

Great Commission



Baptist Church

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher



The Suffering Servant Sunday School Curriculum

April/May 2014



Great Commission Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Lesson
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Lesson V

Date: May 4, 2014

Lesson Scriptures: Mark 6: 49 - 52

Lesson **Christ Walks on the Sea Part II** **Pg. 21**

A. The Panicked Disciples
(Mark 6 vs. 49-50)

B. The Performed Miracle
(Mark 6 vs.51)

C. The Preoccupied Disciples
(Mark 6 vs. 52)

Lesson VI

Date: May 11, 2014

Lesson Scriptures: Mark 6: 53 - 56

Lesson **Don't Waste Your Opportunity** **Pg. 26**

A. The Recognition by the People
(Mark 6 vs.53-54)

B. The Response by the People
(Mark 6 vs. 55)

C. The Restoration by Christ
(Mark 6: 56)



Lesson I

Date: April 6, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 6:30-34

Lesson Outline

A. The Report from their Assignment

(Mark 6:30)

B. The Rest Needed from their Assignment

(Mark 6:31-33)

C. The Response by the Savior

(Mark 6:34)

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The Return of the Disciples

My husband has always been a gifted leader and has the God given ability to mobilize and motivate a team around him. He recognizes their strengths and helps them work together as a team.

Through the many years of leadership, he has offered leadership and team building seminars for his teams, so they would grow in their leadership and team building skills.

On one occasion, the team was doing outdoor exercises to help strengthen their trust in each other. Later in the day, the instructor asked each of them, in turn, to stand on a table and fall backwards—into the arms of two of his teammates. One member was unable to do it. He could not trust that his team members would catch him.

Trust is an important element in relationships if they are to develop-- whether it is marriage, family, or career.

The Bible tells us to trust God. To lean and be confident in Him. It also tells us “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms”. He loves us, is always present, is all-powerful and good. May the Lord help us to trust His more.¹

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson I
Date: April 6, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 30 - 34

Lesson Aim: Students will be fully aware that Jesus is ever ready to give them help, strength and refuse when they seek him to overcome the battles that they face.³

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Mark 6:30 (KJV)

³⁰ And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

Mark 6:30 (NIV)

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

The Return of the Disciples

A. The Report from their Assignment

(Verse 30) This word “apostles” mean the ones that were sent out by Jesus, on a mission, with His message and using His methods. An Apostle is one who has physically with their own eyes, seen Jesus, and He chose them to go out with His message, this is the title for the position. We remember earlier in this chapter that Jesus sent these apostles out two by two and he gave them instructions of what they needed for their journey and what they should do on their journey. We see in this verse that the apostles have come back to Jesus in Capernaum. They then gathered around Him to give Him a report of what happened on their journey. This was the first time that the apostles went out on an assignment by themselves. Jesus stayed in Capernaum, while they went out. Can you imagine the excitement of these men when they returned back because the passage says “they told Him all things”. They had to give their report of what they had experienced, what they had taught and the miracles that was performed. As we know the nature and personality of Jesus, we can only imagine that he sat there patiently, listening intensely to each of the apostles and the reports that they were given.¹

Remember, before Jesus sent them out, he gave them instructions, so now he is listening to see if any of them went out on their own agenda or did something on and of their own without His permission. He is listening to see if they were obedient to His directions, even if He was not with them. This is also a message for us today, that He wants us to give our report to Him as we pray to Him. He has given us directions and instructions and the question is, have we been obedient to what He has told us to do, or are we just doing our own thing and on our own agenda.²



Lesson I
Date: April 6, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 30 - 34

Wilderness: Holy Land areas, particularly in the southern part, with little rainfall and few people. The words for *wilderness* in the Old Testament come close to our word *desert*, because they usually mean a rocky, dry wasteland. Desert in the lands of the Bible is usually rocks instead of sand dunes. These have been called “tame” deserts, because they have infrequent rainfall and wells or oases enough to accommodate some nomadic or seminomadic human occupancy.³

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³Holman Bible Dictionary

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Mark 6:31-32 (KJV)

³¹ And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

Mark 6:31-32 (NIV)

³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

The Return of the Disciples

B. The Rest Needed from their Assignment

(Verse 31) After Jesus had heard of the apostles’ mission and being pleased about the results and seeing the enthusiasm and excitement that the apostles showed, he asked them to come and rest. This scripture says, “apart into a desert place”, this word “desert” in the Greek and in this context means, a private or place of isolation. Jesus knew that they needed to get away from the crowd and be isolated, so that they could have some privacy to rest. This phrase “rest a while”, in the Greek means, to cause or permit one to cease from labor in order to recover and collect his strength. This phrase is also in the middle voice, which tells us that Jesus is asking them to give themselves rest, or to take rest. Jesus was thrilled by their excitement, but he also saw that they were exhausted. The body needs rest physically and mentally. If we labor too long without rest, the body then will get weak to the point of passing out. The hardest part about not resting is the fact that our bodies will react to not having rest. Sometimes when our bodies are not resting, our bodies know that it needs to and our minds will respond to the needs of the body. When we go too long without rest it results in people getting itchy, cranky, short tempered, and angry. This is caused by not taking the time to get enough or the proper rest. Most of our sporting events have what is called a “half time”, so that the players can get some rest so they can get back with energy and finish the game (Psalm 55: 6-7).¹

Not only did the disciples need some rest, but also they were hungry. We know this is a bad combination, to be hungry and also need some rest from their hard labor (Psalm 23: 1-2).²



Lesson I
Date: April 6, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 30 - 34

Works: “Work” (*ergon*) is also employed in the New Testament in the sense of “miracle.” John the Baptist heard of the “works” of Jesus while he was in prison (Matt. 11:2). The apostle John used the term frequently (5:20,36; 7:3; 10:38; 14:11,12; 15:24).³

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³ Holman Bible Dictionary.

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Mark 6:32-33(KJV)

³² And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. ³³ And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.

Mark 6:32-33(NIV)

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

The Return of the Disciples

B. The Rest Needed from their Assignment

(*Verse 32*) We see in this verse that the disciples got on a boat and went out to an isolated or desolate place to have privacy and rest from their hard work. They were leaving the crowd without telling them where they were going because they wanted privacy.¹

(*Verse 33*) In this verse it says that “the people saw them”, since they were coming and going as we saw in verse 31, they literally saw them get into the boat and float off into the Jordan River. Then it says that they “knew him”, this word “knew” in the Greek means, to know upon, to recognize, or to perceive. They recognized Jesus because of the miracles that he had done and they knew his disciples because they had just came back from their mission, where they performed miracles; so they became very popular in the land. This crowd was observant because they knew who was on the boat and they saw where the boat was heading and the scripture says that they began to run to the place where the boat was going to dock. These people did not have enough of being around Jesus. They were there to be eyewitnesses of miracle after miracle and yet they are still excited in following Jesus wherever he led them. This is kind of a picture of a shepherd that leads a sheep. If we had more people that were excited, not just after they get their blessing, but even months and years after their blessing to still be excited about knowing Jesus. Can you imagine the disciples on the boat, trying to get to a place of solitude because they are tired and hungry, but look out around the river and see the people running to greet them? (John 6:2)²



Lesson I
Date: April 6, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 30 - 34

Questions:

1. What life challenge or battle do you need to seek Jesus for help?

2. Jesus showed compassion to those in need. How do you show compassion to others in need today?

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Mark 6:34 (KJV)

³⁴ And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:34 (NIV)

³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

The Return of the Disciples

C. The Response by the Savior

(Verse 34) When Jesus came off the boat, he saw many people who had ran to meet him and their actions moved Jesus with compassion. When was the last time that our actions moved Jesus? He saw that not only did they need healing, but also they needed to be taught. They interrupted His schedule because he wanted to spend time and rest with the disciples, but because He had sympathy for them, so He continued to teach them many things. He took out time and gave himself to the crowd. Since Jesus is willing to do that for us, the question is, when we are exhausted and tired are we willing to give ourselves to Him or do we go on about our business and stay at home because he is not a priority in our lives (Num. 27:17).¹

Summary: When Jesus saw the multitude of people in need and needed protection, he was moved to respond with compassionate care. His love was a personal love for each and every person who came to him in need. His compassion extends to each of us today and he wants us to trust in his grace and help at all times. He wants us to bring all of our needs to him.²



Lesson II

Date: April 13, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 6:35-40

Lesson Outline

A. The Concern of the Disciples

(Mark 6:35-36)

B. The Challenge of the Disciples

(Mark 6:37-38)

C. The Command by Christ

(Mark 6:39-40)

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The Feeding of the Multitude Part I

Recently, my husband and I began to realize the importance of “doing what the Father tells or shows us”. So easily we can fall into doing what people expect us to do, tradition, or habits. Spending time with the Father, asking Him to show us what He wants, listening to and obeying Him is what Jesus modeled.

