



# Walking With **JESUS**

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# *note*

This work has been made with the hope that together we can search the scripture and develop a greater understanding of it. Hopefully, it will make your study of this topic more edifying, more profitable, and more enjoyable. It is not intended to take the place of your responsibility to prepare for the studies. Please devote adequate time to the material before our study, so we can all be edified by one another (Hebrews 10:24–25).

All verse references are taken from the New American Standard Bible 1995 unless otherwise noted.

# Walking With Jesus

# Follow Me 1

## IN PREPARATION

Read John 13-17.

What are some things you have read that Jesus did that stand out in your mind?

What qualities of Jesus do you wish that you had?

How would you describe Jesus' demeanor the night of His betrayal?

What is seemingly His priority at the last supper?

## Christian and Disciple

We speak of Christians and disciples all of the time, but we likely do not really consider the meaning of those terms. A disciple is a person that follows a certain set of teachings, a discipline. Thus, a Christian is a disciple of the teachings of Jesus Christ. The teachings that have been given by the Lord come in a couple different ways. Sometimes the Lord would just give direct commandments to His followers, but sometimes He would teach by the example He set.

Since the Lord came to show us the way through His words and actions, it should not surprise us to find the following phrase 19 times from the mouth of Jesus: "follow me". Jesus spent His time on this earth showing His disciples how to act and what to do and preparing His apostles for after He was gone. If the disciples and apostles were to be what they must, they would have to listen to the Lord and watch how He acted and carefully emulate those words and behaviors.

Consider the following occasions where Jesus uses the phrase "follow me" and write a brief description of the situation on the line provided.

1. Matthew 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Matthew 8:22 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Matthew 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Matthew 16:24 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Matthew 19:21 \_\_\_\_\_





# Follow Me

6. John 10:27 \_\_\_\_\_

7. John 12:26 \_\_\_\_\_

8. John 13:36 \_\_\_\_\_

9. John 21:19 \_\_\_\_\_

10. John 21:22 \_\_\_\_\_

From these passages we get a clear picture of what the Lord wanted His followers to do. It basically boils down to this, the disciple of Christ must forsake the things of this life and live as Christ taught to inherit the superior things of the next life. It is important that we note from this that there is action involved on our part. If we do not forsake this life and follow Jesus, then we cannot expect to receive what He has prepared for those that do!

As we spend our time this quarter considering different qualities that the Lord had that we can and should emulate, our hope is to better learn what it takes to truly deny self and follow Him! Sadly, it is far too easy to become a person who is a Christian in name only. A Christian who knows that various things that we should not do, but forgets that there are many things we must do and qualities of Jesus that we should be working to acquire and nurture to maturity. May we never be people of this sort! May we diligently and carefully consider the steps of Jesus and walk in them.

### **If you love me...**

Jesus gave us some simple instruction at John 14:15: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." In actuality Jesus was speaking these words to the apostles at the "last supper" as we often call it. John 13-17 is comprised of the events and words that took place during this passover feast, the night that the Savior was betrayed.

Much of the speaking that was done by Jesus at this supper was to prepare the apostles for what was going to take place that evening. He was going to be betrayed by Judas. They



# Follow Me

were going to be afraid and scatter. Jesus is trying to instill words in them that encourage them to return to Him after the dreadful events that were about to take place. One thought that they needed to keep in mind was the love they had for Jesus. The Savior wants them to understand that saying that you love Him or feeling it is not enough. The one that truly loves Jesus will do what He has commanded.

This statement by Jesus really caps off a discussion that has been taking place about what exactly following Jesus meant. Answer the following questions from that discussion.

Where was Jesus going and what question does Thomas ask?

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What is the way and how would the apostles have known the Father?

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What question does Philip ask?

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What does Jesus say He had been doing on the earth?

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What was Jesus going to send after He departed and why?

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It is also of note that Jesus tells the apostles several more times in chapter 14 that loving Him means doing what He says. What we realize is that it was imperative that the apostles follow Him. Jesus is about to die and then He will have a limited time with them before He



# Follow Me

finally ascends to Heaven. These men are His delegates. These men will be responsible for being the foundation of the church which the Lord was about to purchase with His blood. (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 21:14) If the church is to be, these men must follow Him.

## **Fitted Together**

Paul tells the Ephesians at 2:19-22 that saints are the holy temple in the Lord that has been built upon Jesus the corner stone and the foundation of the apostles. We are being fitted together. We are growing into that Holy temple. We are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. All of this colorful language is explaining to us what we are striving for. We want to be a part of His church that was purchased with the blood of Jesus. How are we going to be a part of this building? By being built on the foundation. And what does it mean to be built on the foundation? It means that just as a building is trued off the corner stone and the foundation sets the plane, we are to be saints who follow the words and examples set by Jesus and laid by the apostles.

It is because of this that we see commands from the apostles as follows:

What does Paul command at Philippians 3:17?

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What does Paul command at II Thessalonians 3:7?

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## **Following His Example**

Jesus spent His time showing the apostles how to be so that they could record those things and in turn follow His example to show us how to be! Only through carefully following the example that has been set can we have hope of Heaven. It is imperative that we read about our Savior and walk in His footsteps. May we pay careful attention to some of these qualities of our Savior and strive to emulate them.



# Walking With Jesus Righteousness 2

## IN PREPARATION

Read Luke 1:46-55.

What has just taken place that prompts this speech? What was going to happen?




Who is speaking here? Why does she give this speech?




What are some things in this speech that stick out in your mind?




What does this speech say about the one making it?




## Perfect Yet Sympathetic

Part of the reason that Jesus was sent to this earth was to experience first-hand the human experience. We certainly have an attitude within us that says if you have not walked where I have walked then you can not understand my journey. However, Jesus our High Priest, as explained at Hebrews 4:15, has walked where we have walked, but without sin!

*“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”*

Thus we see that our Savior is perfectly and completely righteous. That is, all that He did while walking on this earth was according to the Father’s will and He never violated the Law as had been given to the Israelites at Sinai. Jesus taught us all that we can obey the will of the Father. We can choose what is right.

## Consumed with the Father’s Wishes

Luke 2 gives us a rare glimpse into the childhood of our Savior. While we certainly would find it interesting to know more about His years as a youth, this account truly sums up how He lived when a youth. Answer the following questions from Luke 2:39-52.

How old is Jesus and why were they in Jerusalem?

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What did Jesus do when it was time to go home?





# Righteousness

What was Jesus doing when they found Him?

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What was His response to His parents frustration?

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What from verse 51 indicates to you that the actions of Jesus were correct?

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This is truly amazing as we consider the dedication to the will of the Father that Jesus had. His number one priority even from His youth was to carry out the Father's will. All else was secondary at best.

## Great Parents

As we consider more the youth of Jesus we learn that Jesus was raised by righteous parents. They had been entrusted with an enormous privilege and responsibility. They were to nurture the Savior of all mankind! As we would expect, the Father chose the couple to do this wisely.

How is Joseph described at Matthew 1:19?

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What did he do to warrant this description?

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What does Mary's prayer consist of after being visited by the angel?

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# Righteousness

## Entrapment

The righteousness of Jesus may well be best displayed by the great lengths the religious leaders of His day went to as they tried to discredit Him. They were constantly on the look out for some infraction, some sin, some violation of the law that they could destroy Him with. They were unsuccessful. When they did think they caught Him from time to time Jesus was able to easily illustrate that the supposed violation was nothing more than a violation of the extra rules that they were placing upon the necks of the Jewish people, while not following them themselves.

What does Jesus say they were doing at Matthew 15:9 as He quotes Isaiah 29:13?

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Describe the two moments at Luke 6:1-11 where they thought they caught Him erring?

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How does Jesus deal with these two instances?

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Jesus is perfectly righteous. Try as they might, they were never able to catch Him in wrongdoing. As time went by the rulers became angrier and angrier. After the resurrection of Lazarus as recorded at John 11, this anger grew to a feverish pitch. Chapter 12 records that they were trying to kill Lazarus and Jesus.

When it was time ultimately to put Jesus to death, He had to be put through a farce of a trial where evidence was manufactured. (Matthew 26:60) Jesus was above reproach and they knew it. He lived His life in a way where no accusation could be made against Him. Pilate's wife saw this and tried to get Pilate to see it at Matthew 27:19.

*"While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him."*





# Righteousness

## Walking With Jesus

The life of Jesus teaches us much about righteousness. Here are some observations.

