What did the Lord Jesus have the servants do when He changed the water into wine?

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Three

THE MINISTRY OF SALVATION (1): THE SALVATION OF NICODEMUS

Burden to Impart:

Every person needs God's salvation. Regardless how good one is, he must be born again in order to enter into the kingdom of God. Believing on the Lord Jesus is the only way to be born again.

Memory Verse: "Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 3:1-16]

1. In lesson two we learned about the changing of water into wine. The people considered this to be a miracle. The Lord really performed this sign for the purpose of showing the principle of God's salvation, which is to change death into life. Our Lord came for life, not for miracles. In our lesson today, we want to learn of a very high-class, well-educated, good, and honest man whom the Lord said needed a new life. His name was Nicodemus.

2. Let us consider Nicodemus and try to get an idea what this elderly Jewish gentleman was like. Some of his good qualities were:

- a. He was a teacher with a high education. He taught the sacred Word of God, the Old Testament.
- b. He was a ruler of the Jews with a position of authority and honor. Probably he was wealthy and highly respected.
- c. He was an older, so he had a great deal of experience.
- d. He was a moral man, which means he was of a clean and upright character.
- e. He was truly seeking after God. Even though he was somewhat fearful of the Pharisees, he still came to the Lord Jesus by night.
- f. He was very humble. Even though he was an elderly, well-educated man, he still came to see the Lord Jesus, who was only about thirty years old. That such a "high" person would come to see the Lord Jesus, a despised "Nazarene," indicates that he was humble. Also, he called the Lord "rabbi," which is a title of respect.
- g. He was an honest man; his speech indicates his honesty.

3. In spite of all the above wonderful characteristics, Nicodemus was ignorant of God's way of salvation. From his conversation we can see that Nicodemus considered Christ merely to be a teacher from God. His thought was that he needed better teaching to improve himself. But, the Lord told him that he needed to be born anew.

4. Nicodemus was probably the best man on earth (besides Jesus) at that time, and yet Jesus pointed out to him that to be saved is not a matter of merely being good, but of being born again.

(Continued)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Three (Continued)

Nicodemus did not understand what the Lord meant by "being born again." He thought he had to go back to his mother's womb and be born as a baby. The Lord Jesus answered that that which is born of the flesh is flesh. Jesus plainly told him that to be born anew is to be born of water and of the Spirit. Regardless of how many times he could have been born of his parents, he would have still been just a good, natural man with a natural life. He needed the Spirit of God to regenerate his spirit with the life of God. Then he would be born again.

Just as each one of us, Nicodemus had a special organ deep within him, his spirit, made for the purpose that one day he might exercise it to contact God and to receive God into his being. This is to be born anew.

6. What is the way for us to be regenerated? How can we receive regeneration? In John 3:15, 16, 18, and 36, the Lord said, "Everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life;" "He who believe in Him is not judged;" "He who believes in the Son has eternal life." These emphatic words tell us that the way for us to be saved and regenerated is simply to believe in the Lord. Our education, righteousness, good works, or money do not count. It is only faith that counts. To believe in the Lord means to receive Him. The Lord is receivable. He is now the life-giving Spirit with His complete redemption, waiting for us to receive Him. Our spirit is the receiving organ. We can receive the Lord's Spirit into our spirit by believing into Him. In this way we are born again.

7. Since the Lord used the word "perish" in verse sixteen, he was indicating to Nicodemus: "Even though you are so religious, so good, so educated, and wealthy, you are perishing because you do not have eternal life. If you will only be born again and receive My life, you will never perish."

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON THREE

1. Who was Nicodemus? (John 3:1)
2. At what time did he come to see Jesus? (John 3:2)
3. What title did he use to address Jesus? (John 3:2)
4. What did he think Jesus was? (John 3:2)
5. Why did he believe that Jesus came from God? (John 3:2)
6. What was Jesus' answer to Nicodemus? (John 3:3)
7. Explain what Nicodemus thought Jesus meant when He said he must be "born anew." (John 3:4)
8. Do good people like Nicodemus need to be born anew? (John 3:5)
9. Explain in your own words how to be born again and enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5, 16)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Four

THE MINISTRY OF SALVATION (2): THE SALVATION OF ZACCHAEUS

Burden to Impart:

Every person needs God's salvation. Regardless how sinful a person is, God is willing to save that person. In fact, God is seeking the sinners to save them. Believing on the Lord Jesus is the only way to be saved.

Memory Verse: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10).

Facts to Teach: [Luke 19:1-10]

1. In lesson three we learned about the salvation of Nicodemus, a very clean, righteous, honest, and high-class person. Now we will learn about the salvation of a person whom the Jews considered to be just the opposite. They considered him to be a sinner and not worthy of any respect. Yet the Lord Jesus sought him out in order to bring salvation to his house. This sinner's name was Zacchaeus.

2. Zacchaeus was from Jericho which, according to the Old Testament, was a city of curse. He collected taxes for the Roman government in that city. People who worked as tax collectors for the Romans were hated by the Jews because often they cheated and stole from the people. Historians tell us that often they would raise the taxes and keep much of the money for themselves. This is why they were despised by the Jewish people and considered to be the worst of sinners.

3. Zacchaeus was a very short man. He wanted to see Jesus as he passed by but could not because the crowd was so great. Therefore, he climbed up into a sycamore tree.

4. When the Lord arrived at the place where the sycamore tree was, He simply looked up and said to Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (Luke 19:5).

5. Zacchaeus came right down and welcomed the Lord into his house. Verse 6 tells us that Zacchaeus was rejoicing to have the Lord come into his house.

6. Then a wonderful thing happened. Zacchaeus said, "Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusations, I restore four times as much" (verse 8). This saying is a wonderful proof of Zacchaeus' salvation. Why? Because he willingly offered to restore what he had taken dishonestly from his fellow Jews, and he wanted to clear up his sinful past in a righteous way.

7. In Luke 19:9 the Lord said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house." It did not matter to the Lord Jesus how evil and sinful this Jewish man had been. Once he repented and believed on the Lord Jesus and His words, he could receive salvation.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Four (Continued)

8. Luke 19:10 says, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost." This indicates that the Savior's coming to Zacchaeus was not an accident. He had come to that cursed city for the specific purpose of seeking out and bringing salvation to this one lost sinner, Zacchaeus.

9. Our Lord is such a wonderful Savior. Wherever He is, there is salvation. In verse 5 Jesus said, "I must stay in your house." In verse 9 He said, "Today salvation has come to your house." Where Jesus is, there is salvation. Zacchaeus had the joy of experiencing this, and we can too.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON FOUR

1. In what city did Zacchaeus live? (Luke 19:1)
2. What kind of work did Zacchaeus do? (Luke 19:2)
3. Why did his fellow Jews hate him? (Luke 19:2 and 8)
4. What did Zacchaeus do when he heard Jesus and the crowd coming? (Luke 19:3-4)
5. What did the Lord Jesus do and say to Zacchaeus? (Luke 19:5)
6. Was Zacchaeus happy about what the Lord said? (Luke 19:6)
7. What did Zacchaeus offer to do that shows that he meant business with the Lord about clearing up his sinful past? (Luke 19:8)
8. What did the Lord reply? (Luke 19:10)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Five

THE MINISTRY OF SALVATION (3): THE SALVATION OF A CONDEMNED CRIMINAL

Burden to Impart:

Every person needs God's salvation, and it is available to anyone, even a condemned criminal, if he would just repent and believe in the Lord Jesus.

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 23:39-43]

1. At the place called Skull or Golgotha (Calvary) Jesus was crucified between two robbers, criminals.

2. While the Lord was on the cross both the criminals spoke very roughly and mockingly to him, challenging Him to come down from the cross and save them if He were truly the Son of God.

3. However, as the hours passed, one of the criminals' hearts softened and he felt regretful for the foolish and unkind words he had spoken to the Lord. It can be seen that he repented when he later rebuked the other mocking criminal and said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are in the same judgment? and we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we did, but this Man has done nothing wrong" (Luke 23:40-41).

4. After rebuking the other criminal, this one then turned to Jesus and said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom," thus showing to the Lord that he believed in Him and His ability to save him."