The following is an interesting email I received from Merle, a dear lady from South Africa. She writes about her call from the Lord and her obedience to that call.

I deal with a lot of HIV AIDS people--men and woman. Many orphans are left without a parent, many children have AIDS and are dying of this terrible virus. I pick up the dying and take them to hospital to die with dignity and with the love of God.

I work in the squatter camp with the poorest of the poor. The areas I work in are very dangerous, however I have no fear at all. I am protected by the Holy Spirit. In all the years I have never been harmed, praise God. I have to love until it hurts—there is so much poverty, so many deaths, so much sadness—however, these are wonderful people, with such inner strength.”

I have had many interactions with Merle since I received this first email from her. Because of her commitment to the Lord and His call on her life, she inspires me to keep on doing what the Father has told me to do. To keep my eyes and ears focused on Him and not on others.

How about you? Are you listening to what the Father tells you to do? Are you willing to obey and follow what he tells you? If you are, you will be blessed beyond comprehension.

Father, you call us and are faithful to supply all our needs to do the work you have for us. Help us to keep our eyes and ears fixed on you. Amen¹

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson II
Date: April 13, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 35 - 40

Lesson Aim: To understand that when God calls us to do what seem to be the impossible, it is more than possible when we allow him to work through us to accomplish what he has called us to do. To realize that what we consider little or insufficient is great when placed in the hands of the Lord.³

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Mark 6:35-36 (KJV)

³⁵ And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time *is* far passed: ³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.

Mark 6:35-36(NIV)

³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late."
³⁶ Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

The Feeding of the Multitude Part I

A. The Concern of the Disciples

(Verse 35) This passage starts out in letting us know that Jesus had taught this multitude of people for a long time and now it began to get late in the evening. We then see the concern of the disciples because it was after 3 p.m. They came to Jesus to tell Him that it was getting late and they were in a remote place. We see that the disciples are concerned about the people, just as Jesus had been concerned. This shows us that they had been around Jesus so long, that they began to pick up some of His characteristics. If we are around to hear the word of God and begin to hear about the compassion that Jesus had, then we, who are in the family of faith, should begin to pick up characteristics that Jesus showed.¹

(Verse 36) We see that the disciples begin to give Jesus advice on how to handle the people. The sun was getting ready to go down and the disciples wanted to send the people away before it got dark. They gave the advice to release them, so that "they may go into the country round about", this word "country" in the Greek means, the farmlands. From this word is where we get our English word agriculture. The disciples was trying to give Jesus advice on how to handle the multitude, so that they would leave in enough time to go and get something to eat. By sending the crowd away, the disciples may have thought that even then, they could get some rest from their labor. This concern was also shown by the disciples to send them away because they did not want to be embarrassed by not having food for them. They had just healed people in the villages and shared the knowledge that the kingdom of God was at hand and to be stuck out in a isolated place and have nothing to eat and people starve and die, would be very embarrassing (Matt. 15:23).²



Lesson II
Date: April 13, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 35 - 40

Penny: The penny, or “denarius,” was the chief Roman silver coin, worth about eight-pence halfpenny. Upon the breaking up of the Roman Empire, the states which arose upon its ruins imitated the coinage of the old imperial mints, and in general called their principal silver coin the “denarius.”³

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³ Pulpit Commentary, The - The Pulpit Commentary – Volume 16: Mark and Luke.

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Mark 6:37-38 (KJV)

³⁷ He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

³⁸ He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.

Mark 6:37-38 (NIV)

³⁷ But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five--and two fish."

The Feeding of the Multitude Part I

B. The Challenge of the Disciples

(Verse 37) The word challenge means to test the intellect of a person. Here we see Jesus is testing their intellect and says, “Give ye them to eat”. The “ye” in this verse intensifies the statement that Jesus made to the disciples, as if he said to them, “You feed them”. They came to Him with a problem and now He is telling them to solve it. So they ask Him, “shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?” The disciples asked this question because people would give coins to them for their ministry and they would carry a bag around with them so that they would have money to give to the poor (Luke 8:3). They knew how much they had in the moneybag, two hundred pennyworth. Some theologians say that this amount was equivalent to \$28.00 and some say \$35.00. The issue here is not to argue if it was worth \$28.00 or \$35.00, the issue here is that they mentioned this to Jesus because they knew that this amount of money was not enough to go and purchase food for the amount of people who had followed them to this isolated area. They were really trying to tell Jesus that this would be impossible with the funds that they had.¹

(Verse 38) In this verse Jesus answers their question by asking the disciples, “How many loaves have ye?” He was teaching them not to just go out and spend recklessly, but first check their resources.²



Lesson II
Date: April 13, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 35 - 40

Bread: Most bread that was so baked had the appearance of a disk (Judg. 7:13) about one-half inch thick and twelve inches in diameter. Some was perforated. Some had a hole in the middle for storing or carrying on a pole. Some was heart-shaped (the word for cakes in 2 Sam. 13:6,8,10 literally means heart-shaped). Some took the shape of a small modern loaf (suggested by the arrangement of the Bread of Presence). Bread was broken or torn, not cut.³

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Mark 6:38-39(KJV)

³⁸ He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. ³⁹ And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.

Mark 6:38-39(NIV)

³⁸ "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five--and two fish." ³⁹ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

The Feeding of the Multitude Part I

B. The Challenge of the Disciples

(Verse 38) John's gospel tells us that they went out into the multitude to check to see what the people had to eat and they found a boy that had five barley loaves, not loaves like those that we have in our supermarkets today, but a lot smaller and round. They said that the boy also had two small fish. When they came back to give their report, the disciples was still puzzled at the challenge because even with the five loaves and two fish, it was still not sufficient to feed a multitude of people. They knew that they had more money than they had food. They were focused on what they were lacking. We are sometimes challenged just like these disciples, how many times have we begun to look at what we are lacking, instead of what we already have.¹

C. The Command By Christ

(Verse 39) Here we see that Jesus commanded the disciples to make everybody sit down. This word "commanded" in the Greek means to arrange upon, to order. They ordered the people to "sit down", these two words are combine with two Greek words that means, "to lean", this was the traditional position of reclining. This is how the people would sit down in their houses to eat. They did not have tables like we have today that have legs so that we can sit down to eat. They sat leaning upon a couch that was by the table and on the ground, as they ate. So the people were ordered to sit down on the green grass. They sat down by companies. This word "company" in the Greek started out to describe a drinking party, but later changed to mean "a party of guest". From the word, "company" is where we get our English word, "symposium" (1 Cor. 14:33).²



Lesson II
Date: April 13, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 35 - 40

Questions:

1. The disciples put themselves in the hands of Jesus to accomplish what was humanly impossible. What talent or substance have been placed in your hands, that you now need to place in the hands of Jesus so you can accomplish much?
2. When you see someone with a great need, how does it move you? Do you feel that you must worry about your brother's needs or do you feel that someone else should worry about it? Why do you feel as you do?

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Mark 6:40 (KJV)

⁴⁰ And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.

Mark 6:40 (NIV)

⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

The Feeding of the Multitude Part I

C. The Command of Christ

(Verse 40) In this verse Mark tells us how many was in each group. He says, "they sat down in ranks". This word "rank" in the Greek means, a garden plot, rows. By them sitting down in this arrangement, it would make it a lot easier and more efficient for the disciples to serve the people and to make sure that everybody was served. We see when Jesus gives a command it is for our comfort because they sat down on the green grass. When Jesus does something, first he makes sure that he does it decently and orderly. Everything that we do for the kingdom of God, we ought to be doing it in decent and in order, not sloppy or half-hearted. We should take pride in working for the kingdom of God because he could choose anyone to complete his task, but He thought enough of us, to choose us. (1 Cor. 14:40).¹

Summary: Jesus commanded the disciples to do something that was humanly impossible (feeding the multitude with two fish and five loaves of bread). The disciples saw the situation from a human view point and wanted the crowd to go away. Jesus saw the multitude with needs and had compassion on them. He also chose to meet their needs through the disciples. Jesus wanted the disciples to fully understand that it is he who would do the work. Jesus gave the assignment, the disciples obeyed by following his directions and Jesus completed the work through them. He wants believers today to bring their needs to him and receive the help that only he can give.²



Lesson III

Date: April 20, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 6:41-44

Lesson Outline

A. The Computation by Christ
(Mark 6:41)

B. The Consumption by the Crowd
(Mark 6:42)

C. The Collecting by the Crew
(Mark 6:43-44)

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The Feeding of the Multitude Part II

Jesus, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, promises He will be the river of living water in our lives. He will be the fountain of life bubbling from within.