1. He commands righteousness. During the sermon on the mount, Jesus spoke about righteousness and commanded that we should “seek *first His kingdom and His righteousness*”. (Matthew 6:33) Just as putting the will of the Father before all was His priority, this must be the case with the Christian also. It is not optional. We do not get to decide that we will follow Christ and continue to sin. Following Christ demands righteousness. As Jesus said also in the sermon on the mount in the beatitudes, “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*” and “*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*” The person who wants to be in His kingdom must be righteous.
2. He demonstrates that we can live above reproach. They tried repeatedly to entrap the Savior but were unsuccessful. We should live our lives in such a righteous way that those on the outside (or inside) can find no occasion against us. This is certainly demonstrated by Paul as he gives Timothy and Titus the qualifications for selecting shepherds. (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6) Paul also explains to the Philippians that all saints must be above reproach as lights to the world. (Philippians 2:15) This is certainly within our reach!
3. He explains that God is a defender of the righteous. As we examine the life of Christ we see that the Father was with Him at all times. Jesus righteously did the will of the Father and the Father was pleased by this. After the baptism of Jesus and upon the mount of transfiguration the Father made similar declarations. “*This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!*” As we examine the life of Paul we see that the Lord was there to help him as he struggled through his mission righteously. The same is true of all of His followers. As Jesus was pronouncing the woes upon Jerusalem in Matthew 23, He explains why the city is going to be destroyed. “*I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes...so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.*” They had abused the righteous for centuries and the blood of those murdered was not forgotten! He remembers all His righteous followers and will avenge!

# Walking With Jesus

# Love 3

## IN PREPARATION

Read I John 4.

Where does John say that love comes from? What verse in the chapter says this?




How did God manifest His love toward us according to verse 9?




What should we do in light of the love that the Father has first shown us?




What does John repeatedly tie to loving God?




## God Is Love

John writes at I John 4:16, “We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” As we have noted from the words of Jesus during the last supper, when the apostles saw Him they saw the Father for Jesus and the Father are one. They are God. Jesus is love as much as the Father is love.

With God being described by this one word, it does not surprise us that the Lord demonstrates His love repeatedly and constantly during His time upon this earth. Indeed we can look at most any circumstance where Jesus is dealing the the disciples and even with enemies and see the love that He has for mankind. With this lesson we will consider a few.

## Ivory Palaces

Before we even really consider instances of the Lord demonstrating His love for mankind while on the earth, we must consider the great act of love He demonstrated in coming to this earth in the first place.

What does Philippians 2:5-11 say Jesus chose to do?

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How does the passage describe His state in Heaven? On earth?

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What would ultimately happen that would show His love?

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# Love

These verses from Philippians 2 explain to us that Jesus was the one who was willing to come. We tend to focus on the Father sending His Son, which was indeed an incredible act of love. However, we do not want to neglect the fact that Jesus came because He chose to. It was up to Him. Coming to this earth and even staying was His choice that was made in love for mankind.

What does Jesus say He could do at Matthew 26:53? What did He do?

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We indeed should thank the Lord Jesus Christ for not only being willing to come to this earth, but also to suffer. This is a hard thing for us to comprehend because we cannot truly comprehend what Jesus left. We know about the hardship on this earth. We know about the sickness, and death, and sin, and hatred toward one another. Yet, conceiving of the perfection, and beauty, and splendor of Heaven is beyond our grasp.

How does John describe his vision of Heaven in Revelation 4-5?

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## His Family

One way that Jesus shows His love while on this earth is towards His family. Especially His mother. Children are commanded by the Law to obey their parents. As Paul told the Ephesians, this is the first commandment with a promise attached. It was such a severe sin under the Old Law that disobedient children were to be killed. (Deuteronomy 21:18-21) Jesus being the righteous man that He was showed love and honor to His parents.



# Love

What is said of Mary at Luke 2:19, 51 and why?

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What did Jesus do for Mary at John 19:26-27 and what was the occasion?

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## Jesus Wept

John 11:35 is comprised of two simple words: "Jesus wept." This passage is often cited as the shortest in the Bible and is a favorite memory verse due to its brevity. Though it is short, it says much. It speaks greatly about the love that Jesus has for mankind, especially His disciples.

What caused Jesus to weeping?

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What does Jesus say at John 11:4?

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Being that Jesus knew how it all would turnout, why weep?

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What was the response of the Jews when they saw Jesus' reaction?

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Jesus loves His people. We see it in how He interacted with people, but it stands out starkly with Lazarus. Jesus was here because He loves mankind and became greatly involved with us.





# Love

## Walking With Jesus

John makes clear in his epistles that God is love and if we are to be servants of His we must also be loving. (1 John 4:7-9) He goes as far as to say that if we say we love the Lord but do not love others then we are liars. (1 John 4:20) What then can we learn from the love Jesus had as we seek to love Him and those around us.

1. Love should be our driving force. The motivation for everything that the Savior did was love. John 13:1 tells us that Jesus *“loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”* Jesus came to this earth and lived and died as He did because of His love for mankind. Paul in turn explains to us at Romans 12:10 that we must *“be devoted to one another in brotherly love”*. We should interact with one another in love. Even when discipline is called for, it must be done with a motivation of love.
2. There are no exceptions. It is very easy to feel that we must love everyone... except some particular person. Thankfully, Jesus loved us all and demonstrated that toward everyone. Even when He speaks of the woes upon Jerusalem in Matthew 23, Jesus says that He longed to gather her children together, *“the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings”*. These were some of the very same people that were about to put Him on a cross! Just as did Jesus, we are called to love everyone. And that means EVERYONE! Who are we supposed to love according to Matthew 5:43-44? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Without love, we have no faith. 1 John 4:7-8 makes clear that loving one another is to know God. If we do not love one another, then we cannot know God because God is love. Thus if we are going through this life and have hatred toward various people, especially brethren, then we do not have faith. We can say that we love God and know Him until we are blue in the face, but it is just simply not true. Not because some preacher said so, but because the apostle John said so through inspiration. Jesus tried to make this point abundantly clear to the apostles during the Last Supper. They had to love one another and teach that principle to the disciples as time went by. 1 John has the apostle doing just as Jesus was trying to get him to do.

*“We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”*  
 (1 John 4:16)

# Walking With Jesus

## Trust In Scripture

# 4

### IN PREPARATION

Read Matthew 24.

How would Jesus coming as mentioned in Matthew 24 be like the days of Noah?




Why did they not understand in the days of Noah?




What two groups of people were there when the flood came on the earth?




What does II Peter 2:5 call Noah? Who did the flood come upon?




### Confirming the Old

One great thing that we learn from the life of Jesus is the veracity of the Old Testament. He did not speak as though these things were myths or fairy tales. He spoke of these things as being what they were, the inspired word of God.

While many would try to dismiss this as just being a first century ignorant person relying on ancient writings that were written in ignorance, we must remember that this gets to the very nature of Jesus. Jesus was not just some man relying on the writings of the ancients. Jesus is Immanuel. (Matthew 1:23)

What does "Immanuel" mean?

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How long had Jesus been around according to John 8:58?

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How long according to Paul in I Corinthians 10?

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How long according to Isaiah 9:6?

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As is very clear from scripture, Jesus has been around forever, just as has been the Father. He is eternal. Thus we see that He knew these events to be fact because He was there! Consider the following list of events verified by Jesus.





# Trust In Scripture

## Jesus Believed Every Event of the Old Testament\*

- God's recent Creation (Mark 10:6–9)
- Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:4–5)
- Cain's murder of Abel (Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51)
- Noah's Ark (Luke 17:26)
- God's judgment on the world by a global Flood (Matthew 24:37–39)
- Abraham (John 8:56–58)
- Lot (Luke 17:28)
- Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire (Luke 17:29)
- Lot's wife turned to salt (Luke 17:32)
- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—not only historical people but still living in Jesus' day (Matthew 22:32; see John 4:12)
- God spoke to Moses in a burning bush (Mark 12:26)
- God fed Israel with manna in the wilderness (John 6:32)
- Moses' authorship of Genesis (Luke 24:27; John 5:46–47)
- Moses' brass serpent healed Hebrew believers of snake bites (John 3:14)
- David's great deeds (Matthew 12:3; Mark 2:5; Luke 6:3)
- David's authorship of psalms (Matthew 22:42–45; Mark 12:35–37; Luke 20:42–44)
- King Solomon's glorious rule (Matthew 12:42)
- Elijah's and Elisha's unique miracles (Luke 4:25–27)
- God delivered Jonah from a great fish (Matthew 12:39–40)
- Isaiah's authorship of the prophetic book bearing his name (Matthew 13:14 citing Isaiah 6:9–10 and John 12:38 citing Isaiah 53:1)
- Daniel's authorship of the prophetic book bearing his name (Matthew 24:15)

Thus we see that Jesus believed these events to be fact. Immanuel verifies what was revealed in the Old Testament. As "Answers In Genesis" rightly points out, it is interesting that most of these are the very events that are often called myths. Certainly Immanuel was not an ignorant rube! He is God and spoke of these as the facts that they were!

\*taken from [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org)



# Trust In Scripture

## The Supernatural Is Necessary

Many today have the idea that Jesus was a great teacher apart from all of the supernatural stuff. Thus a person can ignore the supernatural things recorded of the Lord and the things that the Lord verified as having happened in ancient times, yet still be a servant of His because He was a great teacher anyway. However, we quickly realize that Jesus was nothing but a liar and a false prophet if these events verified by Him did not happen!