5. The Lord Jesus then said to the criminal, "Truly, I tell you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

6. This incident at the very moment of the criminal's death shows us how effective the Lord Jesus' salvation is: a criminal could instantly be saved from perishing. One minute the criminal was on his way to a perishing death, but the next, the Lord promised him that he would be with Him in Paradise.

7. Paradise is the pleasant section of Hades, where the spirits of Abraham and all of the saved ones are awaiting the resurrection. The Lord Jesus went to Paradise after His death and stayed there until His resurrection.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON FIVE

1. What was the name of the place where Jesus and the two thieves were crucified? (Luke 23:33)
2. After one of the robbers blasphemed Jesus, what did the other robber say back to the blaspheming robber? (Luke 23:40-41)
3. What did the repentant robber say to Jesus? (Luke 23:42)
4. What did Jesus say to the repentant robber? (Luke 23:43)
5. What does this tell us about the Lord Jesus' salvation?
6. Write the memory verse below.

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Six

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (1): THE ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus is able to meet all of our needs. Although this story is about a strong young boy who became sick and was dying, it may also be applied to us. We sometimes have problems in our hearts and minds that make us feel weak, sick, and even "dying." *The Lord's Word is powerful and full of life. When we receive His Word in faith it imparts comfort, encouragement, strength, and life into us. We do not need the Lord to appear and touch us physically; we only need to receive His Word with a believing heart, and His Word will strengthen us and raise us up.*

Memory Verse: "This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your Word has given me life" (Psalm 119:50).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 4:43-54]

1. The healing of the royal official's son took place at Cana of Galilee. Cana means "a land of reeds," which speaks of a land full of weak and fragile people. The principle in this sign is to change death into life.

2. This sign concerns a young man who was so sick that he was dying. It reveals that we all need healing. Even though we are not physically dead, we are all, no matter how young or old, in the process of dying. It might sound strange, but even a young baby is dying. If you are young, you do not have the feeling that you are dying. But when you are older, such as sixty or seventy years old, you will know that you are dying.

3. We all need the healing of the Lord Jesus. When we enjoy the Lord's Word and contact Him daily, even our dying will become living.

4. While the Lord Jesus was ministering in Cana a royal official, a nobleman, came to Him and asked Him to go to Capernaum and heal his dying son.

5. Jesus replied to him, "Go, your son is living." Jesus did not go to the official's home with him as he had asked. He did not need to. He simply spoke His word, and the boy was healed at that very instant.

6. The royal official believed the word which Jesus said to him and went on his way home (v. 50).

7. As he was going home, his slaves met him and brought him word that his boy was well and living.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Six (Continued)

8. He asked them at what hour the boy got better. When they told him it was the seventh hour of the previous day, the father knew it was in the very same hour that Jesus had said to him, "Your son is living."

9. He believed in Jesus, and his whole household believed also. Hallelujah for His life-giving word! The words that the Lord speaks are spirit and life (John 6:63).

10. The Lord Jesus simply spoke the word, the life-giving word, and the dying boy was healed. The Lord is still sending forth His living word today.

11. This case of healing shows us that there is no need for the Lord to appear to us physically. As long as we receive the Lord's Word in faith it is sufficient. It will save us, nourish us, strengthen us, satisfy us, and heal us, thus changing our death into life.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON SIX

1. What was the problem with the royal official's son? (John 4:46)
2. What did the Lord Jesus do to heal him? (John 4:50)
 - a) He went to visit him. True_____ False_____
 - b) He only spoke His word and healed him. True_____ False_____
 - c) He laid His hands on him, prayed, and healed him.
True_____ False_____
3. How did the royal official realize that Jesus had healed his son? (John 4:52-53)
4. How can we receive life, comfort, and healing from the Lord today? (Psa. 119:50)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Seven

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (2): PETER'S FEVERISH MOTHER-IN-LAW

Burden to Impart:

The Lord is compassionate and sympathizes with all of our sicknesses, weaknesses, and problems (Heb. 4:15). Although we may become "sick with fever" due to our hot temper or become distracted by some burning desire other than the Lord, His compassionate touch can heal us from our "fever," "cool us down," and restore our service to Him and His disciples.

Memory Verse: "And He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she arose and ministered to them" (Matthew 8:15)

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39]

1. Shortly after beginning His ministry, the Lord performed a miraculous healing on the mother-in-law of Peter. She was lying sick in bed with a high fever in Peter (Simon) and Andrew's house. Here we can see that the Lord's salvation was not just for the young strong ones. The Lord has come to meet every person's need, whether old or young, sick or strong, boy or girl.

2. The fact that this case is repeated in three of the four Gospels shows that it must have been a significant event. The many healings that the Lord performed upon the sick people show us that He is very compassionate and sympathizes with all of our illnesses, weaknesses, and problems (Heb. 4:15). Jesus' outstanding virtues reveal the beauty and excellence of His humanity.

3. The fact that Peter's mother-in-law had a high "fever" may signify a person's hot, unbridled, and abnormal temper. Although all human beings have a temper, some are more hot-tempered than others. Whenever we are too "hot," angry, or upset about anything, we are like a sick person suffering from a fever. Also, whenever we are so burningly desirous for anything other than the Lord, it is like having a fever that makes us unhealthy or even "sick" before the Lord.

4. Peter's mother-in-law was so feverish she could no longer serve her family or the Lord. Her function was gone.

5. The Lord came to the bed of this dear sick believer and rebuked the fever. She was instantly healed and immediately arose and served the Lord and His disciples.

6. Today the young people need to keep their bodies pure, strong, and healthy so that they can serve the Lord Jesus. When our hearts and minds are too upset, or hot as with a fever, then our bodies can also become sick. The Lord Jesus loves us and can heal us in every part of our being so that we can love Him and serve Him.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Seven

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON SEVEN

1. What was the problem with Peter's mother-in-law? (Matt. 8:14)
2. What did Jesus do? (Matt. 8:15)
3. After she was healed, what did she do? (Mark 1:31)
4. Why do we need to have strong spirits, healthy bodies, and healthy minds?
5. Write your memory verse below.

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eight

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (3): HEALING A MAN BLIND FROM BIRTH

Burden to Impart:

All men, like the man blind from birth, are born in spiritual darkness and ignorance of God. By receiving, believing, and obeying the Lord's Word our "blindness" will be healed and we will see, know, and love the Lord Jesus. Only He is able to give us true light.

Memory Verse: "Jesus spoke to them saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 9:1-38]

1. If we carefully consider the Lord's healing ministry we will realize that the people that the Lord cured and the diseases that He healed also have spiritual and moral principles that apply to all men.

2. The Gospel of John records a very dramatic story of a man who was born blind. Every moment of his life, from his conception to adulthood, was spent in absolute darkness. He had never seen light or life, the world around him or beauty, not even once. He was born blind! In like manner, all men are born in spiritual ignorance and blindness, unable to perceive God or the things of God (Eph. 4:18; Acts 17:27).

3. As such a helpless one, he could not learn many things when he was young. Neither could he work when he grew up. So he could only be a poor, miserable beggar.

4. The disciples mistakenly judged that this man must have been born blind because of some great sin that either he or his parents had committed. The Lord corrected their erroneous concept. This man's illness and problem was not given to him as a punishment from God for some sin. Rather, God would use that very weakness and handicap as a means to glorify and express Himself.

5. The Lord healed him in a very strange way. He spat upon the ground, made clay with His spittle, and put it on the blind man's eyes. The spittle from the Lord's mouth represents the Word of God coming to the blind man. Through the preaching of the gospel, God's Word is able to "open the eyes" (Acts 26:18) of those who are blind and in darkness, who do not know God or Christ.

6. The Lord only required one thing of the blind man once He had anointed his eyes with clay: he must go and wash. This tested the blind man's faith. If he did not believe in the Lord or obey His word he would not go wash himself. He would have remained

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eight (Continued)

blind, and probably been upset with the Lord. However, he did believe in the Lord, so he obeyed the Lord's word and went away and washed and came back seeing!

7. Although he was persecuted by those who refused to believe in Jesus and was cast out of the synagogue and society by them, Jesus found him and revealed Himself to him: He was Jesus, the Son of God (John 9:35-38).