A river or stream is persistent. It will go around obstacles; it will make a new pathway if need be. It does not stop when it meets an obstacle; it merely finds a way around it. Jesus is persistent.

Sometimes in late autumn, when all the leaves have fallen from the trees, the stream and the source of the stream can become clogged. Although it was still flowing, it would find a new path. Most times, we just take the ever-flowing stream for granted. It kept flowing, supplying us with fresh, clean water. We can take God's life-giving Spirit for granted. He is always there. His Life will not dry up.

Let's make sure we keep our hearts clean (no build up), so He is free to flow out of us. When adverse circumstances come into your life, be assured that He is still there - just keep your eyes on the Source, not on the circumstances.

Let the river of living water flowing from you keep enlarging as your life touches other lives. Be encouraged!

Father, thank You for Your Spirit whose life flows in and out of us, touching everyone we meet every day. Thank You for using our bodies to reflect your glory! Amen!

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson III
Date: April 20, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 41 - 44

Lesson Aim: To understand that when God calls us to do what seem to be the impossible ,it is more than possible when we allow him to work through us to accomplish what he has called us to do. To realize that what we consider little or insufficient is great when placed in the hands of the Lord.³

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Mark 6:41 (KJV)

⁴¹ And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave *them* to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

Mark 6:41(NIV)

⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

The Feeding of the Multitude Part II

A. The Computation by Christ

(Verse 41) This verse starts off by saying that Jesus is holding the five loaves and two fishes in His hands. This shows us that the disciples were obedient, they went out and then found a child that had two fish and five small loaves of bread, they didn't think it was too small to bring to Jesus so when they found it, they then put the resources they had in the hands of Jesus. This shows us that whatever we have small or large, it is better when we put it in the hands of Jesus. The disciples were worried, but Jesus is showing them, if you just put it in my hands, I am able to work it out. That is why Peter encourages us to cast our cares on him because He cares for us (1Peter 5:7). This word cast means to throw with force and the word cares take on the idea of distractions. Peter is encouraging us that whatever may distract us or cause us to worry and have anxiety, give it over to Jesus. This is a lesson to trust Jesus and put it in His hands. Jesus has an investment in us and he wants to make sure that we have what we need, as a loving father cares for his children.¹

The scripture then says that after Jesus had it in His hands, "he looked up to heaven". This was the position and attitude of prayer. Jesus elevated his eyes to the one that could help him in His situation. He looked up to let the others who were watching him understand, that when we are in a needy situation or a situation that we cannot handle on our own, the good news is, we can look up to the one who can give us help in our own situations. The passage says, "and blessed", this word "blessed" in the Greek means to speak well of, from this word is where we get our English word, eulogy. Most Theologians say that at this time, Jesus said the traditional Jewish prayer that was said before Jewish meals. The Jewish prayer said, "Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, King of the world, who bringeth forth bread from the earth."²



Lesson III
Date: April 20, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 41 - 44

Fish: Fish provided food for the common people (Matt. 14:17; 15:34). The risen Lord ate fish with the disciples in Jerusalem (Luke 24:42) and by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:13). The primary method of preparing fish was broiling (John 21:9). The most famous NT fish was the one used to pay the temple tax for Jesus and Peter (Matt. 17:27).³

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Mark 6:41-42 (KJV)

⁴¹ And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave *them* to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. ⁴² And they did all eat, and were filled.

Mark 6:41-42 (NIV)

⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied,

The Feeding of the Multitude Part II

A. The Computation by Christ

(Verse 41) Here Jesus was showing them that even though it may look like he had little in His hands, the idea here is to thank God for what we have and not to focus on what we do not have. Then the scripture says, “and brake the loaves, and gave”, these two verbs are in two different tenses. The verb “brake”, is in the aorist tense, which means an instantaneous act, in other words it happened immediately. This word in the Greek means to break down or divide. The verb “gave” is in the imperfect tense, which means a continuous action. Jesus brake and kept on giving to the disciples. The disciples and the multitude was eyewitnesses of this miracle of computation that happened all in the hands of Jesus. This is the only miracle that is recorded in all four Gospels. This ought to encourage us to trust in Jesus because what we are able to see physically, may be not much, but Jesus is able to take our little and make it turn out to be much. When we subtract, Jesus has power to add, when we add, He has the power to multiply. The reason that this multitude was able to witness such a miracle was because they were obedient. When we obey God’s word, we are setting ourselves up to be a witness of His power.¹

This act in the wilderness was time for them to remember how God supplied their ancestors (the children of Israel), with manna and quail that fell from heaven to give them nourishment at the time they were hungry in their wilderness journey (Ex. 16: 4 – 21).²



Lesson III
Date: April 20, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 41 - 44

Breaking Bread: The thin cakes already described were not cut but broken, hence the expression usual in Scripture of “breaking bread” to signify taking a meal (Lament. 4:4; Matthew 14:19; Matthew 15:36). From our Lord’s breaking bread at the institution of the Eucharist, the expression “*breaking of*” or “*to break bread,*” in the NT is used for the Lord’s Supper (Matthew 26:26) and for the *agape*, or love, feast (Acts 2:46).³

¹⁻²Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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³ New Unger's Bible Dictionary

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Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 6:41-42(KJV)

⁴¹ And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave *them* to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. ⁴² And they did all eat, and were filled.

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The Feeding of the Multitude Part II

A. The Computation by Christ

(*Verse 41*) Not only was this a time for them to look back and remember how God supplied bread and meat for their ancestors. This was also a preview of what was to come down the road. A picture of Jesus breaking the bread was a preview of how His body would be offered up and broken for them. None of His bones would be broken, but the skin of His body would be beaten in such a way that the skin on His back would look like it had been broken into pieces (1Cor. 11:24).¹

B. The Consumption by the Crowd

(*Verse 42*) This word consumption means the act of eating or drinking. This verse says, “And they did all eat, and were filled”. This is the result of obedience. The multitude sat down, the disciples served the people what Jesus gave to them. The disciples did not try and feed the people what they wanted them to eat, but they gave them what Jesus prepared them to give. A lot of times we have people who will try and feed us philosophies and worldly views, but this is not what Jesus has given us to feast upon. We have the bread of life in the Word of God, which should satisfy our appetites. Everyone had something to eat, it said, “they did all eat”, no one was left out and all were filled. This word “filled”, means to satisfy, it takes on the idea of feeding an animal to fatten the animal. They ate until they were satisfied. In the Jewish culture, it was an embarrassment for someone to host a party and the guest did not have enough to eat or drink. A lot of time we look around for satisfaction in all the wrong places, and we finally try God and discover that He is the only one that will satisfy our needs (Psalm 34:8).²



Lesson III
Date: April 20, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 41 - 44

Questions:

1. How do you know when you are obeying the leading of Jesus to accomplish the impossible?

2. Has there been a time in your life when insufficiency became sufficient, when you turned a lack or need over to Jesus?

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²Earline Franklin

Questions by Earline Franklin

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 6:43-44 (KJV)

⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. ⁴⁴ And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

Mark 6:43-44 (NIV)

⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

The Feeding of the Multitude Part II

C. The Collecting by the Crew

(Verse 43-44) In this verse, we see that the disciples are collecting the leftovers. They took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces of bread and fish. After they fed five thousand men, this word, “men” is in the masculine gender which means that Jesus fed five thousand men and Matthew’s gospel let us know that there were also women and children. Remember they received the two fish and five loaves of bread from a child. Jesus fed over five thousand people and still had leftovers. This is a lesson for us that regardless of how small we think, what we have. Jesus is able to give us more than what we ask for. We see that they collected the leftovers also as a lesson for them and for all of us, and that is, we are not to waste anything that God has blessed us to have.¹

Summary: Jesus directions to the twelve disciples and the crowd was followed completely by all. When his directions were followed the needs of all were met with more than enough. Jesus is waiting for each believer to trust him fully by being obedient to his leading and guiding so that he can work through them to accomplish what appears to be the impossible in their lives.²



Lesson IV

Date: April 27, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 6:45-48

Lesson Outline

A. The Persuasion Given by Christ

(Mark 6:45)

B. The Praying Christ

(Mark 6:46)

C. The Problem of the Crew

(Mark 6:47-48)

Great Commission Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Lesson
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Christ Walks on the Sea Part I

Several years ago I was challenged to think about what I had accomplished in my life and what I would do over the remainder of the years I may be allowed to live. My upbringing, education and career were centered very much on accomplishing (i.e. being all that I could be.) I was born in America to the upper middle-class family. My parents instilled in me honesty, integrity, hard work, value of money and the education it could buy. The education I received was the best money could buy: a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Business. I married my high school sweetheart and headed off for New York upon graduation with the MBA after joining one of the world's largest and most successful companies. My early career was very much focused on advancing up the professional ladder and I eventually became an executive manager with over 17 years of experience living, working and raising a family outside the USA. Successful Yet Not Fulfilled

However, inside I started to question how shallow pure success-oriented living was. Much of society's emphasis on values of money, possessions, power, prestige, pleasure etc. seemed to be so empty and non-fulfilling. For example, how much money was enough and did it really buy happiness? The news was filled with many unhappy, unfulfilled multi-millionaires. I also saw examples of power corrupting and pleasures so short-lived that often lead to devastating consequences for families.