The whole mission of Jesus surrounded the fact that He is God and knew all these things to be true. How can we believe any of the teaching of a man who claimed to be God, who claimed to have been there before Abraham, and who spoke as fact the various events in the Old Testament. If He did not know these things or if they did not happen then the scripture itself tells us that we should not give heed to Him! Answer the following questions from Deuteronomy 18:15-22.

Who is being spoken of in verses 15-18? \_\_\_\_\_

What were they to do to identify him?

\_\_\_\_\_

What would happen if the test was failed by an individual?

\_\_\_\_\_

While we often use Deuteronomy 18 to speak about what would happen to a false prophet, which is definitely a proper use of the text, the primary purpose was not for identifying false prophets, but rather to identify the one true great prophet! Thus we see that if Jesus said these things and they were not true, then He fails the very test that was given in the law to identify Him, and He is not the Messiah. However, we know that these things are true, the things Jesus speaks of did happen, and it is all evidenced by the fact that the things Jesus said would come to pass happened. We can be assured and comforted by these things that are telling of who exactly Jesus was and is.





# Trust In Scripture

## Walking With Jesus

Jesus' trust in the scripture teaches us much. Here are some observations.

1. We should have the same trust in the events of the Old Testament. It is so easy to fall victim to the ideas of men today that have the appearance of wisdom, but are merely the thoughts of men. People cannot see how we all came from two people, or how the entire world could be flooded, or how the universe could be created in six days. Yet, the scripture says that these things are so. Our Savior spoke of these things matter-of-factly, demonstrating to us that Jesus knew these things to be true. Thus, if we are to walk with Jesus, we need to have that same belief in the events recorded in the Old Testament.
2. Biblical principles should lead our lives. As we noted from the extensive list of Old Testament events that Jesus referred to, He was led by these principles. No doubt they were taught to Him from His youth by His godly parents as Deuteronomy 6 commanded. This of course was in addition to whatever knowledge He had being Immanuel. While we do not know exactly what Jesus knew and when, we definitely see a man who was guided by the principles taught in the Bible. We likewise must be led by what we read in the word of God. As I Corinthians 10 explains, the events of the Old Testament are given to us as an example. We learn about the nature of God and many other facts that help us understand what is going on in the New Testament. As Paul says at Galatians 4:30, "What does the scripture say?" We should be people who ask this question and then walk by the answer!
3. Jesus' trust in the Old Testament should confirm our trust in the New. The fact that Jesus trusted completely in the Old Testament and that He used the knowledge there to teach the New should bolster our faith in the New Covenant. He confirmed the Old, which were the principles and groundwork upon which the New was founded. Just as the Old Law was inspired as II Timothy 3:16 states, we know that the New Testament writings are inspired also. The same Jesus that confirmed the Old sent the Spirit to inspire the New! Jesus told the apostles at John 16:13 that "*when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak*".

# Walking With Jesus

# Faith

## IN PREPARATION

Read Luke 4:1-13.

What was Jesus full of according to verse one and how did this happen?




How long did the temptation of Jesus last?




What are the three recorded temptations that Jesus endured at Satan's hand?




What was Satan waiting for after the temptation?




## Walking By Faith

As we looked at in an earlier lesson, from a very young age Jesus was teaching the teachers. He obviously was a person who loved the Father and wanted to abide by His will. It is clear that Jesus walked by faith in the Law and faith in the Father.

Luke 2 has Jesus teaching the teachers in Jerusalem at the age of 12 years old. Verse 40 tells us that He grew and became strong and was increasing in wisdom. It also tells us that the "grace of God was upon Him". The grace of God was given to Jesus because He was a faithful servant of the Father from the beginning. Jesus walked by faith!

## Satan's Tests

Luke 4 and Matthew 4 both record Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by Satan. As those texts explain, Jesus had just left being baptized by John in the Jordan. After being baptized the Spirit impelled Him to go to the wilderness. (Mark 1:12) The purpose? To be tempted by Satan for forty days. It is hard to imagine going from a high such as the Father speaking to you and the Spirit descending like a dove to spending forty days in the wilderness with Satan! Yet, Jesus dealt with the situation superbly, as we would expect of a person that was so devoted to walking by faith.

The great barrier to walking by faith is sin. It creeps in and destroys belief. Sin is such a difficult thing because due to our being in the flesh with the desires that come with it, it can be hard to say no to the deeds of the flesh. The person is at constant war with what the flesh desires to do and what God expects us to do. Jesus, being on this great spiritual high after the Father spoke to Him, now tries to overcome Satan's efforts





# Faith

to destroy those feelings and His faith by convincing Him to sin.

How does John sum up sin and what is in the world at 1 John 2:16?

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Can you give a brief description of what you believe the meaning of these three phrases to be?

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These three categories of sin are a very good summation of the various natures of sin. All sin can be placed into one of these three categories. It is therefore not surprising to see that Satan attacks Jesus with sin from each of these categories during the temptation in the wilderness. Consider the following with regard to the types of sin that Satan tried to provoke Jesus into:

1. **The Lust of the Flesh.** Satan begins by saying to Jesus, *“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”* (Matthew 4:3) We note first the blasphemy of Satan. He knows exactly who Jesus is. We can be sure of this because the demons certainly knew Jesus as we find in several places such as Luke 4:41. So Satan does not need proof of who Jesus is. He is trying to place doubt in the Lord as to who He was and cause Him to sin.

This would have been a very hard thing to endure. The Lord has not eaten for forty days at this point. No doubt the thought of food sent His body reeling. And of course, Satan was right. Jesus could have turned the stones into bread and ended his hunger whenever He so chose. However, He was on a spiritual mission. He was there to focus



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on what the Father had sent Him to do and demonstrate His will and power to Satan. As the passages says, Satan left to seek a more opportune time to try again at harming Jesus. He learns on this occasion that Jesus could not be so easily turned from His mission! Certainly the Lord understood the weakness of the flesh and how He must master its desires.

- 2. The Lust of the Eyes.** After Jesus refuses to turn the stones into bread, Satan tries to appeal to the eyes of the Lord. (This is according to the order given in Luke; Matthew reverses the second and third temptations.) On this occasion Satan takes Jesus up and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. No doubt this was a beautiful, awe-inspiring sight. It is hard to fathom what exactly this snapshot of the ancient world looked like, but no doubt it was impressive. After appealing to the eyesight of the Lord, Satan offers it all to Him in exchange for Jesus falling down and worshipping him. The pompous nature of Satan is truly remarkable. He offers Jesus things that he had no right to give in exchange for the Creator of the universe worshipping Him. It is reasonable to think that the Lord likely wanted to destroy Satan on the spot for his exceeding wickedness!
- 3. The Boastful Pride of Life.** The final temptation we have record of is Satan trying to get the Lord to fall to arrogance. The scripture says that Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem to a high pinnacle and told Him to throw Himself down! Satan even has a scripture to try to make this unreasonable request into something reasonable. No doubt the scripture says what Satan said it did. However, he was quoting this passage in such a way that put it at odds with other clear passages. Jesus reminds him that the scripture also says not to test God.

Power is always something that is tempting to a person. Satan is trying to get Jesus to show that He could test the Father and come out on top. That He could boast of who He was and the protections that would be given to Him as He walked on the earth. The boastful pride of life is when a person exalts themselves as Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel and says, "Look at what I have done!" Jesus was above us all, yet He had emptied Himself (Philippians 2) and Satan's demonstration was wicked and unfitting.





# Faith

## Walking With Jesus

Jesus lived His life by faith in the word and in the Father. He is the perfect demonstration of trusting in the Father for everything. Of letting that faith guide Him rather than falling victim to the trickery of Satan. What then does the faithfulness of Jesus teach us?

1. We must not abuse scripture. Satan is an expert twister of the word. It is interesting to note that when he quoted scripture, he quoted it exactly. This is truly a scary thing. Even the word being quoted verbatim can be misapplied or put at contradiction with other words. Jesus however knew the other passages that modified the passage that Satan used from Psalm 91. Thus we learn from the Lord (and Satan) that we must be very careful with the word. Satan misused it intentionally. Yet, we will be just as wrong if we misuse it unintentionally. We must be students of the word so that we are aware not only of the words, but the context and other passages that must be harmonized.
2. It is best to answer foolishness with a passage. Jesus wisely limited Himself to answering with the word. In each of the three temptations one quick verse answered the error that Satan was speaking. There was no need to go into some lengthy explanations. He just spoke the word that was appropriate. We likewise do well to deal with the foolishness that some speak with a simple passage. Of course, we must study and have the word on our mind to do so. However, if we spend the requisite time in the word to always have an answer, we will be far more successful in helping others to see the truth and the need to change.
3. We can overcome if we hold fast in faith. I have never been truly hungry. It is hard to imagine how Jesus could go for forty days without food, let alone how He must have felt after doing so. Jesus demonstrates to us that even in the face of very difficult temptation, there is always a way of escape and we can overcome. (1 Corinthians 10:13) If we are to walk with Jesus, we must learn to overcome temptation also. We must be willing to lay aside the lust of the flesh, the eyes, or the pride of life in favor of humbly submitting to the will of God. There is always a way out. There is always a proper choice. We must be willing to look for it. We also must be willing to give up what may be necessary. Sometimes the right choice or the way of escape is not the path of least resistance. It may be difficult. But it is worth it!

