

## The Christian Life Lesson 10 2Q 2009

### Discipleship

#### SABBATH

Read Memory Text – thoughts? Why is it to the Father's glory that we bear much fruit?

In whose image were we created? For what purpose? What happened when mankind sinned? Why did Satan want to target mankind and get mankind to sin? What was Satan trying to accomplish in the fall of humanity?

Mankind was created in the image of God, to reveal the truth about God to the onlooking universe. Why was this needed? Satan had lied about God causing confusion in the minds of intelligent beings about God's trustworthiness.

Mankind was created as the repository of God's law of love, His character of beneficence and if mankind were to have stayed loyal earth would have been a bright shining lesson book to the entire universe of who God is and how His government works.

Satan targeted earth and Adam in order to misrepresent God and replace, in man, God's character of love with Satan's character of selfishness and thereby cause the intelligent beings in the universe to draw false conclusions about God.

Christ came to fix this problem, to accurately reveal God while simultaneously saving/healing mankind.

So, now, how is it that our bearing fruit of righteousness glorifies God?

If someone has cancer, terminal, dying and a doctor gives a remedy which completely cures them who gets the glory the patient or the doctor?

What is revealed in us, when God's healing power is experienced, that wasn't revealed in Christ's life and which brings glory to God?

John 14:9-14

- Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
  - Thoughts? What did Jesus tell Philip that He was revealing? The Father and those who trust in Jesus will do what? They will do what Jesus was doing and what was Jesus doing? Revealing the Father, yet Jesus said "He will do even greater things than these" – how? What could this mean?
  - Did Jesus life show what God originally created mankind to be – perfect love, sinless perfection? Yes!
  - Did Jesus life show how God's love, methods, principles accepted into the heart of a sinner, a person warped by sinful living can heal and perfectly recreate the character to Christlike perfection? No, when we trust God and open the heart can our lives show this?
  - What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus?

- But to pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Saviour's promise is given on condition. "If ye love Me," He says, "keep My commandments." He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience. {DA 668.2}

Read first paragraph "It is important..." thoughts?

Is perfect knowledge of all doctrine necessary for salvation?

Absolutely not! What is necessary? What is salvation?

Salvation comes from the root word *salvo* from which we get *salve* and *salvage* and means to heal or restore. So, what is necessary for us to be healed? Trust in the doctor!

Today the English word *salvo* means a volley of artillery or firearms, how does that relate to salvation or healing?

- **salvo**

1719, alteration of *salva* (1591) "simultaneous discharge of guns," from It. *salva* "salute, volley" (cf. Fr. *salve*, from It.), from L. *salve* "hail!," lit. "be in good health!," the usual Roman greeting, regarded as imperative of *salvere* "to be in good health," but prop. voc. of *salvus* "healthy" (see [safe](#) (adj.)). The notion is of important visitors greeted with a volley of gunfire into the air.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2001 Douglas Harper

- In ancient Rome *salvus* meant healthy and a greeting *salvere* or *salve* would be said which meant be healthy or be in good health. This became a common salutation. When dignitaries would arrive a salutation of gunfire, or volley of gunfire was fired as a salute, honoring or recognizing the person – a greeting, which eventually was carried over to mean any volley of gunfire *salvo*.

But the meaning of salvation is one of healing, recreation and regeneration. Does a patient have to know how a medicine was developed in order to benefit from taking it? Does a patient have to know how a medicine works in order to benefit from taking it? Does a patient have to trust the doctor and follow the prescription in order to benefit from the medicine? Yes, likewise in God's healing plan we don't have to understand the doctrines, or how Christ achieved our salvation but we do have to trust our Heavenly Physician and follow His prescription.

If you were Satan, then what would be your one and only hope of keeping people from being saved? Undermine trust in God our Heavenly Physician.

While we don't have to understand the doctrines all correctly to be saved, do doctrines impact our ability to trust God? How so? Which doctrines have helped or hindered your ability to trust God?