At that time, I made a decision to surrender my life to Christ and follow Him. My whole life came into balance - job, family and faith. I truly experienced the truth of Matthew 6:33: ¹

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson IV
Date: April 27, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 45 - 48

Lesson Aim: Students will rejoice in knowing that Christ will deliver us from danger and distress during the storms and trials of life, if we only maintain our faith in Him.³

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³ Emma Stevens

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 6:45 (KJV)

⁴⁵ And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

Mark 6:45 (NIV)

⁴⁵ Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

Christ Walks on the Sea Part I

A. The Persuasion given by Christ

(Verse 45) This verse says, straightway, this word in the Greek means immediately. Why did Jesus immediately constrain his disciples? This word constrain in the Greek means, to necessitate, or compel. The gospel of John chapter 6 verse 5 tells us, that after Jesus fed the multitude they wanted to take him by force and make Him king. Jesus knew that this was not the time for them to make him king, his time would come. The disciples also got caught up in the excitement because they had seen Him do several miracles and they were going to also try and make Him king, because they knew that the Messiah would come and lead Israel to conquer the Romans and free the people and set up his government. They thought this was the time that Jesus, the Messiah would reign on this earth. They were looking for the earthly kingdom of God to set up at this time. Jesus immediately constrained the disciples to get on the boat because he did not want them to be too caught up in this idea of Him being king right then and cause them to be deterred or distracted from fulfilling their true mission. Jesus was not trying to win a popularity contest; he was trying to fulfill his mission. The lesson he was teaching His disciples was not to let people pat you on the back and massage your ego to the point that you forget about the mission and reason why we are here. We have been created to worship God and to give Him all the glory and honor.¹

The disciples then, got into the ship and he says to them, “go to the other side before unto Bethsaida”. This place Bethsaida is on the western side and not the Bethsaida where they had just left. They were sailing towards Capernaum. He told them to go ahead before Him, while he sent the crowd away. When we look at this passage, we see Jesus told the disciples where to go and how to get there. If we would listen to Jesus, he tells us also where to go, how to get there, which path to take in order to be in His will and reach the destination he has planned for us(John 12: 21).²



Lesson IV
Date: April 27, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 45 - 48

Mountain: Elevated topographical feature. In Israel, as in surrounding countries, mountains were places where people expected to meet God. Whereas the Hebrews' neighbors sometimes thought mountains were magical places where their gods actually lived, the Israelites knew that their God lived in heaven and only descended upon the mountain at significant times (Ex 19; cf. 1 Kgs 8:27). In the NT much of Jesus' activity takes place on mountains. He preached there (Mt 5:1); he retired there to pray (Lk 6:12); and he was transfigured on a mountain (9:28-36).³

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³ Tyndale Bible Dictionary.

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 6:46(KJV)

⁴⁶ And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Mark 6:46 (NIV)

⁴⁶ After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

Christ Walks on the Sea Part I

B. The Praying Christ

(Verse 46) In this verse we see that Jesus had sent the crowd away before they started a revolt, he had sent them back to their homes. This word “sent” in the Greek means, to take leave, to bid farewell. We see Jesus had to take leave, bid farewell and separate himself from the excited and enthusiastic crowd. Let us remember Jesus has had a busy day, when the disciples got back from their mission, people were coming, and going, he knew they needed rest, so they got into the boat to go to the other side. The crowd followed them along the shore and when they landed, Jesus had compassion on them and began to teach. He has fed the multitude, he has sent the disciples and the crowd away, and now he prepares himself to pray.¹

The rest of this verse says that after he sent them away and was alone, “he departed into a mountain to pray”. It was getting dark, but he got away to a private place to pray. This is also a lesson for us, that when we spend time with God, we have to prepare ourselves, and isolate ourselves, to be alone. Jesus was use to talking to the Father, he did it all the time, so he goes into a mountain to pray. This word “pray” in the Greek mean, to pray fervently, to pour one’s whole heart, and total being out to God. The disciples knew that Jesus had a practice of going off by himself to pray. This ought to be a lesson to us today. We can pray in public, but we also ought to have our own private and personal time in prayer, talking to God. Jesus was tempted here with power, popularity, and prestige. I mean he had over five thousand men, not including women and children. His ministry was flourishing. His name was known all over the land, he could have said, I made it, I have arrived, but He did not. He shows us that even at the point of being tempted, we should pray. We should not be drawn in by our own lust of the flesh, but put our focus on God (1 Peter 2:21).²



Lesson IV
Date: April 27, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 45 - 48

Wind: Pneuma originally represented an elemental, vital, dynamic wind or breath. It was an effective power, but it belonged wholly to the realm of nature. This force denoted any type of wind and ranged from a soft breeze to a raging storm or fatal vapor. It was the wind in persons and animals as the breath they inhaled and exhaled. It was life, since breath was the sign of life; and it was soul, since the animating force left when breathing ceased.³

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³ Holman Bible Dictionary.

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 6:47-48(KJV)

⁴⁷ And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. ⁴⁸ And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Mark 6:47-48(NIV)

⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them,

Christ Walks on the Sea Part I

C. The Problem of the Crew

(Verse 47) This verse tells us that it was getting late, it was late in the evening around sunset, and the ship was “in the midst of the sea”. While the disciples were in the midst of the sea, Jesus was on the land. This sets the physical location of both the disciples and Jesus before we go to the next verse.¹

(Verse 48) After the disciples was in the midst of the sea, we see that this verse says, “And he saw them toiling in rowing”. This word “saw”, in the Greek means to know or be aware. Jesus was aware that they had not made it very far when they left the shores. He was aware that they were “toiling” in their rowing. This word “toiling” in the Greek means to torture, to be distressed, painful. It was by a painful effort in rowing against such a wind that was antagonistic or hostile towards them that it became painful to row and still be in the same spot. The problem is that they are out at sea and getting nowhere. They are being obedient and doing what Jesus had told them to do. They are in the will of Jesus, but they are still experiencing problems. This is a lesson for us today, that even when we are obedient to the will of God, it does not cancel out any painful situations that we may find ourselves involved in. The good news here is that the disciples, even though they were not going anywhere, in the same place, it did not stop them from rowing. This teaches us that whatever problems we face in this world, do not give up. Keep on working even if your situation becomes painful because Jesus has his eye on us.²



Lesson IV
Date: April 27, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 45 - 48

Questions:

1. In the mist of struggles, are you willing to remain in the 'boat' and continue 'rowing' in the service of Christ?

2. What would be the value of your faith if everything came easy?

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²Emma Stevens

Questions by Emma Stevens

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Mark 6:48 (KJV)

⁴⁸And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Mark 6:48 (NIV)

⁴⁸He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them,

Christ Walks on the Sea Part I

C. The Problem of the Crew

(Verse 48) We see that Jesus waited until the fourth watch of the night, the time between 3:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M. in the morning. Jesus could have come at anytime, but he waited until the fourth watch. The last part of this verse says, “and would have passed by them”, this word “passed” in the Greek means to come near or to the side of. Some theologians believe that Jesus was walking by them to keep walking, this does not make sense that Jesus would leave the mountain where he was praying to wait until the fourth watch, just to walk by them. Other theologians believe like this word in the Greek means to come to the side of or come near. Jesus was coming to the side of the ship so that the disciples would see him, because the winds were blowing and they were not making any progress. He was coming not to leave them in their problems, but to help them in their problems. This teaches us that Jesus may not come and fix our problems or situations when we want Him to, but the good news is that he has His eye on us and that he will come on His own time; we need to do all we can to stay afloat until he comes. We have to work and keep on working until He comes (Psalm 104:3).¹

Summary: Life has its share of contrary winds and waters on this Christian voyage. All the while, Jesus is watching over our situation(s). He prays and intercedes for each one of us. We can take comfort, knowing that Jesus is praying for us during our storms; we can take courage, knowing He will come to our rescue bringing great peace. He will deliver us from danger and distress, and guide us safely to shore.²



Lesson V

Date: May 4, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 6:49-52

Lesson Outline

A. The Panicked Disciples
(Mark 6:49-50)

B. The Performed Miracle
(Mark 6:51)

C. The Preoccupied Disciples
(Mark 6:52)

Great Commission Baptist Church
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Christ Walks on the Sea Part II

Recently, I got a package notice from the post office. Because I was not expecting a package, I thought, "Oh no, it's probably a package from some company that I will not want, so I will have to go to the trouble of sending it back..."