# Walking With Jesus

# Humility

## IN PREPARATION

Read Matthew 9:9-17.

Who does Jesus call to follow Him in this passage? What was his occupation?

  
  


What did Jesus do with him and with other like him?

  
  


Who had a problem with the Lord eating with them and what was their objection?

  
  


How did Jesus respond to the objections of these individuals?

  
  


## A Humble Leader?

Humble leaders are very difficult to come by. Leaders are more often people who have been told how great they are for so long that they believe themselves to be a great gift to mankind. Of course, Jesus is a great gift to mankind, yet He was exceedingly humble!

What does Paul say Jesus did at Philippians 2:6-7?

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What do you think is meant by equality was not a thing to be grasped?

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How was He found upon this earth and what was His fate?

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What did His humility gain Him? (Philippians 2:9-11)

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Thus we see that Jesus perfectly demonstrates humility to us. His whole life centered around humility. While Christ had the power to exert His position over mankind, He instead chose to empty Himself and rather be the chief servant.

## He Came to Serve, Not Be Served

Jesus explains at Matthew 20:28 that *“the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for*





# Humility

many". Mark 10:45 prefaces this statement with the word "even". As we consider these passages we see that Immanuel, though He is God and deserving of exaltation and having us fall before Him willing to do whatever He needed in the flesh, humbled Himself completely and paid His life as the price to ransom us back from the clutches of Satan and into His loving hands.

What had just occurred when Jesus spoke these words at Matthew 20:24-28?

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Why were the ten indignant?

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What did the Gentile rulers do? What does this mean?

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This word "even" is a message to the apostles. They were to strive to be the best servant. If even Immanuel came to this earth to be a servant, then certainly they could see that His disciples must be servants also. The kingdom of Heaven would be reversed from the kingdoms that we know on this earth. Rather than the organization supporting leaders in some type of hierarchy, the kingdom of Heaven would be upside down (or right-side up depending on how you look at it). That is Jesus supporting the organization as the chief servant. The way to "get ahead" in the kingdom of Heaven is to strive to be the greatest servant.

## **Hands that Lighted the Evening Stars...**

One of the most beautiful lines in the newer hymns can be found in the song, "Immanuel, God With Us". The song focuses on the birth of Jesus. The hymn reads, "Hands that lighted the evening stars, reach out for comfort in Mary's arms." Certainly the picture of the Creator in the form of a babe reaching out for His mother can bring tears to a person's eyes. Yet, this is not the only surprising and beautiful thing that Immanuel did with those



# Humility

hands.

Immanuel did something surprising at the beginning of the Last Supper as recorded by John at John 13:3-17. Read this text and answer the following questions.

What did Immanuel do with His hands in this text?

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What was Peter's reaction?

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What was the response of Jesus to Peter?

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What was the lesson Jesus says He was trying to teach them?

---

Who was the one who was unclean? Why?

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With this Jesus uses some of His last moments with the apostles before He would be crucified to teach them about humility. The temptation to lord their position over the followers of Jesus would be great, but they must stand firm against such an attitude. Immanuel Himself was here to serve, so they certainly were also. They are not greater than Jesus. Since none of them would be willing to say or think such a thing, they must admit to themselves that they were to be great servants as followers of Jesus. They would be blessed if they would do as Jesus said and strive to be servants rather than lords.





# Humility

## Walking With Jesus

Jesus is the perfect example of humility. He tried (successfully) to instill this quality in the apostles and their desire was for us to do likewise. Here are some observations.

1. We must strive for the humility of Jesus. Jesus humbling Himself and leaving the splendors of Heaven for the rotten treatment He would receive in this world is truly mind-boggling. As Paul told the Philippians, *“although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant”*, Jesus indeed demonstrated the highest degree of humility. This passage is prefaced by Paul telling the brethren to *“have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus”*. (Philippians 2:5) Thus we see that our goal should be to excel at humility as we look to Jesus as our example.
2. We must empty ourselves of our own desires and be dedicated to Christ’s will. Christ said repeatedly that He was here to do the will of the Father. As He walked along on this earth He made clear that what He was doing was not about His own agenda. He had emptied Himself of His own desires and was striving to do the will of the Father and speak not from His own initiative, but to speak the words given Him by the Father. If we are to walk with Jesus we must have a similar attitude. We must empty ourselves of our own desires and agendas and make the desire and agenda of the Father our own! Christ made clear that it was not about Him. That being the case, it is certainly not about us. As Peter writes at I Peter 5:6, *“humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time”*. Christ was exalted after humbling Himself as is recorded at Philippians 2, and the Father will do likewise for us.
3. We must be servants rather than lords as the apostles were commanded. The temptation to be lords over people due to the power that one has received from God is not limited to the apostles. While we do not have the ability to work miracles and the like as they did, we certainly have been given a place of honor in the kingdom as the pillar and support of the truth in the church. There are even places of honor within the church as shepherds and the like. Thus Peter explains at I Peter 5 that the shepherd must not lord his position over the flock, but rather lead them by example! The apostles were not greater than the master and neither are we greater than the Lord or apostles!

# Walking With Jesus

# Self-Sacrifice 7

## IN PREPARATION

Read Matthew 26-28.

Describe some of the physical suffering that Jesus endured upon the cross.




Describe some of the humiliation Jesus endured on the cross.




What does Jesus say were at His disposal? What could He have done with them?




Why do you think He did not call upon them for aid?




## The Greatest Act of Love

There has never been a greater act of love than what Jesus did for us upon the cross at Calvary. There has also never been a greater sacrifice. It is true that people sometimes give up their lives for friends. On rarer occasions someone may give up their life for a stranger. Yet the sacrifice of Jesus transcends even these acts.

Who does Paul say a person might die for at Romans 5:6-7?

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Jesus died for whom? What did this demonstrate? (Romans 5:8)

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Jesus is the ultimate example of self-sacrifice. No doubt when we think of the self-sacrificing nature of Jesus our thoughts turn immediately to His work upon the cross for our benefit. And rightfully so! We were in such a desperate state without the sacrifice of the Lord upon the cross. We were undeserving of this act of mercy, yet Jesus sacrificed Himself for us. However, this was not the only sacrifice that Jesus made for us while upon this earth.

## The Foxes Have Holes

Matthew 8:20 and Luke 9:58 record the following words of Jesus: *"The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."* Jesus came to this earth in the form of a bond-servant. He did not come as some great king or dignitary that had access to all the creature comforts that this world has to offer. Even the home that He





# Self-Sacrifice

might could have had with his father and mother he had to forsake so He could travel about and preach the gospel. He depended on the kindness of the disciples and strangers to take care of His physical needs. He had no comfortable bed to call His own. He sacrificed those things to the mission at hand.

In the context of these passages we see that people were approaching Jesus and telling Him that they wanted to follow Him. He spoke these words to explain to them that following Jesus was not easy. It meant being places without comfort. It meant following Him even when food was scarce and no bed could be found. It was not about this life, but the next. It was likely hard for these people to imagine, but Jesus was here to be the king of the kingdom to end all kingdoms, yet, He did not appear or live as a king that they would think of.

## Exhausted

As Americans, we can have a hard time understanding what it means to have a shortage of food or shelter. Yet this is exactly the state that Jesus often found Himself. And what is interesting about the Lord is that it was not that He did not have access to such things. He would often deny His needs so that He could teach more people. There was not even the moments of peace that He needed because of all the folks needing His attention.

Matthew 8:23-27 records a miracle of Jesus. What was it?

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Why do you think that He was asleep?

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What was happening according to Mark 6:30-34?

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# Self-Sacrifice

What did Jesus feel and what was His response to His plans of rest being thwarted?

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Jesus would work until He was completely exhausted. Then when He could not get the rest He needed because people continued to come to them, He worked even more. The time of the Lord here was limited and He was willing to sacrifice Himself so that He could accomplish what the Father had sent Him to do!

## Despised and Forsaken

Isaiah 53 prophesied that Jesus would be “*despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*” No doubt this was the case of His enemies. They hated Jesus. They were jealous of Him, His power, and the people that were following after Him.

Why does Pilate think that Jesus was delivered up to him? (Matthew 27:18) How so?

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What did the Pharisees say of Jesus at John 12:19? In response to what?