8. When we receive Jesus, we receive the "light of life" (John 8:12), the only "light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5). He gives us a new life and understanding so that we are no longer blind in darkness and ignorance concerning God and the spiritual things. We can now "see!"

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON EIGHT

1. What did the Lord do to the man born blind when He healed him? (John 9:6)
2. What did the Lord tell the blind man to do in order to be healed? (John 9:7)
3. What does the "spittle" from the Lord's mouth represent? (Matt. 4:4)
4. What did the Jewish leaders do to the blind man after he was healed? (John 9:34)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Nine

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (4): HEALING AND CLEANSING THE LEPER

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus came as the compassionate Savior and mighty Healer to cleanse all men from their "leprosy." Leprosy in the Bible is likened to sin, especially the sins of rebellion and disobedience. Through the Lord's cleansing the leper could live in fellowship together with both God and man.

Memory Verse: "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin"
(1 John 1:7).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 5:12-15; Matt. 8:2-4]

1. One of the most feared diseases in Bible times was leprosy. Leprosy is a very serious disease of the skin and hair. It is a very dirty, contaminating, and damaging disease.

2. Very strict laws were enforced in order to keep this terrible disease from spreading to others. If anyone was discovered to have leprosy they had to leave their family and friends, and live "outside the camp" of God's people. They had to be isolated from the fellowship of God's people and were condemned to live all alone (Lev. 13:46).

3. If a leper ever came into the city they were required to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" wherever they went while covering their mouth (Lev. 13:45). This was to warn people to stay away from them lest they also would get their dreaded disease. Also, it was strictly forbidden to ever touch a leper.

4. One day such a pitiful man full of leprosy came to the Lord Jesus. He knew that only the Lord Jesus could heal him and cleanse him of his leprosy so that he could live a normal life again. He came near to Jesus and fell on his face. He cried and begged Him to please cleanse him. (How unclean he felt!) He called Him "Lord." This shows that he recognized Jesus to be the Lord God, Jehovah the Savior.

5. The Lord Jesus did not despise the leper nor did He fear his disease. The Lord Jesus was filled with sympathy for the leper: He stretched out His hand and touched him saying, "Be cleansed!"

6. Also, His divine attribute of great power is seen in the healing and cleansing of the leper. No human being can cleanse a leper. The One who cleansed this leper had to be God. By the Lord Jesus' one touch the man was immediately healed and cleansed.

7. According to scriptural examples, "leprosy" comes from rebellion and disobedience. All fallen human beings became leprous

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Nine (Continued)

in the eyes of God because of their rebellion. This leprous man portrays the typical sinner. Leprosy is the most contaminating and damaging disease, isolating the victim from both God and man. To cleanse the leper signifies to recover the sinner to fellowship with God and man. The following examples may be used:

- a. Numbers 11:1-10--Miriam became leprous because of her rebellion against her own brother, Moses, who was God's appointed authority.
- b. 2 Kings 5:1, 9-14--Naaman's leprosy was cleansed because of his obedience. (From Matt. 8:2, footnote 1 in Recovery Version)

8. The one with leprosy not only requires healing, but he also needs cleansing. Just so it is with the sinner. He needs to be healed spiritually and cleansed outwardly. First John says: "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON NINE

1. What did the leper do when he saw Jesus? (Luke 5:12)
2. According to the examples in the Old Testament, what does leprosy signify? (Num. 11:1-10; 2 Kings 5:9-14)
3. What divine attribute does this incident show us about the Lord Jesus?
4. What does leprosy signify in respect to the problem of all men?
5. How can we be healed and cleansed of our sinful condition?
6. Write the memory verse (1 John 1:7).

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Ten

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (5): HEALING THE PARALYTIC

Burden to Impart:

Because of sin all men are like paralytics; they cannot move or walk before God in a way that is pleasing to Him. Only the Lord Jesus can heal us, for He is God. He does this firstly by forgiving our sins and secondly by speaking His healing word to us, enabling us to rise up and walk in such a way that glorifies God.

Memory Verse: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 5:17-26]

1. The healing of the paralytic provided a strong proof and demonstration to the Pharisees and teachers of the law that the Lord Jesus was not only a teacher of God's Word, or a healer with God's divine power, He was the very forgiving God Himself.

2. Paralysis causes weakness to the muscles, making the sick person unable to move or walk. This illness shows us one of the many spiritual side effects of sin. Sin (which every man suffers from) makes us unable to walk and behave properly before God. Instead of walking uprightly before God for His pleasure and the fulfillment of His purpose, all sinful men live for their own satisfaction and pleasure. Therefore they are "paralyzed" as far as God is concerned.

3. The paralyzed man did not come to the Lord Jesus by his own strength or power, for he had none. He came to the Lord because some of his friends greatly loved him and had faith that the Lord could and would heal him.

4. Their faith was so great and they were so desperate for their paralyzed friend to be healed, that they did something "wild" when they couldn't enter the house because of the great crowd of people. They broke up the tiles in the roof and lowered the man down to Jesus.

5. The Lord Jesus did not firstly cure the man's paralysis. He firstly cured the cause of his paralysis, his sin. The Lord Jesus did what no other man could do, He forgave his sins. Only Jesus, the kingly Savior, who had been authorized by God as the Son of Man and who would die to redeem sinners, has "authority on earth to forgive sins."

6. The Lord's salvation not only forgives us our sins, but also makes us "rise and walk." We do not "rise and walk" first and then have our sins forgiven. That would be by our works. We are first forgiven, then we are able to rise and walk pleasingly before God. This is by God's grace. (From Matt. 9:5, footnote 2, in the Recovery Version.)

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Ten (Continued)

7. The scribes and Pharisees were angry with Jesus and accused Him of blasphemy because He forgave the paralytic's sins. This shows that they did not believe that Jesus was God. By uttering such a word they rejected the King of the kingdom of the heavens.

8. The healed paralytic, however, rose up and, carrying his couch, went home glorifying God. Perhaps he sang Psalm 32, "Thanks be unto God! Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!"

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TEN

1. Why did the paralytic's friends have to break up the roof of the house to present him to Jesus? (Luke 5:19)
2. What did Jesus say to the man before He healed him? (Luke 5:20)
3. What did the Lord Jesus do in order to prove that He had authority to forgive sins on earth? (Luke 5:24)
4. What must we do to have our sins forgiven? (1 John 1:7)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eleven

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (6): HEALING THE IMPOTENT MAN

Burden to Impart:

All men, like this poor, wretched, impotent man, are weak and unable to keep God's law. We cannot work up our own strength to save ourselves, and we do not need to wait for some angel to come and work a miracle for us. We only need to believe in the Lord Jesus who has come to us to save us, and receive His life-giving Word.

Memory Verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works that no man should boast"
(Ephesians 2:8-9).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 5:1-16]

1. God's people, the Jews, were celebrating a religious feast in their capitol, Jerusalem. All of the people were required by the law of Moses to keep such feasts in order to honor God and His holy law. In John chapter five, however, we see a whole multitude of people who had no way to rejoice or keep the feast of God's law. Even if they wanted to, it was impossible because they were sick, blind, lame, and withered.

2. There was a certain pool in Jerusalem called Bethesda. An angel of the Lord would come on special occasions to stir up the water. Whoever first stepped into the water would then be healed of whatever disease he suffered from.

3. For all of the people with incurable diseases there was only one hope: a miracle. But in order to get the miracle they must be strong enough and fast enough to get into the stirred up water first!

4. One poor, wretched man had laid beside the pool for 38 years. He was impotent, extremely weak. He could not even walk or move himself. He needed others to carry or drag him around. He was so hopeless and helpless that he didn't even qualify for a miracle, for he could not even move himself to the pool when the waters were stirred.

5. When Jesus came to Jerusalem He did not go to the feasting, joyful people. He went to the pool of Bethesda, to the wretched, sad people who were too sick and weak to keep God's law. There Jesus saw the man who had been laying for thirty-eight years and asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

6. Surely he did. He would like to be well, he would like to celebrate the feast, he would like to do good and keep God's law, but it seemed impossible! He was too weak to help himself and he

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eleven (Continued)

had no one else to help him into the water to get the healing miracle. (He hoped that maybe Jesus would help him into the water when it was stirred.) So, it seemed he needed a miracle so he could get the miracle.