Later that day a good friend mentioned to me that I should be getting something in the mail from him. Well, my attitude about the package waiting for me at the post office changed immediately because I now knew who had sent it! I was excited to see what it was, so I went expectantly to the post office as soon as I could. I was delighted to get a set of stainless steel pots for backpacking as a thank you from some friends I had recently taken on a backpacking trip! I fired off a thank you note that night.

Later that evening I had a thought... In life there are many unexpected packages... Some I like and others I don't. I have come to realize that no matter what comes, God is in control.

Even in moments of bewilderment or despair in the past, when I would have loved to have written, "RETURN TO SENDER", I have survived and even come to a point of anticipating the future because I chose to focus on the Sender, and on the knowledge that God does love me and really does know and care about my life's circumstances. Sometimes I have doubted but in those moments I always come back to the cross as the ultimate proof of God's love. Jesus died for me, he proved his love. The words of Romans 8:28 are profound... "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose."

What are the packages you hold today? Can you trust that God does have a plan?!

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson V
Date: May 4, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 49 - 52

Lesson Aim: Students will rejoice in knowing that Christ will deliver us from danger and distress during the storms and trials of life, if we only maintain our faith in Him.

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

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Mark 6:49-50 (KJV)

⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: ⁵⁰ For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

Mark 6:49-50 (NIV)

⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰ because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Christ Walks on the Sea Part II

A. The Panicked Disciples

(Verse 49) From our last lesson, we see that Jesus had left the mountain where he was praying and now he is walking to the side of the boat where the disciples were rowing, but they did not get anywhere. We see the passage say, "they saw Him walking on the sea", Jesus wanted them to see that He was walking on the same water with the angry winds that were blowing, the same storm that was holding them back, He was walking through this storm with no problem. They looked out and saw Him, but "they supposed it had been a spirit", here this word "spirit", in the Greek is not "pneuma" referring to wind, breath or spirit. This word "spirit" is "phantasma", which means that of a phantom or specter. History tells us that the people thought in those days that events like this was associated with magic and charms, but was a system of Satan. We remember where they are located, in a storm at sea and it is dark. When they saw this and associated it with the works of Satan, "they cried out". This verb in the Greek means, "to raise a cry from the depth of the throat, to cry out; it is like a shriek or scream. They panicked when they saw what they thought was a ghost or phantom, they thought this might be the end of their lives, so they screamed. The last time they were out on the sea in a storm, Jesus was on the boat with them, so they cried out to Him. Now they do not know where Jesus is, so they panic. How many times have we panicked in the dark because we felt that Jesus was not there? ¹

(Verse 50) This verse says, "For they all saw him and were troubled", this word "troubled" in the Greek is intensified meaning, to be terrified. These are disciples that was not afraid too easily, they knew the waters and darkness, but this phantom they saw walking on the water through the storm took their fear to the highest level.²



Lesson V
Date: May 4, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 49 - 52

Fear-Not: The expression “fear not” (also translated “do not fear” or “do not be afraid”) is an invitation to confidence and trust. When used without religious connotation (15 times), “fear not” is an expression of comfort. These words come from an individual to another providing reassurance and encouragement . When “fear not” is used in a religious context (60 times), the words are an invitation to trust in God. These words appear in the context of the fear and terror that follows divine revelation. God invites His people not to be afraid of Him.

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Mark 6:50(KJV)

⁵⁰ For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

Mark 6:50 (NIV)

⁵⁰ because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Christ Walks on the Sea Part II

A. The Panicked Disciples

(Verse 50) When fear sets in, fear will control our actions and hold us hostage until we face our fears. There is an acronym for fear and that is F-false, E-evidence, A-appearing, R-real, We will never go forward until we face those fears that hinder us and focus our eyes on Jesus, who is able to give us that courage that we need, knowing that he is going to be with us. Jesus saw that the disciples were terrified and we see that this passage says, “And immediately, he talked with them”. He began at once to calm the disciples as he spoke in an encouraging voice. When there is an event, that is catastrophic or when someone is terrified because of a situation, it depends how we talk to the people that will ease the tension and fears of those who are involved. To reduce the fears, you have to talk in a calming and soothing voice, this is the picture of how Jesus spoke to the disciples as He said, “Be of good cheer”, this phrase in the Greek means, to take courage. The disciples could have said, how can we find cheer in the midst of this storm? It is dark, we are scared, and it is painful as we row and you want us to be happy? (James 1:2) In the Greek, this phrase is also a command to the disciples, not to think about it, but just do it, cheer up. Jesus was saying to the disciples, take courage and do not be afraid because “it is I; be not afraid”.¹

This phrase, “it is I”, these three words are created by two Greek words, “ego eime”, these two words are so powerful in what Jesus is saying, He actually says here, “be of good cheer, I am”, is here. This phrase “I Am”, speaks of Jesus’ deity, he was letting them know that the self existent one, the Supreme ruler of the universe, is here, so do not be afraid. This term was first used in Exodus 3:14, when Moses asked God, who shall I say sent me, and God said, “ I am has sent me to you”. Here Moses was going to let the Israelites know that God has heard their cries and he was sent to answer their cries and deliver them out of bondage. We have to remember that whatever situation we are facing that Jesus is with us (John 14:27).²



Lesson V
Date: May 4, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 49 - 52

Heart: Center of the physical, mental, and spiritual life of humans. The word “heart” refers to the physical organ and is considered to be the center of the physical life. Eating and drinking are spoken of as strengthening the heart (Gen. 18:5; Judg. 19:5; Acts 14:17). As the center of physical life, the heart came to stand for the person as a whole.

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

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Mark 6:51-52(KJV)

⁵¹ And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. ⁵² For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

Mark 6:51-52(NIV)

⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, ⁵² for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

Christ Walks on the Sea Part II

B. The Performed Miracle

(Verse 51) We see in this verse that Jesus performed or worked another miracle for the disciples to witness. It says, “And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased”. John’s Gospel says that the disciples willingly received Him into the ship. This implied the disciples gladly welcomed Him to step into the ship, the disciples went from having fear, to a faithful delight. The last time when Jesus was on the ship with them, He spoke. He said, peace be still, and the wind and the waves ceased. This time the disciples witnessed that when Jesus stepped into the ship, the wind ceased. This word “cease” in the Greek means, to cease from violence or rage. This shows us that Jesus has control once again over nature. This shows us that if we allow Jesus to step into our own lives, he is able to cease the winds that were blowing and take control of our lives. When we allow Him into our lives, we will experience the miracles and blessings that he can bring to our lives. We see that the disciples again were amazed beyond their ability to think, they were blown away with what they had just witnessed (Psalm 107:28-30).¹

C. The Preoccupied Disciples

(Verse 52) The word preoccupied means having attention taken up with something else. The passage says, “ For they considered not the miracle of the loaves”. We see that this word, “considered”, in the Greek means to put together or to comprehend. This says that their attention was taken up with other things; they could not understand or even put together the miracle of the loaves.²



Lesson V
Date: May 4, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 49 - 52

Questions:

1. How many times have you felt in the middle of your struggle(s), Jesus is passing you by?
2. Did you realize Jesus was there all along in the middle of your struggle(s)?