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Jesus sacrificed the rightly deserved adoration He would receive in His heavenly splendor. He came to this earth to be despised and forsaken. While we would expect this of His enemies, sadly it was sometimes from those that one would usually call a friend. When Jesus was with His family as recorded at John 7:1-5 we see a sad statement. He was not even believed in by His family at this point. No doubt a tragic and hurtful thing. Jesus indeed sacrificed even the adoration of His family!

What does John 7:5 say of His brothers?

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# Self-Sacrifice

## Walking With Jesus

As Jesus walked upon this earth He gave up whatever was necessary to accomplish His mission of seeking and saving the lost. What are we called to give up if we are to walk with Jesus?

1. Jesus called those that followed Him to sacrifice self also. Matthew 8:19 has a scribe telling Jesus that he would follow Him wherever He went. Jesus tried to explain that it was not a life of comfort. If a person was to follow Him, He must be willing to sacrifice self. Indeed if we are to walk with Jesus, the same is true of us. We cannot go through this life thinking that we can continue living for self and be well-pleasing to Jesus. It is the nature of the flesh to be concerned with the temporal because we have temporal needs. The Christian must sacrifice the temporal to effectively follow Him.
2. The comforts of this life are temporary and must be forsaken. Probably the greatest example of the comforts of this life is when the rich young ruler came to the Lord at Matthew 19:16-22. Jesus identified immediately this man's problem. He was materialistic. Sadly, when Jesus told him that he must sell his possessions, give to the poor, and follow Jesus, the man went away sorrowful because He had much. He was more attached to the things of this life than taking care of what he lacked spiritually. What about us? Will we forsake Jesus in favor of stuff or will we do the opposite? The things of this world are temporary. We cannot take them with us. Sacrificing self in favor of walking with Jesus will lay up treasure in Heaven that will await us! (Matthew 6:20)
3. Following Jesus will likely mean that we must sacrifice relationships. As we have seen the Lord sacrificed having a good reputation before His enemies and even some of His friends. How sad for Immanuel to be despised and disrespected. Yet, Jesus was willing to sacrifice His right and endure this ill-treatment for our benefit. Following Jesus will likely mean that we will endure the same type of things. We will be spoken ill of and likely mistreated by those around us, sometimes even those that we would count as friends. The apostles were flogged before their peers like children in Acts 5, but they went on their way rejoicing. James 1:2 tells us that we should consider it as joy when we encounter trials also. 1 Peter 4:16 says that if we suffer as a Christian we should not be ashamed. We must be willing even to sacrifice relationships for the sake of the kingdom!

# Walking With Jesus

# Stewardship

## IN PREPARATION

Read John 8.

What does Jesus say that He always did according to verse 29 of John 8?

  
  


Where does Jesus say that His words came from?

  
  


What is Jesus referring to when He says, "when you lift up the Son of Man"?

  
  


How would this make them know that He did the Father's will?

  
  


## His Own Initiative

Jesus was not here to accomplish His own will, but rather to accomplish the will of the Father. The Father sent Him to redeem mankind. Jesus emptied Himself and came to do that request of the Father. As John 3:16 points out, the Father sent the Son, and Philippians 2 explains that Jesus was willing to come.

To what does Jesus liken Himself in John 10:11-18?

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What was He willing to do for His sheep?

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What is the commandment that He received from the Father?

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What does the word "commandment" imply?

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What reaction did these words produce in the Jews?

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## In His Charge

The fact that Jesus was here doing the will of the Father gets to the idea of stewardship. Jesus lived His life as belonging to the Father. His life, time and energy were placed in His charge by





# Stewardship

the Father to be used for the Father's purposes.

Going back to Jesus as a twelve year old, consider the implications regarding stewardship. Jesus asked His parents why they were searching for Him. To Jesus it was clear where His responsibility was. His reply to His parents demonstrates this. "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" It was not a question of if He chose to be there or not. He **had to** be in His Father's house. His time and efforts were not His own. At this moment teaching those teachers in the temple was priority being the will of the Father.

## In Word AND Deed

It can become easy to think that Jesus just spoke what the Father wanted, but there is more to it than that. The actions of the Lord were from the Father. These deeds were put in His charge by the Father. Answer the following questions from John 14:8-14.

What did Jesus do that was from the Father? To what does this refer? (John 14:10-11)

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What were these works supposed to accomplish?

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What is the greater work the Father would do?

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Thus we see that Jesus not only spoke the Father's words but He also did the deeds that the Father gave Him to do. When we consider this we begin to see that Jesus' life was not His own. It was from the Father and was to be used according to the wishes of the Father. He had to take good care of the time and energy and life that had been given Him to care for by the Father while on this earth.



# Stewardship

## Show Us the Father

The apostles sometimes had problems understanding the abstract thoughts of Jesus. At John 14:1-4, Jesus begins to speak about where He was going. He was going to prepare a place for them. While they could not go there now, they would be able to follow. Jesus tells them that “*you know the way where I am going.*” This puzzles the disciples and Thomas speaks up. “*Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?*” This frustrates Jesus as is obvious in His answer. Jesus is the way. If they truly knew Him, then they would know the Father.

What was Philip’s question?

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How does Jesus respond? What does His tone seem to be?

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Jesus was such a good steward of what the Father had entrusted in Him that knowing Jesus meant knowing the Father. The apostles should have understood this according to Jesus. At this point Jesus encourages them to be the same sort of person. They had been entrusted with the privilege of being apostles. It would be through their mouths that the word would be taught. Through their work the kingdom would be founded. Through their hands the words of God would be written down so that future generation would know what God expects of them.

Jesus expected the apostles to recognize that they were stewards of the most amazing gift known to man. As Jesus lived His life carefully caring for what the Father had entrusted to Him, so must they in turn be good stewards of what had been entrusted to them by Jesus and the Father. Jesus commands the apostles to be good stewards through a parable at Matthew 12:41-48. Much had been entrusted to them and they must live soberly knowing that the Lord would return when they were unaware and expect them to give an account. They must be good stewards of what had been entrusted to be found pleasing to Him!





# Stewardship

## Walking With Jesus

Jesus was a good steward of the Father's mission. Here are some observations with regard to having the same type of good stewardship

1. We are stewards of life, energy and time. Jesus was sent to this earth to accomplish the mission of seeking and saving the lost. He had to use His brief time here to prepare not only Himself for what was going to happen, but to prepare the apostles to take up the reins after He departed from this earth. This meant using His life, time and energy to the utmost good. We have likewise been entrusted with our very life by the Father. Paul says at Acts 17:28 that in God we live, move and exist. It is all a gift from Him. He also tells the Ephesians at chapter two and verse ten that we have been prepared for good works given us by the Father. We must busy ourselves with His will as we are merely stewards of our bodies and resources.
2. We are likewise stewards of the gospel. Paul calls himself a steward of the gospel several times, such as at I Thessalonians 2:4. The apostles were stewards in the sense that they were inspired by the Holy Spirit to record the things that they recorded. We are likewise stewards, though in a different way. Paul tells Timothy at I Timothy 3:15 that the church is the pillar and support of the truth. Thus it is our responsibility to accurately handle the word and support it in this world. We should be careful teachers of the word.
3. Our Master will return as a thief and expect an account of good stewardship. Matthew 25 has Jesus teaching the disciples the parable of the talents and of the ten virgins. The point that Jesus is seeking to make here is that we must be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us and be prepared for the return of the master. Two of the servants did well with what the master entrusted to them and he was well-pleased with them. The last servant had a little given to him and he did not prove to be a good steward of even that. In the end he lost even what he had. This message is loud and clear for us. There will come a day when the Lord will return and will require an answer from us for how we have cared for what has been entrusted to us. What will our answer be? Will the master be well-pleased with the account that we give and the work that we have done? His return will be unannounced as with the virgins, we must always be prepared?

# Walking With Jesus

# Gentleness

## IN PREPARATION

Read Isaiah 42:1-3; 53:7.

Who is being described in these passages and what is the description at 42:1?




How would this servant behave according to 42:2-3?




What do you think the bruised reed and the dimly burning wick represent?




What is said of Him at Isaiah 53:7? When did this take place?




## A Prophesied Personality

While we are aware of the many passages that speak of the coming Messiah in the Old Testament, it is important to notice the specificity of those prophecies. They were not just generalizations that speak of a great prophet coming. They also speak of things such as where He would be born and the circumstances of His birth. There are even prophecies regarding events that would happen later in life for Him. Even His personality was prophesied. The coming Messiah would be gentle, or as some versions state, meek.

This personality definitely runs counter to what the Jewish people were expecting. They were looking for a person like king Saul. Someone that looked like a king. Someone that acted like a king. What they got, however, was Jesus. He was more like David, fitting since it is said that He would be occupying David's throne. They Israelites were given David because he was the opposite of Saul. His heart was the kind of heart that the Father loved and that loved the Father. Jesus came and was gentle. He came speaking of a spiritual kingdom rather than the reestablishment of the physical kingdom of Israel.