The lesson states correctly that to be a disciple is to be a lifelong learner. As God is infinite and we are finite there will never come a time in the future that we will stop learning. As has been said by one of the founders of our church, truth is progressive or is unfolding with time. What new truth has our church learned or grown into in the last 100 years? Is it time we began advancing again in the truth? What areas do you see in our church for learning, growth and development in regard to our teachings and doctrines?

- Why Christ had to die?
- The heavenly sanctuary?
- Christ as our mediator?
- The heavenly record books?
- The final end of sin and sinners?

## SUNDAY

Followers and Leaders – what types of leaderships styles can you name?

- Autocratic or authoritarian
  - Directive, dictatorial
  - Can be abusive as in dictatorships
- Participant or democratic
  - Collaborative, gets input from subordinates but maintains final decision
- Bureaucratic
  - Rigid by the book, rules oriented approach, pressuring and enforcing adherence to the rules
- Charismatic
  - Energetic, emotional based leadership where leader is constantly injecting huge doses of affirmation and emotional energy into subordinates
- Laissez-faire, Free rein or delegative
  - leaves subordinates free to analyze and determine for themselves which action to take to achieve the task
- People oriented/relationship oriented
  - Focuses on development and organization of the members of the team
- Task-oriented
  - Focuses on the task, dictates assignments, priorities and cares little for the team as long as goal is reached
- Transactional
  - Quid pro quo relationship, contractual make a deal and pay subordinates for the work they will do, if work not done to standard then the leader can punish by withholding the reward
- Transformational
  - Inspires team with shared vision of the future, highly communicative leader
- Servant
  - Often not recognized as a leader within the group but this person leads by meeting the needs of the members
- Loving Eclectic

- Using the style necessary to the circumstance to maximize the likelihood of the desired outcome in harmony with the Law of Love

What type of leadership do you think God prefers? What is His primary style – top three?

Servant, transformational and people oriented?

- Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

What leadership style do we see from Jesus?

- 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. Zech 4:6

Why is this type of leadership the only leadership that will work in God's government?

- Love cannot be commanded, coerced, dictated, it can only be freely given. Therefore, the only leadership style to get love is truth, presented in love, leaving others free. Which looks like Jesus! Servant, people oriented transformational leadership with a vision for the future!
- The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is

to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Mal. 4:2. {DA 22.1}

- God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power. {DA 759.1}

Does the type of leadership used impact the type of followers found within the group?

What type of followers are found in a group run by an authoritarian power monger – someone like Hitler, Stalin, Hussein who says do it my way or I will kill you?

- Is thinking allowed in such regimes?
- Do such dictators permit their actions to be questioned and scrutinized?
- What do such leaders do to those who ask questions?

What kind of followers are found worshipping a God who says, do it my way or I will torture you in hell?

- Do those who worship such a god like questions? Or do they prefer, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it"?
- Do those who worship such a god like their beliefs challenged, scrutinized or criticized?
- How do they respond?

MONDAY

Obedience and loyalty – what does that look like in the life a true disciple of Christ? What does obedience mean? What does it look like? What does God want from His followers?

Does God want the obedience of a well trained dog? Does God want the obedience of a slave? Does God want blind, unthinking obedience? Or does God want His followers, to as far as possible, understand every reason for what He calls them to do?

- I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

But, does God want the obedience of absolute trust, that even when we don't understand we still obey because we know He is trustworthy?

What is such trust based upon?

TUESDAY

Read middle section "Rather than promising..." thoughts?