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²Emma Stevens

Questions by Emma Stevens

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 6:52 (KJV)

⁵² For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

Mark 6:52 (NIV)

⁵² for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

Christ Walks on the Sea Part II

C. The Preoccupied Disciples

(Verse 52) This verse says then that their heart was hardened. In other words, they saw the miracles that Jesus had performed with the feeding of the multitude and the walking on the water and how the storm ceased both times. They could not come to the understanding beyond the natural eye, which it began to harden them spiritually, they started to ponder, to attempt to put the pieces together, but their reasoning was limited. This is a lesson for us, that whatever storm that we may face, remember the last storms that we faced and remember how Jesus delivered us out of those storms. Instead of being afraid and looking at our storms with the physical eye, cry out to Jesus, the one who is watching our every move, He knows the problems we are facing and He alone can handle them. We need to stop having our minds preoccupied on whether Jesus is the true and living God and just believe that He is (Isaiah 63:17).¹

Summary: From Heaven, Jesus watches his children struggling and He prays for us, comes along side us, and encourages us. There are times when He will get right in the mist of our boat of struggles, but he may not always stop the struggle. Be encouraged in knowing He will never leave us alone in our trouble(s). It might *seem* like we are alone, it might *seem* as if He has 'passed us by' but he does not. All we need to do is lean and depend on Him.²



Lesson VI

Date: May 11, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 6:53-56

Lesson Outline

A. The Recognition by the People

(Mark 6:53-54)

B. The Response by the People

(Mark 6:55)

C. The Restoration by Christ

(Mark 6:56)

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Don't Waste Your Opportunity

One night, a friend of mine invited me to a concert. As the music played, I noticed a man standing in the crowd. He had his hand above his head and he was holding a book. I approached him after the concert and asked: "The book that you had in your hand—can I buy it?" "What book?" he responded. "The book that you had—that you said had the plan for my life!" "Oh," he replied. "You mean the Bible."

The Bible? I stared at him. But I already had the Bible. I had grown up in a Christian home—a nice church and all the nice Christian activities. Yet in the face of my many Muslim friends and Buddhist relatives, I had come to believe that all religions led to God. I knew that there was someone out there far bigger than myself, but beyond that I had no meaning in my life.

I thought that this man was offering the blueprint I had been looking for, but it was a book I already knew. Or did I? "I already have the Bible," I said. "Have you ever read it?" he asked me. That was a challenge I could not ignore. I had gone to Sunday School and read the Bible "here and there", but did I really BELIEVE it?

"Do you know what you will happen to you when you die?" he asked. "No," I replied. "No one can know." I was fairly sceptical. I grew up in a religious home, but all my friends were religious too. I didn't believe in absolutes. "The Bible says that you can. Do you think that God would lie to you?" "No," I said. "But you might." Patiently, he showed me the verses in the Bible that explained that Jesus Christ had died to give me ETERNAL life. I could know with certainty what would happen to me not only in this life, but after my death. Jesus—the one and only way to God—had already paid for my sins. Jesus died for me. The life that I looked ahead to with such apathy was so important to Him that He gave His life for me. He chose me. I gave my life to Christ that night. I knew that I had found the destiny that I had been seeking. I know now that I'm more than just an insignificant speck among so many. Christ gives my life purpose and meaning—my relationship with Him provides the significance that I once believed could not exist.¹

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson VI
Date: May 11, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 53 - 56

Lesson Aim: Never waste an opportunity to allow God to use you to help others in need.³

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³ Earline Franklin

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 6:53-54 (KJV)

⁵³ And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore. ⁵⁴ And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him,

Mark 6:53-54 (NIV)

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there.
⁵⁴ As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus.

Don't Waste Your Opportunity

A. The Recognition by the People

(Verse 53) This verse tells us that after Jesus calmed the storm and the disciples heart was hardened, they now came to the land Gennesaret. This land Gennesaret is the plain located on the northwest shore of the sea of Galilee and southwest of Capernaum. Josephus describes this land as being exceedingly pleasant and fertile. This land Gennesaret had its name from gen meaning “a garden” and sar which means “a prince”. Rabbis called this plain “the garden of God and a paradise” because of its fertility. The end of this verse says, “and drew to the shore”. This word drew in the Greek means, to tie or to moor at land. It takes on the idea that as they approached the shore they put out their anchor.¹

(Verse 54) This verse starts out by telling us that Jesus and His disciples had stepped off the ship that had been docked or anchored. When they stepped off the ship, the text says, “straightway they knew him”. This word “straightway”, in the Greek means immediately or at once. Immediately they recognized Jesus. This word “knew” in the Greek means to perceive, to know, or to become fully acquainted with. This word takes on the idea that they had known Him by experience. They had full knowledge of who Jesus was because they had seen Him before and they knew the miracles that they saw or the miracles of themselves being healed by Jesus. They saw Him get off the boat and knew that now he was reachable and touchable, He was on their land. It’s amazing that the notoriety of Jesus was growing each day that he was on this earth. The news about Jesus traveled because He was the talk of the land. People began to share with other people of the things that they saw or experienced themselves. They did not have internet, facebook, skype or even face time, but the news traveled all over the land about the things that Jesus had done (Psalm 9:10).²



Lesson VI
Date: May 11, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 53 - 56

Son of God: The term “Son of God” reveals Jesus’ divine Sonship and is closely associated with His royal position as Messiah. Gabriel told Mary that her Son would not only be called the Son of God but would also reign on the messianic (David’s) throne (Luke 1:32-33). The connection of Son of God with Jesus’ royal office is also found in the Gospel of John (1:49; 11:27; 20:30), in Paul’s letters (Rom. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 15:28; Col. 1:13), and in Luke’s writings (Acts 9:20-22). Primarily, the title “Son of God” affirms Jesus’ deity evidenced by His person and His work.³

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Mark 6:54-55 (KJV)

⁵⁴ And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him, ⁵⁵ And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was.

Mark 6:54-55 (NIV)

⁵⁴ As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵ They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.

Don’t Waste Your Opportunity

A. The Recognition by the People

(Verse 54) I am amazed to see that in today’s society, Jesus is reachable and touchable, but we have many people that walk around every day and still do not recognize that there is a man named Jesus, who is able to deliver them from their sins. They walk around and see the birds flying around, they see the rain fall from the sky, they see thunder and lightning, and they see the sun go up and down, but refuse to believe and recognize the Son of God (Phil. 3:10).¹

B. The Response by the People

(Verse 55) This word response means a reply or reaction. Here in this verse we see the response by the people, when they recognized that Jesus and His disciples were on their land. This verse says, “And ran through that whole region round about”. The coming of Jesus to their land caused a response of enthusiasm and excitement. They felt that they could not waste any time, so they took off running. We as believers know that Jesus is coming back for His bride (i.e. the church), knowing that He is coming back, should also cause urgency for us, to run and tell others about Jesus. The verse then says, “and began to carry about in beds those that were sick”, this is a picture of people running not only to Jesus to get their own healing, but they began to go and get others who were sick. This phrase, “to carry about” means in the Greek, that they were transporting hither and thither. It is in the present tense and active voice, which means that they did not stop at one person, but they kept coming and going with people who were sick. They had such a concern for those who were sick. The good news is that they just did not get their healing and sit around, but they were in pursuit of bringing their friends and family to Jesus.²



Lesson VI

Date: May 11, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 6: 53 - 56

Cloak: The cloak was an outer garment used for a night covering, and thus was not to be loaned (Deut. 24:13). This article is often referred to as a mantle, which was worn by sojourners (Deut. 10:18; Ruth 3:3). In John 19:2 Jesus' outer cloak was draped over Him during the beatings inflicted by the Roman soldiers. Jesus' tunic was probably the garment for which the Roman soldiers cast lots at His death (John 19:23).³

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Mark 6:55-56 (KJV)

⁵⁵ And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Mark 6:55-56 (NIV)

⁵⁵ They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Don't Waste Your Opportunity

B. The Response by the People

(*Verse 55*) They were in such pursuit, that if they brought their friends or family members to a village and Jesus was not there, they kept transporting the one who was sick from village to village, until they found Jesus. What concern and compassion these people demonstrated, not only did they get what they needed, but also they brought others (Mark 2:1-3).¹

C. The Restoration by Christ

(*Verse 56*) This verse starts out with saying, "and whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country", this let us know that Jesus did just go into the big places, but he also went to the small towns and villages. Jesus went wherever he was welcomed. Many times, we have people that will only go to certain places and talk to only certain people, to try to gain fame and popularity. Jesus shows us here that it does not matter where we go, don't waste our opportunity to help those that need the help. The verse then goes on to tell us that they began to lay the sick in the streets. They knew that Jesus would come to the main part of town; some theologians believe that Jesus visited the market places of every city he entered and the people who experienced their own healing or was a witness to other people being healed, knew where to take the people who were sick (Acts 5:15).²



Lesson VI
Date: May 11, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 6: 53 - 56

Questions:

1. How many opportunities to help others have you missed in the past week, or even today?
2. What plans can you put in place so that you are responsive to the needs of others.
3. Write a prayer asking God to use you to help others in need.