As we noted in preparation, Jesus was prophesied to be quiet. He would be someone that took great care with the weak. He would spend His time helping them rather than crushing them. He would not lash out even against His captors, the very ones that were about to put Him on the cross.

## What is gentleness?

Firstly, we note the obvious. Someone that is gentle is soft spoken. They put other's needs before their own. As we noted in a couple of lessons, Jesus would allow Himself to be imposed





# Gentleness

upon, even when it meant giving up whatever were His needs in the moment. A gentle person would do just as Jesus did and turn away wrath with a soft response. As the Proverb writer says at 15:1, “*a gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*”

There were a number of times where Jesus was being put in a seemingly impossible situation. The intent was often to trap Him. However, Jesus, being the wise, gentle person that He was, quieted the situation by offering an answer that was wise and defused the situation.

Read Matthew 22 and answer the following questions.

Why was Jesus being questioned according to Matthew 22:35?

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What question did the Sadducees ask and what was His answer?

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What question did the Pharisees ask and what was His answer?

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What question did the scribes ask and what was His answer?

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Indeed Jesus was a master at gently answering questions. Even questions that were not honest, but were obviously designed to entrap Him. The gentle person does not lose his head, but thinks through the situation and responds wisely. As much as depended on Jesus, He strove to be at peace, even with these dishonest individuals.



# Gentleness

Secondly, we must note the other side to gentleness. While we may tend to think as a gentle or meek person as being a pushover, this was certainly not the case with the Lord. That is just our modern conception of what meek and gentle mean. It is definitely not the Bible conception. We know this because we are told that He was meek and gentle, but we are also told of the following instances.

What does Jesus do at Matthew 21:12?

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What did Jesus do at John 2:15? What did He make to aid Himself in this pursuit?

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What is the situation at Mark 3:1-6?

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What does Mark 3:5 say of the Lord's mental state?

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Thus we see that the meekness and gentleness of the Lord could be best defined as restrained power. Jesus knew when a quiet answer was best. He also knew when a situation called for a more powerful response. Jesus was most certainly not a pushover. He stood for what was right and for what was called for in the moment.

## **The Crucifixion**

Isaiah prophesied that He would be silent before His shearers. No doubt this was the case as we read the trials and crucifixion of Jesus. It is hard to imagine being restrained as was the Lord when He was being tortured, disrespected and humiliated. Yet, this was His demeanor. Even as false witnesses came forward to destroy Him, He remained collected!





# Gentleness

## Walking With Jesus

Going through this life being controlled by our emotions is definitely an easy thing to do. The hard path is to walk with Jesus in gentleness. Here are some observations.

1. The gentle are blessed. Matthew 5-7 records the sermon on the mount. This sermon begins with the beatitudes, a series of blessings that the Lord will bestow for various admirable behaviors. The third beatitude is found at Matthew 5:5 and reads as follows: *“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”* The Lord earned for Himself the name that is above all names as He emptied Himself and went through His various trials with grace, in gentleness. Jesus tells us that if we follow Him in gentleness, we will be blessed. We will inherit the earth. The world is full of angry, wrathful people. The children of God are to stand out and be different. We are to be in control of our emotions and be known as gentle people that help others, but will stand for what is right when the moment calls for it.
2. The gentle help others. Isaiah prophesied of the gentle personality of Jesus. However, there is one telling statement in Isaiah 42:3. *“He will faithfully bring forth justice.”* Jesus would indeed be gentle, but He would fiercely care for the weak and help them to receive justice for wrongs suffered! This same gentle Jesus also said at Matthew 18:6 that *“whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”* The apostles likewise cared for others. Paul says that he and his workers *“proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children”*, speaking to those of Thessalonica at I Thessalonians 2:7. As we walk with Jesus we must gently live, but also stand up for the protection of those that are weak!
3. God’s wisdom dictates gentleness. James explains in chapter three that we must be careful of our tongues. They can get us into enormous trouble and cause great damage. Immediately after this he talks about wisdom and understanding meaning that we behave in the *“gentleness of wisdom”*. (James 3:13) As he describes the wisdom from above, he explains that it is pure, peaceable and gentle, etc. Thus we see that walking with Jesus requires gentleness because this is a mark of wisdom. Jesus was not a fool and neither can His followers be!

# Walking With Jesus

# Suffering 10

## IN PREPARATION

Read Psalm 22.

Who is being referred to by this Psalm? How did this person feel about the Father?




What does the psalmist say had surrounded this person?




What are some phrases the psalmist used to describe this person's physical condition?




Had this person been abandoned by the Father in reality?




## It Was Necessary

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were dumbfounded by the tomb being empty. Jesus responds to their amazement in the following way at Luke 24:25-26:

*"O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"*

Jesus explains to them that they should have realized that these things were going to happen as they did, if not because of the words of Jesus, at least because of what the prophets had been saying for centuries! As we have been reading excerpts from the Last Supper over the past weeks, one would note that the Lord went to great lengths to prepare them that night for what was about to happen. Yet it still came as shock. An even greater shock when the tomb was empty.

What does Jesus do at Luke 24:27 after rebuking them?

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According to Acts 1:1-3, how long did Jesus spend teaching them and what was the main topic of these lessons?

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The Lord tried to make clear before it all happened and then after as well that His suffering and dying was necessary. The New Covenant could not be put into effect without His blood and the Kingdom could not be put into place without His blood. Jesus had to die because all things are cleansed with blood, and without it there is no forgiveness! (Hebrews 9:22)





# Suffering

## It Was His Mission

We have already considered Psalm 22 in preparation. In weeks past we have looked at excerpts from Isaiah 53. It is clear that when the Messiah came, it would not be to set up some earthly kingdom. He was coming on a mission that was far different from the mission of any earthly king. He was coming for the express purpose of suffering and dying.

What are some things that the suffering and death of Jesus would accomplish for us according to Isaiah 53?

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How is Jesus referenced at John 1:29? Why?

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It was clear from the beginning of the ministry of Jesus that He was a man on a mission. He is announced to the world as a person that was here to die. This was according to the eternal plan of God! (Ephesians 3:11-13)

## Sympathetic

Hebrews 2:18 tells us that since Jesus *“was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”* Part of the reason for God coming in the flesh was so that He could experience the human condition. His suffering and death went far beyond what most anyone suffers while on this earth. As a result we have a great High Priest that can sympathize with our condition.

Jesus certainly understands more about our condition than just physical pain and death. As He walked on this earth He experienced a number of types of suffering that humans go through. He experienced hunger as we looked at during the temptation. He experienced extreme fatigue as we looked at during the time that they crowd would not give Him a



# Suffering

moment to Himself. Jesus suffered the indignity of those around mistreating Him, even those that were His friends. He definitely experienced all that we experience as we walk on this earth and as a result He can sympathize with us!

## The Crucifixion

We spent some time considering the crucifixion account in Matthew 26-28 with regard to what the self-sacrifice of Jesus a few lessons ago and last lesson we considered how Jesus suffered it in gentleness. Now we will take some time to look at Luke's account of the crucifixion found at Luke 22-23 and focus primarily on the suffering that He endured while on the cross.

Jesus mentions that He would be scourged at Luke 18:33. What is scourging?

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What was placed on Jesus after He was scourged? What was done to Him at this point?

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What did Jesus have to do on the way to Golgotha and what physical impact would this have on Him? What does "Golgotha" mean?

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What are some of the things that were done to Him at Golgotha?

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Indeed the suffering of Jesus was horrific. He was mistreated, abused, mocked, and just generally treated in a cruel way that would generally not even be meted out on an animal. There is a reason why crucifixion was such a feared way of dying. Thankfully, by His wounds we are healed! (Isaiah 53)





# Suffering

## Walking With Jesus

Jesus suffered much while upon this earth. As His followers we should expect to suffer some also. Here are some observations.