7. Not so, however! He needed no strength, no man to put him into the water, no angel, no miracle, nothing! He only needed Jesus, and Jesus had already come to heal him.

8. Jesus commanded him to rise, pick up his bed, and walk. Instantly he was healed and did so. It was the Sabbath day, when all people were supposed to rest and do no work at all, not even carry their small cot-beds. He obeyed Jesus, his Lord. For him to carry his bed and walk was not work, it was the greatest joy he ever had in his life! Now he was healed, strong, restful, happy, and even joyful! He was truly keeping the Sabbath. He was truly keeping the feast.

9. All men, like the impotent man, are weak and unable to keep God's law. We always fail in at least one commandment. To fail in one commandment is to fail completely (James 2:10). Christ, however, has come to us and has made no requirements upon us for salvation that demand our strength. He only requires us to believe in Him and to receive His life-giving Word. Then we can be healed, saved, strengthened, and walk rejoicingly before God.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON ELEVEN

1. What was the special occasion in Jerusalem when the impotent man was healed? (John 5:1)
2. Where was a multitude of people who could not join in on the occasion? (John 5:2)
3. Why could they not join in on the occasion? (John 5:3)
4. What would happen at special times at the pool? (John 5:4)
5. How many years did the impotent man lay beside the pool? (John 5:5)
6. What did Jesus say to the impotent man? (John 5:6)
7. What did the man do to be healed?
8. Since we, like the impotent man, cannot keep God's law, what should we do in order to be saved? (Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Twelve

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (7): HEALING THE SICK WOMAN IN THE CROWD

Burden to Impart:

All persons, like this bleeding woman in the crowd, are sick from sin and need the Lord Jesus. No doctor could cure her disease, and no person or thing can heal our sick and dying (bleeding) condition except the Lord Jesus. We only need to reach out to Him in faith by praying to Him. In this way we can touch Him and receive His healing power. Even greater, He will reveal Himself to us.

Memory Verse: "And He said to her, Daughter, your faith has healed you; go in peace" (Luke 8:48).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 8:42b-48]

1. One day as the Lord Jesus went on His way, a very great crowd followed Him. Although they were very excited and enthusiastic about the Lord Jesus, they were not sensitive to Him at all, for they were pressing Him, crowding Him, even crushing Him.

2. In contrast, one woman really wanted to "touch" the Lord Jesus. She felt a deep need, for she had been sick with a flow of blood for twelve long years. She had gone from doctor to doctor and had tried many different remedies and medicines. She had spent everything she had, all to no avail! No one on earth could help her, not even the smartest ones. She now sought the only hope left on earth, the Lord Jesus.

3. Not all who followed Jesus in the crowd believed in Him or loved Him. Many just followed the crowd. This woman, however, strongly believed in the Lord. She apparently did not feel worthy to stop Jesus and personally ask Him to heal her. Instead, she came to Him from behind and just touched the fringe of His garment.

4. The Lord instantly knew that healing power had gone out from Him. He stopped the crowd and calmed down all the commotion. He must personally meet each person healed by His power. He did not come only to heal the sick and solve their problems. He wants to meet us, and wants us to personally know Him. He is the fountain of life. We not only need His power to heal, we need to meet and know He Himself.

5. Along life's journey we may face difficulties and problems that no one can help us with. The Lord Jesus can and will. We only need to draw near to Him in prayer and touch Him. Not only He will meet our need, but we will also come to know Him. As a result, we will go on our way with His peace.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWELVE

1. How many years had the woman in the crowd been sick?
(Luke 8:43)
2. Could the doctors help her? (Luke 8:43)
3. When she saw Jesus, what did she do? (Luke 8:44)
4. How did Jesus know that someone had touched Him? (Luke 8:47)
5. When she found out she had been discovered by the Lord Jesus, what did she do? (Luke 8:47)
6. What did Jesus say to her? (Luke 8:48)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Thirteen

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (8): HEALING THE DEAF MUTE

Burden to Impart:

All men, like the deaf mute, cannot hear the Lord's voice or understand His Word. Nor can they speak to glorify Him and praise Him, unless the Savior heals them. By the Lord's salvation His sheep "hear His voice" and follow Him (John 10:27). Also they can speak for Him, sing to Him, and praise Him.

Memory Verse: "Oh Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise" (Psalm 51:15).

Facts to Teach: [Scriptural reading: Mark 7:31-35]

1. In previous lessons we saw how the Lord healed people with diseases affecting their whole body: Peter's feverish mother-in-law, the paralytic, the leper, and the impotent man. Also, we saw one man whom the Lord Jesus healed who was blind from birth.

2. In this case, the Lord heals two particular organs, the ears and the tongue, to recover the two most important functions necessary for communication and expression, hearing and speaking.

3. A man who was deaf and mute was brought to Jesus. Since we learn to speak from what we hear, a deaf person cannot speak properly or may not be able to speak at all. This is not because they are stupid or lack intelligence. Therefore it is better to say "deaf mute" rather than "deaf and dumb."

4. The deaf mute signifies a person who is spiritually deaf and who does not use his tongue to speak for the Lord. All unsaved people are such deaf mutes. The Lord's sheep are not deaf, they "hear His voice" and follow Him (John 10:27). His redeemed ones are not silent. They testify of Him and praise Him (Psa. 107:2; 30:12).

5. The Lord took the deaf mute aside and had a private dealing with him. He thrust His fingers into his ears and dealt with his hearing organs. He touched his tongue with spittle. In a very personal and intimate way the Lord touched the deaf mute and dealt with him to recover his organs of hearing and speech.

6. The Lord wants all of His believers, even the little children, to hear His voice as He touches and speaks to our heart and mind. He also wants us to be able to praise Him, sing to Him, and thank Him with our tongue.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Thirteen (Continued)

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON THIRTEEN

1. What does it mean to be spiritually deaf?
2. What does it mean to be spiritually mute?
3. The Lord healed the deaf mute in front of the other people.
(Mark 7:33) True _____ False _____
4. The Lord put mud into the deaf mute's ears. (Mark 7:33)
True _____ False _____
5. What did the Lord do to heal the deaf mute? (Mark 7:33)
His ears:
His tongue:
6. What did the Lord say when He looked up to heaven? (Mark 7:34)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Fourteen

FEEDING THE HUNGRY: FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how the Lord Jesus had compassion on His hungry followers in the desert and performed a miracle to feed them. In this way His divine power was manifested in His human virtues: His compassion, long-suffering, uncomplaining attitude, orderliness, unwastefulness, and tidiness. What a Savior! The glory and power of God were manifested through the virtues and character of the Man Jesus!

Memory Verse: "And they all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish" (Mark 6:42-43).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Mark 6:30-44]

1. The account of the feeding of the five thousand men is recorded in all four Gospels. This account shows us many precious details about the Lord Jesus' human virtues and His divine power.

2. The Lord took care of His disciples' need for rest and relaxation by going to a private place in the wilderness. However, great crowds followed them and even arrived at the place before them.

3. Jesus had compassion on them, feeling their need of teaching and guidance. They were like lost, wandering sheep with no shepherd, not knowing God nor His kingdom. The Lord did not care for His weariness or rest. Instead, He taught them "many things" until the hour was "quite late."

4. Realizing that the crowd was hungry, the disciples wanted to send them away to the village to buy food. Jesus also knew that the crowd was hungry and had compassion on them. He already knew how He would take care of the hunger of every person in the crowd.

5. Jesus asked what food was available from the crowd. This shows us that He wants our cooperation and offering, no matter how small it may seem to be. If we would do nothing nor offer anything, neither would He do anything.

6. He had all the people sit in groups of fifties and one hundreds. This shows His orderliness. It would be hard to know who was fed and who was not, in a disorderly crowd of five thousand men. (There were probably about ten thousand people in all, including women and children.)

