

The Wonder of Jesus Lesson 8 2Q 2008

The Intensity of His Walk

SABBATH

Read Memory verse – how did Jesus walk?

1JN 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

1John 4:7- 12 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Thoughts? How do you understand God's love? And what does it mean "an atoning sacrifice for our sins?" How do you understand those words? The necessary sacrifice to cure our sinfulness and reconcile us to God?

Read last two paragraphs – thoughts?

What prepares someone to handle such abuse? Why does a soldier get out of a foxhole under fire? What is the motivation for a soldier when shells are exploding and bullets are flying to get out in the open? Love, in the military it is called cohesion

and morale, but it is the brotherly love he has for his friends and comrades. The only power in the universe that can free our hearts from fear is love.

John 3:16 For God So loved the world...

1 John 4:18 Perfect love casts out all fear

The battle we all struggle with is the battle between fear/selfishness and love.

When the economy gets tough, finances get tight, the house payments aren't being made, what feelings do we experience? Fear – and what do these feelings tempt us to do? Some people follow the feelings and act selfishly – cheat on taxes, steal, sell drugs to make money etc. all based on “looking out for self.” But at times like these what is really going on is the opportunity to overcome the infection we were all born with. An opportunity to go to God and say, “I don't want to live in fear anymore, I don't want to be dominated by fear, I don't want to act selfishly any more.” And then in trust, trusting God with the outcome you choose to do that which is healthy, right, loving in spite of temptations to act in self interest.

I had a patient who worried constantly about what others thought of her, hated to go to social gatherings for fear of what others might think of her, hated most of all to be in front for any reason and avoided it at all costs. Then her daughter got engaged and as the wedding day approached she became more and more anxious, stressed, worried because as the mother of the bride she would be walked down in front of everyone, the center of attention. What is the problem and what solution would you suggest?

The problem is fear based self focused approach to life, the solution is love which casts out fear. I asked her, “Whose day is this?” “Who are you focusing on?” I suggested she think instead about her daughter, what it will mean for her to have her mother there, how happy she will be that day etc. She came back after the wedding and states it worked, she wasn't

afraid at all because she was thinking about her daughter and how much she wanted to do anything to make this day special for her daughter.

SUNDAY

Read Luke 2:39-52 – thoughts?

Read second paragraph “Incredibly, these passages...”

What was Jesus doing during this time in regard to His mission in coming to earth? What was His mission?

To save mankind and secure the universe – what was needed to accomplish this?

Expose Satan, reveal the truth about God, Christ, the nature and character of sin, that obedience for the wrong reason turns one into a rebel, that there was no manufacturer’s defect in mankind and to actually rebuild, restore, heal, fix mankind.

What was happening during the first 30 years of His life that is involved in this process?

He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man – what does this mean? Was it divinity that was growing? No, it was His humanity – what does this tell us?

Why did He have to come and do it like this? Can we conclude that God did it this way because it was necessary? Why? Remember He came in the form of a human to speak with Abraham and Abraham even cooked Him some food and He ate it. Why would it not have been sufficient for Christ to come as He did to Abraham, appear at age 30, do His miracles, live His perfect life, get arrested beaten and crucified?

If that would have happened the perfect sinless Son of God would have died, shed His blood, but salvation for mankind would not have been secured, why?

What is the problem? What is the basis of life? The Law of love, Adam and Eve infected themselves with the law of sin and death AKA as selfishness or survival of the fittest. This condition itself is incompatible with life - only God's intercessions with the destructiveness of sin permitted life to continue on this planet. All humans descended from Adam are infected with this condition (Ps 51, Romans 3). This is why Paul says in Romans that death reigned from Adam to Moses even though no one broke a command like Adam. These children of Adam were not guilty for being born in this state, but they were still dying, still terminal.

So what did Christ come to do? To deal with sin, to fix the terminal condition, to heal humanity while simultaneously revealing the truth to win to trust.

The law of God, as presented in the Scriptures, is broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just, and good. The law lays men under obligation to God; it reaches to the thoughts and feelings; and it will produce conviction of sin in everyone who is sensible of having transgressed its requirements. If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.--RH, Apr 5, 1898. (2SM 211.) {2MCP 564.1}

Romans 13:10 "Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

The law is the law of love, and the law of love requires what? That we are perfectly loving in character in everyway – why does the law of love require this? Why does the law of respiration require you breath? What does the law of hydration require you drink? Why does the law of nutrition require you eat? It is the way life was designed to operate!