1. We should suffer with grace. The natural reaction to be abused as was Jesus would be to lash out at our aggressors. However, Jesus did not do this. He suffered gracefully. He would not be pushed into sinful speech or action, especially at this vital moment. When He was in the garden of Gethsemane at Matthew 26, it was clear that He did not desire to endure what was about to happen. However, He would not be deterred from the Father's will. As a good steward He would even go to the cross. Certainly we can see that should follow His example and suffer gracefully also. While we certainly have a right to self-protection, we also must be willing to suffer for the sake of His name.
2. We should have perspective on our suffering. The suffering of Jesus was to accomplish a specific mission. He was here to pay the price for the New Covenant and to pay the ransom for the sinner. Jesus kept this goal in mind and was able to suffer in such a way to accomplish the goal. We likewise have a mission. We are striving for Heaven. We are working for the Lord and His purposes. We are upholding honorable His name. Thus we realize that suffering in the life is for a purpose. As James says in chapter 1, we should count it as joy when we encounter trials. He also says that through our suffering and enduring trials, we will be approved and receive a crown. Suffering is never pleasant in the moment, but make no mistake, the Lord will care for His own. For those that love Him and keep His commandments regardless of the cost
3. It is honorable to suffer for right, not wrongs we have done. One thing is certain, Jesus was sinless and as a result none of the suffering He endured was because of any wrong He had ever brought upon anyone. He suffered completely and totally through no fault of His own. He was simply here to carry out the will of the Father. This is not the case all the time with us! There are certainly times we can point to in our life where we have endured suffering and if we are honest with ourselves it is due to bad choices that we have made. Peter encourages saints to suffer as Christians for good. If we are truly walking with Jesus, any suffering we encounter will be to His glory rather than a hindrance to His purpose for us on the earth. (1 Peter 4)

# Walking With Jesus

# Prayerfulness 11

## IN PREPARATION

Read Matthew 26:36-46.

Where did Jesus go after leaving the Passover feast and why?




Who did Jesus take with Him to this location?




What did He command them to do for Him and what did they do?




Summarize what Jesus was praying for in these verses.




## Jesus Was a Man of Prayer

Mark 1:35 tells us that “*in the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.*” Indeed Jesus was devoted to prayer as we find Him waking up and speaking with the Father first thing. No doubt this is something that Jesus did often as His mission would require frequent communication with the Father so that He would have the strength to accomplish what had been given Him to do!

Not only did Jesus pray first thing, He also did it for as long as it took. It is clear that Jesus longed to speak with the Father and would spend as much time doing it as He possible could. Luke 6:12 is telling.

Where did Jesus go and what did He do? For how long?

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Jesus also prayed for the strength of His disciples. He did not want to see them falter and fall away. He did not want to see them doubt. Thus we have passages such as Luke 22:32.

Who was Jesus praying for here? What was he in danger of doing?

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Since his actions were a given at this point, what does Jesus pray that he does after he falls?

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# Prayerfulness

## **According to His Will**

As we have noted in previous lessons, Jesus was here to accomplish the Father's will. As such Jesus would give up anything that was necessary to carry out what the Father had sent Him to do. There is no doubt that some of what the Father sent Him to do was not pleasant. Actually, most of His mission was not pleasant. While the temptation might have been there to pray against the Father's will, Jesus refused to do this.

What was His prayer at John 12:27-28?

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Although Jesus was distressed by what was about to happen, He makes clear in His prayer that He will carry out the will of the Father. He will also not ask the Father to end it. As we see here, and even at Gethsemane, when Jesus asks there for the cup to pass if possible, He is expressing to the Father that He was distressed by what was about to happen, but He would do what the Father asked. Only if there was another way that the will of the Father could be accomplished He would like to be spared.

## **He Prayed Publicly**

Jesus prayed publicly before wicked men and before the disciples. No doubt this had some instructional value. Jesus says at much at John 11:41-42.

What is the occasion in this passage? Who is present?

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What does Jesus pray on this occasion?

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What reason does He give to the Father for praying this prayer?

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# Prayerfulness

## Examples of Prayers

Answer the following questions with regard to the prayers of Jesus.

At Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus answers a question the disciples ask. Luke 11:1 records that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. How does Jesus open this prayer and what does it indicate to you?

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What are some things He instructed them to pray for and why?

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Matthew 11:24-27 Jesus prays in front of the disciples. What had He just completed prior to this prayer?

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What does He say in this prayer?

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John 17 records the Lord's final words at the Last Supper. What is the theme for this prayer? Who is He praying for?

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Why do you think Jesus would pray this prayer in front of the apostles in light of what was about to happen?

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# Prayerfulness

## Walking With Jesus

Jesus set an amazing example of prayer while here on earth. Here are some observations.

1. There is a right way and a wrong way to pray. This disciples wanted Jesus to teach them to pray as John had taught his disciples. Jesus obliged. He did not simply say to them that they should pray however they feel like doing it. The fact that He took time to teach them indicates that there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. Jesus began the prayer respectfully and focused on the will of the Father. We should have the same balance when we pray. Jesus had just warned against vain repetitions. Ironically this prayer has been turned into a vain repetition. Jesus was not trying to get them to formulaically repeat His exact words. Rather He was demonstrating principles to us. Our prayers should be respectful toward the Father and they should be primarily focused on accomplishing His spiritual will.
2. Prayer should be our first thought. Jesus prayed first thing in the morning while it was still dark. No doubt it was the first thing on His mind when He awakened. We should be people of prayer whose first thought is to go to God also. When we wake up, we should pray. When we encounter difficulties, we should pray. James tells us this at James 1. When we encounter trials our first thought should be to go to God and ask for His aid in the time of need. To ask for wisdom in dealing with the situation. Prayer should always be on our mind and should be our first thought when the going gets tough.
3. We should pray continuously. Jesus was always praying. Whether when He first got up, or when He could catch a quiet moment, or to teach others, or to strengthen others, He was always praying. If we are to walk with Jesus we should likewise pray continuously. Paul wrote at 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to “*pray without ceasing*”. We are commanded to be prayerful people. And why wouldn't we be? As we have mentioned before, Jesus suffered so He could become our sympathetic High Priest. He can understand our trials. Thus He is the logical one for us to go to when we are in need. Thus the Hebrews writer says at 4:16, “*let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*” He is there for us when we need Him. Of course, as Jesus demonstrates, prayer should just be a continuous thing for us. We pray when we are in need and we pray when our needs are met!

# Walking With Jesus

# Mentoring 12

## IN PREPARATION

Read Ephesians 2:19-22.

What were the Ephesians previously? What were they now as described at verse 19?




What were they built upon in this household?




How does Jesus fit into this building? What does this word picture mean?




What was the whole building growing into? What would it do?




## A Difficult Task

It is difficult to narrow down into one lesson the mentoring work of Jesus. In reality, most of what He did and taught was for the purpose of mentoring. We have seen how during the public ministry of Jesus He was able to sneak away and have some alone time in prayer with the Father. However, the vast majority of His time was spent teaching others and setting an example for them to follow.

The reality of the ministry of Jesus is that His time was limited. He was with the apostles for about three years. Three years is not much time. If I wanted to learn a language, could I easily do it in three years. If I wanted to learn a trade, could I easily do it in three years. The average college stay is currently at four and a half years. Many exit college and do not know much more than when they started that has any practical application! Yet, Jesus had three years to train the apostles to take up His work when He was gone and do well as they became the foundation upon which the church would be built. (Ephesians 2:20)

It stands to reason that there is so much with reference to Jesus mentoring others because this was His mission prior to dying on the cross. Even after His resurrection there was still much to be done. He rebuked them for their unbelief and then immediately began teaching them. Acts 1:1-3 says that He spent forty days teaching about the kingdom after His resurrection and before His ascension. Time was limited and there was obviously much for them to learn before they would be ready to stand on their own. Jesus used the time He had with them to the fullest, yet they were still uncertain of what to do. One thing they knew was to meet and pray, which they did. Then when the time came to stand at Acts 2, they did!





# Mentoring

## Teaching to Teach

A good leader has the ability to teach others to follow a discipline. No doubt Jesus spent much time telling the crowd what they needed to do to be part of the kingdom. They had to obey His commandments. They had to have a righteousness that exceeded that of the Pharisees. Many people followed Jesus while on this earth and many continued and began following Him after His death, resurrection, and ascension.

A great leader, however, teaches others to teach others. Jesus explains this to Timothy at II Timothy 2:2.

What was Timothy to do?

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Why do you think Timothy needed to do this?

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It becomes clear that a leader is not as much judged by how he leads while present, but more-so by how the organization does when he is absent. Time and time again we see companies that have a charismatic founder and they do very well. Then that founder retires or dies and the organization dies with him. Why is this? It is simply because this leader was good at leading, but not at teaching others to lead.

Jesus was the master at accomplishing this. To think that in the three short years He had with the disciples that He was able to produce not only twelve faithful men who would excel at bringing the church to the world, but also preparing a large group of disciples from whom a replacement for Judas could be chosen. Matthias was plugged right in! Here we are 2000 years later and the church is still going strong, mainly on the back of the delegates that Jesus mentored and the ones they mentored. As Paul demonstrates in his words to Timothy, he understood full well that it was not enough to serve Jesus in the work. It was necessary for him to mentor others as did Jesus. Thus we have Titus and Timothy!



# Mentoring

## Leading By Example

As we have previously studied, Jesus likens Himself to a shepherd. The shepherd is not behind the sheep driving them like cattle. Rather the shepherd is out in front leading the sheep in the way they ought to go. Thus we have passages like Psalm 23 that speak of the sheep being comforted as they follow the staff of the shepherd. He is out front demonstrating that everything is okay. Demonstrating the way to go.