7. He took what was available, that is, what had been willingly offered: five loaves and two fish. He did not complain about how little there was. Instead, He looked up to heaven to God and blessed the dinner, giving thanks for it.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Fourteen (Continued)

8. He broke the bread and fish and fed everyone. All were satisfied. This was a miracle. Five loaves and two fish fed well over five thousand people!

9. The Lord and His disciples did not then lie down and rest after their long day of work. They gathered up the remaining fragments and had much more than what they started with, twelve baskets full! This shows the Lord's human virtues of unwastefulness and tidiness.

10. His divine power and glory were expressed by performing the miracle, which only God could do. His human virtues were expressed in the way He performed the miracle: with compassion, humility, orderliness, thanksgiving, unwastefulness, and tidiness. All were expressed in His service for others' needs.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON FOURTEEN

1. Jesus brought His disciples to the wilderness to work a little more. (Mark 6:31) True ____ False ____
2. The Lord Jesus sent the crowds away to the village to buy some food to eat. (Mark 6:37) True ____ False ____
3. What was given to the Lord to feed the people with? (Mark 6:38)
4. The Lord had the people sit in groups, by _____ and by _____. (Mark 6:39) Why did He do that?
5. How many people were fed by the Lord that day? (Mark 6:44)
6. How was the Lord able to feed so many people with so little food?
7. How many full baskets of fragments were gathered up afterward? (Mark 6:43)
8. List some of the human virtues of the Lord Jesus that were seen in the feeding of the five thousand.

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Fifteen

RAISING THE DEAD (1): RAISING JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that the Lord Jesus not only has the power to cure diseases, He has the power to overcome death. Death comes to people of all ages, sometimes even to young people. The Lord Jesus did not stop this young girl from dying. Rather, through her death He was able to demonstrate His divine power of resurrection, for He is the Son of God.

Memory Verse: "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear shall live" (John 5:25).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Mark 5:22-24, 35-43]

1. In the next two lessons we see that the Lord Jesus' ministry was not limited to healing the sick, it was able to even raise the dead. Only God could raise the dead. By raising people from the dead the Lord Jesus showed the people that He was God.

2. A good, God-fearing man (Jairus) came to Jesus begging Him to come urgently to heal his dying daughter. She was only twelve years old.

3. Jesus immediately went with Jairus. However, while He was still on His way, messengers came to Jairus and reported to him that his daughter had died already, that he should no longer "bother" Jesus.

4. Jesus, however, was not "bothered" at all. He had gladly answered Jairus' prayer to come visit his daughter, whether she was sick or well, dead or alive. He was not stopped from going to visit Jairus' little girl just because of their report that she had died. He turned to Jairus and said, "Do not fear, only believe!"

5. When the Lord told the people that the girl had not died, but was only "sleeping," the crowd at Jairus' house ridiculed the Lord. The Lord's statement that she was only "sleeping" indicates that the young girl believed in God and in the resurrection, for in God's eyes when a believer dies his body is simply "sleeping" but will one day awake in resurrection.

6. The Lord put all the unbelieving crowd out and brought the child's father and mother into the room. Then before their very eyes they saw the Lord Jesus say, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" and she did.

7. We can see in this true story that the Lord Jesus' power can be limited by nothing in the universe, not even death. No barrier is too strong to stop Him, for He is God Himself.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Fifteen (Continued)

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON FIFTEEN

1. Who was Jairus? (Mark 5:22)
2. Do you think Jairus and his family believed in Jesus?
(Mark 5:23) Yes _____ No _____
3. Jairus asked the Lord to just speak a word and heal his daughter. (Mark 5:23) True _____ False _____
4. It seems that Jesus felt "bothered" to go and raise up a young girl of twelve years of age. (Mark 5:24) True _____ False _____
5. Before Jesus arrived at the girl's house she had already died. (Mark 5:35) True _____ False _____
6. Most of the people believed the Lord's words when He said, "The child did not die, but is sleeping." (Mark 5:39-40)
True _____ False _____
7. The girl immediately rose up when the Lord Jesus took her hand and told her to arise. (Mark 5:42) True _____ False _____

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Sixteen

RAISING THE DEAD (2): RAISING LAZARUS

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that the Lord Jesus is able to meet every man's need, even Lazarus', who had died and been buried for four days. Although the Lord Jesus loved Lazarus He did not prevent him from dying. He chose instead to allow him to die and to raise him up four days later. In this way He could show His disciples who He was (the resurrection and the life) so they could know Him and believe in Him. Lazarus' death was for the glory of God.

Memory Verse: "Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he should die, shall live" (John 11:25).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 11:1-45]

1. In the four Gospels, the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the greatest miracle performed upon men by the Lord Jesus.
2. This record emphasizes that the Lord Jesus loved this family (Lazarus, Martha, and Mary) very much, and that they also loved the Lord (v. 2, 5). Nevertheless, when Lazarus became sick and his two sisters prayed for the Lord to come quickly (v. 3) to heal him, the Lord did not come immediately. He waited until after Lazarus died, then He came. (He did not respond to their prayer-message according to their time, but His time; nor in their way, but His way.)
3. No one realized the greatness of the Lord Jesus' power: that He could meet the need of even a man who had been dead for four days and had even begun to decay and smell. The Lord Jesus' disciples knew that He could heal the sick and prevent them from dying, but they didn't realize that even man's greatest enemy, death, was no problem for Him.
4. The disciples did not simply follow the Lord Jesus and obey Him. They expressed many opinions and frustrated the Lord:
 - a. In v. 7 Jesus said, "Let us go to Judea...." In v. 8 the disciples said, "...Are you going there again?"
 - b. In v. 11 Jesus said, "I am going that I may awaken him out of sleep." In v. 12 the disciples said, "...he will recover" (meaning, "you don't need to go, he will be o.k."). Also in v. 16 Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."
 - c. In v. 23 the Lord Jesus told Martha, "Your brother shall rise again," meaning that He was going to resurrect him immediately. In v. 24 Martha said, "I know he will rise again,...in the last day."
5. Finally, Jesus came to His dear disciple Lazarus' tomb. All were crying and sorrowing, for death had come and taken away their

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Sixteen (Continued)

dear brother and friend. Jesus also wept, not because of sorrow that Lazarus had died, but out of sorrow that His disciples did not realize who He was, the resurrection and the life.

6. In this story we see that our concepts and opinions frustrate the Lord (He knows best how and when to answer our prayers) and our blindness and unbelief causes Him much sorrow, even to weep. We should learn to simply trust in the Lord and obey Him. He knows all, He is over everything (even death), He is the Lord of all, and whatever He chooses to do is the best.

7. The Lord Jesus allowed Lazarus to die because He was going to use death as an opportunity to:

- a. exhibit the greatest power in the universe, resurrection.
- b. reveal Himself as the resurrection and the life.
- c. manifest God's glory, and to glorify God.

8. Jesus commanded the disciples to roll the grave stone away.

9. The Lord Jesus then prayed to the Father and thanked Him, called Lazarus by name, and commanded him to come forth.

10. Lazarus came forth, still bound hands and feet in grave clothes with his face wrapped about with a handkerchief. Jesus told the disciples to loose him and let him go.

11. As a result of the death and resurrection of Lazarus many people believed on the Lord Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON SIXTEEN

1. Jesus waited ____ days before answering Mary and Martha's prayer. (John 11:6)
2. Jesus did not answer their prayer right away because He did not love them. (John 11:5) True ____ False ____
3. Jesus probably did not love Lazarus, that is why He let him die. (John 11:3) True ____ False ____
4. Lazarus had been buried for ____ days when Jesus came. (John 11:3)
5. Not even the Lord's closest and dearest disciples realized that He was the resurrection and the life. (John 11:24)
True ____ False ____
6. Jesus wept because He was so sad that Lazarus died. (John 11:35, 40) True ____ False ____
7. Through Lazarus' death and resurrection men were able to see the _____. (John 11:40)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Seventeen

CASTING OUT DEMONS: RELEASING A DOUBLE-BENT AND SATAN-BOUND WOMAN

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how the Lord Jesus released a woman who had been suffering from an evil spirit. The demon made her stay double-bent with her face to the ground for eighteen miserable years. The Lord Jesus has the greatest authority in the universe. He released the woman from the demon's oppression and possession, freeing her to stand upright again. We also have authority over Satan when we believe in the Lord Jesus. When we stand in the mighty name of Jesus and declare, "Jesus is Lord," all the demons must flee.