- How is it costly to follow Jesus?
- It is never costly to follow Jesus it only feels or appears that way!
- I have patients who are addicted to substances and they think it is costly to give up their addiction – is it? Or is it costly to continue in their addiction?
- I have patients in relationships with abusers, people who beat them, ridicule, criticize, dominate, curse constantly, yet the thought of leaving is terrifying it feels like it will "cost" them everything. Is it costly for such a person to leave or to stay?
- I know a doctor who recently had to fire someone for embezzling money. The employee's husband had lost his job, they were behind in their house and car payments



and so she embezzled money. Let's imagine for a moment the employee was not caught and was able to keep her car, house etc. The lesson would suggest to follow Jesus and be honest and not embezzle would be costly as the person might lose their home, car etc. Which is more costly, to lose houses, cars, material substances or to embezzle and sear the conscience, warp the reason, destroy the soul?

- It is never costly to follow Jesus, it only feels or appears this way because of the limited perspective, and broken brains which naturally run on fear and insecurity.
- It is always cheap to follow Jesus – we always get the better deal. When we follow Jesus we exchange corruption for perfection, mortality for immortality, guilt for peace, fear for love, loneliness for oneness with God!

The last paragraph states, "Following Christ is not an easy thing to do. It inevitably will involve suffering. Just as Christ said that He 'must suffer,' so must we." Thoughts? Why must we suffer?

- We are broken and the healing process involves a path of suffering
- After a broken leg the healing path will be painful but not harmful
- After emotional trauma the healing path will be painful but not destructive
- We too often are duped into believing health is determined by how it feels rather than evaluating what is being accomplished.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm tells us that our Shepherd wants to lead us in the paths of righteousness for His name sake – and where does the Shepherd lead us? Into the valley of the shadow of death – note it is not the valley of death, it is the valley of the shadow of death. Christ leads us into the valley where we will come face to face with sin in our own lives in order that we can die to self. It will feel like we are dying, but we are not. He is there to guide, comfort and

deliver so that we may be free and live healthy and in peace.

- Consider the addict, they cannot be free without going through the valley in which they feel like they are going to die, but if they go through the withdraw, if they go through the treatment they come out the other side free.

Christ never asks us to sacrifice anything that is for our good and only that which is destroying us. We never lose when we give our lives to Christ!

### WEDNESDAY

Read last two paragraphs “Those who follow...” thoughts?

How do we come to experience peace in this world? By dying to selfishness and experience God’s transforming love which brings us to the point of loving others more than self.

Love is the only power that can free our hearts from fear – fear of what others think, fear of rejection, abandonment, loss, embarrassment, financial ruin, divorce, sickness or death. The only power to free us from fear is love for others.

I had a patient who lived in fear of what others thought of her. She hated to be the center of attention, therefore she avoided social gathers and when in one would hide in the corner. She came to see me distraught, melting down because her daughter was getting married and as the wedding approached the fear of walking down the isle with everyone looking at her was overwhelming. What was her core problem? What solution would you suggest? How could love come in and solve this situation?

I asked her where her focus was? Whose day this was? Suggested she try to take the focus off self and start focusing on her daughter and how much joy it will bring her daughter for mom to be there for her. Patient came back and told me she couldn’t believe it but she walked down the isle and wasn’t

afraid at all, she just kept thinking how much she loved her daughter and what joy it would be for her daughter to be there for her.

Perfect love casts out all fear.

## THURSDAY

Read last paragraph – “It’s one thing to...” thoughts?

What is His command?

- “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34,35
- Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8
- And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 1John 3:23

Do these texts by Jesus and His Apostles give the same emphasis as the quarterly “a true disciple will obey His commandments”? The quarterly quotes John 14:15,

- “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” John 14:15

Is there a difference in focus from commandments to command, which is love? Can love be commanded? Then what is going on here? Why is Jesus insistent upon love? What is the law upon which all life is based? Love! This is the only possible way we can have life. But commandments can be performed, worked at and can lead to false security and spiritual arrogance. It is when we love God and others more than ourselves that we have fulfilled the law!

## FRIDAY

Read first paragraph “It was not enough...” What is the emphasis, behavioral conformity to the commandments or a transformation of heart from selfishness to love?

Read Questions 2-4 and discuss

- We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. 2Thes 3:9