All of this demonstrates that Jesus led by example. He mentored the apostles by first showing them what they needed to do. He demonstrated great faith to them so that they could learn to have it and use it themselves. He worked especially with Peter, James and John as He was trying to develop leaders. Men who would help hold the others together. Thus we have the statement that He had been praying for Peter that after he forsook the Lord the night He was betrayed that he would return to help the others return. (Luke 22:32)

## Paul In Arabia

The greatness of Jesus at preparing people to lead and teach as He did can be seen in the apostle Paul. Paul tells us at I Corinthians 15:8 that Jesus appeared to him as “*to one untimely born*”. Paul is explaining that though he did not walk with the other apostles with Jesus on the earth, Jesus had come to him and taught him. Paul explains how this happened in Galatians 1.

From whom did Paul get his message? From whom did he not get it?

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How long was he away being taught?

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So it would seem that the Lord spent the same amount of time teaching Paul as He did the ones that he walked with. Paul went on to become a mighty worker!





# Mentoring

## Walking With Jesus

Jesus walked and talked with the disciples for three years preparing them to be the leaders of the church He was purchasing with His blood. Here are some observations.

1. Mentoring others is difficult work. Learning something and conveying it to others can be a difficult thing to do. Learning something and then conveying to others how to teach others is a whole new level of difficulty. Yet, this is what great leaders do. Jesus prepared the apostles to do just that. The apostle Paul produced many people who could teach others such as Timothy, Titus, and Luke. It is a time consuming effort and it requires much energy. It also requires learning a new skill set. Teaching others takes one method, but teaching others to teach requires some different methods. This can be seen in Jesus when He would speak to the multitudes in one way, but then would speak to the disciples in another. There were some deeper things that the disciples needed to understand as they would be going forward and working with others.
2. If I am not teaching others to teach, I am failing as a leader. While it may be easier and maybe quicker to just teach it or do it ourselves, we are failing as leaders when this is done. We must be people who teach others to carry the reins one day. This is true of new converts and children. It is also true of training seasoned Christians to fulfill the roles of deacon, elder, preacher, bible class teacher, etc. This was definitely going on in the early church. We see the pool of men from which the seven were chosen in Acts 6. Stephen was a great leader. Someone was teaching him to teach. Apparently there were many that had so learned because after Stephen is stoned, Acts 8 records that the brethren were dispersed and went on their way teaching the gospel, spreading the kingdom to those in Judea and Samaria. There was some great mentoring taking place in Jerusalem in those early days.
3. I must practice what I am preaching. As with anything in life, how can I expect people to do what I am telling them if I do not do it myself! The same thing is true of mentoring. I have known of great men falling because their mentor fell. While it is true that we should not place our faith in men, it is also true that as leaders we must be careful to live according to the principles that I am teaching others to teach to others. I can harm many people, future generations of saints, by not living by what I am mentoring.

# Walking With Jesus

# Evangelism 13

## IN PREPARATION

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

What does Jesus command the apostles to do on this occasion?




What is Jesus about to do after these words are spoken?




What should all people be taught to do? What does this mean?




What promise does Jesus make to the apostles in their work?




## It All Comes Down to Evangelism

Jesus used some of His last words to explain to the apostles that their mission was to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He was careful to explain to them that they must be diligent in it doing the way in which they were taught. They had to respect the fact that Jesus had been given all authority. This meant that they had to do it His way.

Think about what the Lord was entrusting to these men. He had just suffered a horrific death to pay the price for the church. Now it was going to be left in their hands to preach the gospel and increase the number. It was all going to come down to evangelism. The only way that the church could survive and grow was if these men stood firm, boldly preached the gospel, and strengthened the converts they were making. They did just that! When the time came to begin their work and stand for the faith, Peter and the others stood up and did so, beginning at Acts 2.

## Numbers Matter

A popular teaching in recent years has been that numbers do not matter. This is likely in response to less success in evangelism in recent years. While spiritual growth of believers is important, so is numerical growth. Remember, for every person converted, that is one less in the grasp of Satan! Numbers certainly mattered to the God! Consider the following:

How many people were baptized after the apostles boldly stood up and proclaimed the first gospel sermon? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people had the number grown to be by Acts 4? \_\_\_\_\_

What about in Acts 5? \_\_\_\_\_





# Evangelism

Numbers apparently mattered to the Spirit and Jesus while Jesus was walking about doing His work. The scripture tells us that a multitude of 4000 were fed and a multitude of 5000 were fed. The scripture tells us that Jesus preached to multitudes that were so great He had to get in a boat and preach from the water. (Luke 5:1-3) These pieces of information are there for a number of reasons. They show the drawing power of Jesus. They show the scope of His work. They also show that it is important to be reaching people. Numbers matter!

## The Limited Commission

Matthew 10 records the limited commission discourse. The chapter is a record of Jesus sending the twelve out to preach to the *“lost sheep of the house of Israel.”* There are definitely some lessons that we can learn from the instructions that Jesus gave these twelve men.

How had they received? (10:8) What does this mean?

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What do verses 9-10 imply with regard to faith?

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What did they have to beware?

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What does Mark 6:7 say about how He sent them out? Why do you think this is wise?

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This evangelism method falls under the mentoring that we spoke of in the last lesson. He does not send them far off on their own in the beginning. He teaches and empowers them



# Evangelism

and gives them a fairly close mission so that they could be somewhat monitored and helped. Luke 9:10 records that when they returned to Him, He received a report from them. He was careful in how He sent them out and then He reviewed their work. Jesus certainly had an evangelism plan!

## **The Great Commission**

Mark 16:15-16, as with Matthew 28:18-20, give what we call the great commission. The main differences between the two commissions being the scope of them and the message. The limited commission involved the apostles preaching that the kingdom was at hand to the lost Jews. The great commission however was to preach the gospel, that is the kingdom was paid for by Jesus and here, to every person on the planet. This is something that would take time. It was primarily given to Jews in the early years, but this changed with the conversion of Saul and the conversion of Cornelius in Acts 9-10.

This great mission was how the church would come to be the kingdom that filled the world as prophesied in Daniel 2. Jesus is now building on what He had taught them in the limited commission. Now they were to go teaching the kingdom as He had spent 40 days teaching them about it and they were to go to everyone. There is indication that they could now apply what they learned and the methods they used to a larger audience.

For instance, there is some indication that they continued to go out in twos. This was the pattern that He established in the limited commission, and it would seem that men like Paul continued this. On Paul's first journey he went with Barnabas. Then on the second and third he went with Silas. He worked in at least twos, with there no doubt being a number of benefits to this arrangement. Galatians 2:9 tells us that Peter and John were working at Jerusalem together. (The James spoken of here is likely the Lord's brother who wrote the book of James. Since this chapter corresponds to Acts 15 and the Jerusalem conference, James the apostle had already been killed by Herod as recorded in Acts 12:2.)

We also see how they went about humbly proclaiming the word. Jesus warned them in the limited commission that they were receiving great power and must not abuse it. Certainly we can see that they fulfilled this command as we consider their work in the rest of the New Testament.





# Evangelism

## Walking With Jesus

Evangelism was a top priority with Jesus. It had to be because the founding and survival of the church would be dependent on it. Here are some observations.

1. Evangelism is just as important today. An oft-quoted passage with regard to evangelism is II Timothy 4:2. “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” The usage is generally this, “sometimes the gospel is in season and sometimes it is not. No one really wants to hear the gospel today.” We must ask ourselves, “Who are we to determine such a thing?” It is not up to us whether we are going to try to teach others or not. Paul’s words to Timothy are “Preach the word”! He is commanded to preach whether the gospel is in season or not. Let the increase be up to God. We just need to be concerned with the sowing. We must not try to excuse our lack of effort or failed and/or outdated methods. We just need to get busy and find what methods work!
2. We should likewise be concerned with numbers. Over and over the Spirit lets us know how many were coming to the truth. It mattered! It likewise matters now. This has also become a method of excusing laziness and/or poor methods. If we just ignore the numbers, then we do not have to face the facts about our work. Numbers are important because they hold us accountable. If we are wise we will pay attention to such things and plan accordingly. If what we are doing is working, we will see it in the numbers and should strive to greater increase. If the number is going the other way or is stagnant, we should reevaluate what we are doing and make the necessary changes.
3. The pattern given by Jesus is effective today also. While it is true that the methods we use to evangelize today are largely left up to us in the generic authority of Jesus’ command to “go”, we also must recognize that the methods used in scripture are likely useful today also. There was wisdom in the apostles going by twos. We do well to learn from that and implement a similar pattern. Evangelism and conversion occurred in the same hour of the night throughout the book of Acts. Surely we can see that a similar method may be preferable today in many circumstances. We need to be innovative in the ways that we reach people. We have TV and radio and internet today. Wise saints make the most of these new tools. We need to adapt the method with the times while respecting authority and the methods employed by those in the New Testament.

This book belongs to:

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