Memory Verse: "God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 13:10-17]

1. The woman in this story was not just sick with a physical disease, she suffered from a "spirit of infirmity." That is, the evil spirit of a demon possessed her.

- a. Before God created Adam and the human race He created at least two other different creatures: the angels in the heavens and some creatures on the earth. (Satan's background is fully exposed in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:1-19.)
- b. Although the angels were created perfect, the one God had appointed to be the highest and which was the most beautiful, Lucifer, one day became proud of his beauty and lifted up in his heart. Being full of pride and being self-deceived he believed he could take over God's throne and make himself God. So he led many angels of heaven (one third) and many creatures on earth in a rebellion against God.
- c. God, of course, quickly judged Lucifer (who became "Satan") and all of his followers. They all await God's eternal judgment in the lake of fire, hell.
- d. Those fallen angels who followed Satan became the evil spirits of the air. They try to continually put their evil thoughts into men's minds to corrupt them and cause them to sin.
- e. The spirits of those creatures upon the earth who rebelled and followed Satan are now the demons. The demons try to enter into people's bodies to possess them, to afflict them, and to make them miserable.

2. The woman in this story had suffered for eighteen years from an evil spirit that tormented her by making her double-bent. (Perhaps the demon possessed her by she being an idol worshipper.)

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Seventeen (Continued)

She could never look up, only down. She could never see the sky or the heavens, she could only look down to the dusty earth. She was helpless and hopeless. She was possessed by a demon, bound by Satan, and could see nothing but Satan's world.

3. No one could help her for eighteen years, for no one was mightier than Satan. Then Jesus came. He did not ask her if she wanted to be healed, neither did He ask the demon to leave her body. He simply called her over to Himself (and she obeyed) and said, "Woman, you have been released from your infirmity," and thus released her. Jesus is the Lord; He is the mightiest One in the universe. All of the evil spirits and demons fear Him and must obey Him.

4. We must realize that in the mighty name of Jesus we have authority over Satan and all fallen angels and demons. If we ever feel tempted or troubled by Satan we can always chase him away by declaring with our mouth and spirit, "Jesus is Lord!"

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON SEVENTEEN

1. Satan has many followers (evil spirits and demons) who try to enter into people and possess them. True _____ False _____
2. The double-bent woman had been suffering for eighteen years because of a back injury when she was young.
True _____ False _____
3. The Lord Jesus could heal the sick and raise the dead, but even He could not help a person who was demon possessed.
True _____ False _____
4. Satan tries to work in people by injecting his thoughts into their minds. True _____ False _____
5. When we feel that Satan is tempting or troubling us, what should we declare? _____

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eighteen

THE MINISTRY OF REVELATION (1): THE LORD JESUS AS THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see the perfection of the Lord Jesus' humanity. The Lord Jesus, like the good Samaritan, saw the helplessness of the sinful and fallen mankind (like the robbed, stripped, beaten, and half-dead man lying in the road of his downward journey of life) and was full of compassion and mercy. With love and compassion, mercy, faithfulness, and generosity He got involved with us and has taken the responsibility to see us fully saved, healed, and recovered at His return.

Memory Verse: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun in you a good work will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

Facts to Teach: [Scriptural reading: Luke 10:25-37]

1. This lesson is the first of two lessons which reveal Christ in two special ways: 1) the Son of Man who saves us in the highest standard of morality (this reveals the perfection of His human virtues) and 2) the Son of God with the transcendent glory through whom God speaks to us (this reveals the glory of His divine nature).

2. In God's Word the two greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourself. In order to give us an example of what it means to love our neighbor as ourself the Lord Jesus told us the parable of the good Samaritan. A picture is better than a thousand words. In this "picture" the Lord Jesus showed us how He loves us, will save us, and take care of us until He comes again.

- a. A man was going down from Jerusalem, the City of God (which was up on a mountain), to Jericho, a city which was accursed. This shows us a person who was going away from God and God's people, away from the place of God's blessing to a sinful place of sorrow and curse.
- b. While the erring man was going down he fell among robbers who stripped him of his clothing, robbed him of his possessions, beat him up, and left him mercilessly half-dead in the road. In such a condition he would soon die.
- c. A priest, who is one who was supposed to care for God's people, was also going down the same road. He would not even stop to see how the man was. He had no compassion at all so he simply passed by and left him there.
- d. Next, a Levite (the priest's helper) was also going down the same road. The Levite came near to the poor half-dead

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eighteen (Continued)

man, took note of his condition and then mercilessly went on his way, offering no help whatsoever.

- e. Lastly, a Samaritan came down the road to the man.
(Samaritans were very much looked down upon and despised by the Jews because they were a mixture of the Jews and the Gentiles. The Lord Jesus was mistakenly considered by the opposing Pharisees as a Samaritan so He likened Himself to one in this parable.)

- 1) When the Samaritan saw the robbed, naked, half-dead man lying on the road his heart was filled with compassion, sympathy, and concern. (Not like the cold, heartless priest and Levite.)
- 2) The good Samaritan came to him and cared for his wounds, even using His own wine and oil. The wine was used to clean and disinfect his wounds (it is much better than water), and the oil was a kind of salve to soothe the torn and scratched skin.
- 3) He placed the man on his own beast. The good Samaritan walked the rest of the journey and let the wounded man ride on his beast.
- 4) He brought him to an inn for shelter (like the Lord brought us to the church).
- 5) He himself took care of him in the inn (instead of resting and relaxing).
- 6) He paid the innkeeper to continue the care of him as long as necessary for him to be fully recovered, promising to repay him everything that he spent when he came again.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON EIGHTEEN

1. In the parable on the good Samaritan:
 - a) Who does the robbed, beaten, half-dead person represent?
 - b) Who does the good Samaritan represent?
2. The parable of the good Samaritan shows us that we are well able to save ourselves. True _____ False _____
3. The parable of the good Samaritan shows us that, "God helps those who help themselves." True _____ False _____
4. The parable of the good Samaritan shows us that while we are still weak and ungodly Christ loves us and will save us.
True _____ False _____
5. After the good Samaritan treated the man's wounds, he left him in the road and went on alone. True _____ False _____
6. After we receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior He will take care of us until He comes again. True _____ False _____

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Nineteen

THE MINISTRY OF REVELATION (2): THE LORD'S TRANSFIGURATION

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that after following the Lord Jesus for three years, knowing Him as the perfect Son of Man and seeing His divine power as the Son of God in performing miracles, one day the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to three of His Apostles in the transcendence of His divine glory. The Father's declaration, "This is My beloved Son; hear Him," reveals to us that there is only one Person in the whole universe who is God's unique expression and representative, the Lord Jesus Christ. We must realize who He is, believe in Him, "hear," obey, and follow Him.

Memory Verse: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I delight; hear Him! (Matthew 17:5).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 16:28--17:9]

1. The Lord Jesus walked with His disciples for 3 1/2 years before He was crucified and resurrected. They mainly knew Him as the Son of Man; the most wonderful Man they had ever met, a perfect Man, a God-Man. They saw His unblemished human virtues of love, patience, compassion, mercy, humility, etc. day by day.

2. On many occasions the Lord revealed to His disciples His divine attributes. That is, He allowed them to realize that He was not only a perfect Man, but He was also the Son of God and had the power of God. They saw Him do things that men cannot do. Only God can heal sicknesses, raise the dead, turn water into wine, walk on the sea, still the storm, cast out demons, feed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish, etc.

3. Although the Lord revealed Himself as God to His disciples through the many miracles He performed, yet He was always in the appearance of an ordinary man (before His resurrection, except for the one time when He was transfigured before Peter, James, and John). This glorious event is so important it is recorded in three of the Gospels.