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²Earline Franklin

Questions by Earline Franklin

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Mark 6:56 (KJV)

⁵⁶ And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Mark 6:5-6 (NIV)

⁵⁶ And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Don't Waste Your Opportunity

C. The Restoration by Christ

(Verse 56) This verse then says, “and besought him that they might touch”, this word besought in the Greek means to “come near”. Those who were sick wanted to touch the garment, some believed that they heard of the woman with the issue of blood, who touched His garment and was healed. One thing we can learn from this phrase is that they did not want Jesus to pass them by, when he was right there in the midst being reachable and touchable. We cannot waste any opportunities to bring those who have a sin sick soul to Jesus. Then the text says, “and as many as touched him were made whole”, we see that they had full restoration. Not only were they healed physically, but their souls were also saved. When Jesus heals, he heals us completely. They showed that they had faith in Jesus to deliver them from their situation (2 Kings 13:21).¹

Summary: Jesus’ compassion for people that came to him overpowered his knowledge that many sought him for their own personal gain and not because they wanted to know him as savior. Jesus saw an opportunity to heal and he seized it. We should follow the example of Jesus, and seize every opportunity that we have to help others and to share the good news with them.²



Lesson VII

Date: May 18, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 7:1-6

Lesson Outline

A. The Critics Discussion
(Mark 7:1-2)

B. The Concern of Duty
(Mark 7:3-4)

C. The Conduct Displayed
(Mark 7:5-6)

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Adult Sunday School Lesson
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Tradition Versus Truth Part I

Take a look at your life. How would you describe it? Contented? Rushed? Exciting? Stressful? Moving forward? Holding back? For many of us it's all of the above at times. There are things we dream of doing one day, there are things we wish we could forget. In the Bible, it says that Jesus came to make all things new. What would your life look like if you could start over with a clean slate?

Living with hope If you are looking for peace, there is a way to balance your life. No one can be perfect, or have a perfect life. But every one of us has the opportunity to experience perfect grace through a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer. Praying is simply talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart.

If you become aware of an area of your life (an attitude or an action) that is displeasing to the Lord, even though you are walking with Him and sincerely desiring to serve Him, simply thank God that He has forgiven your sins - past, present and future - on the basis of Christ's death on the cross. Claim His love and forgiveness by faith and continue to have fellowship with Him.

God has given you His Holy Spirit to help you live life according to His perfect plan. Why not pray this simple prayer and by faith invite Him to fill you with His Spirit:

As you learn more about your relationship with God, and how much He loves you, you'll experience life to the fullest. ¹

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson VII
Date: May 18, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 1 - 6

Lesson Aim: Students will understand the danger of leaving the commandment of God, and holding to the tradition of men. God wants our heart, not our external obedience.

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³Emma Stevens

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Mark 7:1-2 (KJV)

¹ Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. ² And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.

Mark 7:1-2 (NIV)

¹ The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and

² saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed.

Tradition versus Truth Part I

A. The Critics Discussion

(Verse 1) This word critic means, to judge something or somebody, one who habitually finds fault. In this verse, we see that it says, "Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes," this phrase "came together" means that it was a fact that the Pharisees and scribes came together on a continuous basis, to confront Jesus. We see that the religious leaders were coming to cause a conflict, not to help those that needed it, like Jesus had done. They came to Jesus because of the popularity that Jesus was receiving. This man named Jesus and the miracles he had performed became the word on the streets. They came from Jerusalem to investigate for the second time, this man named Jesus. These men stopped what they were doing in Jerusalem, took the time to travel one hundred miles, just to criticize and find fault in Jesus. We see that in this verse it said that some of the scribes, not all of the scribes. They brought only the teachers of the law that they could persuade to be on their side. This teaches us that people will stop what they are doing, put their life on hold, just to come up against us, when we are doing the right thing and involved in ministry, they will criticize what we are doing for the Lord. The sad part is that they will find people to be on their side, people that they can influence to think the way they are thinking, to make it look like everybody is against us.¹

(Verse 2) This verse says, "And when they saw some of the disciples eat bread with defiled", this word defiled in the Greek means, ceremonially common or unclean. They saw that the disciples did not wash their hands before they ate the bread. Some theologians believe that this bread was from the miracle of feeding the five thousand men because they had twelve baskets of leftovers and now they did not have time to wash their hands, so they sat down to eat.²



Lesson VII
Date: May 18, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 1 - 6

Marketplace: Narrow streets and clustered buildings of most towns and villages in ancient Palestine left little room for a public marketplace. Shops were built into private residences or clustered in the gate area to form bazaars (1 Kings 20:34). Merchants operated booths just inside the city gate or hawked their merchandise outside the gate area in an open space or square.⁴

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Mark 7:3-4 (KJV)

³ For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash *their* hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. ⁴ And *when they come* from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, *as* the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.

Mark 7:3-4 (NIV)

³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

Tradition versus Truth Part I

B. The Concern of Duty

(Verse 3) We see that once the religious leaders showed up, they witnessed the disciples not washing their hands before a meal, which was a tradition and a Jewish law. When a person became unclean (Lev. 11-15), becoming clean involved ablution practices (a cleansing or washing). Washing could symbolize a person’s claim to be pure and innocent of sin in a particular case (Deut. 21: 1-9). In some parts of the Hebrew tradition, the ritual importance of washing became a central part of religious practice with minute descriptions of how a person was supposed to wash before various activities. Some of the stricter groups would not enter a house without washing or cleaning up. They said one hand had to be washed first so it could be purified and then it could wash the second hand.¹

When they cleaned up, they would wash from the fist up to the elbow, with a clenched fist. These religious people were more concern with duties than doctrine. These interpretations or added laws, were added to the Jewish culture, so that they could regulate the daily activities and the affairs of the people.²

(Verse 4) This verse says, “And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not”, this word “wash” is different from the word “wash” in verse 3. The word “wash” in verse 3 means that of cleansing. This word wash in this verse, in the Greek is the word “baptizo”, which is where we get our English word baptize. This word means to immerse, to go under. They literally put their hands and forearm under the water, to be ceremonially clean. The Jews believed that this practice should be added to the Jewish law, so they did.³



Lesson VII
Date: May 18, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 1 - 6

Vessels: Many containers, both large and small, were made of stone. Alabaster was easily carved and polished. It was especially prized for storage of perfumes (Matt. 26:7; Mark 14:3-4; Luke 7:37). According to rabbinical writings, stone containers were not susceptible to ritual uncleanness. Thus, a sizable industry existed in Jerusalem of NT times for making a variety of stone vessels.³

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Mark 7:4-5 (KJV)

⁴ And *when they come* from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, *as* the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.

⁵ Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

Mark 7:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles. ⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"

Tradition versus Truth Part I

B. The Concern of Duty

(Verse 4) They added this law because they felt that when the Jews went to the market places, they were touching the Gentiles, which they felt were unclean, so they added this to their law. They felt that being clean from the outside would show people that they were godly. This ceremonial washing not only was for their hands, but also their vessels. According to the elders, these washings were spiritual and religious; failure to follow these rules and regulations meant that you had sinned and the curse of God was upon you (Heb. 9:10).

C. The Conduct Displayed

(Verse 5) In this verse, we see that the Pharisees and scribes confronted Jesus with their criticism of tradition, and the disciples not following the regulations. They believed that the conduct of the disciples was a reflection of their teacher, and Jesus was their teacher. By them not following the rules and regulations, they thought it was a deeper problem, so they confronted the Master Teacher. We still have this problem today, we have people that will watch you and will see that you are not behaving the way they think you ought to behave or wearing what they think you should not wear and begin to criticize. The first thing that will come out of folk's mouth, what is that Pastor teaching them over at that church? (Mark 2: 16-18)²



Lesson VII
Date: May 18, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 1 - 6

Questions:

1. Can you identify something where God's Word is discarded for tradition?

2. What thoughts come to mind when you hear the word tradition?

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Mark 7:6 (KJV)

⁶ He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.

Mark 7:6 (NIV)

⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Tradition versus Truth Part I

C. The Conduct Displayed

(Verse 6) This verse shows us that Jesus silenced the critics. He says, "hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites", this word hypocrite means in the Greek, an actor under an assumed character. He was telling them, that you say one thing, but your conduct is not right. You say one thing, but your heart, the very seat of your emotions, is far from me. He was showing them that they were more concerned about traditions than the truth. In other words, they were talking the talk, but not walking the walk. They would say one thing, but do another. We have people today that will do the same thing, say one thing for you to do, but then turn around and do something else. Our biggest critics are those who make up their own rules and will point out our mistakes to make them appear holier, but behind closed doors, are doing the same thing (Isaiah 29:13).¹

Summary: Our faith and practice is based upon the written Word of God = Truth, not the interpretations and teachings of uninspired men. The scribes and Pharisees in our lesson were using the traditions of the elders to avoid doing the things that God command. Jesus condemns them not for honoring a tradition, but for putting their tradition above the commands of God. Let us be very careful not to get caught up in following man-made traditions to get around obeying God-given truths. All of us should be able to see the importance of striving to keep our activities consistent with God's Word, versus constant practices handed down from generation to generation.²



Lesson VIII

Date: May 25, 2014

Lesson Scriptures:

Mark 7:7-13

Lesson Outline

A. The Indictment of Tradition

(Mark 7:7-9)

B. The Illustration of Tradition

(Mark 7:10-11)

C. The Illness of Tradition

(Mark 7:12-13)

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Tradition Versus Truth Part II

Is there anything that can be done about these negative feelings? Can we control our feelings? Can we change them? If you were asked to make yourself feel happy you would probably think of a wonderful experience you have had like winning a prize or experiencing a special celebration. On the other hand if you were asked to feel sad you would think of a very devastating or sad experience. This tells us that our feelings are usually connected to our thoughts. Often we cannot control the circumstances that lead to our thoughts but we can choose how we want to think about them and that in turn affects our feelings.