So, could mankind, once out of harmony with the law recreate it in himself?

So, why did Jesus come?

The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2}

Are there Bible texts to support this? What about the texts in 1 John and Romans already read? What about Hebrews 5:8,9 "Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

He "learned obedience" and "once made perfect" how do these fit with He grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man and what He was here on earth to accomplish?

Christ was here to live perfectly, to overcome sinfulness, to destroy selfishness with love in the human being and the only way was to do it, was to develop perfect character as a human being and Jesus, God in human flesh did just that!

MONDAY

Read second paragraph – "But the explicit..." thoughts?

Why did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus to the wilderness to be tempted? What was His mission? To overcome and defeat the devil and the devil methods, principles, ideas, motives and thus Christ went into the wilderness in His humanity and was tempted to doubt God and to act selfishly and each time the temptation came He trusted God and acted in love! Thus Jesus by His moment to moment experience and decisions was actually restoring God's perfect design into humanity! He lived out God's law of love in His human life experience!

Christ had to overcome not just Satan but the ideas of Satan, what Satan had planted, Satan's methods, motives, principles. This is what Christ did, He not only defeated Satan directly in face to face confrontation but He actually, in His life experience, destroyed all the lies Satan told with the truth He revealed, overcame selfishness with love, and restored perfectly into humanity God's character of love!

Read bottom two paragraphs – thoughts? Questions?

TUESDAY

First sentence states, "Jesus lived for prayer." What is prayer? Are there different types of prayer?

- Ritual prayers done by rote
- Prayer beads
- Phylacteries
- Prayer spinners

What do you think about such prayers? What are their purpose? Why do people pray such prayers? To appease, as penance, payment, to influence???

Are all prayers to the same God? Does it make a difference to whom one prays?

What is prayer when it is directed to the true God? Is it not conversation with God as with a friend? What different types of

prayers are there to the true God? What different types of conversations do you have with friends?

- Thanks
- Requests
- Empathy
- Encouragement
- Venting
- Complaining
- Protesting
- Crying
- Laughing
- Interceding

In other words, when one is in relationship with God doesn't one share their entire life with God communicating with Him? Does it then surprise us that Jesus prayed a lot?

What then is the purpose of prayer? I have patients pray for better lung function but won't quit smoking, what is the purpose of such prayer? Many people pray for "magical" solutions, for God to intervene and stop the consequences of their own choices, for God to violate His own laws and allow sin to continue without damage to the sinner. "Lord give me a happy marriage" while a husband beats his wife. "Lord bless me with good health" while I eat big macs fries, candy and snack cakes every day.

Will God ever use His power to do things He doesn't want us to do if we ask Him to? The children of Israel and the quail – what did God want them to be eating? Manna, who brought the quail? Who picked the first two kings of Israel? God did, but who did God want them to have as their king? Him! Then why would God do this?

How do we understand intercessory prayer? Do we need to pray to God to get Him to care or be loving? Never, but will God force His way into someone's life against their will? Or

does God genuinely respect the individuality and freedom of others? How does this impact how we understand prayer?

WEDNESDAY

Read John 12:20-36

Then read last paragraph – thoughts?

What was his mission? To reveal the truth to restore us to trust and to overcome the law of sin and death with the law of life, the law of love!

Read bottom pink – thoughts? Jesus had to lose all He had, His position in heaven, His perfect life on earth in order to heal all who trust Him, we have to lose all we have and what do we have? Sickness, disease, suffering, pain, imperfection, guilt, shame in order to be perfectly healed!

TQ page 97 quotes Ben Franklin “There is a difference between imitating a good man and counterfeiting him.” What do you think this means? How does it apply to WWJD?

Jesus is all about heart transformation, genuine renewal to love others more than self, counterfeiters are about behavior conformation, obedience, and adherence to human rules and standards – examples?

- Inquisition
- Pharisees in Christ’s day
- Taliban
 - What do these three have in common?
- What about us?

THURSDAY

Read again memory text and then the dark section at top starting with “Realizing, as we have...” Thoughts?

What specific actions of Christ's should we not emulate exactly? Going homeless? Never marrying and being celibate, should everyone in the world emulate this? Others?

But what about apply the principles He lived by? This is the difficulty with WWJD, WWJD is often too much like "rules thinking" rather than principled living. We are to live in love and love does different things depending on the situation.

As a parent do you sometimes hug, sometimes play and sometimes spank depending on the situation? Can all of those different actions be done in love?

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph and discuss

Read second paragraph and discuss