- a. Before the Lord Jesus went to the cross He wanted three of His Apostles to see Him in the glory of His kingdom.
- b. Having brought Peter, James, and John with Him to a high mountain, the Lord Jesus was praying. His disciples grew tired and fell asleep. The Lord was suddenly transfigured before them. We cannot imagine very well what that was like, for we have never seen such a thing. But the Bible tells us that "His face shone as the sun," which is the brightest light on the earth. Also, His garments became "white as light" (Matt. 17:2). The disciples awoke and were shocked and terrified (Mark 9:6). They were beholding the Lord Jesus in His glory.

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Nineteen (Continued)

- c. The greatest two men of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah, also appeared in glory and were talking with the Lord.
- d. Peter, not knowing what to say, said, "Let us make three tabernacles: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." This would be to equally honor all three of them.
- e. While Peter was still speaking such nonsense, God the Father immediately adjusted Him. Overshadowing them in a bright cloud He said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I delight; hear Him!"
- f. By this the Father was telling the disciples, "The Lord Jesus is not like Moses or Elijah! He is not just another man of God! He is the very Son of God! Yes, once you lived under the law of Moses, but now that the Lord Jesus has come you must live by Him and by His speaking. Hear Him!"
- g. When the disciples heard this they fell to the ground on their faces, exceedingly afraid. The Lord Jesus touched them saying, "Arise, do not fear." By this we see that although He is the unique, glorious Son of God, He does not want us to live in fear of Him, but to love Him, hear His voice, and follow Him.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON NINETEEN

- 1. How did the Lord look when He was transfigured? (Matt. 17:2)
- 2. With whom was the Lord talking during His transfiguration? (Matt. 17:3) _____ and _____
- 3. Why did the Father interrupt Peter's suggestion in Matthew 17:4-5?
- 4. Who is the Lord Jesus? (Matt. 17:5)
- 5. Once we realize who the Lord Jesus is, what should we do? (Matt. 17:5)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Twenty

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (1):

GOD'S INVITATION AND MAN'S EXCUSES FOR REFUSING SALVATION

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that God prepared a "great dinner" and has lovingly invited sinful man to attend. Although God has prepared "so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3) by giving His only begotten Son to die on the cross, most men will neglect His gracious invitation to salvation, using various ridiculous excuses. However, the Lord will find some who do not think so highly of themselves or trust in their riches or capability and they will respond to His wonderful invitation to salvation by repenting and receiving the Lord Jesus.

Memory Verse: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 14:15-24]

1. God's preparation of salvation:
 - a. God has prepared salvation for all men. Salvation is likened to an honorable, inwardly satisfying, and enjoyable feast.
 - b. Two thousand years ago, after the Lord Jesus died upon the cross for sins and arose from the dead to be our life, God declared, "Come, for it is now ready." The enjoyment of this feast is the redeeming blood of Christ and the resurrection life of Christ. (This is like the bread and wine at the Lord's table.)
2. God's invitation:

The invitation to this great feast of God's salvation has been extended to all men through the Holy Spirit. Our hearing of the gospel is our invitation.
3. Man's excuses:

The first group of men made ridiculous excuses and politely refused to come to God's great dinner. In this way they rejected God's salvation.

 - a. Surely, no one buys land without first examining it thoroughly.
 - b. Surely, no one would buy five yolk of oxen without first proving them.
 - c. Surely, any newly married couple could not go out to a dinner invitation.
4. Those who willingly accepted the invitation:

The Spirit then extended the invitation to those who were poor and crippled, blind and lame. They made no excuse but instead came gladly.

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Lesson Twenty (Continued)

5. God's compelling:
 - a. Because not many people willingly respond to God's invitation to salvation, God must "compel" them to salvation.
 - b. Many people only turn to God after a serious accident or problem arises in their life or family.
6. How to respond to the invitation:
 - a. Be humble and confess that you are a sinner.
 - b. Repent and turn to the Lord.
 - c. Receive Christ and His redemption.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWENTY

1. In Luke 14:16 God's rich and wonderful salvation is compared to a _____.
2. Since when has the "dinner" of God's salvation been made "ready" for us? (Luke 14:17; Rom. 5:8).
3. What was the real reason the people who were invited didn't come?
4. The Lord of the feast sympathized with their reasons for not coming to the feast and kindly forgave them all.
True _____ False _____
5. How does God sometimes "compel" people to receive His salvation?

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Lesson Twenty-one

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (2):

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS--THE DESTINIES OF TWO PERSONS

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we can vividly see beyond the curtain of death into the destinies of two men: a rich man who rejected God's Word in his lifetime and lived sumptuously, and a poor man named Lazarus who believed in God's Word in his lifetime and lived in poverty and pain. The rich man died and passed from temporary comfort to eternal torment; the poor man died and passed from temporary suffering to eternal comfort. We, like Lazarus, should believe in God's Word of salvation and put our faith in Christ.

Memory Verse: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and will not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (John 5:24).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 16:19-31]

1. This is a true story spoken by the Lord Jesus to warn those who reject God's Word of salvation and only care to live for today, as though there will be no need to give an account of our lives after death.

2. The difference while alive:

- a. One man was rich (his name is not given because he does not appear in the Book of Life); well-dressed, honorable, merry, comfortable, and eating well. The rich man did not believe in God's Word. Although he knew about it he rejected it (Luke 16:28-29).
- b. Lazarus (his name is mentioned explicitly because in God's sight he is honorable and appears in the Book of Life--Rev. 20:15) was a very poor man, a beggar, who dressed in rags and lived in misery, pain, and sickness with sores all over his skin due to malnutrition. Lazarus, however, believed in God's Word of the Old Testament.

3. The difference after death:

- a. Both died (not only poor Lazarus), for all men must die one day, because the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23a).
- b. After dying, Lazarus was no longer alone. He was carried away by angels to a place of comfort in Abraham's bosom. When the rich man died and was buried no angels took care of his soul. Instead, he went to a place of torment and suffering. In the fire of Hades he thirsted (like Lazarus did when he laid outside his gate) but no relief would be granted him. There was a great chasm between the two sections of Hades (the section of comfort, called

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Lesson Twenty-one (Continued)

Paradise in Luke 23:43, and the section of fire, torment, and anguish) that separated the rich man from Lazarus (as the gate used to during their lifetime), so that there could be no crossing over from one section to the other.

4. The reasons for the difference:

- a. Lazarus was not saved because he was poor, neither was the rich man condemned because he was rich.
- b. One is saved or lost depending on how he responds to God's Word (Luke 16:29). If someone hears the Word of God and believes in Christ he will be saved. (Such a one will not care much about the passing sufferings of this lifetime.) If someone hears the Word of God and rejects it, not believing in Christ nor receiving His salvation, he is lost.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWENTY-ONE

1. After Lazarus and the rich man died, where did the soul of the rich man go? _____ Where did the soul of Lazarus go? (Luke 16:22-23) _____
2. Describe the rich man's experience in Hades. (Luke 16:24)
3. Describe Lazarus' experience in Abraham's bosom (Paradise). (Luke 16:25)
4. After death could the rich man repent and then go to Paradise? (Luke 16:26) Yes _____ No _____
5. If a person does not believe God's Word and rejects it, would he probably believe it if someone came back from the dead and warned him of his eternal destiny? (Luke 16:31)
Yes _____ No _____

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Twenty-two

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (3): THE LOVING FATHER RECEIVES THE PRODIGAL SON

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that we all, like the prodigal son, need to come back to our loving Father, God. Although we have all turned aside and gone our own selfish and foolish way, our loving God patiently awaits us to come to our senses, to repent, and come back to Him. When we do, He does not scold us or punish us. He receives us with tears of joy and kisses of love. He forgives our sins, covers our nakedness, and satisfies our hunger with His best, the Lord Jesus Christ who was sacrificed for us.

Memory Verse: "Let us eat and be merry; because this son of mine was dead and lives again, was lost and was found"
(Luke 15:23-24).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 15:11-24]

1. The younger of two sons grew impatient awaiting his father's inheritance. He could not wait, so he heartlessly and selfishly demanded his inheritance even while his father was still living.

2. Very shortly after receiving his father's hard-earned gift (inheritance) the younger son left his father's home and went to a distant country. In a short time of loose and wasteful living all was spent. When all of his money was gone, so were his "friends."

3. Famine struck. He had no money, no friends, no job, and an aching, hungry stomach. Only one job was available, for nobody else wanted it. That was to tend and feed the dirty, stinking hogs.