Paul found himself in a difficult situation one day. He had been so faithful in serving the Lord. He had given his life to share the Good News of the gospel. His heart was passionate to see people come to a faith in his risen Lord. But here he was, in prison, Probably with his feet in stocks. Paul could have said, "It's not fair" We might say, he had reason to complain. He could have blamed God for his difficult situation. He could have been overcome by negative thoughts and feelings because of his circumstances but we see Paul making a choice. He chose to focus on the good things, the blessings in his life. We read about this choice in the book of Philippians.

We too have a choice like Paul did. Difficult circumstances can so easily cause us to focus on negative thoughts, which create negative feelings and also actions. This sets in motion a negative cycle that only leads to unhappiness, darkness and despair. In the same way, as we choose to focus on the blessings and the resources we have in the Lord, as Paul did, feelings of peace and rejoicing in the the Lord will follow.¹

¹<http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/reflecting/#more>



Lesson VIII
Date: May 25, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 7 - 13

Lesson Aim: Students will understand the danger of leaving the commandment of God, and holding to the tradition of men. God wants our heart, not our external obedience.³

¹⁻²Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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³ Emma Stevens

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Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 7:7-8 (KJV)

⁷ Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, *as* the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

Mark 7:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'
⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

Tradition Versus Truth Part II

A. The Indictment of Tradition

(Verse 7) This word indictment means a statement or fact that something is wrong. In this verse, Jesus says, "Howbeit in vain do they worship me", this word vain in the Greek means, a unsuccessful search or to no purpose, it takes on the idea of manipulation. Jesus responded to their question by telling them about their own continuous worship. He tells them that they have manipulated the word of God and their worship to God by holding on to these traditions, rules, and regulations that they have added to everyday living (James 1:26).¹

(Verse 8) In this verse Jesus says, "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men", Jesus was telling them that they had put down God's word and started teaching their own laws and regulations that they added to the law. They were more focus on their own traditions and regulations that they lost focus on teaching the word of God. They had more tradition polices that went around pointing out the peoples disobedience in obeying a law created by man, instead of teaching them God's word. These men claimed to know God's will in every detail of life. This was their form of worship, that was created by doing works and obeying all of the traditions. The earlier verse Jesus told them that their worship was that of manipulating and did not come from the heart. Jesus knew that whoever will worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The last part of this verse, he begins to point out the traditions of washing the vessels.²



Lesson VIII
Date: May 25, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 7 - 13

Commandments: These ten laws define negatively the heart of the covenant relationship between God and Israel. The first four Commandments are related to one's relationship with God. The next six Commandments have to do with human relationships. It is important to note that right relationships with others follow being rightly related to God. Being rightly related to God compels one towards right relationships to one's neighbors. Here one can see the wonderful balance that is maintained in the Law.

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³ Holman Bible Dictionary

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

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Mark 7:9-10 (KJV)

⁹ And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. ¹⁰ For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

Mark 7:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

Tradition Versus Truth Part II

A. The Indictment of Tradition

(Verse 9) In this verse Jesus continues the indictment of these religious leaders. This verse says, "full well ye reject the commandment of God", this word reject in the Greek means to put aside. This word is in the present tense, which means that they did not do one time, but they did it repeatedly, that it became a habitual practice. They put God's word aside to teach their own traditions. We have people today that will not teach the truth of God's word, but rather teach and push their own philosophies. They will disguise or cover their motives by saying, God told me, or God sent me a revelation of this scripture because he is doing a new thing, to justify another practice that is not biblical so that they can intimidate the people. Just as in this passage, they will say, if you do not obey this, you are letting Satan have his way with you, but do not bring up any biblical principles to justify their actions (Psalm 119:116).¹

B. The Illustration of Tradition

(Verse 10) Jesus in this verse is continuing with His sarcasm to answer their question, He then turns to Moses. He says, "Honor thy father and mother", this word honor in the Greek means, to revere, or venerate. This noun takes on the idea of "a valuing by which the price is fixed, an evaluation. In the case of honor due to parents, it is that respect or reverence for them in view of who and what they are, and their worth, which is their due. Then this verse says, if you "curseth father or mother", this word means to speak ill of or abuse. It says that they should die. This is punishment for breaking the Mosaic Law.²



Lesson VIII
Date: May 25, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 7 - 13

Gift: A favor or item bestowed on someone. Gifts were given on numerous occasions for a variety of purposes: as dowry for a wife (Gen. 34:12); as tribute to a military conqueror (2 Sam. 8:2); as bribes (Ex. 23:8; Prov. 17:8; Isa. 1:23); as rewards for faithful service and to insure future loyalty (Dan. 2:48); and as relief for the poor (Esth. 9:22). Since gifts might be required by custom, law, or force, modifiers are sometimes used to specify gifts given voluntarily:³

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³ Holman Bible Dictionary.

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Mark 7:11-12 (KJV)

¹¹ But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is Corban*, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free.*

¹² And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;

Mark 7:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), ¹² then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother.

Tradition Versus Truth Part II

B. The Illustration of Tradition

(Verse 11) This verse we see Jesus expressing to these religious leaders another illustration about a wicked practice about the “corban”, this word takes on the Hebrew meaning which means a gift or offering to God. Jesus was still making a illustration of their traditions that had no truth from the word of God, but was focused on more than God’s word. This tradition then allowed the person to do nothing for his father or mother, it freed them of the responsibility of taking care of his parents when they could not care for themselves, this was against the truth of God’s word. Therefore, by keeping this tradition, they were actually breaking the law of the ten commandments and that was to honor father and mother. If they had a change of heart and wanted to change, they could not (Ex. 20:12).¹

C. The Illness of Tradition

(Verse 12) This word illness means a disorder or ailment. This verse then says, “that ye suffer him no more to do for his father or mother”. Some traditions are good and then there are others that cause ailment and disorder because it goes against the word of God. This word “suffer” in the text means, to permit or allow. The rabbis shamefully allowed the corban to excuse sons from their responsibility. Any rule or regulation that causes us to forgo our responsibility in obeying God’s word is sick and causes a disorder.²



Lesson VIII
Date: May 25, 2014
Lesson Scriptures:
Mark 7: 7 - 13

Questions:

1. T or F As long as we honor Christ with our lips it doesn't matter if our heart is far from Him.

2. Do you know people who uphold a good social image, doing "all the right things" -- and yet fail to guard against such tainting behavior in their hearts?

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²Emma Stevens

Questions by Emma Stevens

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Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Mark 7:13 (KJV)

¹³ Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Mark 7:13 (NIV)

¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

Tradition Versus Truth Part II

C. The Illness of Tradition

(Verse 13) In this verse we see Jesus is continuing to challenge the Pharisees and scribes with the truth. He says, "making the word if God of none effect through your tradition which you delivered." this word "none effect", means in the Greek, to invalidate or to cancel. He emphasizes that you are worried about my disciples washing, but you have done similar things. You have cancelled out and turned your back on the word of God, so that you can perform your traditions. It is dangerous when we spend more time focusing on religious practices than a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus was telling them to first get the beam out of thy own eye, before you criticize and point fingers at others.¹

Summary: The Scribes and Pharisees had many traditions which were handed down from generation to generation. These traditions, or pretend laws, were numerous, petty, and had no scriptural foundation, yet they were passed down by word-of-mouth. They followed these laws to the letter and considered them more important than the laws of God. Unfortunately, they believed they were earning their salvation or contributing toward it by obeying these traditions. Thus, they were stacking up points with God. That was not the case then, nor is it today. If we allow the "traditions of men" to be priority in our life, then these things can be obstacles to our worship, and understanding of our relationship to God. Do not get caught in the trap of elevating human tradition above God's Word.²

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Lesson Aims, Summaries and Questions by Earline Franklin and Emma Stevens, 2014.

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