4. The loneliness, hunger, and shamefulness did its work. This foolish, hard-hearted, and sinful son came to his senses. He realized it would be much better to swallow his pride, repent, and go back to His father and see if perhaps he would have mercy on him and receive him back, in spite of all he had done. He determined to confess his sinfulness and ask to work for his father as a servant, for he felt he was not "worthy to be called your son."

5. The father saw his son coming back home while he was still a long way off. Probably every day the broken-hearted father would go out to look for his son and to pray for him to come back home. Seeing his son, the father's heart was filled with compassion, love, and mercy. He ran to him, fell on his neck, and kissed him.

6. Once the prodigal (recklessly wasteful) son had confessed his sin and said, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son," the father allowed him to say no more. He could not stand to hear such words! Although he did not appear worthy, for he appeared as a poor tattered beggar dressed in filthy rags, he was this loving father's dear returned son!

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Lesson Twenty-two (Continued)

7. The prodigal son expected some harsh treatment from his father, if he would even receive him back at all. What a surprise! The father forgave all his sins and rejoiced to receive his son back again. He changed the filthy rags for the best robe. His ragged hands received a golden ring and his tired bare feet were comforted with sandals. The greatest surprise of all was that a specially fattened calf was slaughtered for them all to feast on.

8. The father's exclamation, "This son of mine was dead and lives again, was lost and was found," shows us the deep feeling in this loving father's heart. He did not call him a "wicked son" or an "ungrateful son," but a "dead" son and a "lost" son. This shows that his heart was full of sorrow and grief, not anger.

Apply this as the gospel to the children:

1. When our heart is selfish and we turn our back on God and go away from Him, we, like the prodigal son, are only headed to ruin and misery.
2. God's mercy brings us to our senses and causes us to remember our dear God and Father. When we turn back to Him we find that He still loves us, and is patiently waiting for us to return.
3. Regardless of our sins and mistakes, He still loves us, welcomes us, receives us, and meets our need completely. He forgives our sins, covers our nakedness and shame, and satisfies us with Christ who as the fatted calf died for us.
4. Should we not open our hearts, and come back to Him today?

[See Hymns #1052]

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWENTY-TWO

1. After his father died the younger son received his inheritance. (Luke 15:12) True ____ False ____
2. The younger son handled his inheritance money wisely and spent it carefully. (Luke 15:13) True ____ False ____
3. When the famine came and all his friends left, what did the prodigal son have to do for a job? (Luke 15:15)
4. When the prodigal son realized how sinful and foolish he had been, what did he decide to do? (Luke 15:18)
5. What did his father do when he saw his son returning home? (Luke 15:20)
6. What four things did the prodigal's father provide for him? (Luke 15:22-23)
7. What does this parable show us about God's love toward us?

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Lesson Twenty-three

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (4): THE FORGIVING SAVIOR AND THE LOVING SINNER

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that the Lord Jesus is only truly known and loved by those who have believed in Him and trusted in Him to be their Savior, the One who forgives their sins. A formal, cold, or merely religious acceptance of the Lord will not issue in the forgiveness of sins, nor will it produce love for Him. When we truly believe in Him and receive Him as our Savior, our sins are forgiven and washed away. This causes our hearts to be filled with love and appreciation of Him.

Memory Verse: "For this reason I say to you, her sins which are many have been forgiven, because she loved much; but to whom little is forgiven, he loves little" (Luke 7:47).

Facts to Teach: [Scriptural reading: Luke 7:36-50]

1. A curious Pharisee one day invited Jesus to his house for a meal. He did not invite Him because he loved Jesus and wanted to be with Him, but simply to investigate a little closer into the matter of who Jesus was. This self-righteous, proud Pharisee was intending to "check out" the Lord. Instead, he was "checked out" and fully exposed by the Lord.

2. An uninvited woman came to Simon's house, humbly weeping at Jesus' feet and washing the dust and dirt off. She dried His feet with her beautiful long hair and she anointed His feet with costly ointment. All of this seemed too much for Simon. He felt disgusted, not only with this emotional, uninvited, sinful woman who was disturbing his formal dinner, but also with the Lord Jesus who allowed her to touch Him and pay such attention to Him. Simon felt he knew more than Jesus. He doubted that Jesus could truly be a prophet for He apparently didn't even know that the woman touching Him was a sinner.

3. The Lord Jesus, however, taught Simon that He is more than a prophet, He is a sinner-loving and forgiving Savior. He knew the woman's heart of repentance, regret, and love, and He knew Simon's heart of pride, self-righteousness, and judgment.

4. The Lord did not answer Simon harshly with a rebuke. Rather, He spoke a parable to Simon to help him realize that he also was a sinner who owed God something which he could not pay. Whether his debt (sin) was great or small, he could do nothing nor give anything to remove it. God alone can forgive it. So Simon, just like the sinful woman, needs God's mercy and forgiveness. (He should not feel he is so good, nor that the woman is so bad.)

5. The Lord Jesus then showed Simon the striking contrast

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THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Twenty-three (Continued)

between his cold, formal, heartless invitation to dinner and the woman's tender, warm, loving attention to Him.

6. The Lord then explained to Simon that the woman's great love was because of gratitude, because her many sins had all been freely and graciously forgiven by God. She loved much because she had been forgiven much. She had faith in the Lord Jesus (not just curiosity) and believed in Him as her Savior (not just a prophet) so her sins were forgiven. So many sins were so freely pardoned that her grateful heart was filled with thanks, appreciation, and love. The fact that Simon showed so little care toward the Lord revealed that he had little love, for he had only a small amount of faith and had experienced very little (if any) of God's forgiveness.

7. The Lord's word, "Your sins have been forgiven," were spoken to assure this loving, repentant sinner's heart. She had already believed in the Lord and loved the Lord. Therefore, she should have the assurance from His word that she was indeed forgiven. The result of God's forgiveness is that we may go on in peace.

Use this lesson as a final inspiration to the children:

1. When we believe in the Lord, regardless of how bad or how many our sins are, we are forgiven immediately and freely.

2. We should be assured of God's forgiveness, believe His faithful Word, and love Him to the uttermost, as this woman did.

3. Our response to the gospel, which tells us of God's love toward us, should be a pouring out of our love, our life, our all upon the Lord Jesus, as is seen with this forgiven sinner, and also in Matthew 26:6-13.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWENTY-THREE

1. Simon received the Lord Jesus in his house with a very warm and loving welcome. (Luke 7:44-46) True _____ False _____
2. The sinful woman who came into Simon's house without being invited loved the Lord Jesus very much. (Luke 7:47)
True _____ False _____
3. How did the forgiven woman show her love toward the Lord?
(Luke 7:38)
4. Do you think that Simon realized he was a sinner who needed Jesus' forgiveness? (Luke 7:39)
5. What do we need to do in order to have our sins forgiven? (1 John 1:9)

**THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS
JESUS MEETS EVERY MAN'S NEEDS**

CONCLUSION

The following four lessons are a set which will conclude the series of lessons on the Ministry of the Lord Jesus. These four lessons do not just teach how the Lord met every man's need, they present the gospel to the class. During this last month the main burden is not to just teach gospel truth, but to lead the children to the Lord if they have not already opened themselves to Him in prayer and asked Him to be their Savior. Lead the children gently, not forcefully. Present the gospel tenderly, not threateningly. Allow the Spirit to work. Observe and respond to how He touches the children. Some may be unable to open up in a classroom environment. Be exercised, be sensitive, be believing for the salvation of each one. Do not let their behavior influence you, whether good or bad. Our Savior God desires that all men would be saved.

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| Lesson 20 | God's Invitation and Man's Excuses for Refusing Salvation (Luke 14:15-24) |
| Lesson 21 | The Rich Man and Lazarus: the Destinies of Two Persons (Luke 16:19-31) |
| Lesson 22 | The Loving Father and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24) |
| Lesson 23 | The Forgiving Savior and the Loving Father (Luke 7:36-50) |

(Portions of the outline in Lessons 20 and 21 were taken from Gospel Outlines, by Witness Lee, published by the Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California.)